

Aid Reaches Families Fleeing Syria

Lebanon



The winter journey from Syria was rough for this family of four: By the time they reached Lebanon, the children were severely malnourished and ill.

The anxious parents had no idea where to find health care in their new country. A volunteer medical team supported by Americares was providing free health services to Syrian refugees and gave the young family the care they needed.

“All of the patients we served were refugees with little access to health care,” says registered nurse and team leader Trishana Ducros. “Many of the refugees are unemployed or make very little money.” Ducros’s group was one of 63 teams using critical medicine and supplies from Americares to provide health care

to refugees in Greece, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Since the crisis began six years ago, Americares has provided teams with enough medicine to fill 90,000 prescriptions. “The donated medications were an invaluable tool to restore many to health and hope,” says Ducros.

In their war-torn country, Americares provides Syrians with medicine, mobile medical clinics and support for hospitals.

Americares is also training health professionals working in Jordan, Syria and Turkey to develop mental health skills and strategies critical where homes, businesses, hospitals and clinics are targets of bombings and other attacks. The skills will benefit health workers and patients. In Jordan, Americares is also addressing chronic disease among refugees and host communities.

In the last six years, Americares has provided \$12.4 million in aid to help families affected by the Syrian civil war.

“Americares is dedicated to meeting the health needs of Syrians—whether they’ve been forced to flee or remain in their home country,” says Vice President of Emergency Response Garrett Ingoglia. “We will continue to work with our local partners to address the unique health challenges of this violent and long-running crisis.”



Syrian families who fled violence found health care in Lebanon, thanks to volunteer medical teams supplied by Americares (top). In Aleppo, Syria, Americares supports mobile clinics that bring health services to war-torn communities (above). Medicine from Americares emergency pharmacy went to storm survivors in the southern U.S. (right)

Your Donations Support U.S. Storm Survivors

The weekend of April 28, destructive storms tore through five southern states. Seven tornadoes touched down in Texas and, in Missouri, 12 inches of rain caused flooding that breached levees and overflowed riverbanks.

The bad weather left at least 18 people dead and forced thousands into shelters.

Americares ongoing relationships with local health centers throughout the region was key to the response. Through that network, the emergency response staff was able to assess and meet health needs in storm-damaged communities.

Americares delivered bottled water stored in the region in anticipation of disasters and provided 600 doses of tetanus vaccine to county health departments and other health organizations. Each dose of vaccine protects a responder or storm survivor from tetanus infection during rescue and clean-up. Americares also sent 500 first aid kits for families; the kits were assembled by volunteer teams in advance of the storm season.

“Americares maintains year-round readiness for just this type of disaster,” says Americares Director of Emergency Response Kate Dischino. “Our ability to preposition relief supplies allows us to act quickly and efficiently.”



From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

When storms caused historic floods in Missouri early this spring, the disaster stayed in the headlines only a few days. But, with your ongoing support, AmeriCares emergency relief for local health centers in the state has continued—our shipments of tetanus vaccine and other relief supplies are protecting the health of residents and first responders in the midst of recovery and repairs.

Your support helps every day, not only in emergencies: Because of AmeriCares network across the United States, low-income patients in over 1,000 communities can leave their local health center with medicine in hand, not just a prescription they cannot afford to fill.

Our health programs change lives: In Tanzania, hundreds of women every year receive the surgery they need to resume family and community life, free from the embarrassment and pain of obstetric fistula. Because of AmeriCares committed donors, women receive the surgery at no cost.

I hope you enjoy reading more stories of health and hope in the pages of this newsletter. Together, we are building healthier futures for people in need in more than 90 countries.

Your ongoing support makes all of this possible.

Thank you,

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

“I thank God for the doctors!”

Monica thought her life was over. While giving birth to her fifth child in rural Tanzania, she suffered an injury called obstetric fistula, which caused constant urinary incontinence. Her clothes were always soiled. “I isolated myself from church and other meetings,” she says. “Crying became my life—I thought my life had come to an end.”

Monica heard that she could receive surgery at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania, hours from her home. She sold seven cows in preparation to pay for the surgery and was surprised to learn that, with support from AmeriCares and Johnson & Johnson, the procedure is provided free. So far, 1,400 women have had the life-changing surgery.

The unique program at Bugando includes training for staff in surgery and fistula prevention, as well as transportation vouchers, physical therapy and job skills training for patients after surgery. Johnson & Johnson donates the special sutures and other medical supplies critical to the delicate surgical repair.

Monica is farming again and caring for her family. “I thank God for the doctors who treated me!” she says. “May God bless you.”



With surgery behind her, Monica can resume her life. [Click here](#) to hear Lucy, another fistula survivor, tell her story.

Protecting Families in Puerto Rico

In warm climates, mosquitoes can spread the Zika virus. Every bite puts a pregnant woman and her unborn baby at risk for birth defects. AmeriCares has been providing families with protection kits and education in Central America. In March, AmeriCares delivered 80,000 cans of insect repellent, donated by SC Johnson, for Zika family protection kits in Puerto Rico. Each kit contains a bed net, two cans of insect repellent, educational information and other items.



“Our Zika response is focused on prevention and education,” says AmeriCares Medical Officer Dr. Julie Varughese. “These kits reduce the risk of transmission for thousands of families in high-risk communities.”

AmeriCares has also distributed mosquito repellent where Zika-carrying mosquitoes have been found in California, Florida, Louisiana and Texas, to help low-income people who might not be able to afford repellent. In El Salvador, AmeriCares family clinic provides similar family protection kits, as well as pre-natal care and specially designed maternity shirts that repel mosquitoes.

In Puerto Rico, AmeriCares gave families protection from Zika-carrying mosquitoes.

