

Protective Gear Crucial to Stop Ebola Outbreak



West Africa

Photo by Reuters

A lack of safety gloves, gowns and masks proved deadly during this year's Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the largest in history.

The Ebola outbreak began in March and within six months more than 120 health workers had died, including top doctors, and more than 1,500 patients had perished.

“Local health authorities provided us with only four gowns and one box of masks,” says Raphael Frankfurter, executive director of AmeriCares local partner in Sierra Leone, Wellbody Alliance, which operates a clinic and supplies hospitals in the Ebola zone.

AmeriCares began providing crucial protective gear in May. By early September, AmeriCares had sent six shipments of safety supplies for health workers in Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as



Photo by Reuters

medicines, including IV fluids, which can be lifesaving for people infected with the Ebola virus.

“That is a huge, huge help as we had no other partners supporting us with fluids, and other supplies are in great need as well,” says Frankfurter. “It means a lot to us — and especially our Sierra Leonean staff — to have such support coming in from abroad.” AmeriCares continues to provide critical supplies as well as support for safety training.

“In this Ebola outbreak, there is virtually an endless demand for safety equipment,” said AmeriCares Vice President of Emergency Response Garrett Ingoglia. “If we don't support the frontline health workers, there is no hope for controlling the epidemic.”

The World Health Organization reports that the outbreak could last six more months and infect 20,000 people.

Keeping health workers safe is central to AmeriCares mission and, since 2009, AmeriCares has established and supported safety and training programs that reduce the spread of infectious diseases in hospitals and clinics. In Tanzania and India, AmeriCares programs have already provided critical supplies and training to reduce on-the-job hazards for more than 1,500 hospital workers.

Cholera Medicines Will Save Lives

To save lives during an outbreak of cholera in South Sudan, AmeriCares sent an emergency shipment with enough medicine for 5,000 people suffering from the highly infectious disease.

The cholera outbreak began in the South Sudanese capital of Juba in late April; within weeks, more than 1,700 people were infected and 38 people had died from the disease, which causes diarrhea and dehydration. For those struggling with an infection, treatment with medicine is crucial. AmeriCares shipment contains rehydration therapy, including oral rehydration salts, for 4,500 people with moderate cases and intravenous fluids to treat 500 patients with extreme cases of cholera. Our partner in South Sudan distributed the medicines to treatment centers in Juba and Malakal, in the north.

Fighting cholera is an important focus for AmeriCares. Last year, we provided enough medicine and project support to assist nearly 38,000 people in cholera outbreaks in Namibia and South Sudan; our work also included cholera preparedness initiatives in Haiti and Kenya.



Photo by Andreea Campeanu / Reuters

Health workers need protection to remove a body from a marketplace in Liberia (top). Each health worker needs 45 minutes to don protective gear (bottom). A child receives lifesaving IV fluids to combat cholera (right).

From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

In August, Clarine Vaughn and Raphael Frankfurter, representatives from AmeriCares partner health organizations just returned from the front lines of the West Africa Ebola crisis, came to AmeriCares to meet with our global programs team and coordinate shipments of critical aid (page 1).

They described a world where health workers must put their own lives at risk to care for patients.

AmeriCares mission is to save lives of people in crisis—and we are delivering critical safety supplies to West Africa to do that. We are also committed to building healthier futures.

Health worker safety is at the heart of that commitment and with your support, AmeriCares is developing sustainable safety programs. I recently traveled to Bugando Medical Centre in Tanzania, where we launched our Health Worker Safety Initiative in 2009. Five years later, health workers told me how satisfied they are with their safer working conditions. Now the program will be launched in three additional hospitals in Tanzania.

Our pharmacist training in Bangladesh (page 2) improves the quality of services pharmacists provide to patients. We are proud that the program was shared at an international pharmacy meeting in Bangkok in September.

We value your support of AmeriCares work to save lives and build healthier futures for those less fortunate.

Thank you,

Michael J. Nyenhuis,
President and CEO

With Your Support, Pharmacy Skills Improved

In Bangladesh, it is not hard to find a pharmacy. But trained pharmacists are in short supply — fewer than one for every 10,000 Bangladeshis — so patients receive prescription medicine without oversight, increasing risk for damaging side effects, antibiotic resistance or worse.

