



# Fact Sheet

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

### **The Concept**

- During hurricane season, 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;
  - Tapping into well established, trusted community partners to ensure that goods can be distributed quickly and safely on-site through food banks, clinics, local warehouses; and
  - Mitigating risk associated with unsolicited donations.

### **The Need**

- After a natural disaster strikes, emergency requests for aid require anywhere from 7-10 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 provide 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 ongoing support to several relief partners, providing them with the flexibility they need to rapidly deploy product from their local inventory when disaster strikes.
- To prepare for hurricane season, Abbott also is pre-positioning disaster relief modules and "packs" across several high-risk states along the Gulf Coast and in the Caribbean.

## Abbott's Efforts continued

- In 2009, Abbott pre-positioned more than \$1.3 million worth of products in food banks and health facilities. These products have the potential to treat up to 40,000 people in need after a natural disaster.
  
- Abbott donated product valued at \$980,000 in 2009 to **Direct Relief International**, of which a portion was pre-positioned in the United States and a portion in the Caribbean. Combined, the products will assist more than 18,000 people after a natural disaster.
  - Each clinic or local partner received Hurricane Preparation Packs designed to provide critical medical products, including rehydration solutions, diabetes monitors and test strips, and antibiotics and other medications – which can help prevent mass referrals to local hospitals.
  - The remaining products were staged at Direct Relief's warehouse for immediate deployment as needed.
  - In the United States, Hurricane Preparation Packs were staged in a total of 25 safety net clinics throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Puerto Rico.
  - In the Caribbean, there were eight Hurricane Preparation Packs staged with five partners throughout Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Haiti.
  
- In addition, through Abbott's partnership with **Feeding America**, adult and pediatric nutritionals valued at more than \$400,000 have been pre-positioned at 20 food banks in seven states and Puerto Rico. Throughout the year, Abbott distributes regular shipments of nutritional products to Feeding America, which is the largest domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States.
  - These food banks received pre-packaged Disaster Relief Packs containing both adult and pediatric nutritionals that are designed specifically for families of different sizes. These packs will serve more than 20,000 people in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

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