

6 Months after a Hurricane

## Recovery Reaches Those in Need



**No power. No health care.  
No future?**

For too many Puerto Ricans, life after Hurricane Maria is tough. The September 2017 storm lifted roofs, downed trees, triggered mudslides and cut power to the entire island, leaving 3.3 million people in the dark. Even six months later, power is not fully restored and outages are common.

“We are treating more patients with bacterial infections, flu-like symptoms and respiratory problems from living without electricity in homes with mold,” says Isolina Miranda, executive director of COSSMA, a health clinic that serves low-income patients in San Lorenzo.

Americares continues to restore health services for the island’s most vulnerable survivors. Six months after the storm, Americares had provided \$35 million in aid, including enough medicine to fill 200,000 prescriptions, to local health providers



across the island, including COSSMA. Americares mobile medical clinics treated nearly 2,000 patients in remote communities cut off from health services; the mobile teams set up in public areas and also reached homebound patients.

On Vieques, an island off the east coast of Puerto Rico, the storm destroyed the island’s only dialysis center, a lifeline for the community’s 12 patients with kidney disease. Americares stepped in to provide patients with short flights to a dialysis center on mainland Puerto Rico. Without the flights, “I’d die because I don’t have any other choice,” says dialysis patient Radames Cabral Trinidad, 65 (shown above). “I am very appreciative [of the transportation]. I can be more relaxed because I know that you’re taking care of us.”

Americares has been keeping health centers open in many ways. Immediately after the storm, Americares provided funding to cover the costs of generator fuel. In San Lorenzo, after Hurricane Maria’s strong winds and rain wrecked COSSMA’s clinic, Americares relief workers delivered a specially designed air-conditioned medical structure, which welcomes about 60 children and adults each day who are seeking primary care. COSSMA had been treating patients under tents in the parking lot’s oppressive heat.

Americares long-term recovery plan in Puerto Rico will focus on disaster preparedness for future storms and expanding mental health services to meet the needs of survivors.

4 Years after an Epidemic

## “I Knew I Was in Danger”

When Theresa had complications late in her pregnancy, she knew to go to Zondo Clinic near her home in rural Liberia. She’d learned about safe pregnancy and childbirth from her community’s traditional midwife, who is trained by Americares.

“Pregnancy is all about life,” says Theresa. “I came because I knew I was in danger. I had come to the clinic for [prenatal care] visits so they can see if there’s any danger sign before delivery.”

The medical staff at Zondo examined Theresa and took her to the closest hospital, where doctors performed an emergency C-section, delivering a healthy baby boy. Theresa receives ongoing care at Zondo and takes her son there for childhood vaccinations and checkups.

“Since the Ebola outbreak struck Liberia in 2014, Americares has strengthened its focus on community engagement, outreach and training,” says Director of Africa and Middle East Programs Justine MacWilliam. That includes opening Zondo clinic. “Our work with local partners will ensure the country’s most vulnerable receive access to the health care—and education—they need.”

During the Ebola epidemic, Americares provided critical medicine, protective gear and medical staff. Now, Americares trains Liberian health workers to prevent and control infections and manage supplies of medicine and supplies—both critical to saving lives during future disease outbreaks.



Americares Emergency Team Manager Raul Pineda stands with Puerto Rican Radames Cabral Trinidad, who needed emergency transportation for dialysis when Hurricane Maria damaged his local center beyond repair (top). When her son was feverish, a young mother could depend on COSSMA health center in San Lorenzo (above). Americares support for Theresa’s local health center was a lifesaver for her and her son (right).





Friends,

People often ask me, "What is the impact of my support during an emergency?" I hope this newsletter answers that question.

Your support means:

—a retiree can continue lifesaving treatment after a hurricane destroyed his local dialysis center;

—local health centers are being rebuilt stronger, to withstand future storms;

—a young family receives support at a repaired shelter; and

—quality clinics and community education save a baby's life in Liberia, where Ebola decimated the health system.

I was in Houston recently, where AmeriCares is working with communities battered by Hurricane Harvey. Our long-term recovery work there is focused on mental health and disaster preparedness. But the impact of our immediate response—deliveries of medicine and supplies and support to keep clinic doors open for flood survivors—is still being felt. AmeriCares is supporting health services for low-income residents left homeless by the storm.

One such man I met handed me a thank-you card—his appreciation. "Thank you so much," the card said. "Your help made all the difference. From the heart—Cecil."

