

Earthquake Update: “The Biggest Request Is for Everything”



Americares organized and equipped teams of Haitian medical staff to provide care for survivors.

As Americares responds to the earthquake and tropical storm in Haiti, partners across the affected area are sending needs lists to Americares staff in Port-au-Prince. Many partners are health centers in extremely remote areas. “It’s in the same region where we provided assistance after Hurricane Matthew,” says Americares Emergency Response Team Lead Julie Hard. “We are familiar with the terrain and the communities.”

The needs lists include wound care supplies, water purification, antibiotics and medicine of all types. “Honestly,” says Hard, “the biggest request is for everything.”

The 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the southwest region of Haiti on August 14, killing more than 2,200 people, injuring at least 12,000 and damaging more than 60 health centers, 27 of which are severely damaged. Tens of thousands of people are homeless or displaced, as 130,000 homes are reported damaged or destroyed, and an estimated 650,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance.



After the Aug. 14 earthquake, an estimated 650,000 Haitians needed assistance. Photo by Nadia Todres

Americares staff in Haiti mounted a same-day response: Project Officer Dr. Waly Turin delivered first aid supplies to a health center in the impact zone – the first supplies to reach that community. Within a week, Americares sent two shipments of supplies, totaling 18 tons, and a week later, airlifted another 12 tons of medicine and medical supplies for survivors.

Americares is also organizing and equipping teams of Haitian medical staff to travel into the remote regions to reach communities most in need while supporting medical personnel already there. In addition to medical needs, the teams will address water, sanitation and hygiene – critical to preventing disease outbreaks – as well as infection control to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Roads blocked by landslides and civil unrest add extra challenges to aid delivery.

Recruiting medical staff in Haiti is essential. “It’s really about how we support and work with communities,” says Hard. “They are taking charge and we are providing the support to get the care where it’s needed through the great partnerships we have in these communities. Haitians are responding; there’s a universal willingness here to be supportive and to help.”

Americares has worked in Haiti since 1984, strengthening local health centers with infrastructure and training for staff as well as providing medicine and medical supplies.

Hurricane Ida: The Impact of Your Support

In response to Hurricane Ida, a powerful Category 4 storm, Americares immediately contacted more than 100 health partners in battered communities and provided critical relief supplies and emergency funding to clinics in the most affected areas. The storm made landfall in Louisiana on August 2, devastating communities along the Gulf coast before tracking into the northeast. Ida left thousands displaced and more than 1 million people without power in Louisiana alone.



After Hurricane Ida destroyed his Louisiana home, Sly (above) began living in his car.

Within days of the storm, Americares provided emergency funding to clinics in Louisiana, to secure the critically needed fuel for generators to continue in the immediate response and during the prolonged power outage. Americares emergency funding also supported the relocation of youth experiencing homelessness to safe housing, and long-range radios and mobile hot spots, so clinics can stay connected to the Louisiana Rural Health Association and emergency officials while telecommunications are restored.

Americares Hurricane Ida emergency response focuses on three areas: addressing the urgent health needs of displaced survivors; continuity of health services for the most vulnerable; and the mental health and psychosocial needs of frontline health workers and responders.

Your Donation at Work: Reducing the Toll of COVID-19



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

The earthquake in Haiti shows why your support matters. Americares teams were able to act on the same day as the August 14 quake because your support was in place.

Your commitment over the past years means that Americares has a team in Haiti, working to strengthen local health centers – including the only health center serving 50,000 people in one earthquake-affected region.

Your support ensures that Americares has strong relationships with local partners – the Haitian organizations staffed by Haitians – providing care to their neighbors every day and when disaster strikes. Their commitment to improving health matches yours.

Your support launched a next-day shipment of critical medicines to Haiti – and more, including an airlift, in the weeks that followed.

Our Emergency Response teams did not have to wait and wonder if they had the resources to send to Haiti – our distribution center was stocked and logistics were in place, because of you.