Partner in Profile: Horizon Pharma

When flash floods in 2016 forced Ruth Ann from her home in West Virginia, the retiree fled without her diabetes medicine. Americares had included insulin in an emergency shipment for flood survivors, and Ruth Ann was able to continue her treatments at no cost. "This is a life saver, it really is!" she says.



Ensuring that patients get the medicine they need is also central to Horizon Pharma's mission and a reason why the biopharmaceutical company became an Americares Emergency Response Partner. The program supports Americares year-round disaster readiness, enabling the team to maintain an emergency pharmacy, pre-position medicines and supplies and respond to disasters immediately.

"Improving patients' lives is at the core of what we do, but it's our company's and employees' commitment to giving back that truly sets us apart," says Timothy P. Walbert, Chairman, President and CEO of Horizon Pharma. "Our employees are the backbone of our company, and we look to foster their creativity and passion to help people in need."

Horizon Pharma prides itself on reaching underserved patient populations with innovative medicines to meet their needs. Many of Horizon's medicines treat very rare diseases, some with patient populations of less than 2,000 people.



"By supporting Americares emergency work, Horizon is helping people at risk from not only large-scale disasters, but also equally devastating smaller emergencies that don't make the news," says Americares President and CEO, Michael J. Nyenhuis. "We are grateful to partner with Horizon to reach those in need."

When disaster strikes, patients and health providers need support.

Thanks to You, Medical Teams Treat Flood Survivors in Peru

In January, torrential rains in Peru triggered floods and landslides that killed more than 130 people. Homes, roads and bridges washed away. In March, the disaster took another turn as mosquitoes began spreading painful and sometimes deadly dengue fever.

Americares sent shipments of medicine and relief items, including water treatment supplies and mosquito repellent, and also formed mobile medical teams to treat survivors in remote communities cut off from health care. More than 400 health facilities were damaged by the floods—including 21 that were completely destroyed. Within six months, Americares mobile medical teams staffed by Peruvian health workers had treated more than 5,000 patients throughout the region. In all, Americares provided more than \$7 million in emergency aid.



After heavy rains in Peru, Americares brought health services to remote flood-damaged communities.

Save Lives Every Day



Americares donor Jacob Schloss

Jacob Schloss considers himself a citizen of the world. With his doctorate in education, Schloss was stationed in Japan as a G.I. and has taught school in Germany, Taiwan and Thailand, as well as Oregon and Washington states. He and his late wife, Betty, hosted an international guest list at their homes in the United States. "We had foster children and foreign exchange students," he says. "We always had room for another to join our three children."

Schloss's monthly sustaining support of Americares is part of his global view and a monthly gift makes sense. "It fits perfectly—Americares is taking care of the people of the world, and I realize that it's not just one particular time that donations are needed," he says. Schloss also likes that Americares supports volunteer medical teams that travel and provide charitable health care, including surgeries. He says, "I appreciate the goodness of it."

Now retired, Schloss continues to tour the world with a travel group and stays in touch with students from years ago. Schloss's own parents were German immigrants from Russia and worked hard to raise eight children. "I see a need for more of us to help each other," says Schloss.

For more information on becoming a sustaining donor, contact the Planned Gift Office at Americares: 203.658.9500.

Your Caring Helped People in 71 Countries in Three Months

With your help, between January 1 and March 31, 2017, Americares provided life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | China | Fiji | Kenya | Myanmar | Philippines | Turkey |
| Armenia | Colombia | Ghana | Kosovo | Nepal | Puerto Rico | Uganda |
| Bangladesh | Congo-Kinshasa | Guatemala | Kyrgyzstan | Nicaragua | Rwanda | United States |
| Barbados | Costa-Rica | Guyana | Laos | Niger | Senegal | Uzbekistan |
| Belize | Cuba | Haiti | Lebanon | Nigeria | Somalia | Vietnam |
| Benin | Dominican Republic | Honduras | Liberia | North Korea | South Sudan | Zimbabwe |
| Bhutan | Ecuador | India | Madagascar | Pakistan | St. Lucia | |
| Bolivia | Egypt | Indonesia | Malawi | Palestinian Territories | St. Vincent | |
| Brazil | El Salvador | Israel | Mali | Panama | Syria | |
| Cambodia | Ethiopia | Jamaica | Mexico | Peru | Tanzania | |
| Cameroon | | Jordan | Mongolia | | Togo | |



United States



El Salvador

United States: Dr. Arnold Pearlstone, one of nearly 300 volunteers providing health care to the uninsured at Americares Free Clinics in Connecticut, has provided treatment for more than 1,300 patients.

El Salvador: In his third year of medical school, Dr. Mike Varshavski has 2.5 million followers on Instagram and is using his social media influence to bring attention to preventative health programs at Americares Family Clinic in Santiago de María, El Salvador. To see more photos of his trip click [here](#).

Nepal: Murali (right) no longer has to travel hours to have her blood pressure checked: Americares built a new health center in her hometown of Nibuwatar, Nepal, one of 16 clinics Americares rebuilt after the 2015 earthquake.

Haiti: With Americares help, health centers in Haiti are stocking up on critical medicine and supplies needed during a cholera outbreak. Communities recovering from Hurricane Matthew are at risk for the deadly water-borne disease.



Nepal

Annual Emergency Response Partners

These organizations support Americares year-round readiness for global emergencies:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Anthem Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Chevron
- Horizon Pharma
- Medtronic
- MoneyGram Foundation
- Northrup Grumman
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Patagonia
- Southwest Airlines
- S&P Global
- Vanech Family Foundation
- Voya Financial
- Anonymous



Haiti



Americares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies.

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