

Policy

Title: Humanitarian Crisis Assistance

Category: Community Services and Events

Date Last Adopted: 24 August 2020

1. Objectives

The policy aims to provide a guide to the Council when considering responses to humanitarian crises.

2. Background

The City of Hobart has historically provided assistance and financial contributions in response to natural disasters and humanitarian crises both within Australia and internationally.

The following policy is designed to assist Council decision-making should future natural disaster and humanitarian crisis events warrant a response from the Council in the future.

3. Policy

That:

1. The Council may determine to respond to humanitarian crises by making donations to non-government organisations which provide humanitarian assistance in relevant countries.
2. It is recognised that the most effective way the Council can support a relief effort is by cash donation.
3. Donations will be directed to non-government organisations which are signatories to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct and/or those which have been declared as an 'Approved Organisation' by the Federal Government.
4. For the purpose of this policy, a humanitarian crisis is defined as:
A profound social crisis which is characterised by:

- (i) High numbers of casualties; and/or
 - (ii) Large scale internal and external displacement; and/or
 - (iii) Widespread hunger and disease.
5. A humanitarian crisis may arise from any natural or man-made disaster.
6. The City will consider making donations when:
 - (i) An affected country has officially requested assistance from the Federal Government; or
 - (ii) An Australian natural disaster has been declared in accordance with relevant legislation
7. The Council will not consider donations in response to humanitarian crises arising from war or conflict without seeking prior advice from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
8. The Council will give preference to:
 - (i) Australian natural disasters;
 - (ii) The Council's Sister Cities;
 - (iii) Countries in Australia's neighbourhood, i.e. the Asia Pacific region;
 - (iv) Countries that are represented by a strong local community in Hobart; and
 - (v) Countries with whom Australia has an existing development or aid partnership, as listed on the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
9. Assistance to developed countries will only be considered when:
 - (i) A Federal Government Treasury Minister has officially recognised the disaster for Australian tax purposes;
 - (ii) Inhabitants of that country are in distress as a result of the disaster; and
 - (iii) Australian non-government organisations that have been declared an 'Approved Organisation' by the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs are accepting targeted donations for the disaster.

10. The amount contributed will be determined by resolution of Council and will take into account:

- (i) The scale of the crisis;
- (ii) The capacity of the domestic government and local agencies to respond to the crisis;
- (iii) The impact of the crisis on the Hobart community; and
- (iv) Any formal connections the City may have with the affected location.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

Australian Council for International Development

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) unites Australia's non-government aid and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade works closely with the ACFID to achieve the goals of the Australian aid program.

Responsible Officer:	Director Thriving Capital
Policy first adopted by the Council:	13/12/2010
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