To improve health care in Bangladesh, AmeriCares is training pharmacy staff at two hospitals in 11 areas of pharmacy practice, including good dispensing practices, drug safety, patient counseling and pharmaceutical management of chronic disease. The project, with support from GSK and the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh, trained eight pharmacists in its pilot phase in 2013-14 at Community Based Medical College Hospital, Bangladesh (CBMCH,B).

The training has real impact: Performance improved in skill areas including drug safety and pharmaceutical management of hypertension and diabetes. Patients benefit too: At the end of the training period, patients reporting their experience at the CBMCH,B hospital pharmacy was “excellent” or “very good” increased by 33 percent.

In a region where antibiotic resistance is a notable problem, the training is especially important. “The pharmacists used to just sell the drugs and not say anything about the medication,” says Dr. M. Karm Khan, Director of CBMCH,B. “Now they know to explain things like course treatments.” Taking a full course of treatment helps lower the risk of antibiotic resistance.

With results in hand, this cost-effective project is ready to be rolled out at more pharmacies in Bangladesh.



“I am so grateful to all of you”

Volunteer doctors knew that Namita needed surgery. The 58-year-old Nepalese woman had walked most of the 100 miles from her home to Ilam Hospital in eastern Nepal — in pain the entire journey. With anesthetics and antibiotics donated by AmeriCares, U.S. surgeon Dr. Paula Dhanda performed a much-needed emergency hysterectomy.

Later, Dr. Dhanda discovered that Namita had taken no painkillers after her surgery. Said Namita, “I have been suffering for over 20 years and you have saved me from future pain. I am so grateful to all of you for what you have done. I do not wish to complain.”

Dr. Dhanda was stunned but not surprised. “For the women of Nepal, suffering is a way of life,” she says. “The women appreciate everything they receive.”

AmeriCares donated medicines and supplies worth \$74,000 to Worldwide Healing Hands, the group with which Dhanda was working. In total, AmeriCares provided more than \$48 million in medicines and supplies for 1,200 volunteer medical trips last year.



Photo by Nathan Dehart, Silent Images

Training gives pharmacists the skills to better care for patients in Bangladesh (top). Nepalese women received health care from volunteer surgeons using AmeriCares medicines and supplies (above).

Partner in Profile: BD

Global medical technology company BD's Social Investing programs are committed to strengthening health care systems and increasing access to health care in the developing world. To help meet that goal, for 28 years BD has supported AmeriCares with product donations, financial support and, now, employee volunteers.



Since 1986, BD has provided AmeriCares with \$26 million in medical supplies and devices for all AmeriCares programs, frequently responding to targeted requests for products for which there is a critical need. In response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines last November, BD's donation included 22,000 safety syringes for AmeriCares work restoring health services. To increase access to health care in the U.S., BD has supplied AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance program with more than 5 million pen needles and insulin syringes over the past five years.

In 2009, BD committed to AmeriCares Health Worker Safety Initiative at Bugando Medical Centre in Tanzania, providing financial support and safety products valued at close to \$500,000 as well as critical training in the safe use of those products. The initiative benefited 1,200 health workers and thousands of patients. Most recently, BD provided critical funding to expand AmeriCares health workforce safety program to three additional hospitals in Tanzania, which will give close to 1,000 health workers the training and safety products they need to protect themselves — and patients — from infections.



Most recently, BD has committed to a volunteer services project over the next three years at AmeriCares clinic in El Salvador. This fall, a team of BD experts will provide 10 days of intensive leadership training, diabetes patient education and training in best practices for medical staff at AmeriCares El Salvador clinic. This training will directly benefit the 26,000 patients the clinic serves each year.

For these commitments and more, AmeriCares presented BD with the Power of Partnership award at the Healthcare Distribution Management Association conference in June. The award was created to recognize outstanding medical manufacturing and distribution organizations for their dedication to expanding access to health care for disadvantaged populations.

