



Photo by Matthew McDermott

# AmeriCares

Five-Year Emergency Response and Recovery Report

# HAITI

# EARTHQUAKE

Five years after a powerful earthquake struck Haiti, AmeriCares continues to help the nation recover and rebuild, giving Haitians access to essential health services. Working with local partners, we are making long-term, sustainable improvements in the health system by expanding health services, controlling cholera and preventing outbreaks, improving maternal and child health, and preparing for future disasters.

With support from our generous network of donors, over the past five years AmeriCares has made more than 1,800 shipments of medicine and supplies to partners in Haiti, including enough medicine to fill 3.5 million prescriptions. In all, AmeriCares has provided more than \$86 million in aid to help Haiti build back stronger after the devastating 2010 earthquake.

## January 12, 2010

A powerful 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas in Haiti, killing more than 230,000 people, injuring thousands and destroying buildings and roads across the region. More than 2 million people were affected, many left homeless.

An AmeriCares team was on the ground within 48 hours of the disaster, and within days we airlifted \$6 million in relief supplies, including lifesaving medicines, to help survivors trapped in the rubble and chaos. AmeriCares established an office and warehouse and continues to work in the country, restoring health services and building a stronger, resilient health system throughout Haiti.

Since the earthquake, AmeriCares recovery work priorities have been to:

### 1 RESTORE, REBUILD AND STRENGTHEN HEALTH SERVICES

To strengthen quality health care in Haiti, AmeriCares is collaborating with more than 80 Haitian health organizations. In one project, AmeriCares created a collaborative network of five health institutions serving a population of 290,000 people in very poor communities. With our help, patients from these vulnerable communities have access to quality medical and surgical services they would otherwise never be able to afford. In another project, AmeriCares provided funds and technical assistance to the BRAC Limb and Brace Center; the center now handcrafts prosthetics and braces for close to 3,000 patients and is on track to operate independently in 10 years.

### 2 CONTROL CHOLERA AND PREVENT OUTBREAKS

AmeriCares has invested more than \$6.8 million in medicines, supplies and project support to combat cholera in Haiti since the epidemic began after the 2010 earthquake. With our support, nearly 400,000 people have learned to lower their risk of the disease, more than 3,000 health workers have been trained to treat and prevent cholera, and more than 150 latrines have been repaired or built to improve community sanitation. AmeriCares has also provided enough fluid replacement to provide more than 380,000 treatments for patients with severe diarrhea, especially cholera.



**A young life saved:** When her parents rushed 5-year-old Joenne\* into the clinic in Fond Parisien, Haiti, she was limp and unresponsive – “like a rag doll,” health workers said. The little girl was suffering from cholera. Clinicians treated Joenne with IV fluids donated by AmeriCares; she quickly revived and was moved to the clinic’s cholera center where she recovered.

*\*name changed*

### 3 IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

In the last five years, AmeriCares has donated more than \$3.1 million in support for programs and services to improve maternal and child health in Haiti, including enough medicine to fill more than 290,000 prescriptions. AmeriCares has also provided ambulances for obstetric emergencies and supported vaccination campaigns, construction of a maternity center and training for midwives in communities where such services were lacking.

### 4 HELP HAITIANS MANAGE CHRONIC DISEASE

AmeriCares is collaborating with local partners to help Haitians manage diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Over the last five years, we have provided enough medicine to fill nearly 675,000 prescriptions for these chronic diseases, medicine worth nearly \$21.5 million. New projects include a diabetic foot clinic launched with Fondation Haïtienne de Diabète et de Maladies Cardio-Vasculaires to help prevent painful and disabling complications of diabetes.



**Hope and healing:** After having both legs amputated when they were crushed in the 2010 Haiti earthquake, 19-year-old Herve struggled. He was given prosthetics that did not work well and couldn’t go to school or join his friends.

Then a health worker suggested Herve visit AmeriCares partner BRAC Limb and Brace Center, where trained Haitian workers handcraft artificial limbs. Technicians built prosthetics to fit Herve and he can now walk, ride a bike and even play soccer. “I’m not sad anymore,” he says. “I feel like I have my real legs back.”



◀ **Meet Herve, a teenager who lost both legs in the earthquake, and hear his story of healing.**

<http://www.americares.org/who-we-are/newsroom/video/haiti-brac-sp2014.html>

**Learn more about how AmeriCares is helping in Haiti.**

<http://www.americares.org/emergency-response/2010-haiti-earthquake.html>

**Explore an interactive map of AmeriCares work in Haiti.**

<http://www.americares.org/map/haiti-harthquake.html>