



## **NEW LOGISTICS SOFTWARE WILL ENABLE UNPARALLELED SUPPORT IN EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS**

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The Federation and the US-based Fritz Institute are collaborating to design a state-of-the-art, Web-based humanitarian logistics software. Fritz Institute will customize its proprietary logistics software following intensive study of the Federation's logistics needs.

A Fritz Institute team of logistics and software experts is at work at the Federation Secretariat in Geneva to tailor the software, which will enable the organization and its 178 member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to provide unparalleled support to emergency relief operations anywhere in the world.

"What we are getting is the very latest in logistics technology, a Web-based system that will take our current processes and connect all steps of the logistics chain, from the launch of an emergency appeal through procurement, donations, warehousing and distribution to disaster victims," said Didier Cherpitel, Federation secretary general. "It's a very exciting development and a wonderful illustration of the synergy that can be created between the private sector and humanitarian agencies."

The Humanitarian Logistics Software will standardize and automate the relief mobilization process, providing more control and visibility. Delays in sourcing emergency relief materials will be reduced by eliminating paper trails of supply locations and creating a central repository for supply information. The final result will be the ability to track donations through the entire mobilization supply chain up to the point of receipt of the materials at the disaster site. The humanitarian logistics software is being fully funded by the Fritz Institute.

"On a practical level what this means is that our response to disasters will be much more efficient and effective. We will be able to provide better service delivery to disaster victims because we will have faster access to information on what is in the relief pipeline and where exactly the relief materials are located," said Cherpitel.

"Fritz Institute commissioned research about disaster relief resources and needs worldwide and learned that humanitarian agencies on the ground during disasters lacked access to the latest technologies available in the private sector to facilitate the logistics of emergency relief to victims," said Lynn C. Fritz, a logistics pioneer and founder of the San Francisco-based institute. "It became our objective to provide agencies, like the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with access to the best practices and technologies available."

Fritz Institute was created to bring together business best practices, technology and academic research to augment the capabilities of humanitarian organizations engaged in disaster relief around the globe. By creating a worldwide network of scholars to research best practices and providing access to state-of-the-art technology from the commercial arena, Fritz Institute aims to facilitate the effective delivery of disaster relief.