



Hurricane Harvey Two-Year Report



Hurricane Harvey came ashore in Rockport, Texas, as a Category 4 storm,

with 130 mph winds smashing everything in its path. After being downgraded to a tropical storm, Harvey produced torrential rains, resulting in catastrophic flooding, with record rainfall of more than 50 inches in some communities. Days of rain created a historic disaster, driving tens of thousands of people from their homes and leaving a path of death and destruction.



Americares Health Programs Continue

Americares set three goals for our response to Hurricane Harvey, and our team continues to focus our work around them: to restore health services for the most vulnerable survivors; to expand health services, especially for stress and trauma; and to prepare health facilities for future disasters.



“They got me back on my medicine for my diabetes. I’m able to work now. What you all did for the people of Texas during the hurricane was just awesome.”

— DeWayne
Hurricane Harvey survivor
Clute, Texas

1 Restore health services

Two years after Hurricane Harvey struck Texas, Americares continues to help survivors recover, supporting more than 70 nonprofit organizations in Harvey-affected communities. Americares response and recovery efforts include shipments of medicine and medical supplies, facility repairs, mobile health care and more than \$3.6 million in financial support for local organizations serving Harvey survivors.

Americares-supported mobile health units have provided health services for more than 6,900 Harvey survivors in 14 counties, including medication and management of chronic disease.

In remote Refugio, where Hurricane Harvey left the roof of the county’s only hospital damaged and leaking, Americares supported repairs, restoring health care for 7,000 county residents and a safe work environment for the 30 health workers who staff the facility.

450+

shipments of medicine and supplies

70+

partner organizations receiving assistance

6,900+

patients treated in mobile clinics

2,000+

trained to address stress

200+

health workers trained in disaster preparedness

Learn more:

To see videos of Americares recovery program in Texas, visit: americares.org/hurricaneharvey

Nurse Practitioner Laura Gordon (left) with one of her patients, Ana, onboard the Americares-supported Stephen F. Austin Community Health Network mobile clinic in Holiday Lakes, Texas.



AmeriCares Hurricane Harvey team (above) is meeting survivors' health needs throughout Harvey-affected communities.



“The training was very helpful for my staff. We were struggling with a lot of emotions... we had to be strong for the community.”

— Charlotte Jackson
Executive Director
Just Do It Now



“AmeriCares disaster preparedness workshop helped us see what had gone well during Hurricane Harvey and what we could have done better, so more survivors could have accessed health care more quickly.”

— Lara Hamilton
Director, Christ Clinic
Katy, Texas

2 Expand Health Services for Survivors:

Stress and Trauma:

To support health workers and meet the health needs of communities, AmeriCares has trained more than 2,000 health workers and others to manage their own stress and care for patients affected by the storm. AmeriCares trained health workers, social service providers and emergency responders in storm-affected areas, expanding health care capacity and creating a more resilient health care community in Texas. More than 90 percent of participants surveyed reported the skills-building sessions were valuable and 87 percent demonstrated increased knowledge about mental health and coping skills. The training and workshops continue through 2019.

In remote Wharton, AmeriCares is supporting a local organization that offers yoga, art therapy and other group workshops and outreach to Hurricane Harvey survivors. The community is especially hard-hit—residents were still recovering from 2016 floods when Harvey brought more destruction and misery. Participants in the workshops learn about coping with trauma and loss and can be connected to mental health services, if needed.

In summer 2019, AmeriCares launched a program for Hurricane Harvey survivors and other Texas residents who use medication to manage their mental health. Patients in the program receive text-message reminders when it's time to take medicine, ensuring they don't miss a single, critical dose.

Other Health Concerns:

AmeriCares is helping survivors prevent illness and combat health issues that can occur after natural disasters. Working with local health partners in communities hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey, AmeriCares is training health workers as facilitators and providing the support needed to conduct community outreach and lead workshops on maintaining good health after disasters.

3 Prepare Health Facilities for Future Storms

To ensure health services continue to be available during emergencies, AmeriCares has trained more than 200 health workers throughout Texas in disaster preparedness. Staff from clinics and social service agencies leave AmeriCares preparedness workshops with customized disaster plans and tools that address continuity of operations, coordination and communication. The goal: Better health outcomes for survivors when the next disaster strikes. The workshops continue through 2019.

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