

City of London Corporation and REACT Disaster Response

Proposal to Renew Partnership

Introduction: The Critical Need for Agile Disaster Response

Global crises are increasing in both frequency and severity. In 2024 alone, natural catastrophes caused an estimated \$368 billion in economic losses, with climate-related events accounting for the majority.¹ Ongoing conflicts, political instability, and the intensifying effects of climate change leave millions of people vulnerable, often beyond the immediate reach of larger aid organisations. In many cases, small, highly trained, and agile response charities like REACT are the first to deliver life-saving assistance.

This context underlines why our partnership with The City of London Corporation is so vital. By combining your leadership and commitment to global resilience with REACT's rapid-response capability we are ensuring that help reaches the hardest-hit communities when they need it most

Executive Summary

In October 2024, The City of London Corporation and REACT Disaster Response launched a partnership to deliver agile, life-saving support to communities affected by international disasters. Your £75,000 investment has achieved remarkable results, demonstrating the impact and value of this collaboration.

Key Achievements as already reported (Oct 2024 – Mar 2025):

- **International Deployments**
 - Responded to Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, distributing 5,400 meals, completing 72 clean-up tasks, and enabling the reopening of five schools in the Southern Grenadines.
- **Conflict Response & Training**
 - Delivered Incident Management and Medical Trauma Training to 341 Ukrainians, equipping teachers, police officers, midwives, and community workers to save lives on the front lines.
 - 100% of participants reported increased confidence in managing medical emergencies in conflict zones.²
- **Global Monitoring & Readiness**
 - Actively monitored seven high-risk regions including Myanmar, Gaza, Sudan, Syria, and the Caribbean, ensuring we were ready to act where needs were greatest.
- **Volunteer Recruitment & Training**
 - Continued to recruit new volunteers, who achieved UK ready Responder status and many completing advanced international training.³

Impact Since March 2025: Myanmar Earthquake Response and Global Monitoring

In March 2025, a magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck central Myanmar, displacing thousands and damaging critical infrastructure. REACT immediately activated a rapid response protocol and deployed a small team of highly trained Responders to Bangkok to establish regional coordination within 24 hours.

Our team engaged directly with UNDAC, ShelterBox, Water Mission, and the British Embassy, coordinating the movement of relief supplies and planning cross-border support. Responders conducted remote assessments and liaised with local partners to identify the hardest-hit areas, particularly Kan Ywar, where entire communities were cut off.

Over the following weeks, REACT Responders:

- Facilitated the delivery of safe drinking water and sanitation to hundreds of displaced families via in situ Partner Water Mission.
- Coordinated relief efforts with international partners, pre-positioning medical and hygiene kits for rapid use.
- Provided real-time situational reports, accelerating the wider humanitarian response.

Myanmar presented considerable challenges for international NGOs, with limited humanitarian access, political sensitivities, and strict restrictions on foreign operations. Many agencies were unable to operate safely or effectively in-country. REACT's perseverance and staying power, maintaining a regional presence, building trust with partners, and coordinating cross-border logistics paid off. Despite the hostile environment, we successfully contributed to the delivery of safe drinking water and sanitation support for the worst-affected communities.

A Reminder: REACT Disaster Response

REACT Disaster Response is a 10-year old UK based charity that exists to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce future risk. We rapidly deploy trained volunteers including British military veterans, civilians, and many former blue light professionals to disasters in the UK and internationally. Working alongside local communities, REACT delivers agile, high-impact aid in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas where others cannot or will not go.

Since our inception in 2015, REACT has supported more than 2 million people across 32 countries, delivering over 740 individual deployments worldwide.

In the UK, we support communities affected by floods, severe weather, and other emergencies, strengthening local community resilience and bolstering emergency first response. Internationally, we deploy to disaster-affected regions to provide life-saving aid and help communities recover where humanitarian needs are greatest. We provide a 24/7 response capability which means we reach communities in need within hours (sometimes minutes) in the UK and within 24 hours Internationally.

REACT is designed to be lean and efficient, with a strong focus on operational effectiveness. Our annual income is approximately £1.5 million, with the majority of costs dedicated to salaries for selecting, recruiting, and training our volunteer Responders, alongside the essential supporting functions needed to deliver and coordinate safe, effective deployments.

We operate as a hybrid structure, with a small, skilled HQ team overseeing core organisational functions including strategic direction, governance, financial management, people and volunteer support, fundraising, communications, and technology. In parallel, a volunteer force of around 700 highly trained individuals and professionals lead and deliver the deployments, supported by the HQ team. This structure keeps our operational costs low while maximising our ability to respond quickly and flexibly to crises.

Our funding is diversified across corporate partners, high-net-worth individuals, trusts and foundations, individual donors, and a small amount of commercial income generated from local authority contracts.

Proposal

As disasters grow more complex, the need for fast, skilled, and strategically aligned response is greater than ever. We hope the City of London Corporation now sees REACT as a trusted and proven partner, delivering clear, measurable results with strong accountability. Our ability to act quickly and directly ensures your investment reaches those in need and delivers tangible impact.

Continuing our partnership will strengthen our ability to deploy more effectively, expand specialist training, enhance early monitoring, and deepen collaboration with strategic partners such as CDEMA, WFP, UNDAC, and FCDO-aligned operations.

Proposed Partnership Focus for 2025/26

- **2-3 International Responses** e.g., Caribbean hurricane response and Eastern European conflict.
- **2 International Training Missions:** Ukraine and an emerging high-risk region (subject to access).
- **1 In-House HEAT Programme:** Prepare more Responders for complex, high-risk deployments.
- **Ongoing Global Monitoring:** Maintain our presence and readiness in high-risk regions.
- We would also be delighted to engage more with City of London staff and stakeholders through briefings, events, or hands-on insights tailored to your preferences.

The City of London Corporation will continue to receive:

- Regular **impact updates** with real-life stories and photos
- Invitations to **exclusive REACT insight events**
- Opportunities for **staff engagement with Responders**

Conclusion

Since October 2024, your support has been **transformational**. By renewing the partnership the City of London Corporation will:

- **Embed REACT as your long-term disaster relief partner**
- **Multiply your direct impact** on the world's most vulnerable communities
- **Showcase the City's leadership** in agile, life-saving international humanitarian action
- **Enable proactive readiness**, ensuring aid reaches those in need faster

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing partnership and look forward to continuing to save lives together.

¹ Swiss Re Institute, 2025 Global Catastrophe Report

² Ukraine Education Platform Post-Training Survey, Nov 2024