

Ethical Guidelines When Responding to a Disaster

- All actions and attitudes should reflect God's love and be in line with the teachings of the Bible.
- Do not take advantage of disaster victims, who are experiencing great stress and vulnerability, by trying to convert them to Christ. See your work as sharing God's love by putting faith into action. If asked why you are offering help it is fine to share your reasons.
- Respond to a crisis within the limits of your training and abilities.
- Try not to make promises you cannot keep.
- Don't be judgemental of victims or how they found themselves in the situation.
- Take time to listen to people who have been affected by a crisis.
- Be sensitive to the shock and trauma victims might be going through.
- Respect the property, belongings and sentiments of people affected by a disaster. Salvage irreplaceable items where possible, such as photos, legal documents.
- Keep the personal information of victims, including legal and financial information, private and communicate information about people only on a need-to-know basis.
- Do not salvage any items for personal use.
- Do not accept money or salvaged items from victims. If someone who is rescued or helped wants to make a donation, direct them to send donations to a local charity or church helping in the relief effort.
- Get permission before taking photos of people or their property in the aftermath of a disaster.
- Respect cultural traditions and taboos wherever possible.