

Our Aid to Haiti: Working Toward a Healthy Future



\$54 million in aid since January 2010

Two years after the devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake in January 2010, AmeriCares is hard at work in Haiti: In 2011 alone we sent 377 shipments of medicines, medical supplies and equipment to the small island nation—an average of one shipment a day. The bulk of that aid was used immediately in hospitals and clinics that urgently needed supplies.

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, AmeriCares is building a healthier future for Haiti,” says AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling. Working with trusted partners, we are vaccinating children, training health care workers, promoting health education, stocking medical supplies to combat cholera and increasing access to health care throughout the country.

We have been working in Haiti since 1984; AmeriCares is officially recognized as a non-governmental organization by the Haitian government. Our on-going aid to Haiti helps immediately—and contributes to lasting change in this poverty-stricken nation.



Photos by Matthew McDermott

2.5 million medical treatments

Looking Ahead

In the next two years, AmeriCares aid to Haiti will focus on improving:

- Access to health care
- Cholera control and prevention
- Maternal and child health
- Disaster preparedness



950 supply shipments

Cholera: Controlling a Killer

Cholera strikes quickly, spreads fast and can kill within hours. The infection is a risk after any disaster—especially earthquakes—due to poor sanitation and lack of clean water. However, cholera can be prevented and treated. In October 2010, AmeriCares was at the forefront of the fight against this devastating diarrheal disease.



Cholera kits ready to leave the warehouse

The first cases of cholera were confirmed in Haiti on October 21, 2010. Within 24 hours, staff at the AmeriCares Haiti warehouse was filling vans and trucks with the IV fluids, IV sets, oral rehydration salts, antibiotics, gloves, disinfectant and buckets that save lives during a cholera epidemic. Constant communication between health care workers in Haiti and our medical staff in the U.S. ensured that the right medicines were delivered and used correctly so more lives could be saved.

Health centers throughout Haiti were overwhelmed. “The halls of our clinic quickly filled with patients,” says Mike Martin, field administrator for the International Faith Missions cholera treatment center in Fond Parisien, a rural village near the Dominican Republic border. “People arrived so sick they were unconscious. One patient alone required 26 liters of fluid through an IV line.”

Because AmeriCares had anticipated cholera after the January 2010 earthquake, we could respond to many requests. “At least 85 percent of the supplies we used since we opened in November 2010 were from AmeriCares,” says Martin. To date, 99 percent of the 6,500 patients treated at the International Faith Missions

survived. “Without treatment at least half of the patients would have died,” he says.

As well as stocking supplies for outbreaks of cholera, AmeriCares continues to work with the Haitian Ministry of Public Health to build defenses against the disease. We are establishing rehydration posts, training community educators and sending medical supplies to treatment centers, clinics and hospitals. In advance of the rainy seasons, we are working with the ministry to pre-position cholera treatment and prevention supplies in every corner of the country.

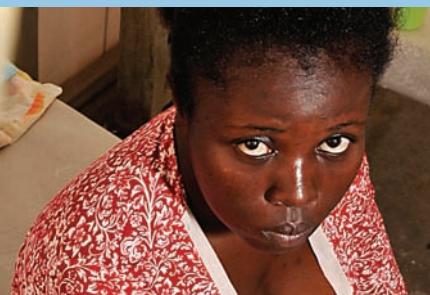
Even though the number of new cholera cases has decreased, cholera continues to be a threat in Haiti. Every rainstorm has the potential to spread disease. Cholera doesn’t wait; the health care system must be ready. And, with AmeriCares help, Haiti is fighting back.

AmeriCares Impact on Cholera

- Delivered 935,960 cholera treatments
- Trained 40,000 people in cholera prevention

Lifeline to Health

Medgine, a 25-year-old nursing student, knows she should not drink the water in the temporary settlement where she lives with her family. But treated water is expensive and her father, a teacher, can’t afford to buy enough for their family of 10 every day. When Medgine became ill with symptoms of cholera, she went to the hospital near the camp—Hopital Espoir. This free clinic would have closed months ago without funding and supplies from AmeriCares. Upon her arrival, Medgine received three bags of IV fluids and recovered fully. Since we began supporting this small neighborhood facility, 273 cholera patients have been treated and all have survived this potentially deadly disease.



Patient Medgine recovers

Photo by Matthew McDermott

Photo by Nadia Todres



Waiting for prenatal care

Photo by Matthew McDermott

Ambassadors of Care

There is not much of a future for a baby born with a twisted club foot in Haiti: The child can't walk to school or ever be self-sufficient. For 23 years, Virginia orthopedist Fred McGlynn has been traveling to Haiti to surgically repair deformed feet and give disabled children a chance at a normal life. Each time he travels, McGlynn brings his medical expertise, his passion and a trunk full of medical supplies—given to him at no charge by AmeriCares.

