Responding to the Health Care Crisis for Fleeing Venezuelans

Six years ago, Adriana, Israel and their son fled their home in Venezuela with only what they could carry. The family escaped violence, political instability and extreme shortages of food and medicine by crossing the river to neighboring Colombia.

Adriana is blind and unable to walk due to childhood meningitis and rheumatoid arthritis. Israel serves as Adriana's primary caregiver, tending to her around the clock. Their only income comes from selling goods in a local park, but too often they earn less than a dollar a day.

More than 7 million people like Adriana and her family have fled Venezuela with an estimated 2.9 million of these migrants and refugees residing in Colombia. Thousands more arrive every day. This dramatic population increase has strained Columbia's health facilities.

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Delivering Medicine to Save Lives in Eswatini

Local health organizations in Eswatini, located in southern Africa, struggled to procure enough essential medication to treat the large population. But, through a local partner and with your support, Americares can provide the treatments and medicines that improve health and save lives.

Thanks to you, our partner has been able to expand its reach—from serving 300,000 people to 1.2 million. These important services now cover the majority of Eswatini’s population.

Dr. Elton Chakayuka gives one example of how you’re making a real impact in his maternal health practice:

“Americares donated tranexamic acid to a hospital in Eswatini, part of a large donation of many medicines to many facilities in the country. Tranexamic acid came at just the right time as we were scaling up our maternity and c-section services. This drug is literally a lifesaver for cases of excessive bleeding—particularly for post-partum hemorrhage and also for cervical cancer patients.”

Dr. Chakayuka also shared, “Thank you so much for making sure that we maintain stock of such critical pharmaceuticals!”

Supporting Health Care Workers Amid Earthquakes and War

For Ehsan* and his family in Aleppo, Syria, the deadly earthquakes that struck Türkiye and northern Syria in February 2023 felt like “judgment day.” The family survived, but they endured terrifying hours searching the rubble for friends and relatives. Their home was structurally damaged, forcing them to move. Just as they had already done 25 other times in the last decade because of the civil war.

On top of that, Ehsan faced the ongoing reality of conflict engulfing his city as he worked as a guard at a health care facility. He collected the bodies of those lost to the violence. Ehsan became withdrawn and joyless.

Thankfully, Ehsan found relief in an Americares mental health and psychosocial support program for health workers—made possible thanks to your generosity. Although life in Aleppo remains a struggle, Ehsan now feels part of a caring, supportive network.

“Something new in my life started to happen. I started having positive energy. Life became worth living.”
—Ehsan, *name changed to protect his privacy

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Triple Your Impact Today!

We hope this newsletter gave you insight into the power of your contributions to Americares. Today, if you make a gift, you can have an even greater impact. Thanks to generous donors, a pool of matching funds of $509,000 will make your support go three times as far! That means if you make a gift to Americares by August 30, it can be tripled.

Please respond by August 30 to ensure that your gift makes **THREE times the impact** for people in need.

This is a great opportunity for you to help Americares have the resources to respond to health crises at a moment’s notice. Your gift will help ensure we can provide emergency medical aid and services to those affected by natural disasters, poverty, disease, conflict or other crisis.

To donate, just use the enclosed envelope. Or to put your gift to work even faster, visit americares.org/SummerNews2024. 🌟