

CLAN Drug Donations to Developing Countries Policy

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1. Introduction

CLAN's mission has highlighted the need for correct medicines to be available to families with few resources in resource poor settings of the world. However, due to legislation in some countries, the drugs required may not be produced within the country, approved for importation, or the drugs may be imported but costs of import taxes and other factors such as storage and distributions may make the drugs unaffordable for families.

CLAN endeavours to work with partners for change to improve the availability, accessibility and costs of drugs to health services and families so that children may have a better life. CLAN is committed to working in an advocacy role to support legislative change in order to make medications and/or medical equipment more accessible for children with needs.

2. Purpose

This Policy is to guide CLAN's decisions about their role and responsibilities relevant to the donation of drugs given to developing countries or countries in crisis where distribution is affected for children participating in CLAN's programs or projects. It is essential that when drugs are donated to resource such countries, the medicines provided are to meet specific health needs, and that they will be distributed ethically and administered correctly.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to CLAN's governing body and all partners and affiliates involved in CLAN programs.

4. Definitions

Term	Definition
Donation	Something that is given to a charity, especially a sum of money; a gift for charity, humanitarian aid, or to benefit a cause.
Humanitarian donation	Supporting life-saving activities; filling critical gaps when humanitarian needs surpass the amount available; expanding assistance in hard to reach places (crisisrelief.un.org)

5. Policy

CLAN is committed to adhering to the WHO Guidelines for Drug Donations (1999) (specifically s.VI, Management of drug donations by the recipient), WHO Guidelines for Medicine Donations (2010) and the APAC Australian guidelines for drug donations to resource poor countries (2001). CLAN is also committed to the nine commitments of United Nations Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS).

CLAN will work with partners to ensure adherence to the guidelines. CLAN may source supplies for drugs to meet identified needs for those involved in CLAN programs, or CLAN may respond to requests from individuals or groups for particular drugs needed for a specific purpose in work currently being undertaken in that country that aligns with CLAN's mission. CLAN will inform key stakeholders of the international standards to which we are committed through a full range of means, such as our website, partner agreements, donor requests, reports and staff induction and training.

When responding to humanitarian emergencies or needs in relation to medications for children living with Non-Communicable Diseases, CLAN will apply the principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality as defined in the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). CLAN will work to continuously improve systems, structures and practices to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian initiatives, acknowledging where difficulties are encountered in fulfilling the Core Humanitarian Standard Commitments.

When CLAN provides pharmaceuticals or relevant medical equipment, CLAN ensures that:

- Donations are based on the express wishes of the recipient and not distributed without prior consent
- Donated drugs must be on the list of essential drugs of the recipient country, or if no such list is available, the WHO Model List of Essential Drugs
- Donated drugs must comply with the quality standards of the recipient country and be authorised for use in that country
- All donated drugs should have a shelf-life of at least 12 months upon arrival in the recipient country.

6. Procedures

CLAN will work with the donor of drugs to ensure that donated drugs are appropriate, and affordable, and will meet the specific requirements of children with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

The following guidelines presented in the APAC Australian guidelines will be the basis for discussions and written contracts or agreements with any donor wishing to donate drugs for children participating in CLAN programs or projects.

1. All drug donations are to be based on an expressed need

For each donation, and before it is accepted and distributed, CLAN will collate evidence of specific needs, distribution processes, information about recipients, and assessment of any needs for training of professionals or persons who administer the drugs to children. All drugs should be on the national list of essential drugs of the recipient country, or if such a national list is not available, on the WHO List of Essential Drugs for Children. In cases where drugs are not available or affordable in the country, CLAN will endeavour to work with partners and government agencies to facilitate change in order improve the health of children with NCD's. Drugs will not be sent until approvals and relevant clearances have been finalised by both the recipient and CLAN. CLAN will encourage countries who do not have the drugs on their national list to make every effort to pursue this.

