

Position on Disaster Relief

Background

Natural disasters and extreme weather conditions, such as a hurricane, tornado, earthquake, wildfire or flooding, as well as complex humanitarian emergencies like famines and refugee crises, are situations where corporations can deploy unique capabilities and resources to support the most vulnerable and ensure access to lifesaving, quality, basic health services. When disaster strikes, a country or region's healthcare system can struggle to respond effectively to the spike in demand, especially when facilities and health workers are affected. This is where healthcare companies can step in and support communities by improving health access.

As disasters, including climate-related extreme weather events, become more frequent and catastrophic, it becomes ever more important to return a community and its health programming to their pre-disaster baseline as quickly as possible. In addition to disaster response work, the provision of consistent, quality product donations are key to achieving this goal.

Relevance

Many organizations react to disasters, providing immediate donations of cash or product. Johnson & Johnson is committed to the short-, medium- and long-term health needs of the impacted communities and health systems. As the world's largest healthcare company, we can provide a substantial range of products as part of our disaster response, including medical, pharmaceutical and trauma products. Our global footprint and reach, allied to our strong partner network, mean we are ready and able to respond effectively to disasters around the world as soon as they strike.

Johnson & Johnson has a long history of providing disaster relief, stretching back to the Spanish-American War in 1898, when we donated first aid supplies to the U.S. Government. In 1906, in the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake, we first implemented our multi-phased approach—donating product in support of the immediate response and providing longer-term support for personal and community recovery.

We have been active in disaster relief ever since, responding to multiple disasters around the world every year. We consistently focus on supporting the health of affected communities, and take a long-term view. Our comprehensive disaster relief strategy means that we analyze and assess the short-, medium- and long-term needs of the affected community, and then draw on a range of tools and resources from across the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies to provide effective support in the immediate post-disaster period, and also to build resilience in health workers and sustainability in community health programs, preparing workers to respond to future disasters.

For additional ways in which we make an impact in our communities, see our [Position on Community Impact](#).

Guiding Principles

As stated in [Our Credo](#): “We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well. We must help people be healthier by supporting better access and care in more places around the world. We must be good citizens—support good works and charities, better health and education, and bear our fair share of taxes.”

Our Position

When disaster strikes, our objectives are to reach and support the most vulnerable, maintain access to proper care for all, including essential medical resources (medicines, supplies, equipment), and bring community health programs back to baseline as soon as possible. We do this by:

Assessing disasters effectively: We evaluate each disaster individually, determining the unique needs of the situation, our ability to meet those needs, and whether we have an on-the-ground partner we can work with. We assess the scale of a disaster—whether it is low, medium, high or severe—based on the number of people affected, the impact to healthcare infrastructure, and whether it is local, regional or multi-regional. We must also weigh safety and security, and are always striving to maintain a balanced approach of donations and economic recovery.

Working alongside key disaster partners: We respond to disaster through our preferred partners, who work in some of the most vulnerable countries every day and so are well placed to respond in a crisis. When a crisis hits an area where our preferred partners are not active, we leverage our existing network to find the most appropriate community partners we can work with. Thanks to these partners, our product lines and global reach, we are positioned to provide disaster relief worldwide and support affected communities for the long haul. Our preferred disaster partners include Americares, Direct Relief, Heart to Heart International, International Health Partners (IHP), MAP International, MedShare, Save the Children and UNICEF. Our product donations and cash grants are used in various ways, including: supporting the deployment of product and staff to areas/communities of need; providing additional staff in existing clinics to manage the increased demand; providing support for short-term needs (food, fuel, blankets); and providing child-friendly spaces in temporary shelter situations.

Supporting community resilience: Building the resilience and capacity of health systems enables them to respond more effectively to future disasters. This is best achieved by providing support and training to frontline health workers, giving them the skills and resources they need to care for themselves and their communities when disaster strikes. We donate product and cash grants to help our partners train health workers in skills that are vital for disaster response, including surgery, nursing, trauma and diagnostics. Health workers, like the communities they serve, can be traumatized by disaster, and we also provide grants to partners offering mental health and psychosocial support to health workers, allowing them to stay healthy and remain focused on providing care.

Helping communities recover, rebuild and be resilient: We have a comprehensive disaster relief strategy to assess needs and draw appropriately on the full range of tools and resources across the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies to:

- Address the needs of communities in the immediate aftermath (24 hours – 3 months) of a disaster, as well as support mid- and long-term recovery;
- Support health workers providing immediate and longer-term care in disaster zones so they can stay well and resilient;

- Enhance resilience of the communities in which we operate to improve their ability to recover when disaster strikes again; and
- Continue our support with trusted partners as long as necessary to return the community and its healthcare system to pre-disaster levels (typically 3 – 5 years).

Our immediate response focuses on providing needed hygiene items to people displaced by disaster, and on supporting healthcare systems that have been temporarily overwhelmed or disrupted. In earthquakes and other such disasters, we also focus our donations on sutures and trauma products because crush injuries, cuts and wounds are more prevalent.

Ensuring the safety and security of our employees, along with business continuity: We support our employees impacted by disasters by engaging global crisis management teams to ensure they are safe and accounted for, and that the business of disaster response and the availability of our vital products can continue unhindered.

We continue to offer pharmaceutical products to partners so they can support the communities they serve without interruption. Leveraging Johnson & Johnson's 120+ year legacy of disaster response and living into Our Credo, we continue to focus our Disaster Response, Resilience and Product Donations on supporting communities, health workers, and the health programs they need.

Application

This Position is relevant for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies, as detailed in our [governance materials](#). We provide updates relating to disaster relief in our annual [Health for Humanity Report](#).

Last Updated: April 2022