Since the 2010 earthquake, AmeriCares has provided hundreds of doctors volunteering in Haiti with more than 670,000 treatments for everything from vitamin deficiency to pneumonia—a total value of more than \$25 million. Immediately after the earthquake, many doctors volunteered for trauma care, often operating in tents. Now, with some medical facilities repaired or rebuilt, they can offer a wider range of care.

Neurosurgery nurse Ann McNeil flies to Haiti two or three times a year to assist with procedures that drain excess fluid from around the brains of children who suffer from hydrocephaly. McNeil uses AmeriCares online system to order intravenous antibiotics, anesthesia gases, sutures, pain medicines and precious IV fluids and tubing. Each

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Support for the Most Fragile

As AmeriCares works to strengthen Haiti's health care system, there is a special focus on the health of pregnant women, new mothers and babies. Even before the 2010 earthquake destroyed much of Haiti's health care system, Haiti had one of the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality in the world. Much of the \$54 million in aid that AmeriCares has delivered to Haiti since the earthquake supports mothers and children.



Photo by Matthew McDermott

New mother Samaelle Jeanty after a safe delivery

Healthy Start: Mothers often carry their children for 10 hours to reach the Real Hope for Haiti clinic in the hills above Port-au-Prince. Real Hope for Haiti is just one of the 30 core partners that AmeriCares supports across Haiti with medicines, nutritional supplements and counseling for mothers and children. Every day, the waiting room is filled with mothers worried about their baby's health. Ninety severely malnourished children live here. "When they smile and start playing, you know they are going to make it," says clinic director Lori Moise.

Urgent Care: After the 2010 earthquake, calls to the maternity ambulance serving the southwestern city of Jeremie increased by 60 percent. Without ambulance service, women would have to walk up to 18 hours for care, often delivering their babies on the road. In 2011, AmeriCares funded not only

a new ambulance—doubling the capacity—but also the cost of trained midwives and nurses who care for patients en route. The Haitian Health Foundation, which operates the ambulances, estimates the new vehicle has helped save the lives of more than 70 expectant mothers in its first six months of operation.

Hospital Rescue: One Sunday last October, the number of pregnant women arriving at the public maternity hospital in Port-au-Prince doubled, then tripled. "Hundreds of pregnant women ready to deliver their babies walked, rode or were carried to the hospital," says Jemps Civil, program associate for AmeriCares Haiti. The city's only other maternity hospital had suddenly closed. Because it was Sunday, the staff had no way to get extra medicines and supplies. AmeriCares made a crucial delivery. "We don't know what the hospital would do without that quick emergency response of AmeriCares," says hospital administrator Pierre Michel Lumene.



Volunteer nurse Sharon Udy-Janczuk

Photo by Ann McNeil

Bringing Health to the Streets



Handing out hygiene supplies in Cazeau

Drawn by a booming voice amplified by a bullhorn, dozens of pregnant women and small children emerge from their homes and make their way to a sagging tarp. There, out of the sun, health care workers are providing free vaccines and handing out soap, other hygiene products and oral rehydration salts. Just a few feet away, a young girl dumps her household's wastewater into a gutter in the middle of the street, illustrating the crucial need for health education and hygiene here in Cazeau, a Port-au-Prince neighborhood that is still recovering from the 2010 earthquake.

Cazeau is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. Earthquake survivors live crowded together in unsanitary conditions—there is no running water. But the 50,000 residents do have access to some basic health care: Community health workers take to the streets of Cazeau several times a week to immunize children, offer HIV testing and educate residents about first aid, disease prevention and

proper hygiene. The Cazeau Community Health Project began in July 2010 with funding from AmeriCares; the health care workers are from St. Francois de Sales Hospital in downtown Port-au-Prince. To date, they have visited 6,108 households, vaccinated more than 4,700 residents, performed voluntary HIV testing for close to 1,000 and distributed hygiene and other products to protect residents from spreading disease.

“In an area where few people have access to routine health care and good sanitation, community health programs like this one are critical to improving health outcomes,” says Brian Hoyer, AmeriCares Haiti country director.



Tracy, age 9, with her health record

Photos by Matthew McDermott

“It’s a thrill when we come back and see the kids walking and developing normally.”

– neurosurgery nurse
Ann McNeil, BSN, RN

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trip, McNeil and volunteer surgeons and specialists perform surgery—at no cost to patients’ families—on 15 to 25 children at Hospital La Paix in Port-au-Prince. “Without our efforts there would be nothing. This is what we can do,” says McNeil.

By returning again and again, these doctors can watch their patients heal and grow. For more than 15 years, Georgia doctor Christina Parkhurst has been volunteering in a general care clinic in rural Kenscoff, southeast of Port-au-Prince. She regularly checks on the health of a baby whose life her team saved with donated antibiotics and IV fluids. The infant that wasn’t supposed to last the night is now a thriving toddler. “The people here are so appreciative of everything we do,” says Parkhurst.



For more news on Haiti, visit americares.org/Haiti

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization which delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States. Since 1982, AmeriCares has delivered more than \$10 billion in aid to 164 countries.

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