South Sudanese Refugees Need Medicine

With her four children under the age of 9, Joy walked for two weeks to reach Uganda, fleeing violence and unrest in South Sudan.

Last spring, Joy was one of 2,000 South Sudanese arriving in Uganda each day, a total of 50,000 since the current South Sudan crisis began in December 2013.

When Joy arrived in Uganda, she was welcomed at a government transit camp and put on a list for a housing settlement. Many camps and settlements have health clinics staffed with nurses, but the influx of people is overwhelming: There is little running water and clinics quickly run out of the most basic medicine.

For mothers like Joy, such conditions make health hard to maintain. “Health workers in the transit camps and settlements are working to meet the needs of the refugee influx, but with little expectation that the situation will improve any time soon, the need here is urgent,” says AmeriCares Senior Associate Julia Bolton, who met Joy when she visited the camps and health staff in February. Health workers are worried that rainy season floods will bring cholera and other waterborne diseases. “That possibility, on top of the ongoing medical needs, is of serious concern,” says Bolton. “In crowded settlements, medical needs can quickly overwhelm local health care capabilities.”

AmeriCares is collaborating with Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative and the Ugandan Department of Health to develop a steady supply of medicine to help refugees, including Joy and her children, stay healthy. In April, AmeriCares airlifted an emergency medical module to Uganda with enough medicine to meet the needs of 20,000 people for three months. Because of our strong partner network in Uganda, the medicines and supplies AmeriCares delivers can be quickly distributed to the refugee centers in greatest need.

South Sudanese refugees carry basins after collecting water from a tap at the Tzaipi refugee camp in Adjumani, Uganda (top). A displaced boy from South Sudan holds his schoolbooks at Oliji primary school in northern Uganda (above). AmeriCares staff meet a health worker at the site of a Mississippi clinic destroyed by tornadoes (right).
Dear Friends,

Spring and summer are welcome times of year, but for people living in the South and Midwest especially, warmer weather also brings damaging storms and tornadoes.

This year was no exception: On April 27 through 30, a series of storms rolled through the southern U.S., killing 37 people and wrecking cars, homes, businesses and communities. We immediately called our partner clinics, sent an emergency response team (see page 1) and delivered medicines and support for a critically-needed community health center.

The early summer rainy season brings the threat of cholera and other waterborne diseases to refugee camps in Uganda, where an estimated 50,000 South Sudanese are living, having fled the violence and unrest in their own country (page 1). We are working there to keep clinic shelves stocked with lifesaving medicines and supplies.

As we confront crises like these, AmeriCares also creates change. Six months after Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Central Philippines, we are working alongside local partners to rebuild 67 community health centers, building in resilience and capacity for future disasters (page 2). These clinics serve more than 1.3 million people and employ close to 1,000 health workers.

Our ability to respond to crises and create sustainable improvements is a hallmark of AmeriCares emergency response. We could not help so many people, in so many places and in so many ways if it were not for the support of donors like you. Thank you.

Michael J. Nyenhuis, President and CEO

Protection Against Ebola Virus in Liberia

With support from AmeriCares and GlaxoSmithKline, the staff of Ganta Hospital in Liberia will soon have 600 pairs of gloves, 3,000 gowns, 600 pairs of goggles and other critical equipment they need to help stop the spread of the highly infectious, deadly Ebola virus. In April, AmeriCares received a request for personal protective equipment from Ganta Hospital, which is near the border with Guinea where cases have occurred. As of April 17, 135 West Africans had died from infection with Ebola, which causes fever, impaired organ function and, in some cases, internal and external bleeding. The virus is spread by close contact with infected people and animals and 90 percent of cases are fatal. Health workers depend on equipment such as disposable gloves, gowns and goggles to protect themselves and others.

Donations Ensure Philippines Typhoon Response Will Continue

Six months after Typhoon Haiyan ripped through the Philippines, killing more than 6,000 people and leaving half a million homeless, AmeriCares is still working to restore health for survivors. We are rebuilding health clinics and helping health workers meet the challenges of caring for people after such an immense disaster.

Already, AmeriCares has delivered enough medicine to fill nearly 1 million prescriptions, including antibiotics to treat wounds and chronic disease medicines to ensure that people with heart disease and diabetes can continue their treatment.

