

Safer Hospitals Save More Lives

Tanzania



When Fatuma leaves her job as a nurse every night to tuck her daughters into bed, she hopes she is not bringing home an illness that will harm them.

With help from AmeriCares, Fatuma will soon be certain that not only is she safe at her job, but her family, patients and neighbors are protected from infectious disease as well. “If we are safe, the community is safe,” she says. “That’s how the cycle goes.”

Fatuma works in the labor ward at Musoma Hospital in Musoma, Tanzania, where she’s on a team of 20 nurses that delivers 10 to 13 babies a day. Before the AmeriCares program began, staff would ask patients to bring gloves and other safety gear when they arrived at the hospital because shelves

were often empty. Without protection and safety procedures, diseases such as HIV and hepatitis B and C can easily spread in a labor ward — from patient to health worker or health worker to patient. “I cry for personal protective equipment,” says Fatuma. “It is essential.”

For seven years, AmeriCares has been improving health worker safety in Tanzania. After AmeriCares pilot safety program at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza proved successful, the program expanded to three more hospitals. Fatuma is one of 1,750 health workers and students now taking part. AmeriCares will vaccinate staff against hepatitis B and supply the hospital with gloves, waste bins and other equipment as well as training proven to create a culture of safety. AmeriCares is doing similar training in Sierra Leone, where unsafe conditions contributed to the spread of Ebola last year.

“Safe hospitals and clinics improve health in communities,” says Elikem Tomety Archer, AmeriCares senior director of global programs. “Our program strengthens health systems and will help protect communities from disease outbreaks now and for years to come.”

“Safety is always needed. Safety is what we are longing for,” says Fatuma. “If I am not safe, how long will I live? Who will take care of my kids?”



Mothers trust the care they receive at Musoma Hospital in Tanzania where the staff is receiving safety training from AmeriCares (top). Fatuma is one of 1,750 nurses and students benefitting from the training (above). A mother and her healthy child visit AmeriCares Family Clinic (right), where staff monitors the Zika outbreak.

Battling the Zika Outbreak

AmeriCares is on the frontlines of the Zika crisis in Latin America, caring for patients with suspected infections and helping prevent the disease in communities at risk.

The World Health Organization declared an international public health emergency because of a suspected link between Zika and microcephaly, a birth defect. Zika is spread by mosquitoes.

In Haiti, AmeriCares is working with a partner organization on a prevention program for 200 expectant mothers, with the goal of keeping the women Zika-free until they deliver. At the AmeriCares Family Clinic in El Salvador, doctors are diagnosing suspected Zika infections and providing ultrasounds to pregnant patients concerned about the health of their unborn babies.

Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, AmeriCares is partnering with hospitals and clinics to ensure they are well equipped to address the intensifying health crisis.

WHO is anticipating 3 million to 4 million more Zika infections in the region in the next 12 months. There is no cure for Zika, but clinicians can provide care: They give patients pain relievers and information on protecting themselves and their families from the mosquitoes that carry the virus.



Photo by Jonathan Sifer

From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

One of AmeriCares greatest strengths is our network of partners — and that includes you.

Your support translates into healthier, more productive lives for millions of families each year:

— A healthier life for mothers like Fatuma (page 1), a maternity nurse in Tanzania. She knows that only when she is safe from infection at work will her two daughters and her community be protected from disease outbreaks. With your support, AmeriCares health worker safety program is helping Fatuma.

— A healthier life for fathers like Maynor (page 2), an auto shop worker who had not been able to play with his three sons because of chronic asthma. Now that he is receiving ongoing quality care at an AmeriCares Free Clinic, Maynor is, for the first time in years, able to run alongside his sons. He no longer misses days at work due to illness.

These are but two of the people that, with your help, AmeriCares is helping now. Their good health is a foundation upon which they are building productive lives. Our work is to deliver medicine, medical supplies and health programs to save lives and create lasting, sustainable improvements. And we also have hopes — that the people we help live long, fulfilling lives.

