

Your Help Needed: Poverty and COVID-19 in Peru



Americares mobile clinics in Peru bring medical care to families in remote and neglected areas of Peru.

When Cynthia lost her job, her health suffered. “I got very depressed, and my diabetes got worse,” says the mother of two, who lives with her daughters and nine other family members near Lima, Peru. Without employment, she can’t access health insurance and, “due to the pandemic, I have not found a job,” she says.

Cynthia did find the care she needed — at no cost — at a mobile clinic supported by Americares.

The mobile clinics were part of Americares COVID-19 program in Peru, which included medical surge support for health facilities in Lambayeque, Lima and Piura overwhelmed by the pandemic and mobile health clinics to reach communities with high rates of



Unemployed, Cynthia sought care for her diabetes and depression.

COVID-19. In Peru, 20 percent of the population is affected by poverty and, in mid-August 2020, more than 10,000 Peruvians a day were infected with COVID-19.

Cynthia’s visits were among the 35,689 outpatient consultations by Americares, more than 1,200 of which included mental health, in just six months. Over radio and social media, Americares also shared messages about masks, social distancing and other strategies to reduce the spread of the virus. Those efforts reached more than 200,000 people.

Cynthia made seven visits to the Americares mobile clinic and, when her father, mother and sister contracted COVID-19, they were also treated by Americares and recovered successfully. Americares also provides the medicine needed to treat her diabetes, which had been causing constant headaches. All 12 family members live together; Cynthia and her daughters are supported financially by her brother, who works as a motorcycle taxi driver. “Health services are a panacea for those of us who do not have the resources to pay for the treatments,” says Cynthia. “It gives me peace of mind to enjoy the support of Americares.”

Cynthia knows how important health is. “I have my little 10-year-old daughter, and I need to be healthy because I want to continue living for her,” says Cynthia.

Stay up to date on Americares global COVID-19 efforts at americares.org/COVID.

Thanks to You, Medicine Delivered to Texas

When days of sub-freezing temperatures cut water and electricity to millions of people in Texas and Oklahoma in February, people who were already affected by poverty and COVID-19 were most at risk.

At the Helping Hands Clinic in Fort Worth, staff called patients to make sure they had medicine, even while they themselves struggled with icy roads and intermittent power and water.

“There’s one patient I haven’t heard from,” says Clinic Coordinator Saad Siddiqui. “I’m calling, but she hasn’t called back. I’m worried.” Helping Hands’ patients are the restaurant and shop workers who don’t have insurance and depend on the safety net clinic for low- and no-cost health care for acute and chronic disease.

Within days of the cold snap, Americares rushed personal protective equipment and insulin to Helping Hands and other Texas clinics, knowing that patients may have lost their insulin supply during the power outages. “We need the gloves and masks to see patients,” says Siddiqui, adding that the increased need for PPE during the pandemic is an added cost. Americares donations ease that burden to help keep clinic doors open.

In all, with the critical support of Americares donors, Americares Emergency Programs provided 49 shipments of medicine and PPE, as well as six truckloads of bottled water, in the weeks after the cold weather disaster.



Emergency supplies leave Americares global distribution center, headed to Texas.

Your Donation at Work in Syria



From the **President and CEO**

It's been a year — a pandemic year of challenge, sorrow, perseverance, and caring for ourselves and others. I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

At Americares, it's also been a year of action. Not only have we provided more than 14 million safety supplies, including masks and disinfectants, to help the most affected communities in 30 countries battle COVID-19, our teams have also developed coronavirus-specific curriculum for health workers. Now, health center staff around the world have access to the information they need to control infection in the workplace. Americares has also provided critical training on mental health care, including stress and trauma in patients and co-workers. A safe, caring workplace is healthy for staff and patients alike.

COVID-19 complicates every part of our lives and, for every health center in the world, the virus makes delivering care harder. Americares is working side by side with our global partners to make sure they can effectively deliver care to people affected by poverty during this pandemic. No one should be excluded from care, now or ever.

Every day, our goal is to accomplish Americares mission to save lives and improve health for people affected by poverty or disaster. We can do that only because of the dedication of our staff — and your generous support.

Thank you,

Christine Squires
President and CEO

P.S.: I made a video to thank you for your support — I hope you enjoy it!
www.americares.org/RespondsToCovid.



A toddler's life in war-torn Syria is hard; Americares support of a mobile clinic brought little Amira comfort and health.

Life in Kafr Ghan, Syria, is not easy: Rubble lines the streets, a reminder that bombs can fall anywhere, anytime. But when little Amira* had an ear infection, her mother knew she had one safe haven: the Shafak mobile health clinic, which is supported by Americares.

2021 marks the 10th year of the Syria humanitarian crisis, including a war which has killed hundreds of thousands of citizens, driven 11 million people from their homes and laid ruin to the country's infrastructure, including hospitals and clinics. Americares has provided \$23 million in support to health partners — some, like Shafak, providing care inside the battered country, and others who are supporting Syrian refugees and host communities in neighboring countries. Americares support includes mental health support for health workers, 2 million medical supplies and enough medicine to fill 1 million prescriptions.

Amira received two of those prescriptions for her infected ear: topical and oral antibiotics. The Shafak medical team met with Amira and her mother for three months to make sure the treatment was effective — which it was, resulting in one less worry for a Syrian family caught in a seemingly never-ending war.

