

Thanks to You, Health Care After a Deadly Earthquake



Photo by Edy Irianto

Fadhiah clutched her 4-day-old baby as dirty water rose quickly around her. In Palu City, Indonesia, an earthquake had triggered a tsunami, collapsing Fadhiah's house and sending a muddy wave over her and her tiny boy.

Once she was safe in a neighbor's car, the young mother cleaned mud from her baby's mouth, relieved to see him breathing. The magnitude 7.5 earthquake on September 28, 2018, killed more than 4,000 people, destroyed 70,000 homes and wrecked roads and bridges.

Americares responded immediately, working alongside local health organizations to quickly set up and equip 15 emergency women's health centers near where Fadhiah and other homeless survivors sought shelter in tents. Fadhiah brought her little boy for checkups every couple of weeks.

Americares trained over 400 health workers, including midwives, in mental health and psychosocial care, knowing that every patient had experienced the trauma of the earthquake, which in one area had turned soil to quicksand, swallowing homes and people.

Now, Americares is making sure that thousands of women continue to have the health care they need by replacing the temporary emergency health centers with more stable structures designed to last three years. One such building had just barely opened when it saw three healthy babies born in just 72 hours.

"Each new baby is a sign of how much these health centers are needed," says Americares Vice President of Emergency Programs Kate Dischino. Permanent health centers will be built when the government decides where it is safe for people to relocate.



Photo by Edy Irianto

Americares response to a deadly earthquake in Indonesia included equipping 15 emergency women's health shelters (top). In the months following the earthquake, Americares began replacing the temporary health centers with structures designed to last three years—one center saw three babies born in three days (above).

Aid Reaches Tornado Survivors in the U.S.

For four weeks last spring, severe weather battered communities across the central United States. Day after day, millions of people lived under the threat of disaster as deadly storms unleashed flash flooding, hail and more than 500 tornadoes in multiple states, including a fierce EF-3 tornado that left a path of destruction across Missouri's capital city. The severe weather killed at least seven people and pushed rivers to record flood levels, engulfing roadways, homes and businesses and forcing families to evacuate.

In just 17 days, Americares delivered 11 shipments of essential medicine and relief supplies for affected families across Arkansas, Ohio, Oklahoma and Missouri. Americares relief for stricken families included truckloads of bottled water and first aid supplies, as well as critical tetanus vaccines and insulin for diabetic patients who lost medication in the storm.

"Americares relief supplies give survivors what they need to recover—and regain a sense of normalcy," says Americares Vice President of Emergency Programs Kate Dischino.



When deadly storms struck the central U.S., Americares responded, delivering 11 shipments of essential medicine and medical supplies in just 17 days.



Photo by William Vasquez

From the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

Earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, cyclones and bomb cyclones—these are just a few of the disasters that AmeriCares has responded to in the last year. All captured our attention in news headlines.

But the health crises that vulnerable people face each day are often not among the top stories. I don't get alerts when someone can't afford insulin or a local health clinic doesn't have an ambulance for emergencies.

AmeriCares is working on these crises, too. Our strategy is to invest in local health centers and close the gaps that keep people from the care they need. When local health centers thrive, so do people in their communities—with better health, more opportunities and increasingly productive lives.

We are celebrating AmeriCares 40th anniversary this summer and while we have grown larger, AmeriCares mission remains the same: To save lives and improve health for people affected by poverty or disaster so they can reach their full potential.

We can't think of a better way to celebrate our 40 years of saving lives than by showing you the confident smile of the young mother on the cover, who knows that there is a pathway to a healthy future for her little boy—a pathway made possible because of your support.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

Cyclone Response: Your Donation at Work in the U.S. and Africa

AmeriCares responds to an average of 30 disasters each year. Here's how AmeriCares responded to two disasters in March 2019.

Nebraska

In mid-March, a bomb cyclone with blizzards, hurricane-like winds and heavy rain pushed rivers in Nebraska over their banks, flooding homes and towns and overwhelming cropland. Residents were trapped by rising waters and closed roads.

