



Fact Sheet

ABBOTT'S PRE-POSITIONING EFFORTS: Providing Critical Relief *Before* A Disaster Hits

The Concept

- With hurricane season upon us, preparedness is critical as minutes can often mean life or death in the unfortunate event of a natural disaster.
- Abbott, the global health care company, is working with partner organizations to send health care and nutritional products to regions that are highly vulnerable to natural disasters.
- This concept, called "pre-positioning," makes necessary supplies available to relief organizations *before* disaster strikes by:
 - Getting the right health care and nutritional products, at the right time, to the right places in advance of a disaster;
 - Establishing local partnerships to ensure that goods can be distributed quickly and safely on-site through local warehouses, clinics and food banks; and
 - Mitigating risk associated with unsolicited donations.

The Need

- After a natural disaster strikes, emergency requests for aid require anywhere from seven to 10 days to fill, and cost and logistical inefficiencies increase significantly.
- However, with Abbott's pre-positioning efforts, products on-site are available immediately for distribution. The company can move additional health care products and nutritionals to a U.S. disaster site within 2-3 days if pre-positioned at the warehouse of a local relief partner – whereas it used to take 7-10 days.

Abbott's Efforts

- Abbott provides on-going product support to several relief partners, providing them with the flexibility they need to rapidly deploy product from their local inventory when disaster strikes.
- In preparation for hurricane season, Abbott is pre-positioning \$1 million worth of products in foodbanks and health facilities in high-risk areas across the East and Gulf Coasts in 2008. This will provide approximately 50,000 treatments to people in need.
- Already this year, Abbott has distributed six truckloads of nutritionals and 18 Hurricane Response Packs for on-site pre-positioning.

- Hurricane Response Packs are comprised of pain relievers, cardiovascular medication, diabetes products, antibiotics, IV solutions, hand sanitizer and other supplies that address a wide range of health issues from basic trauma to chronic conditions. Our specific efforts include:
 - Donating product valued at \$620,000 in 2008 to **Direct Relief International**, of which a portion is pre-positioned in 18 safety net clinics throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.
 - Each clinic will receive one Hurricane Response Pack designed to provide the most critical medical products for 100 patients over a 72-hour period of patient treatment and will help prevent mass referrals to local hospitals.
 - The remaining products will be staged at Direct Relief's warehouse for immediate deployment as needed. Combined, the product will provide approximately 16,000 treatments.
 - Abbott's partnership with Direct Relief International helps support the local capacity of health systems providing services to low-income patients by distributing medical products on an ongoing basis through two nationwide networks – the National Association of Free Clinics and the National Association of Community Health Centers.
- Similarly, through Abbott's partnership with **America's Second Harvest**, nutritionals valued at nearly \$400,000 have been pre-positioned at five foodbanks located in five states. The products are expected to serve approximately 20,000 people. Throughout the year, Abbott distributes regular shipments of nutritional products to America's Second Harvest, which is the largest network of foodbanks in the United States.
- Previously focused only on the United States, this year Abbott's pre-positioning efforts have been expanded to include the Caribbean, where products totaling \$1 million are being distributed in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

Other Recent Examples

- Since 2007, Abbott has donated more than \$5 million in products in response to ten recent disasters, including Hurricanes Felix and Dean, and the wildfires in California. More than 80 percent of the product value donated was already at partners' warehouses when the disaster occurred.
- One week after Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar, Abbott product was hand carried into the country and distributed. Six days after that, Abbott product was on the first dedicated flight of medicines and medical supplies to be cleared into Yangon, Myanmar by a US-based nonprofit organization. All distributed product was already in the partner organization's warehouse.