Working alongside local partners, including the Philippines Department of Health, AmeriCares is supporting the repair and rebuilding of 67 community health facilities. Still, there is much work to be done.

“Based on the monitoring reports, some health stations still need medicines,” says Dr. Lakshmi Legaspi, Department of Health Assistant Director, Region 7. “We hope you will continue to provide the medicines and supplies they need while we continue to provide technical assistance, until such time that the local government has fully recovered and is self-sustaining.” AmeriCares is committed to working in the disaster area into 2015.

To stop the spread of the deadly Ebola virus, health workers need protective equipment (top). AmeriCares has worked with more than 100 partners to restore health for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (above).
With help from the GE Foundation, AmeriCares has tripled the medicine and supplies we provide for low-income uninsured people in the U.S. In total, AmeriCares provided $70 million in prescription and over-the-counter medicines and medical supplies for U.S. patients in need last year.

The GE Foundation supports AmeriCares domestic work as part of its Developing Health Program which helps increase access to primary care for underserved populations. Developing Health is a multi-year, $50 million program that underscores GE’s healthymagination® commitment to deliver better health to more people at lower cost.

The GE Foundation recently donated $2.1 million to help AmeriCares grow and improve its support of U.S. health care safety net partners. The GE Foundation’s support allows us to improve patient care, expand treatment options for patients and build capacity at U.S. health care safety net clinics.

The GE Foundation began supporting AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance Program in 2010. Since 1989, the GE Foundation has contributed more than $5.8 million in financial support to AmeriCares global programs. The GE Foundation recently supported AmeriCares efforts to restore health services for survivors after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. In 2010, GE partnered with AmeriCares to construct a transitional field hospital in Angol, Chile, after an 8.8 magnitude earthquake destroyed an important regional hospital.

Thanks to You, A Life Saved — Twice

At just 7 years old, Joenne* has had her life saved not once, but twice. When she was 3, Joenne was severely injured in the deadly January 2010 Haiti earthquake. Volunteer surgeons at the Love A Child village in Fond Parisien amputated her injured leg and used IV fluids to stabilize Joenne during surgery. The youngster recovered.

Two years later, cholera struck Joenne. Dehydrated from vomiting and diarrhea, she was unresponsive — “like a rag doll,” said health workers. Her father rushed his little girl to the Love A Child clinic where clinicians used IV fluids to rehydrate her. Within minutes, Joenne was revived and moved to the clinic’s cholera treatment center for further care.

Since the earthquake, AmeriCares has donated more than $1.2 million worth of crucial medicines and supplies to the Love A Child clinic. Donations include more than 24,000 units of IV fluids like the ones used by Joenne’s surgeons and those crucial for treating cholera, the waterborne disease that has ravaged Haiti since the earthquake, killing more than 8,000 Haitians.

*name changed

With donations from individuals and corporations, AmeriCares provided enough medicine to fill 1 million prescriptions for low-income Americans last year (top). When Joenne fell ill, her parents took her to a nearby clinic stocked with AmeriCares medicines (above). John Garoppolo named AmeriCares as a beneficiary of his IRA (top right).
Your Donations at Work in 66 Countries

With your help, between January 1 and March 31, 2014, AmeriCares sent medicines and medical supplies to the following countries:


Rwanda: Months after their surgeries to repair obstetric fistula, these women returned to Kibagabaga Hospital in Kigali, Rwanda, for a checkup. The surgeries were performed by volunteer doctors at no cost, using medicines and supplies from AmeriCares Medical Outreach program.

Philippines: To restore health services in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan, AmeriCares is working with more than 100 partners including teams of volunteer doctors donating their services in the disaster zone.

Emergency Response: When disaster strikes, AmeriCares can quickly move medicine from our emergency pharmacy. Donations make this possible, including support from our Annual Emergency Response Partners.

Oklahoma: AmeriCares supplied this panda warmer to the HealthPlex hospital in Norman, Oklahoma, which is experiencing a rise in demand for maternity services after tornadoes destroyed the nearby Moore Medical Center in May 2013.

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.

AmeriCares
88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902
203.658.9500 | 1.800.486.HELP | americares.org
Editor: Kathy Kukula, editor@americares.org

Connect with Us:
Like us on Facebook facebook.com/americares
Follow us on Twitter twitter.com/americares