

Your Gift: Saves a Baby's Life



As with Martha's son, Musu's baby needed resuscitation after birth, and an Americares-trained midwife provided lifesaving care.

Every mother wants the same thing after giving birth: to hear their baby cry, proof that their newborn has taken their first, lifegiving breath.

Martha, a young mother in rural Grand Bassa, Liberia, did not hear a wail: Her tiny boy was limp, blue and not breathing. Instead, she heard midwife Roseline Williams move quickly, bringing supplies and beginning actions to resuscitate her newborn son. Then — a cry: "I was happy when I heard the baby," says Martha. "I am so very grateful to clinic staff for enabling me to take my baby home alive."

That Martha's baby began to breathe was no accident: The Compound #3 health center where she was receiving care is one of six clinics participating in Americares maternal health programs. Williams and 26 other supervisors and health workers received in-person training on safe birth, and three clinics receive monthly mentoring visits by Americares staff, a full set of set of neonatal resuscitation equipment, a mannequin for routine skills practice and other essential newborn supplies. This combination of training, mentoring and supplies directly addresses Liberia's high infant mortality rate: Nearly 47 out of every 1,000 babies born

in Liberia this year will die before their first birthday, among the worst mortality rates in the world. In six months, Americares training boosted the quality-of-care rating at the clinics from a 27 percent rating to 83 percent, on average.

"Because of Americares training, we were able to make that baby survive," says Williams. "We used everything supplied by Americares." As well as skills, that included a kit with equipment and a firm bed, designed for newborn resuscitation. In just eight months, nine babies were resuscitated; one infant could not be saved.

Americares has been working in Liberia since 2015, providing medicine, supplies and other resources and technical support to rural health centers, with a focus on maternal and child health. "This comprehensive support improves women's health overall," says Saman Nizami, Americares senior director of Africa and Middle East programs, "and saving lives builds trust in the community."

"Everybody has the right to give birth, and every child has the right to live," says Williams. "When [there are] skilled people in the facility, it will be better for us all the time."

Syria Shipment: "Just What We Needed"

In the first three days after the deadly February 6 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, the Bab Al Hawa Hospital in northern Syria treated 1,500 patients, which created an immense need for medicine and supplies. By February 10, an Americares shipment of antibiotics, IV fluids, gloves, sutures and other supplies had crossed the border into Syria.

"The Americares shipment was just what we needed," says Dr. Muhammad Hamra, surgeon and administrative director of Bab Al Hawa Hospital. "We used it immediately." Doctors and staff worked round the clock; many, like Dr. Hamra, lost family members in the quake. "I buried my wife and child on Wednesday and was back at work on Sunday," he says, wanting people around the world to know what Syrians face every day and in the aftermath of the temblors.

The quakes killed more than 60,000 people and injured 130,000 in both war-torn Syria and Türkiye, where many Syrians had fled for safety from the war.

In the first six months after the quake, Americares provided 16 local partners with \$3.1 million in aid, including the shipments to Bab Al Hawa Hospital and 28 other health facilities in Syria, which were facilitated by the Syrian American Medical Society. In Al Zohoor, Syria, Human Appeal was about to open a clinic when the quakes struck. Americares emergency funding completed construction and is covering staff salaries for a year — in a region where health care is needed more than ever. Americares support to health facilities in Syria began over a decade ago and is ongoing.



A patient receive care in Al Zohoor, Syria.



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

It has been a tough summer: Deadly heat waves, destructive flash floods and raging wildfires have threatened the lives of millions of people around the world.

If you or your loved ones were affected, I hope they are safe and recovering now. Please know that Americares is at work in vulnerable communities, not only after disasters, but before, making health centers more resilient and able to protect patients during extreme weather events. In this newsletter, you'll read about Americares risk reduction program in El Salvador — exactly what one community needs to reduce the threat of deadly flash floods.