Your commitment saves lives. Americares has ongoing health programs in 24 countries, each one strengthening local health partners, so they are better able to respond in a crisis. And that's because of you.

Thank you,

Christine Squires
President and CEO



After a bout with COVID-19 left Keila isolated and depressed, she received treatment at her local clinic, an Americares partner.

“I hit rock-bottom,” says Keila. “I thought, ‘I can’t do it.’”

Last spring, Keila, her husband and two sons battled COVID-19. Keila’s physical symptoms weren’t bad, but the isolation during quarantine took a toll on her mental health. Things worsened when her daughter Camilla was born and rushed to a large hospital an hour away; Keila’s husband watched over the infant, leaving Keila recovering by herself, unable to have visitors.

“I felt alone and separated,” says Keila. She reached out for help from Gardner South Clinic, a safety-net clinic that serves low-income, uninsured patients in Keila’s hometown of Gilroy, Cal. Americares provided Gardner and more than 50 other safety-net clinics in California with mental health and preparedness training for health workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The training is part of Americares efforts to build capacity for behavioral health services in safety-net clinics around the world.

“We’ve been seeing more and more patients in the clinic showing some kind of depressive state,” says Guadalupe Perez, clinic manager at Gardner Health Center in nearby San Jose. “Pandemics don’t bring good things to anybody. Whether you’re in health care or education or anywhere, it just brings an additional stress.” In the worst cases, Perez and her team saw patients who were in a crisis state. “We were able to implement the Americares training and calm the patients down,” says Perez.

Keila received behavioral health care on the phone, via telehealth. Having that access made a huge difference. “It’s easier instead of going to a whole different [organization] and not knowing the people. I know the staff here and they know my history,” she says. “They’re more than open to help me.”

Americares mental health training reached

18,485

health workers in

5

countries with

668

hours of training

COLOMBIA • LEBANON • PERU • PHILIPPINES • UNITED STATES

Partner in Profile: Walmart org

When the second wave of COVID-19 hit India in early 2021, more than 300,000 people were becoming infected every day, overwhelming hospitals and clinics across the country. Medical-grade oxygen, which can be lifesaving for COVID-19 patients, was in short supply, especially at hospitals that provide care to low-income patients.

With critical support from Walmart and the Walmart Foundation, AmeriCares installed eight oxygen-generating plants in small to medium-sized hospitals across seven Indian States. The support also provided oxygen cylinders, concentrators, masks and tubing – all of which help deliver oxygen therapy to patients at home or in the hospital.

“This equipment had an immediate impact, relieving shortages and allowing staff to treat patients in crisis,” says Shripad Desai, AmeriCares India’s managing director. “But these donations will also have a lasting impact – they will be in place for years, creating a foundation for health across the nation.” AmeriCares has long-standing health programs in India, including a mobile clinic program that provides care for more than 54,000 patients a year in Mumbai’s slum communities.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation work to strengthen communities around the



The oxygen-generating plants will help ease shortages now, during the pandemic, and be in place for years to come.

globe, and, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Walmart pledged to strengthen the global public health response and support the needs of local communities in the U.S. and internationally.

“Walmart is a global family. We feel the impact of this devastating surge on our associates, families and friends across India, and it’s important that we come together to support however we can,” said Doug McMillon, President and CEO of Walmart Inc. “We feel called to bring our resources to bear in times of crisis, and this moment is no different. Our hearts are with everyone in India.”

Antibiotics Where They’re Needed Now

“We are in dire need of this medicine,” says Raed Baraawi, the pharmacist at the El Shakhra Association in Gaza City. “Without it, we would have had to squeeze our limited budget to buy from local suppliers. And that assumes it would even be available to buy in Gaza.”

