



# 2017 Atlantic Hurricanes One-Year Report

When back-to-back hurricanes struck the United States and Caribbean in 2017, AmeriCares responded, restoring health services and meeting survivors' needs.

One year after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, AmeriCares continues to support recovery efforts. To date, AmeriCares has provided more than \$75 million in aid for survivors—building resiliency and restoring health and hope.

AmeriCares recovery efforts are focused around three goals: restoring health services for the most vulnerable survivors, preparing health facilities for future storms and expanding services to help survivors cope with stress and trauma.



## Restoring Health Services for the Most Vulnerable Survivors

AmeriCares is restoring access to health care in storm-damaged communities. Our work includes support for local clinics, social service agencies and health providers that low-income people turn to for help.

In the immediate aftermath of these three historic storms, AmeriCares rushed emergency shipments of medicine and medical supplies to replace damaged stocks at dozens of health facilities. One year later, our work improving access to medicine continues. AmeriCares long-term relief includes ongoing deliveries of medicine and medical supplies for health centers serving vulnerable patients.

AmeriCares is also providing essential support to damaged health facilities—rebuilding 12 health centers damaged by Hurricane Maria in Dominica and funding critical infrastructure repairs to meet long-term needs for clinics in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In Puerto Rico, we are also planning long-term programming for patients with chronic disease, such as hypertension and diabetes.

## Preparing Health Facilities for Future Storms

After Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, hundreds of health facilities were left in the dark. Widespread power outages spoiled medicines. Health workers struggled to maintain services as the number of patients seeking care surged, and power outages cut off access to patient records.

To ensure clinics can respond to patient needs and restore health services quickly during the next disaster, AmeriCares is providing preparedness training sessions for health workers—including primary care providers serving vulnerable populations. In Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AmeriCares is conducting preparedness workshops, where health providers develop customized disaster plans. For health facilities, AmeriCares is also diversifying power sources, including solar and generators, which will allow providers to keep their doors open for patients during power outages.

AmeriCares arranged transportation to dialysis centers for Radames (in plaid shirt) after Maria (top). When her son fell ill, this mother depended on AmeriCares partner COSSMA in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico (left). AmeriCares is rebuilding health facilities in Dominica (right).



**367**  
shipments  
**743,000\***  
prescriptions  
**\$75 Million**  
total aid

\*estimated





Hurricane Harvey survivor Azmina is one of 250 patients participating in an AmeriCares-supported diabetes prevention program designed and implemented by Omada Health. One in six residents affected by Hurricane Harvey reported they, or someone in their household, have experienced a new or worsening health condition since the storm, according to a new survey.

## Building Healthy Futures

Hurricane Harvey knocked out power to more than a quarter-million people throughout southeast Texas. Unable to keep temperature-sensitive medicine cool, clinics and health facilities lost entire stocks of essential medications. AmeriCares rushed emergency shipments of insulin for diabetic patients. In the first week following the storm, we sent enough insulin to provide a month's supply for more than 1,000 survivors.

One year later, AmeriCares continues to help survivors with chronic disease. Two hundred and fifty diabetic and pre-diabetic patients in Texas are learning to manage their diet and lifestyle through an AmeriCares-supported virtual program, designed and implemented by health technology company Omada Health. Twenty-year-old Azmina is reducing her chances of developing the chronic disease.

"My mom doesn't want me going through what she's going through," she says. "This is going to help me in the long run."

## Expanding Services to Help Survivors Cope with Stress and Trauma

Most health workers and first responders delivering care in storm-damaged communities are themselves hurricane survivors. AmeriCares mental health programming builds health care capacity and creates more resilient health systems.

AmeriCares is teaching health workers and first responders the skills to handle stress and trauma—allowing them to treat patients affected by these historic storms while managing their own mental health needs. The initiative is designed to address common post-disaster symptoms, including job burnout, compassion fatigue, secondary traumatic stress and vicarious traumatization, giving providers the tools they need to care for themselves while caring for survivors and communities.



AmeriCares installed a temporary medical structure to ensure partner COSSMA could continue providing care after Maria.



AmeriCares is working with local partners in Texas, including Covenant House, to meet survivors' health needs.



One year after these historic storms, AmeriCares has provided 743,000\* prescriptions for survivors.



After Irma, AmeriCares emergency teams conducted needs assessments at Florida clinics and health facilities.

\*estimated



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### Watch:

See a video on our response to the 2017 Atlantic hurricanes:  
<https://www.americares.org/hurricanes2017>

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