In Liberia, Martha faced a different emergency: Her newborn son was not breathing. Martha's midwife immediately began resuscitating the tiny infant, thanks to training and equipment she received from Americares (page 1). This program and others are saving lives and changing grim health statistics in Liberia — and you are helping make that positive, lasting change.

So when you read or hear headlines about disasters, know that you are supporting lifesaving solutions in communities around the world. With your support of Americares, you are making a difference every day.

Sincerely,

Christine Squires
President and CEO

Your Donation at Work: “I Have an Excellent Quality of Life”



Medicine to manage her diabetes and blood pressure allows Lilia to be active with her granddaughter.

There's only one thing Lilia enjoys more than walking in the park near her home in Houston, Texas, and greeting other parkgoers: walking with her youngest granddaughter, who says hello to every dog on their route — by name!

Lilia has the energy to keep up with her granddaughter partly because she manages her diabetes and high blood pressure, with health care from San José Clinic and medicine donated by Americares. Like all of the nearly 1,000 Americares partners across the United States, San José Clinic provides health services to people who are uninsured and living with low incomes. All medicine and supplies from Americares — including those that Lilia relies on — are provided to patients at no cost.

Last year, Americares provided more than \$180 million in support to the U.S. health centers and clinics that make up the health care safety net. “Thanks to the fact that I am treated at this clinic, I can say that I have an excellent quality of life because the medications are constantly being adjusted to my needs,” says Lilia. “It is a great blessing not only for me, but for all the people who come to attend this clinic.”

Walking with her granddaughter is part of Lilia's health plan. “It makes me feel like I'm useful, that I can help someone else,” she says. “She enjoys it, as do I.”

A Plan to Save Lives Before Disaster Strikes

Most days, the river in El Zonte, El Salvador, empties peacefully into the Pacific Ocean. But, if there is rain — especially downpours in the mountains — the river can rage, destroy and even kill.

The effects of extreme weather are greatest in communities like El Zonte with few resources to respond to the threat of natural disasters. Americares builds climate resilience to protect health and save lives. Communities understand their risks — from floods, volcano eruptions, hurricanes, heat waves — and need resources to create plans and put them into action.



Don Santos alerts downstream communities when floods threaten.

In El Salvador, Americares collaborated with local communities and the government to create an early warning flood system that saves lives. The system begins in Chiltiupán, a mountain town eight miles from the coast. There, community observer Don Santos checks the river level — a color scale is painted on the rocks that form the banks — and reports to Don Julio, on the coast. Most days the river is low. When Don Santos sees water covering the yellow alert level, he reports this to Don Julio, who alerts leaders in the coastal community, hours before the flood waters arrive downstream. With this warning, officials may close bridges, redirect traffic and sound an alarm — saving property and lives.

“It's much more effective to prevent an incident, instead of mourning after the fact,” says Don Julio. “It's safe to say that Americares programs are saving lives.”

Americares Emergency Response Partners

No matter where they strike, earthquakes can devastate in an instant, as happened in Türkiye and Syria in February and Haiti in June. Americares was ready and responded immediately to both disasters because of systems in place and support from individual donors and a group of corporations and foundations – Americares Emergency Response Partners.

Americares began the Emergency Response Partner program when corporations asked to create more impact and help Americares in all phases of emergency — preparedness, immediate response and long-term recovery. Americares currently has 22 Emergency Response Partners (see page 4 of this newsletter for the complete and current list).

The program partners' support stocks Americares emergency pharmacy and also ensures there is a coffer of funds for emergency flash grants — the immediate funding that local organizations often need



A 16-ton shipment of Americares medicine and supplies arrived in Adana, Türkiye, 15 days after a devastating earthquake struck the region.

in the aftermath of a disaster to purchase equipment, make repairs or fund surge staff. “It provides a solid foundation for every response,” says Provas Budden, Americares deputy senior vice president of emergency programs. “We are grateful for the continued support that allows our local partners and, most importantly, people in affected communities to benefit immediately.”