*name changed for privacy

Syria Crisis: Americares Impact

10 years
total aid

39 emergency shipments
1M prescriptions

88 volunteer medical trips supported
2M medical supplies



A doctor in the mobile clinic examined Amira's ear.



Just two prescriptions made a difference for Amira and her mother.

Read more about Americares support for Syrians at americares.org/Syria.

Partner in Profile: Xylem

Americares and Xylem Bring Water and Sanitation to Communities in Need

In Namanolo, Malawi, last year, the borehole at the health clinic was producing water, but thieves had stolen the water pump. So, just as the COVID-19 pandemic began to threaten the community, the health center staff could not access the most precious resource needed for hygiene and sanitation: clean, safe water.

As part of a broad partnership begun in 2020, Americares and Xylem not only secured a new pump, but also trained health workers, placed hand-washing stations in the community and spread messages about the importance of hand hygiene. Americares and Xylem have placed nearly 500 similar hand-washing stations in nine countries to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This comprehensive approach to water and sanitation is at the heart of a multi-faceted, strategic partnership that combines Americares global health expertise and network with Xylem's experience in and commitment to water solutions. The partnership is bringing real, lasting change to communities in need with infrastructure projects; water, sanitation and hygiene training; critical supplies; and education and equipment for the public around hand hygiene. In 2020, Americares and Xylem installed or



Americares hand-washing stations are popular in Malawi's marketplaces.

restored water systems at 175 facilities in 10 countries and reached more than 1,000 health professionals in 60 countries with infection control and sanitation training. In all, the partnership reached over 3 million people.

"Xylem Watermark's support for Americares COVID-19 response is part of our company's commitment to creating economic and social value," said Austin Alexander, Vice President of Sustainability and Social Impact at Xylem. "We are honored to partner with Americares to provide education and infrastructure to help address the health issues facing low-income families around the world, including access to clean water and safe sanitation. Together, we can protect lives by solving the world's water challenges."

Too Far? Not When Drones Deliver

When Ellen Donkor's baby had a fever, she rushed the little girl to a clinic near Kumasi, Ghana, where doctors prescribed lifesaving medicine that parachuted from the sky – delivered by a drone. "If not for this service, we would be referred to another hospital," Donkor says. "By the time you see the doctor there, your child might die."

Americares partner in Ghana has a unique partnership with the drone service Zipline. When a shipment of medicine and medical supplies from Americares arrives in Ghana, Women's Health to Wealth makes it available to clinics throughout the Ashanti Region and beyond, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service. Health facilities within Zipline's Mpanya distribution center service area can also call Zipline anytime for a delivery. Thousands of items, including lifesaving IV fluids, antibiotics, prenatal supplements and other medicines and supplies from Americares are delivered by the unmanned, remote-control drones, saving hours of costly travel.



Fluids flown in via drone can be lifesaving for young patients in remote clinics.

Women's Health to Wealth identified medicine supply and distance as barriers to providing equitable, quality health services throughout the region. The innovative collaboration with Zipline, Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service, and Americares eliminates that barrier, making health services more accessible. "Drug delivery by drone is really helping us in the rural areas," says Donkor.

Plan a Gift, Leave a Legacy

Georgia Carrington loves drama, but when it comes to her philanthropy, she knows that organizations need stability — that's why the retired English and drama teacher has shifted her giving to Americares from donations during emergencies to monthly gifts and a planned gift from her estate. "Americares can use the resources where they are needed," she says. "I know it will be well thought out."

Carrington has long served as a model of giving: In her career as a teacher, Carrington headed up a student community service program and saw the impact of well-designed projects on people in need as well as the students doing the work. Now, she finds herself seeking out organizations with smart programs that deliver impact — including Americares. Carrington volunteered with Americares in its early years and was impressed, as she is still. "Americares helps people where the need is," says Carrington.



MORE WAYS TO GIVE!

- Give from Donor-Advised Fund
- Donate Securities
- Gift by Will or Trust
- Qualified Charitable Distribution from IRA
- Employer Matching Gift

For more information, visit americares.org/take-action/ways-to-give/.

Thank you!

Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between December 1, 2020, and March 1, 2021, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Colombia	El Salvador	Honduras	Liberia	Peru	Syria	Yemen
Belarus	Dominica	Fiji	India	Malawi	Philippines	Tanzania	Zambia
Cambodia	Dominican Republic	Guatemala	Kyrgyzstan	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	United States	
Central African Republic	Ecuador	Haiti	Lebanon	Nigeria	Rwanda	Vietnam	

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

Alexion	Horizon Therapeutics	Odyssey Group Foundation	Dean and Denise Vanech
AmerisourceBergen Foundation	Integra Foundation	Patagonia	Vertex Foundation
Anthem Foundation	Medtronic	PVH Foundation	Voya
Chevron	Northrop Grumman	Southwest Airlines	
FCA Foundation	Novartis	Teleflex Foundation	



Philippines

As well as masks, gloves and medicine, AmeriCares Philippines team provides skills training in infection control and prevention basics such as hand-washing to staff at local health centers.



United States

When staff at AmeriCares Free Clinics in Connecticut received their vaccine, several shared selfies to set an example for patients and peers.



Colombia

Venezuelan patients dealing with trauma and loss find help at AmeriCares clinics in Colombia. This young patient made a puppet theater to help tell his story.



El Salvador

AmeriCares clinic in rural El Salvador has remained open during the pandemic, providing quality health care to more than 37,000 patients last year.



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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