I can say the same: Thank you. Your help makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nyenhuis  
President and CEO

6 Months after a Hurricane

## With Your Help, Shelter and Support for the Future

Aneesha had just moved into her first apartment when Hurricane Harvey dumped more than 4 feet of rain on Houston, sending water rushing into her first-floor home. Ankle-deep in the flood, Aneesha packed up her two young daughters and hurried them to her mother's home, which, though damaged, was safe.

Aneesha was not alone in needing shelter: After Hurricane Harvey, Covenant House, a home for abandoned, abused and homeless youth, saw an 18 percent increase in young adults needing housing in Houston. Covenant House suffered damage in the storm—including major damage to the nursery used by young mothers like Aneesha. AmeriCares donated medicine and relief supplies and provided the support needed to repair the storm damage.

In November, Aneesha and her fiancé got news that there was room for them at Covenant



After losing their home during Hurricane Harvey, this young family is now living at a shelter for homeless youth, which received relief supplies and emergency funding from AmeriCares.

House. Aneesha is taking part in programs to help her find employment and make a better future for her family.

Covenant House is just one of 55 local Texas organizations AmeriCares has supported in the six months since Hurricane Harvey with more than \$12 million in aid. Our work continues, focusing on restoring health services, disaster preparedness and mental health.

6 Months after a Hurricane

## Field Report: Dominica

by Jonathan Hughes, Response Staff

I've been in Dominica almost continuously since September 22, three days after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Not only did 185 mph winds tear the roofs off nearly every building, but heavy rains turned rivers into raging torrents that swept debris from mountainsides into towns, damaging and destroying bridges. During those first days, food and shelter were survivors' biggest worries. Everyone here suffered a loss—of property, livelihood, or a friend or loved one. The storm killed 31 people on this small island of 76,000. Even today, only about one-quarter of the island has power.

To restore health services, AmeriCares is rebuilding seven health centers. Every health center will have an improved design that meets national and international building standards to withstand future storms—stronger roofs and walls, for example. We're also adding better communications and inventory systems to help maintain supplies of medicine every day and during emergencies.



AmeriCares is rebuilding health centers in Dominica.

Of course, we're also working alongside Dominicans—they're AmeriCares partners in design and construction. It's good to know we're putting money into the pockets of tradesmen in affected areas across the island. Every day, my co-workers come early to work; every night, I know that most are going home to have dinner by candlelight and sleep under a tarp roof. Homeowners are waiting for assessments and compensation from insurance companies. AmeriCares is moving forward, in partnership with the Dominican government and citizens, and is creating a stronger, more resilient health system here.

## Partner in Profile: Valeant

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season was record-setting, with three powerful storms making landfall in the United States—Harvey, Irma and Maria. AmeriCares responded with health programs and shipments of critical medicine and supplies. Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., provided donations of medicine for survivors of all three hurricanes, including antibiotics, antivirals and chronic disease medicines, which were valued at \$44 million. Valeant's support allowed AmeriCares to meet the health needs of survivors, outfit mobile medical teams in Puerto Rico and resupply health centers running critically low on medications in Florida, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For 12 years, Valeant has been a key partner in AmeriCares responses to disasters and humanitarian crises by providing vital medicine to help restore health services for survivors.

"Our mission is simple: Improve people's lives with our health care products," says Joseph C. Papa, chairman and CEO, Valeant. "Our



Photo by William Vazquez

Support from Valeant helped AmeriCares conduct mobile medical clinics in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

long-standing partnership with AmeriCares allows us to do that by getting our medicines to people in need following a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis." To date, Valeant has donated \$145 million in medicine to AmeriCares global health programs, responding rapidly to targeted requests for products when there is an urgent need.

"Valeant has demonstrated remarkable support for AmeriCares emergency responses," says Vice President of Corporate Relations Geoff Kneisel. "They are a valued partner in our work."

### 3 Years after an Earthquake

## Recovery Means a New Health Center in Nepal

After two powerful earthquakes struck Nepal in April and May 2015, everyone struggled: Families lived in tents and doctors treated patients in cracked and leaky buildings. Within a month, AmeriCares delivered \$20 million in medicine and relief supplies to protect survivors' health and committed to rebuilding 16 health facilities, including the Tipling Health Post in Dhading.

"We were delivering health services in makeshift tents and tin sheds," says Tipling's administrator, Lilman Tamang. "We had a difficult time storing medicine and medical supplies to save them from insects, dust, rain and weather. This hindered our ability to provide our patients with quality health services." Kamaya Tamang brought her elderly father to the old health post and was shocked at the lack of basic facilities, including toilets.