Baraawi is talking about the antibiotic azithromycin, a versatile medicine essential in any health center pharmacy. Azithromycin is used to treat a variety of bacterial infections, from pneumonia to Lyme disease. The antibiotic was included in an AmeriCares shipment to Anera, our partner in Gaza. AmeriCares provides medicine and medical supplies to Anera, which supports 14 clinics and hospitals in Gaza, including El Shakhra.

As many as 80 patients a day depend on El Shakhra for health care. Most patients have few financial resources and cannot afford to buy medicines. Now, patients will receive the medicine they need at no cost. Providing antibiotics to hospitals and



Receiving quality antibiotics at no cost increases access to care in Gaza. Photo courtesy of Anera.

clinics ensures that the medicine will be prescribed properly, which helps reduce antibiotic resistance.

As well as antibiotics, AmeriCares provides Anera with medicine for chronic disease, behavioral health, migraines and other conditions. Last year, AmeriCares provided Anera with enough medicine to fill 183,896 prescriptions for people living in Gaza and the West Bank.

Four Stars from Our Donors

Not only has AmeriCares earned the highest rating – four stars – from Charity Navigator for six years in a row, but our donors give us top ratings on social media platforms every day. Only 14 percent of organizations rated by Charity Navigator consistently earn the top rating. You can keep current with AmeriCares activities and connect with fellow supporters on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter – just search @americares on each platform. See you there!

I am a witness of AmeriCares works in the Philippines; they provided resources and materials to government hospitals, especially in the rural areas. In 2013, Super typhoon Haiyan destroyed everything in its path: structures, property and lives in my birth island of Leyte and Samar and adjacent islands. Hospitals and rural clinics were non-functional due to damages and AmeriCares was there to help, providing equipment and supplies like new ambulances, beds, medicines, hospital equipment emergency equipment, and training for the personnel for disaster preparedness. They are helping other health facilities all over the Philippines and all around the world.



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MORE WAYS TO GIVE!

- Give from Donor-Advised Fund
- Donate Securities
- Gift by Will or Trust
- Qualified Charitable Distribution from IRA
- Employer Matching Gift

For more information, visit americares.org/take-action/ways-to-give/

Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between June 1, 2021, and August 15, 2021, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Colombia	Eswatini	India	Liberia	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	Sierra Leone	Turkey	Vietnam
Armenia	Cote d'Ivoire	Georgia	Indonesia	Malawi	Nigeria	Philippines	Somalia	Uganda	Zambia
Bangladesh	Dominica	Ghana	Jamaica	Mali	Northern	Saint Lucia	Sri Lanka	Ukraine	Zimbabwe
Belarus	Dominican Republic	Guatemala	Kenya	Mexico	Mariana	Saint Vincent	Syria	United States	
Brazil	Ecuador	Haiti	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Islands	and the	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	
Cambodia	El Salvador	Honduras	Lebanon	Nepal	Palestine	Grenadines	Tanzania	Venezuela	

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

Alexion	FCA Foundation	Novartis	Teleflex Foundation
AmeriSourceBergen Foundation	Horizon Therapeutics	Odyssey Group Foundation	Dean and Denise Vanech
Anthem Foundation	Integra Foundation	Patagonia	Vertex Foundation
Chevron	Medtronic	PVH Foundation	
Envestnet	Northrop Grumman	Southwest Airlines	



Global

With safety precautions in place, AmeriCares global distribution center has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic, for emergency and ongoing shipments.



Malawi

Medicine security means a dependable supply of quality medicine – which will result in a healthy lifetime for this mother and daughter in Malawi. Photo by Thoko Chikondi



Honduras

After Hurricanes Eta and Iota damaged this health center in Honduras, AmeriCares stepped in with the resources to repair and improve it. Learn more at americares.org/AirliftBenefit2021. Photo by Deiby Yanes



U.S. Bridgeport

AmeriCares Free Clinics are providing care to thousands of low-income uninsured patients in Connecticut during the pandemic, with telehealth and in-person visits, when allowable.



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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