March 18: AmeriCares emergency response team contacts Nebraska health departments, first responders and health centers, some of which are ongoing partners and already receive non-emergency aid from AmeriCares. Four organizations request medicine and supplies from AmeriCares, including Amanda Jeffres, RN, from Loup Basin Public Health Department, who requests tetanus vaccine, which protects survivors from infection from cuts and scrapes.

March 20: AmeriCares delivers the vaccine overnight. "We were due for a delivery from our regular supplier, but roads were closed, and the delivery was on hold," says Jeffres. Also in the shipment—hygiene supplies for survivors living in shelters and clean-up kits to prevent mold in flooded homes.

March 21: Jeffres and her team deliver the vaccine by car, covering their 7,100-square-mile territory. "The road department was working sunup to



Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images

A bomb cyclone in March brought heavy rains to Nebraska, pushing rivers to record levels and destroying homes, businesses and crops.



Photo by REUTERS/Drone Base

AmeriCares responded to flooding in Nebraska with shipments of medicine and medical supplies to partners throughout the state.

sundown, so we vaccinated the workers during their lunch hour," says Jeffres.

In response to the storm, AmeriCares provided more than \$67,000 in medicine and medical supplies to partners throughout Nebraska.

Malawi and Mozambique

A powerful cyclone slammed the eastern coast of Africa on March 15, lingering for days over Mozambique and also flooding Malawi and Zimbabwe. Officially 1,007 lives lost, the true death toll may never be known. In some areas of Mozambique, most homes were destroyed by winds, while roads to the most affected remote areas were impassable due to flooding.

March 21: AmeriCares deploys an emergency response team to Mozambique and redirects staff already in Malawi. The teams coordinate with national and international responders, traveling by helicopter to remote regions. Where are clinics still standing? What are the health risks?

March 24: In Mozambique, responders identify cases of cholera, a deadly diarrheal disease spread by flood waters. There is also concern for the safety of women and children, as families have been split apart by the storm. AmeriCares prepares shipments of medicine and medical supplies.

Partner in Profile: BD



Susan (left) with nurse practitioner Sue McGinnes, APN. Susan's local clinic is a Patient-Centered Medical Home—a standard reached with support from AmeriCares and BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company).

When Susan makes an appointment at Community Health Care Clinic in Normal, Illinois, she knows clinic staff will address her health needs and treat her with compassion. She suffers from high blood pressure that is resistant to treatment. "Without this clinic, I'd be dead," says Susan. The clinic's high-quality care meets the standard of Patient-Centered Medical Homes, which Community Health Care Clinic reached with support from AmeriCares and BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company).

This work with charitable clinics is just one aspect of BD's partnership with AmeriCares. Since 1986, BD has provided nearly \$40 million in critical support, including donated medical supplies, to AmeriCares health programs. BD-donated supplies include syringes and pen needles that patients with diabetes need to inject insulin—providing both cost savings and lifesaving care. To better understand the impact of all donated medical supplies, BD has also been a partner in unique research AmeriCares is conducting.

For BD employees, the partnership with AmeriCares provides an opportunity to lend their expertise to communities in need. For example, AmeriCares hosts BD Volunteer Service Trips, which most recently took place at the AmeriCares Family Clinic in rural El Salvador. There, BD volunteers demonstrated best practices in diabetes care and provided leadership skill training. Future trips will focus on planning for continuity of chronic disease care during disasters.

"BD is committed to advancing the world of health," says Jennifer Farrington, Senior Director of Social Investing for BD and Vice President of the BD Foundation. "AmeriCares relationships with thousands of health care clinics in the U.S. and around the world help BD share its products and its expertise with people in need, who ordinarily wouldn't have access to quality care."

April 22: AmeriCares begins to train more than 500 local health workers at seven health centers to control cholera and other infectious diseases. In more than a dozen locations, AmeriCares equips women's health clinics and safe, private spaces where women and children can receive care for stress and trauma. The team in Malawi distributes shipments of medicine and supplies and emergency funding for farmers who will need to replant ruined crops to feed their families in the coming months.



