

## Aid Reaches Hurricane Survivors in the U.S.



Photo by William Vazquez

Americares has been working with federal, state and local organizations to quickly and effectively deliver medical aid to hurricane survivors in Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Powerful storms have left millions struggling for the basics they need to live. Cut off from water and electricity, survivors are finding that many health centers and hospitals are damaged or closed.

The Americares team arrived in Puerto Rico just days after Hurricane Maria made landfall with destructive winds that killed more than 20 people and left 3.4 million people without power. Americares delivered 20 tons of medical aid in the first month, collaborating with the Puerto Rico Department of Health and community clinics to meet the most pressing needs. “Every day, our team is seeing hospitals and clinics with critical shortages of essential medicines,” says

Americares Director of Emergency Response Kate Dischino. “We are working to ensure doctors and nurses have the supplies they need to continue caring for survivors.”

In all of these battered regions, Americares is focused on addressing the urgent medical needs of affected residents, helping meet the health needs of people displaced by disaster and working to restore primary care services, particularly to vulnerable populations.

Americares emergency responders were in Texas and Florida before hurricanes Harvey and Irma made landfall. “Americares really had the foresight,” says Dr. Adlia Ebeid, director of pharmacy services at San Jose Clinic in Houston; the clinic is using Americares medicine to treat survivors. “Without Americares, we would have had to turn people away.”

Before Hurricane Irma struck Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Americares offered assistance to our more than 80 health partners in the storm’s path, prepositioned medicine and began emergency shipments within days of the storm’s landfall. The emergency response team met with local health facilities in Florida, where our deliveries of aid to Key West enabled community clinics, including a nursing home, to be ready for residents returning to the area.



Americares airlifted medicine and relief supplies to Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands, responding to specific requests from local health centers (above). When dialysis patients like Melvin (right) were unable to reach dialysis centers because of flooding in Texas, Americares provided emergency transportation. See a video of Melvin [here](#).

## “It’s life and death.”

When Hurricane Harvey’s record rains flooded his street, Melvin and his wife were trapped at home for days. “We couldn’t get out, and I have to have dialysis,” Melvin says. “This is life and death. We couldn’t do it without the help.”

Americares drove Melvin to an open dialysis center for treatment. Flooding closed more than 100 dialysis centers in Texas, leaving patients like Melvin stranded without the health care they need to survive.

“They had to shut down everything here—the hospitals, everything. I have to get out to get dialysis, and I’m blessed that you all are doing this for me. I really am,” says the Beaumont, Texas, resident. “Thank God you all came out to get me and bring me to where I get dialysis.”

Americares collaborated with partners, including the City of Houston Department of Health, to deliver medical aid throughout the region, including tetanus vaccine, insulin, wheelchairs and walkers, to evacuation shelters where people fled for safety from the record floods after Hurricane Harvey.



## From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

In this 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, our emergency response teams have been in constant action, meeting the needs of storm survivors from Texas to Puerto Rico.

I'm proud of the work we are doing. Having trained a group of ready response experts, we have been able to meet the demand. Our teams include medical staff, logistics experts and even mental health professionals, who are helping local health centers add capacity to serve survivors' needs.

Our donors' commitment—your generosity—is equally heartening. You show your support by sending checks in the mail and donations on the [americares.org](http://americares.org) website, by sharing our messages on social media and through campaigns run by employees at large and small corporations. In one case, a young neighbor sold honey to benefit Hurricane Harvey survivors and delivered the \$1,180 he raised to my office personally.

In a time of need, our hearts go out to people suffering from the devastation of these hurricanes. In these challenging months, our hearts are warmed by your support.

Thank you,

Michael J. Nyenhuis  
President and CEO

*P.S. Thank you to the many supporters who made our Respond and Recover Matching Gift Campaign a success. The campaign generated critical support for our programs worldwide.*

## For this Family, Help Now and in the Future

When heavy rains and a landslide sent a huge rock into the back of her house in Sri Lanka, Udayangani grabbed her 9-year-old daughter and shouted to her husband and mother to run. The family fled to a shelter, which was supported by AmeriCares with hygiene kits, including toothbrushes and other necessities the family had left behind in their flight.



AmeriCares responded when heavy rains caused floods in Sri Lanka, forcing residents into evacuation centers.

Constant, heavy rains threatened more landslides, so Udayangani, who was 5-months pregnant, and her family stayed at the shelter for weeks, along with hundreds of other families. AmeriCares not only supplied the shelter with personal care kits, but also trained local health workers to meet the mental health needs of communities displaced and under threat. Two pediatric hospitals in the region were damaged by the floods and AmeriCares is ensuring both facilities are rebuilt to withstand future disasters. Building back better is a proven investment: Nearby Elpitiya Hospital, which AmeriCares rebuilt 10 years ago after the 2004 Southeast Asia tsunami, remained open to treat patients during the floods in Sri Lanka this year.

## Crisis Alert: Aid for Famine in Yemen

Famine, conflict and a refugee crisis have contributed to an unprecedented outbreak of deadly cholera in East Africa and Yemen. AmeriCares is working with local and international partners to deliver lifesaving medicine, nutritionals and medical supplies to treat the infectious disease.

