



# Hurricane Harvey One-Year Report

## August 25, 2017

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on Friday, August 25, 2017, in Rockport, Texas, with winds of 130 miles per hour, bringing massive destruction to communities in southeast and central Texas. The storm caused at least 70 deaths; 53 counties were declared federal disaster areas. Record rainfall—51 inches in some areas—caused catastrophic flooding that drove tens of thousands of survivors from their homes.

Americares set three goals for our response to Hurricane Harvey and continues to focus our work around them: restore health services for the most vulnerable survivors, expand health services to help survivors cope with stress and trauma, and prepare health facilities for future storms.



## Americares Health Programs Continue

Americares is restoring health services and meeting survivors' health needs in storm-damaged communities across Texas. To date, Americares has provided more than \$13 million in aid for Harvey survivors, including medicine and supplies, mobile health clinics and repairs for health facilities. Our programs are accomplished in partnership with more than 70 local nonprofit organizations and support from 25,000 donors. Americares also established a base of operation in Houston to oversee our relief and recovery programs.

### 1. Restore health services for the most vulnerable survivors

In the year after Hurricane Harvey, Americares supported more than 70 local health partners in Texas—health clinics and social service agencies that care for Texans who are low-income and uninsured. After the hurricane, the demand for health care services increased as survivors experienced health crises or sought to replace damaged or lost medicine. Americares provided medicine and medical supplies to clinics and shelters, supported mobile medical clinics that brought health services directly to affected communities and provided emergency funding so clinics could add operating hours and staff and make needed repairs.

In remote Refugio, Hurricane Harvey left the roof of the county's only hospital damaged and leaking; Americares supported repairs, restoring health care for 7,000 county residents and a safe work environment for the 102 health workers who staff the facility.

With support from Americares, the Stephen F. Austin Community Health Network sent mobile medical teams to areas hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey (top). In Refugio's hospital (right), health workers dealt with damp and mold after Hurricane Harvey damaged the facility's roof.

**"They got me back on my medicine for my diabetes. I'm able to work now. What you all did for the people of Texas during the hurricane was just awesome."**

—DeWayne, Hurricane Harvey survivor, Clute, Texas



**1,700**

survivors treated in mobile clinics

**25**

local community organizations received funding for repairs and expanded hours or service

**157,000\***

prescriptions

**218,000**

bottles of water distributed to survivors

\*estimated





After Hurricane Harvey flooded their home, this young family sought shelter at Covenant House, which itself had been damaged in the storm. Americares, supported by the JJ Watt Foundation, made repairs to Covenant House. Here, JJ Watt made a visit.

**150** shipments  
**70+** local partners  
**1000+** health workers trained  
**\$13M** total aid  
**40,000\*** people reached  
\*estimated

## 2. Expand health services to help survivors cope with stress and trauma

In Texas, nearly every health worker is a hurricane survivor, facing recovery from floods and damage, as well as caring for survivors dealing with trauma and loss. To support and retain health care staff, Americares has committed to educate 4,000 health workers to manage their own stress, as well as care for patients whose mental health is affected by the storm. One year after the hurricane, Americares has trained more than 970 first responders, physicians, nurses, clinic directors, health aides and other health staff. Our training expands health care capacity and creates a more resilient health care community in Texas. The training and workshops will continue through 2019.

**970+** health workers trained to address stress and trauma

## 3. Prepare health facilities for future storms

To restore health services quickly during emergencies, health clinics must have and actively maintain a disaster plan. Americares is conducting preparedness workshops throughout Texas to ensure that clinics and social service agencies have customized disaster plans that address continuity of operations, coordination and communication. Preparedness workshops equip local health partners with plans and training to facilitate decision-making in an emergency with the ultimate goal of enhancing the post-disaster health outcomes of disaster survivors, providers and communities. The workshops will continue through 2019.

**90+** health workers trained in disaster planning

**“The training was very helpful for my staff. We were struggling with a lot of emotions...we had to be strong for the community.”**

—Charlotte Jackson, executive director, Just Do It Now



**“Americares disaster preparedness workshop helped us see what we could have done better during Hurricane Harvey, so more survivors could have accessed health care more quickly.”**

—Lara Hamilton, director, Christ Clinic, Katy, Texas



Americares supported Ubi Caritas (top) with medicine and supplies, so the organization could provide relief to survivors such as Ronald and Loretta. Lara Hamilton (above) is working so Christ Clinic is ready for the next storm.



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### Watch:

See a video on our response to Hurricane Harvey:  
[americares.org/harvey1yrvideo](http://americares.org/harvey1yrvideo)