2. All drugs should comply with quality standards in both the donor and recipient country

As part of its risk management strategies, CLAN will work closely with pharmaceutical companies who agree to donate drugs to developing countries to ensure the quality, suitability and shelf-life of donated drugs. No drugs should be donated that have been previously given to other recipients and returned. Timeframes for sending, receiving and administering the drugs will be part of each contract or agreement. Documentation will be kept if donated drugs need government permission to be exported. Recipients

should formulate their own national guidelines for drug donations, based on international guidelines. If relevant, written permission to export certain drugs must be obtained from the Australian Government of Health and Ageing prior to sending drugs overseas.

3. Presentation, packaging and labelling

Drugs should be labelled to meet the needs of recipients, and include information such as name, dose, strength, manufacturer, storage conditions, expiry date. Planning should involve research and determination of quantities of drugs desired as donations for specific medical conditions, for example, children with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH). Administration of the drugs is to be recorded, including administrators, dates, recipients of each drug given, and any usual effects of the drug on the recipient.

4. Export and transport

To achieve desired outcomes, CLAN will work with all partners to determine quantities, dates, persons responsible in sending and receiving and distributing the donated drugs. Documents must be kept covering costs (and who is responsible for costs), transport and clearance arrangements, and storage of drugs until distributed. Costs of getting the donated drugs to the recipients should be covered by the donor unless otherwise agreed. Details including e.g packaging, labelling, quantities, dates, consignments, should be clearly understood by both the donor and recipient/s.

5. Management

CLAN will work closely with the donor/s of drug donations at all stages of planning and sending the drugs to developing countries. Where relevant, CLAN will be involved in programs and projects where education and training seminars are aligned with drug donations. Disposal of any drug donations that are not suitable will be by the recipient medical service according to their policies and procedures.

6. Review

CLAN will review the processes and outcomes of drug donation's with the relevant pharmaceutical company, distributors and professionals who work with the families of children with NCD's. Any issues will be recorded and researched further to aid planning for efficiency and effectiveness for any future donations.

7. Procedures in relation to humanitarian donations

CLAN will:

- Train humanitarian response staff in sector codes and standards and legal obligations, and communicate with them on a regular basis to ensure these are upheld.
- Provide information and training for staff and partners on the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and establish mechanisms to monitor compliance.
- Ensure humanitarian responses do not contribute towards the unnecessary institutionalisation of children and any programs working directly with unaccompanied children will prioritise family tracing and reunification to prevent the prolonged separation of children from their families
- Invest resources in building the capacity of partner organisations to providing humanitarian assistance according to internationally agreed standards and principles of ethical practice through training, knowledge sharing and accompaniment
- Develop monitoring and evaluation systems to assess compliance with humanitarian response principles and standards

- Establish systems for beneficiary communication and accountability, including feedback and complaints mechanisms
- If you are sending funds, undertake due diligence to ensure that the party who receives them has committed to the relevant humanitarian response standards.

8. References

- Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council (APAC)
- Australian guidelines for drug donations to developing countries 2000
- WHO Guidelines for Drug Donations 1999
- WHO Guidelines for Medicine Donations 2010
- crisisrelief.un.org
- UN Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

CLAN: RECORD FOR DRUG DONATIONS: Plan or Project Details

Country and location

Recipient Administrator of drug donation.

Name, title,

Contact details

Plan or project aligned with drug donation

Donor for the drug donation Pharmaceutical company Purpose, statement of needs Goals and stated outcomes Name of Drug

Amount of drugs donated Governing authority approval

Other Personnel involved

Estimated number of:

* ages of children, *NCD * number of families

Community involvement (where applicable)

Sustainability Plan

Monitoring and reporting on program implementation

Other Partners involved in the program/project (if relevant)

Estimated risks

Estimated timeframes: planning, sending, receiving

Estimated budget (costs?)

Recognition of CLAN and donor's contributions

Monitoring procedures

Final report

Date presented to CLAN Executive Committee:

Initial plan..... Final report.....

Signature of President.....