These health workers enjoy caring for patients in a quality health facility, thanks to AmeriCares earthquake recovery program in Nepal.

The new clinics built as part of AmeriCares Nepal earthquake recovery program meet improved national standards to withstand earthquakes, heavy rains and other disasters. "We are so happy to be working in the new structure," says Lilman. "It has all the essential rooms and facilities. We are deeply thankful to AmeriCares."

Now, Kamaya is confident in the care her father will receive. "We are happy to come to this new health post," says Kamaya. "It's a good model for the entire region."



See a video of AmeriCares community health program in Nepal.  
[vimeo.com/americares/nepal](https://vimeo.com/americares/nepal)

## Save Lives Every Day



Photo courtesy of Roger Barnsby

### Dani and Roger Barnsby

As Roger Barnsby reached his personal goals, he also focused on helping others. Barnsby moved to the United States from England as a young adult, then enjoyed a satisfying, decades-long career as an aerospace engineer. He checked out the American dream and found it worked. When he looked for a way to give back, Barnsby found AmeriCares. "I was attracted by the name—Americans are the most charitable people in the world, and the name reflects that," he says.

Barnsby appreciates AmeriCares efficiency and transparency and how the organization minimizes red tape. "I like the whole arrangement," he says. Barnsby participated in a planned giving match campaign, making AmeriCares part of his estate plan, and also makes charitable contributions from his IRA. He sends donations automatically. Barnsby and his wife, Dani, have four children and eight grandchildren, and they have given to AmeriCares in their names too.

Barnsby recommends *His Name is Today*, the biography of AmeriCares founder, the late Bob Macauley, which is full of anecdotes about the businessman. "It seems his spirit is still there," says Barnsby.

**For more information on the benefits of gift planning and our current legacy matching gift challenge, contact AmeriCares Planned Giving office at (203) 658.9500.**



# Your Donations at Work—In Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between January 1 and March 1, 2018, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories.

Afghanistan	Cameroon	Ecuador	Guatemala	Kenya	Marshall	Pakistan	Romania	St. Vincent	United States
Armenia	China	El Salvador	Guyana	Kosovo	Islands	Palau	Rwanda	Sudan	Uzbekistan
Bangladesh	Colombia	Eritria	Haiti	Kyrgyzstan	Mexico	Palestinian	Samoa	Syria	Venezuela
Barbados	Congo Kinshasa	Ethiopia	Honduras	Laos	Morocco	Territories	Senegal	Tanzania	Vietnam
Belize	Costa Rica	Fiji	India	Lebanon	Myanmar	Panama	Sierra Leone	Thailand	Virgin Islands
Benin	Djibouti	Gabon	Indonesia	Liberia	Nepal	Paraguay	Somalia	Togo	Yemen
Bolivia	Dominica	Gambia	Ivory Coast	Libya	Nicaragua	Peru	South Africa	Trinidad	Zambia
Brazil	Dominican	Ghana	Jamaica	Malawi	Niger	Philippines	St. Lucia	Turkey	Zimbabwe
Cambodia	Republic	Grenada	Jordan	Mali	Nigeria	Puerto Rico	St. Martin	Uganda	

## Emergency Response Partners

These organizations support AmeriCares year-round readiness for global emergencies.

**Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

**Anthem Foundation**

**Chevron**

**Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Foundation**

**Horizon Pharma**

**Medtronic**

**MoneyGram Foundation**

**Northrop Grumman**

**OdysseyRe Foundation**

**Patagonia**

**Southwest Airlines**

**Vanech Family Foundation**

**Voya Financial**

**Anonymous**



**El Salvador**

More than 100,000 people attend health education events every year at AmeriCares clinic in Santiago de María. Dr. Mike Varshavski (@doctor.mike on Instagram) exercised with patients last year.



**Haiti**

AmeriCares mobile medical clinics reached families in need after Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in 2016. The members of the medical staff were Haitian, including Dr. Joel Marcelin (left).



**Philippines**

After Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, AmeriCares rebuilt clinics and trained local staff to prepare for future typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Here, staff provide protective masks and hygiene supplies to students at a shelter after a volcano erupted in January 2018.



**Sierra Leone**

In Sierra Leone and Tanzania last year, AmeriCares provided infection-prevention training for 1,000 health workers at five health facilities. Handwashing is a key component of safety. See more at [americares.org/2017annualreport](http://americares.org/2017annualreport).



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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