



American Red Cross
2700 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77098

August 26, 2022

Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
1221 River Bend Drive
Dallas, Texas 75247

Dear Membership Committee,

On behalf of the American Red Cross (ARC), I am delighted to provide this letter of support on behalf of SEWA International and its application to the Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (TXVOAD).

The ARC and SEWA have jointly partnered in disaster response and recovery in communities across the State and have shared a true community partnership for the last several years. Both organizations have partnered to support individuals who are disproportionately affected by disasters.

Our partnership began in San Antonio during Hurricane Katrina, where SEWA volunteers worked alongside the ARC to support feeding evacuees from Louisiana at shelters. In more recent years, SEWA worked with ARC during Hurricane Harvey recovery to support an economically underprivileged community in Rosharon, TX also known as Little Cambodia, home to predominantly Cambodians refugees, and some Laotian and Mexican refugees. Through this partnership, SEWA was able to reconstruct 11 completely destroyed homes and 24 partially-damaged homes thus benefitting 154 men and women, including 35 seniors and 47 children.

During each of these responses SEWA was in close contact with the ARC response and recovery team to help troubleshoot issues and help coordinate efforts related to the needs of disaster survivors.

It is a great privilege to be able to submit this letter in support of SEWA International and its membership application to the Texas VOAD.

Sincerely,

Jessica Debalski

Jessica Debalski
Division Disaster State Relations Director, Texas
Disaster Cycle Services, American Red Cross