Donated Medicine Eases Fever, Joint Pain

To ease the high fever and severe joint pain of patients suffering from chikungunya, a mosquito-borne virus, AmeriCares recently donated more than 70,000 treatments to health facilities in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. Clinics in both countries are overwhelmed with patients suffering from chikungunya, which is new to the region.

While there is no cure, the acetaminophen from AmeriCares, including a donation from LNK International, relieves pain. In the Dominican Republic, many people cannot access health care or afford medicine and rely on charitable health providers, including the 236 supported by AmeriCares.



Low-income patients in the U.S. seek care at health care safety net clinics (top). Mosquito-borne chikungunya causes debilitating fevers (above). Donor Carol Baker volunteered in Malawi (top right).

Match Your Legacy Gift Today



Photo courtesy of Carol Baker

When it came time for Carol Baker to sell appreciated stock, she knew the most tax-smart move to make: “I didn’t want to pay capital gains,” Carol says. “So I used the stock to fund a gift annuity with AmeriCares and this way I have more to give.”

A thrifty retiree who volunteers in her Texas community, Carol was initially attracted to AmeriCares because of its global health work and ability to “get more bang for each buck,” she says. The fact that AmeriCares is first on the scene after disasters is important, as is AmeriCares collaborative work to create sustainable improvements at the local level. “I believe in teaching people to fish rather than feeding them,” Carol says.

Carol knows better than most that charitable gift annuities are smart: A retired Bureau of Indian Affairs administrator, she volunteers each year as a tax preparer for AARP members. Carol also named AmeriCares a beneficiary of her IRA and uses the taxable assets to fuel her annual giving to AmeriCares. She is now leveraging a current gift by taking part in AmeriCares Legacy Match Challenge.

A passionate traveler, Carol volunteers internationally, recently taking part in a census of wildlife in Malawi. Giving time and treasure has real value for Carol. “The more we give, the more we get,” she says.

To learn about the benefits of donating stock this year, contact Malaine Miller at AmeriCares: 203.658.9634 or mmiller@americares.org

Your Donations at Work in 67 Countries With your help, between April 1 and June 30, 2014, AmeriCares sent medicines, medical supplies and project support to the following countries:

Afghanistan	Cameroon	Fiji	Japan	Myanmar	Panama	St. Vincent
Antigua	China	Ghana	Kenya	Namibia	Paraguay	Tajikistan
Argentina	Colombia	Grenada	Laos	Nepal	Peru	Tanzania
Armenia	Congo (Kinshasa)	Guatemala	Liberia	Nicaragua	Philippines	Uganda
Bangladesh	Costa Rica	Guyana	Malawi	Niger	Poland	United States
Belize	Dominican Republic	Haiti	Mali	Nigeria	Romania	Uzbekistan
Benin		Honduras	Marshall Islands	North Korea	Rwanda	Vietnam
Bolivia	Ecuador	India	Mexico	Pakistan	Senegal	Zambia
Brazil	El Salvador	Israel	Mongolia	Palestinian Territories	Somalia	Zimbabwe
Cambodia	Eritrea	Jamaica	Morocco		South Sudan	

Bangladesh



Bangladesh: To strengthen health systems and increase access to medicines in Bangladesh, AmeriCares provided \$2 million in medicines, supplies and project support last year.

Ebola Emergency: AmeriCares rushed protective gear and medicines to Sierra Leone and Liberia in August and September; more shipments are planned.

India: AmeriCares brought medical supplies, including hygiene kits for 1,900 people and water purification for 2,500 families, after devastating floods in August.

Ebola Emergency



Annual Emergency Response Partners

Thank you to the following donors whose contributions help AmeriCares maintain year-round readiness for global emergencies:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Boeing
- McGraw Hill Financial
- MedImmune
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Southwest Airlines
- Voya Foundation
- Anonymous

India



CAROLEE
Thank you to CAROLEE for supporting AmeriCares during the 2014 holiday season with a specially designed jewelry collection.

United States: Charitable clinics in 49 U.S. states received support from AmeriCares last year — a total of \$84 million in medicines, supplies and project support.

United States



AmeriCares

AmeriCares is an emergency response and global health organization committed to saving lives and building healthier futures for people in crisis in the United States and around the world.

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