1. What are the requirements to be on the Disaster Response Team (DRT)?
   a. A DRT member must exemplify the following characteristics:
      i. **Integration**: Transitions well into a team setting; gets along with others from diverse backgrounds, communicates well with others.
      ii. **Technical Skills**: Can accomplish the task asked of them with little to no direction and does not attempt to practice outside of their scope.
      iii. **Adaptable**: Transitions well into the new environment with little to no complaints, does not have unrealistic expectations for accommodations, can appropriately handle stress from the work environment.
      iv. **Representation**: A DRT Member must exemplify Heart to Heart International’s (HHI) vision and mission. This includes but is not limited to; language used, appearance, habits, promptness, and respecting others.
   b. For position specific requirements please see volunteer job description.

2. What is the application process?
   a. Once the application and supplemental paperwork has been submitted, selected candidates will receive notification for an interview. Each month HHI staff meet to review all interviewed applicants to determine if candidates meet DRT qualifications. An HHI representative will then reach out to inform applicants of the decision. Acceptance at this point will be pending submission and approval of remaining paperwork and completion of DRT Workshop.

3. How long does the application process take?
   a. Timing varies depending on the time taken to submit supplemental paperwork and the availability of HHI staff to interview and review applicants. The process takes longer during disasters as HHI staff are deployed to the field. During times when HHI is not responding to disaster this process can be completed in 2 weeks, during an active disaster response this process could take 2 months.

4. Is HHI faith-based?
   a. HHI welcomes volunteers and partners from all religions and backgrounds to join in helping fulfill our mission of improving health access. We recognize that many of our volunteers serve others as an expression of their faith. As a faith-friendly organization, HHI often brings together team members from a wide variety of beliefs and cultural backgrounds. Team members are expected to be respectful of beliefs or cultural understandings which may differ from their own.

5. How often does HHI deploy?
   a. The amount varies from year to year depending on the number of disasters that strike. On average HHI has deployed four to six times a year.
Disaster Response Team FAQs

6. What is the deployment process?
   a. When disaster strikes HHI staff meet to discuss the variables to determine the level at which
      HHI will respond. If the decision to respond with a medical team is made, HHI will then
      assemble an advance team. Following the assembly of the advance team DRT members will
      receive a notification via email. This notification contains information on HHI’s decision to
      deploy, dates that DRT members are needed and the number of members needed. If a
      volunteer is willing and able to respond during the needed dates all this is required is an email
      with the signed pre-deployment assessment. As HHI receives availability, members will be
      selected for the team based on a variety of variables such as experience, training, position, and
      travel. Once a member has been selected to deploy with HHI they will receive individual travel
      information and a situational brief.

7. What if I can’t deploy during disaster?
   a. Heart to Heart understands that each volunteer has obligations such as work, children, and
      vacations. We do not expect that each member of the DRT will be able to deploy at each
      disaster, but do expect that each member will do their best to accommodate when able.

8. How long are deployments?
   a. Deployments can last anywhere from one to three weeks depending on location of the
      disaster. Generally, at least one week of availability is required to deploy domestically and two
      weeks for an international response.

9. What expenses are covered during my deployment?
   a. During deployment all food, lodging, and transportation is covered. Deployment starts when you
      leave your home and ends when you return.

10. What do I have to bring on deployment?
    a. HHI always includes a packing list in the situations brief that is sent to the selected members to
       deploy. Some of these items include comfortable clothing that can get dirty and is quick dry and
       lightweight, shoes/boots that are comfortable to work long hours in uncommon work
       environments, and a rain coat/jacket.

11. As a medical professional, do I need medical liability insurance.
    a. For international responses, HHI will purchase medical liability insurance for the team. However,
       this policy does require that individuals have active liability insurance or, if retired, had active
       insurance until their date of retirement. For domestic responses, HHI relies upon the Volunteer
       Protection act to cover volunteers. HHI still recommends that medical professionals carry their own
       liability insurance in addition to this.