

# Strengthening Health Care in Haiti



Since Haiti was struck by a devastating and destructive earthquake on January 12, 2010, AmeriCares has been working to restore and strengthen health services.

While the country still struggles to rebuild, we have improved the health of tens of thousands of Haitians with medicines, funding, medical equipment and supplies, health education for families, and training for health workers.

## Emergency Relief

With a warehouse in Port-au-Prince, AmeriCares helps Haitians prepare for and respond to emergencies of all types. After Hurricane Sandy struck in November 2012, we delivered pre-positioned supplies to the hardest hit areas in southern Haiti. Every storm brings the threat of cholera: To reduce risk, we have trained hundreds of community health workers and supplied enough medicine to treat more than 325,000 people suffering from

cholera. “I will always remember what AmeriCares did to help us — before anyone even knew that cholera was coming,” says Lorelle G. Mosie, R.N., director of the Real Hope for Haiti Clinic.

## Since January 2010, we have delivered:

- medicine to treat 2.6 million people
- support for 140 Haitian health care providers
- 1,359 shipments of medicines and supplies — an average of one a day for three years
- a total of \$63 million in aid



## Quality Care for All

“Thank you to the staff of AmeriCares for this gift,” says Joseph Jolicoeur. Through a free care voucher program created and funded by AmeriCares, Joseph had a hernia repaired last year at one of the country’s best private hospitals. “Without your help, God only knows how I would be suffering,” says the 70-year-old, who endured years of pain from his condition.

In the last three years, AmeriCares has provided \$2.3 million in funding to strengthen local health care providers. Joseph is one patient whose life was improved by AmeriCares Quality and Access program, through which we funded the equipment in the emergency room at a top hospital damaged by the earthquake. Now, low-income patients receive vouchers for free specialty medical care at the hospital, treatment to which they otherwise would not have access.



Children enjoy a health education event (top). With a warehouse in Port-au-Prince (above), AmeriCares can respond quickly to health needs in Haiti. Joseph (right) had a hernia repaired thanks to a program funded by AmeriCares. **For more, visit [americares.org/Haiti](http://americares.org/Haiti)**

Photos by Jemps Civil/AmeriCares

# A Foundation of Health: Vaccination and Education



Children carry knowledge of health as well as water purification tablets after a visit from health workers (left). Floristal Clotine's baby Colonel Augustin is assured a healthy start after a vaccination (right).

With so few functioning public hospitals, even minor illnesses in Haiti can become deadly. That's why preventing disease is crucial. AmeriCares supports a wide range of community health, education and vaccination programs with medicines, funding and expertise.

**A shot for the future:** Floristal Clotine and Acline Bertonier have to walk for hours to reach a doctor from their homes in the remote, mountainous Upper Thoman region. But their young children are vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis, thanks to a mobile vaccination program funded by AmeriCares and run by Haitian non-profit Rezo Koze Lasante. In just three months, 90 percent of children in Upper Thoman received vaccinations; previously, only 3 percent were protected. This is just one effort AmeriCares supports to protect the health of mothers and children.

**A message that saves lives:** Every month, health care workers visit neighborhoods in Cazeau, a community of 32,000 on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. With funding from AmeriCares, workers from St. Francois de Sales Hospital deliver health education messages and provide hygiene supplies and water purification tablets. Armed with know-how and supplies, fewer Haitians will contract cholera each year. "Good health for the Haitian people is our first objective," says Dr. Hans-Müller Thomas of St. Francois de Sales Hospital. "There are not enough hospitals in Haiti to treat all of the patients."

## AmeriCares

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization that delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States.

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## Looking Ahead



AmeriCares will continue to work in our four areas of focus in Haiti:

- Increasing access to health care
- Cholera prevention and treatment
- Improving maternal and child health
- Emergency preparedness for the health care system

## Medical Volunteers

To further bolster health care in Haiti, AmeriCares supplies volunteer medical teams with medicines to provide essential services, including primary care and surgeries. In three years, AmeriCares has outfitted 582 medical teams with medicine to treat more than 900,000 people — a value of \$37 million. "I could not function in Haiti without AmeriCares," says Jay Nielsen, M.D., of Missions International. "Having access to health care makes our patients feel as if there is a safety net, even if it's our four-times-a-year clinic. The most important service AmeriCares provides is hope."

