

Aid Rushed to Ecuador After Deadly Quake



When her house began to shake and fall around her, Jessica rushed her 92-year-old mother outside while her teenage children helped the youngest to safety.

In minutes, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake destroyed their home and thousands of others across Ecuador's coastal region on April 16.

While Jessica's family is now safe, they are living in an old school with only two mattresses to call home. They were among those helped by AmeriCares in the first weeks after the disaster.

In all, more than 660 people died and thousands were injured in the quake and its aftermath. Thirty-five health care facilities were damaged or destroyed, 14 of which were beyond repair, according to the Pan American Health Organization.



An AmeriCares emergency response team arrived in Ecuador within days of the quake, working alongside local health providers and the Ecuadorian government. "At one damaged hospital, doctors are treating patients in tents in the parking lot," says AmeriCares Director of Emergency Response Kate Dischino, who led the team in Ecuador. "There is dust blowing everywhere from bulldozers pulling down damaged buildings." Hundreds of aftershocks have frayed nerves; Jessica's elderly mother sought treatment for stress and high blood pressure.

Within two weeks, a plane carrying 3 tons of medicine and medical supplies donated by AmeriCares arrived in Ecuador, destined for health facilities where survivors are seeking care, their normal routines disrupted. A second 13-ton shipment left the warehouse 10 days later and more are planned. AmeriCares has staff in Ecuador until July to help the recovery.

Soon after arriving, AmeriCares emergency team helped equip local health professionals across Manabi, the hardest hit province, with medicines and relief supplies. "Our emergency shipment ensures medical professionals have the tools they need to continue providing care even in the most challenging circumstances," says Dischino. "Our priorities are to provide medicine to treat the injured and displaced, restore health services and prevent the spread of disease."

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Ecuador destroyed thousands of buildings, including homes and hospitals (top). AmeriCares emergency response team delivered medicine to health facilities treating survivors (above). In the U.S., AmeriCares reaches the low-income uninsured through our network of 800 community health providers (right).

Your Donations Support U.S. Patients

Dolores worked for 20 years as a county social worker, but her career ended when she suffered a heart attack and stroke. Suddenly, she was without income or health insurance. But Dolores had one resource left: her local free health clinic.

"My heart medication alone is \$200 a month," she says. Now Dolores receives it for free at the Greater Killeen Free Clinic; AmeriCares donated this and 100 other medicines to the clinic last year.

More than 28 million adults in the U.S. are living without insurance. One-third of uninsured adults don't fill a prescription because of cost, putting them at risk for worsening health.

AmeriCares has built a network of more than 800 clinics and health providers in all 50 states to improve the health of people like Dolores. Last year, AmeriCares provided \$117 million in medicine and other aid to its network, including programs that train staff and build capacity, creating sustainable changes that will improve patient health for years to come.

The Killeen clinic is a center of hope for Dolores. "They gave me back my life," she says.



From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

The powerful earthquake that struck Ecuador in mid-April stayed in the headlines for only a few days. But for the people there, the disruption continues.

Because of your ongoing support, AmeriCares emergency response team is working in Ecuador, restoring health services in communities devastated by the disaster (see page 1). It is our goal to ensure that as survivors rebuild their lives, they do so with a foundation of health.

There are health crises every day that don't make the headlines—when a Nicaraguan grandmother's blood pressure is dangerously high because she doesn't have access to medicine, or a working woman in Texas loses her job and insurance after an illness, putting her future well-being at risk. AmeriCares responds to these health crises, too, by supporting local health providers around the world—the community clinics and hospitals that people turn to for medicine and care. By providing medicine and health programs that expand services, we are helping to build healthier futures for people in need in more than 90 countries.

Your ongoing support makes all of this possible.

Thank you,

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

Now Her Health is Not a Worry

Margarita's children were concerned: Their mother's headaches were worsening and medicine from the hospital emergency room in León, Nicaragua, did not provide relief.

When a friend recommended the AmeriCares-supported Foundation for Lupus Erythematosus clinic nearby, Margarita quickly made an appointment. She was diagnosed with high blood pressure and received medicine to treat the condition, which also relieved her headaches.



Access to medicine means access to a full life for Margarita in Nicaragua.

Cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension, are the number-one cause of death globally, and more than 75 percent of those deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Last year, AmeriCares delivered \$2.2 million worth of cardiovascular medications to Nicaragua and \$65 million worldwide—enough to treat more than half a million people for a month.

“Having access to the right medication is critical,” says AmeriCares Senior Vice President of Global Programs Dr. E. Anne Peterson, “By improving access to quality medicine, we're giving patients like Margarita a better chance at a healthy future.”

Thanks to You, She Learned to Walk Again

Junkiri was luckier than some: When her house collapsed on her during the Nepal earthquake last year, Junkiri's brother rescued her from the rubble and rushed her to the hospital. Doctors put her dislocated knee in a cast. But when Junkiri was discharged 16 days later, she still could not bend her knee or walk and bed rest further weakened her.



AmeriCares emergency response team knew that patients like Junkiri would need long-term care and had partnered with the International Organization for Migration to build and staff a rehabilitation center near Junkiri's home in Sindhuplchok. There, Junkiri received physiotherapy for two weeks at no charge. It was the quality care that she needed. “I felt like I was getting care in my mother's home,” she says. Physiotherapists gave Junkiri exercises she could continue at home.

“Now I can cook, sit on a stool and easily bend my knee,” says Junkiri. “And I can work in my field as well. I am a poor farmer with a small piece of land; I have to work in the field every day to grow food. I am really thankful to the rehab center and its donors for giving me a new life.”