Your support makes all of this possible.

Thank you,

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

In the U.S., Medicine Changed His Life

Severe asthma put limits on Maynor, a 36-year-old father of three — he couldn't play with his sons and struggled with illness, even bouts of pneumonia, that kept him from work. But when doctors recommended he seek care at AmeriCares mobile clinic in his hometown of Stamford, Conn., Maynor's life changed.

At his first visit to the mobile clinic, the staff prescribed an effective asthma medication and helped Maynor apply for a patient assistance program that provides medicine for free. The steady supply of medication improved his breathing.

Within two months Maynor was exercising and by six months he was playing soccer with his boys.

"I've got more energy to play with my kids — it changed my life," says Maynor, who works in an automotive shop but has no insurance. "It all started with the good treatment I had on the mobile clinic."

Maynor also values the asthma medication. "They are not only donating medicine, they are donating opportunities; they are donating life," says Maynor. "The medicine didn't only help me, it helped my wife, my kids — everyone around me."



To become healthy, Maynor needed more than an emergency room; quality, ongoing care from an AmeriCares clinic changed his life.

With Your Help, She Can Hold Her Baby Again

When Bimala was admitted to AmeriCares Injury Rehabilitation Unit in Nepal, she asked for just one thing: the ability to carry her baby again. Bimala had been injured in the earthquake and needed crutches to walk. Now, after rehabilitation, the young mother has the strength to walk on her own, her arms free to hold her daughter.



Without help from an AmeriCares project, this young mother might have faced a lifetime on crutches.

When AmeriCares arrived in Nepal immediately after the 2015 earthquake, we supplied hospitals with more than \$20 million in medicine and supplies to treat the thousands of injured survivors, but also saw the need for long-term rehabilitation. Many patients with severe injuries would be released quickly from overcrowded hospitals without fully recovering their strength and there were few rehabilitation centers outside the capital. Partnering with the International Organization for Migration, AmeriCares built a rehab center with 20 beds in Sindhupalchok. The center addresses post-disaster mental health as well.

After 45 days at the center, Bimala's dream has come true. "This is because of such good services at the center that I am able to walk and carry my baby again," Bimala says. "It is because of the center that I came back to normal life. Thank you IOM and AmeriCares."

Partner in Profile: Medtronic

News of a powerful earthquake in Nepal reached the U.S. within minutes last April. By then, AmeriCares most important emergency response work had already been done — disaster preparation. Medtronic, a medical technology, services and solutions company, is a key partner in AmeriCares constant readiness; their ongoing financial and product support helped AmeriCares deliver more than \$20 million in critical aid in the first month after the deadly disaster.

Medtronic has been a strong partner of AmeriCares for more than 20 years, providing our emergency and global health programs with financial support and product donations of critical medical supplies and devices. Medtronic's partnership with AmeriCares is part of its mission to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life.

In 2014, Covidien (now part of Medtronic) supported the purchase of eight emergency medical modules for AmeriCares Emergency Programs, guaranteeing the quick delivery of medicine and supplies needed after a disaster. By providing full-year financial support, Medtronic also became an AmeriCares Annual Emergency Response Partner. In 2014 Medtronic partnered with AmeriCares to improve health services for Syrian refugees with support for medical facilities and staff in neighboring Jordan.

In 2015, AmeriCares created a giving platform for Medtronic employees and more than 1,400 used the branded platform to make donations to AmeriCares.

“Our partnership with AmeriCares helps us improve health care access and build healthy communities worldwide,” says Bryan Hanson, executive vice president and group president, Minimally Invasive Therapies Group, Medtronic. “AmeriCares makes certain our support for emergencies and ongoing health programs has real impact.”

Over the years, Medtronic has donated more than \$78 million in medical products to AmeriCares.



In Nepal, this mother and child had access to medicine after the earthquake because of AmeriCares disaster readiness.

