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.

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

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 civilians from infection from cuts and scraps.

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 tents and camps to help 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 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.

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.

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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 and 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 surviving? 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 shipment of medicines and medical supplies.

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

Partner in Profile: BD

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.”

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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.

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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  Pakistan  Saint Kitts and Nevis  Togo  Zambia
Armenia  Colombia  El Salvador  Honduras  Kyrgyzstan  Mozambique  Palestinian Territories  Turks and Caicos  Uganda
Bangladesh  Democratic Republic of the Congo  Fiji  Indonesia  Laos  Myanmar  Panama  Senegal  Uzbekistan
Belize  Costa Rica  Benin  Ghana  Israel  Liberia  Namibia  Paraguay  Ukraine
Brazil  Dominica  Bolivia  Grenada  Ivory Coast  Madagascar  Nepal  Peru  United States
Cameroon  Ecuador  Cameroon  Guinea  Jordan  Micronesia  Palau  Vietnam

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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