Learn more about Junkiri's recovery and all of AmeriCares programs to help earthquake survivors in Nepal at americares.org/nepalearthquake

Partner in Profile: Cognizant

Last November, after 41 inches of rain fell on Chennai, India's fourth-largest city, floods killed 500 people and drove 1.8 million from their homes. With 60,000 employees and 11 facilities in Chennai, the information technology company Cognizant acted quickly to help those in need and included support for AmeriCares in their plan.



“We are committed to helping address the health, safety and housing needs of the residents of Chennai,” says Cognizant President Gordon Coburn. “Working with AmeriCares helps us achieve that.”

Cognizant's financial and material support helped AmeriCares mount a comprehensive emergency response, which included sending medical teams from its Mumbai office into flooded communities. The AmeriCares teams treated more than 28,000 patients at 150 locations throughout the region. In addition to financial support, Cognizant lent warehouse space to assist AmeriCares in moving critical relief supplies to the area. To capture the compassion of Cognizant employees and clients worldwide, AmeriCares created a unique fundraising page and Cognizant employees in seven countries, including the United States, made personal contributions.

Cognizant has been supporting AmeriCares since 2011, when the technology provider made a significant contribution to AmeriCares immediate and long-term response to Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated the Philippines that year. The technology provider also contributes each year to AmeriCares Airlift Benefit, which helps ensure that thousands of people in need have access to the medicine and medical services they need to improve their lives.

With critical support from Cognizant, its employees and clients, AmeriCares medical and relief supplies reached hundreds of communities devastated by flooding late last year.



Plan a Gift, Leave a Legacy



Jerie Kasten has a caring legacy .

Even though Jerie Kasten is retired from her career as nurse, she still notices how people care for each other—in her community or even when traveling out of the country. Part of her caring habit includes making a legacy gift to AmeriCares.

“I always gave to organizations, but after a global disaster, I found AmeriCares,” Jerie says. “I was impressed at how much of my donation goes directly to people in need.” Jerie recommends AmeriCares to others as well.

“I can give because I'm a good saver,” she says. When it came time to draw up her will, Jerie made sure to include a legacy gift to AmeriCares. “It keeps giving after I'm gone and that's a good thing,” says Jerie. When she learned that part of her gift could be matched by designating it for AmeriCares Legacy Match Challenge, Jerie signed up. “Now my future gift will leverage current funding,” she says. In all of these ways, Jerie's legacy of caring and giving is a true reflection of how she lives her life.

For more information on the benefits of gift planning, contact Planned Gift Office at AmeriCares: 203.658.9500.

“I Feel Far Stronger,” says New Mom

Just a few months after the birth of her second child, Faustina has recovered well—and she credits the vitamins donated by AmeriCares for her good health. Living in Kumasi, Ghana, Faustina did not have access to vitamins after the birth of her first child. But AmeriCares makes regular donations to a well-baby clinic at Suntreso Government Hospital, where the young mother received them for free.

“Vitamin supplementation not only helps support a mother's recovery following pregnancy and childbirth, but can also benefit the health of babies who are being breastfed,” says AmeriCares Medical Officer Dr. Julie Varughese. Faustina knows the positive effects firsthand. Comparing her health now to what it was after the birth of her first child, Faustina says she feels “far better, stronger and am looking more beautiful.”

The prenatal vitamins that Faustina received were just a small part of the more than \$31 million in support AmeriCares provided to maternal and child health programs around the world last year.



AmeriCares delivered enough medicine to fill nearly 16 million prescriptions last year, including one for the prenatal vitamins making Faustina's life better.

Photo by Nana Kofi Acquah

Your Donations Reached 68 Countries in Three Months

With your help, between January 1 and March 31, 2016, AmeriCares sent medicine, medical supplies and project support to the following countries:

Afghanistan	China	Fiji	Japan	Mexico	Philippines	Thailand
Argentina	Colombia	Ghana	Jordan	Mongolia	Poland	Togo
Armenia	Congo (Kinshasa)	Greece	Kenya	Nepal	Romania	Trinidad & Tobago
Bangladesh	Costa Rica	Grenada	Kosovo	Nicaragua	Rwanda	Turkey
Belize	Cuba	Guatemala	Laos	Nigeria	Senegal	Uganda
Bolivia	Dominican Republic	Guyana	Lebanon	Pakistan	Sierra Leone	United States
Brazil	Ecuador	Haiti	Liberia	Palestinian Territories	South Sudan	Ukraine
Burma/Myanmar	El Salvador	Honduras	Malawi	Panama	St. Vincent Island	Uzbekistan
Cambodia	Ethiopia	India	Mali	Peru	Syria	Vietnam
Cameroon		Jamaica	Marshall Islands		Tanzania	Zimbabwe



Haiti



Ecuador

Haiti: Children stay in school when they are healthy. AmeriCares donated medicine to treat intestinal parasites, making the future brighter for these classmates.

United States: Managing diabetes is a challenge. AmeriCares and Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation's health coach program for low-income uninsured patients at AmeriCares free clinic in Danbury, Conn., bridges the gap with information and support that can improve health.

Ecuador: AmeriCares continues to provide medicine and supplies to communities struggling after April's destructive earthquake.

El Salvador: To protect families from Zika infection in El Salvador, AmeriCares is providing prevention education and critical supplies, including insect repellent.



United States

Annual Emergency Response Partners

Patagonia has joined our Annual Emergency Response Partner Program, supporting AmeriCares year-round readiness for global emergencies:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Anthem Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Chevron
- Medtronic
- MoneyGram Foundation
- Northrop Grumman
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Patagonia
- Southwest Airlines
- S&P Global
- Vanech Family Foundation
- Voya Financial
- Anonymous

El Salvador



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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