Emergency Shipments for Deadly U.S. Floods

When severe flooding forced thousands of people from their homes in the central United States in December, AmeriCares delivered emergency medicine and relief supplies to partner health providers in Illinois and Missouri.

AmeriCares provided pain relievers, cleaning supplies and emergency kits for families affected by the historic floods, as well as tetanus vaccines for survivors, first responders and volunteers clearing debris. In the days following the storms, we also deployed an emergency response team to meet with health providers and assess health needs.

“During a disaster, medicine and relief supplies help protect the health of everyone affected,” says Kate Dischino, AmeriCares director of emergency response.



Buckets of relief and cleaning supplies went to flood victims in Illinois and Missouri.

Plan a Gift, Create a Family Legacy



Donor and board member Elizabeth Furst Frank (right) with AmeriCares Dr. Swati Jha in India.

For decades, Elizabeth Furst Frank thought of AmeriCares as “my thing.” And no wonder: She's been a volunteer, employee and board member at the organization. “I started volunteering when I was in college, intrigued by AmeriCares global scale and immediate impact,” she says.

Now an executive in the entertainment industry, Frank and her husband have made AmeriCares “our thing.” They share news of the organization's work with their three children and made the decision as a family to include AmeriCares in their estate plan.

“We have contributed to AmeriCares work each year, supporting program impact that is both immediate and lasting,” says Frank. Making the gift during their estate planning was a simple but important act. “We are confident that AmeriCares will continue to evolve and enhance its impact on global health,” says Frank, “and we embrace AmeriCares legacy as part of our family legacy.”

For more information on the benefits of gift planning, contact Malaine Miller at AmeriCares: 203.658.9634 or mmiller@americares.org

Your Donations Reached 65 Countries in Three Months

With your help, between October 1 and December 31, 2015, AmeriCares sent medicine, medical supplies and project support to the following countries:

Afghanistan	Congo Kinshasa	Ghana	Jordan	Micronesia	Panama	Syria
Armenia	Costa Rica	Greece	Kenya	Myanmar	Paraguay	Tanzania
Bahamas	Dominican Republic	Guatemala	Laos	Nepal	Peru	Thailand
Bangladesh	Ecuador	Haiti	Lebanon	Nicaragua	Philippines	Togo
Belize	El Salvador	Honduras	Liberia	Niger	Romania	Trinidad
Bolivia	Ethiopia	India	Malawi	Nigeria	Rwanda	Uganda
Cambodia	Fiji	Iraq	Mali	North Korea	Senegal	United States
Cameroon	Georgia	Jamaica	Marshall Islands	Pakistan	Sierra Leone	Uzbekistan
Colombia		Japan	Mexico	Palestinian Territories	Somalia	Vietnam
					St. Vincent	



Kosovo

Annual Emergency Response Partners

MoneyGram Foundation joins the following donors whose contributions help AmeriCares maintain year-round readiness for global emergencies:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Anthem Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Chevron
- McGraw Hill Financial
- Medtronic
- MoneyGram Foundation
- Northrop Grumman
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Southwest Airlines
- Voya Financial
- Anonymous



Cambodia

Kosovo: Mother and baby are doing fine, thanks to AmeriCares and AbbVie's donation of Survanta, medicine that helps premature infants breathe in the first critical hours after birth.

El Salvador: This boy's future is brighter because of AmeriCares work in El Salvador, which includes helping hundreds of communities prepare for natural disasters — work that could save his life in years to come.

Cambodia: For 10 years, AmeriCares and AstraZeneca have been expanding access to care for women with breast cancer in Cambodia. Here, a cancer survivor spreads awareness in her community with educational materials.

India: AmeriCares health workers meet pregnant women at their homes in Mumbai's slums, counseling them on mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B and C. With information and vaccination, mothers can protect themselves and their babies from these chronic diseases.



El Salvador

Photo by Miguel Samper



India


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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