"This is the largest single-year cholera outbreak the world has ever seen," says AmeriCares Medical Officer Dr. Julie Varughese. Since April 2017, more than 700,000 people have been infected and 2,000 have died. The disease is spread through



contaminated water. Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East. An estimated 2 million people are displaced within its borders, and there is a severe shortage of doctors and health centers; clean water and sanitation are also scarce. "AmeriCares shipments give health workers what they need to save lives and stop the spread of disease," says Varughese.

AmeriCares maintains emergency stocks of critical medicine and supplies, including those to fight a deadly cholera epidemic.

## Partner in Profile: Endo

Not even two weeks after Hurricane Irma devastated the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hurricane Maria was forecast to make landfall. Americares team on St. Thomas rushed an airlift of critical medicine to the island's hospital, delivering the cargo just ahead of the second storm.

Included in the medicine Americares donated to U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health for hurricane survivors was medicine from Endo International plc, which develops, manufactures and commercializes a wide range of generic and specialty branded pharmaceutical products.

Endo is a longtime supporter of Americares Emergency Response Program, which meets the health needs of disaster survivors worldwide.



Between hurricanes Irma and Maria, Americares made an emergency shipment to St. Thomas.

the important work of Americares," says Paul Campanelli, President and CEO of Endo. "We are honored to receive this recognition from Americares as we share the goal of expanding access to health care."

Endo's donations also supply volunteer medical teams providing care to patients in desperate need and support safety net health clinics in the United States caring for uninsured and underinsured patients.

Over the past 15 years, Endo's branded and generic divisions have supported Americares by donating quality medicines for distribution to 83 countries. This past summer, Americares, in partnership with the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA), presented its annual Power of Partnership Award to Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Par Pharmaceutical, operating companies of Endo International plc, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to increasing access to health care around the world.

"Endo is committed to delivering quality medicines to patients in need and we are proud to support

## Plan a Gift, Leave a Legacy

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.

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 more about gift planning, contact Karen Malner at Americares 203.658.9596 or [kmalner@americares.org](mailto:kmalner@americares.org)



As well as giving to Americares, Carol volunteers internationally.

## How to Help



This donor connects on social media.

Kim Petcovic knows hurricanes: Born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida, Kim has ridden out storms in her home. "I've seen what a hurricane can do and how much time it takes to get back to normalcy," she says.

Even so, she was shocked to see how Hurricane Harvey flooded the neighborhood in Houston where she, her husband and son had lived for two years. Kim reached out to her Houston friends and, as she has after other disasters, made a donation to Americares.

Kim knows when Americares is responding to disasters because she follows the organization on social media, especially Twitter. "Americares is everywhere, responding to devastation," Kim says. "Americares is there to help people get back on their feet."

Twitter is where Kim first learned of Americares; she's a fan and follower of Americares celebrity ambassador Tony Goldwyn, a director, producer and star of ABC's hit show "Scandal." "Tony is compassionate and kind and he stands behind Americares," she says. Through research, Kim learned the organization has the highest ranking on Charity Navigator and began regular support, including sharing Americares news on her own Twitter account. Kim works in the hospitality industry and enjoys connecting with others. "I'm a people person," she says, "and Twitter is an amazing tool for getting the word out."

# Your Donations at Work—in Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, in the last three months, AmeriCares provided life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies to the countries below. Emergency response locations are shown in red.

Afghanistan	China	Ethiopia	Iraq	Liberia	Nicaragua	Romania	Tanzania
Armenia	Colombia	Fiji	Israel	Madagascar	Nigeria	Rwanda	Trinidad
Bangladesh	Costa Rica	Gabon	Ivory Coast	Malawi	Palestinian Territories	Senegal	Uganda
Belize	Djibouti	Ghana	Jamaica	Mali	Panama	Sierra Leone	Ukraine
Benin	Dominica	Guatemala	Jordan	Mexico	Paraguay	Somalia	United States
Bolivia	Dominican Republic	Guyana	Kenya	Mongolia	Peru	South Sudan	U.S. Virgin Islands
Brazil	Ecuador	Haiti	Kosovo	Mozambique	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Vietnam
Cambodia	El Salvador	Honduras	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Puerto Rico	St. Vincent	Zimbabwe
Cameroon		India	Lebanon	Nepal		Syria	



**Dominica**

**Dominica:** AmeriCares staff delivered medicine to Dominica by helicopter after Hurricane Maria damaged the airport. The team then delivered an emergency airlift of requested aid just as the airport opened. See a video [here](#).

**Ecuador:** This baby and mother have easy access to full health services at the emergency hospital AmeriCares brought to their hometown of Pedernales, Ecuador. A destructive earthquake last year damaged the town's small clinic.



**Liberia**

**Liberia:** AmeriCares program to improve the health of mothers and newborns in Liberia, includes nurse midwives, prenatal care and this room at Zondo clinic, where mothers and infants can rest.

**United States:** For the nation's low-income uninsured, AmeriCares builds the capacity of more than 1,000 safety net clinics and health centers. Abel uses information from his local clinic to adopt a healthier lifestyle, reducing his need for medication.



**Ecuador**

Photo by William Vazquez

## Emergency Response Partners

These organizations support AmeriCares year-round readiness for global emergencies, including the current emergencies shown in red, above.

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Anthem Foundation
- Chevron
- Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Foundation
- Horizon Pharma
- Medtronic
- MoneyGram Foundation
- Northrup Grumman
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Patagonia
- Southwest Airlines
- Vanech Family Foundation
- Voya Financial
- Anonymous

## United States



AmeriCares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies.

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