AmeriCares responded when a powerful cyclone slammed into the eastern coast of Africa—with critical medicine and medical supplies, training for local health workers and emergency funding.

Why We Give

This issue, we're giving this space over to you, our supporters, to say why you support AmeriCares. Below are messages we've recently received on Facebook. If you don't see your point of view here, drop us a line at info@americares.org or AmeriCares, 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford, CT 06902. We'd love to hear from you!

👍👍 This organization is five stars because of their track record. They are not as vocal because they focus on their mission. Check them out. — Frances

👍👍 This organization is heaven-sent as they care for the most vulnerable and neglected population, which is the poor. Please do not hesitate to donate for their incredible work. — Sylvia

👍👍 I heartily recommend this organization for donations as their \$ ratio for operation is more than 97 percent straight toward relief/supplies*. The standout to me is their consistency over many years toward immediate relief and their dedication to STAY in the affected areas long after the headlines to establish and ensure sustained health/training. Although not tied to U.S. government, their name bears America's—citizens supporting trained workers and supplies, outside of the government's "red tape." — Merrigay

* Merrigay, thanks for pointing out our efficiency. Right now it's even better—more than 98 percent of our resources support health programs!

What's your legacy?

To learn how you can include AmeriCares in your estate plan, simply contact Karen Malner directly at 203-658-9500 or by email at plannedgiving@americares.org, and she will be happy to assist you. For more information, go to www.americares.mylegacygift.org.

Thank you!

Your Donations at Work—During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between January 1 and May 31, 2019, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories.

Afghanistan	China	Egypt	Haiti	Kosovo	Mongolia	Palestinian Territories	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Togo	Zambia
Armenia	Colombia	El Salvador	Honduras	Kyrgyzstan	Mozambique	Panama	Senegal	Turks and Caicos	Zimbabwe
Bangladesh	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ethiopia	India	Laos	Myanmar	Paraguay	Sierra Leone	Uganda	
Belarus	Costa Rica	Fiji	Indonesia	Lebanon	Namibia	Peru	St. Lucia	Ukraine	
Belize	Dominica	Ghana	Iraq	Liberia	Nepal	Philippines	St. Vincent Island	United States	
Benin	Dominican Republic	Greece	Israel	Madagascar	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	Syria	Uzbekistan	
Bolivia	Ecuador	Grenada	Ivory Coast	Malawi	Niger	Romania	Tanzania	Vietnam	
Brazil		Guatemala	Jamaica	Mali	Nigeria	Rwanda		Yemen	
Cambodia		Guinea	Jordan	Mexico	Pakistan				
Cameroon		Guyana	Kenya	Micronesia	Palau				

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

These organizations support AmeriCares year-round readiness for global emergencies.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals

AmerisourceBergen Foundation

Anthem Foundation

Chevron

FCA Foundation

Horizon Therapeutics

Integra Foundation

Medtronic

Northrop Grumman

Novartis

Odyssey Group Foundation

Patagonia

Southwest Airlines

Vanech Family Foundation

Voya Financial



United States

Nurse Practitioner Laura Gordon (left) with one of her patients, Ana, onboard the Stephen F. Austin Community Health Network mobile clinic in Holiday Lakes, Texas. The clinic is supported by AmeriCares Hurricane Harvey Recovery Program.



Philippines

AmeriCares responded to a deadly measles outbreak in the Philippines, providing essential vaccination supplies to 24 rural health centers and administering nearly 1,000 vaccinations for children and adults.



India

AmeriCares delivered medicine and relief supplies including tarps, water cans and water purification tablets to assist survivors of Cyclone Fani. India's worst cyclone in decades, Cyclone Fani forced more than 1 million people to evacuate their homes.



Colombia

Demand for health services is surging at AmeriCares emergency medical clinics in Colombia, as Venezuelans stream across the border in search of quality medical care. As of June 2019, AmeriCares medical teams had provided more than 70,000 patient consultations at emergency clinics.



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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