Haiti Report: “Our Mobile Medical Team Will Be There”

The first day Americares mobile clinic was providing care in southwest Haiti, Dr. Dominique Georges saw something unusual in the afternoon: patients were returning. “The first people to receive treatment went home and then returned a short time later with four or five family members,” says Dr. Georges, Americares Haiti program director. Americares dispatched the mobile clinic in response to flooding and earthquakes in southwest Haiti. “There’s an overwhelming need for care in communities cut off from access to care since the earthquake,” says Dr. Georges.

The problem began with heavy rainfall and massive flooding that swept across Haiti in late May, damaging or destroying more than 14,000 homes and claiming 51 lives. Then, days later, back-to-back earthquakes struck, displacing more people — up to 15,000 in the Grand’Anse region alone.

“The destructive flooding and earthquake damage in western Haiti have cut off access to health services in many communities. There are pregnant women who cannot get to a hospital to deliver their babies and people in desperate need of medicine,” says Americares Director of International Emergency Response Cora Nally. “Our mobile medical team will be there to provide essential — potentially lifesaving — health care throughout the recovery.” In just the first week, the mobile team treated 500 patients, including a 5-month-old baby who needed hospitalization. The team will provide care in remote communities for three months. All of the medical professionals on the team are local Haitians working under the direction of an Americares physician based in Haiti.



Americares medical teams reached communities with care and medicine.

A Giving Story

by Marti Noxon

I came to know Americares 16 years ago, via Charity Navigator. I was drawn to the notion of a highly effective model that uses donations from pharmaceutical companies to do more with less, especially when compared to other relief organizations. I also saw that Americares maintained low overhead with high efficiency.

Over the years, I’ve had the privilege to meet many people who work for Americares, and I’m always impressed with their commitment, extensive knowledge of the communities they serve and their genuine kindness.

Walking the talk has been a family ethos from the very start. I was raised by a queer mother who taught me and my brother to get involved. I did non-violence training, so I could lie down in front of a nuclear power plant during the height of the No Nukes movement — when I was 12!

In addition to my support for Americares, I try to balance my giving between local organizations that help people in my city, Los Angeles, and nationwide and worldwide charitable interests, including the ACLU and Immigrant Families Together, which supports asylum seekers — I just produced a film for Netflix about that called Split at the Root.

I have so much admiration for the work Americares does and I’ve been involved with fundraising on the West Coast for years, so it felt like it was time to take on a more active role as a member of Americares Board of Directors.



Marti Noxon, now a member of Americares board of directors.

Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between March 1 and May 15, 2023, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Colombia	El Salvador	Honduras	Lebanon	Mongolia	Peru	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tanzania	Vietnam
Angola	Costa Rica	Eswatini	India	Liberia	Namibia	Philippines	Togo	Yemen	
Armenia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fiji	Indonesia	Madagascar	Nepal	Poland	Türkiye	Zambia	
Bangladesh	the Congo	Gambia	Jamaica	Malawi	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	Uganda	Zimbabwe	
Belarus	Dominican Republic	Ghana	Jordan	Mali	Nigeria	Romania	Ukraine		
Belize		Grenada	Kenya	Marshall Islands	Pakistan	Rwanda	United States		
Cambodia		Guatemala	Kosovo	Mexico	Palestine	Saint Lucia	Uzbekistan		
Cape Verde	Ecuador	Haiti	Kyrgyzstan		Panama	Tajikistan	Venezuela		

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

Alexion
Amneal
Baxter International Foundation
Catalent
Cencora Impact Foundation

Chevron
Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.
Elevance Health Foundation
Envestnet
Horizon Therapeutics

Integra Foundation
Medtronic
Northrop Grumman
Novartis
Odyssey Group Foundation
Patagonia

PVH Foundation
Teleflex Foundation
Dean and Denise Vanech
Vertex Foundation
Voya Foundation
Xylem Watermark



Colombia

For migrants who have fled Venezuela due to political and economic upheaval, AmeriCares clinics in Colombia provide what is often their first health care in years — or in their entire lives.



United States

For people living with low incomes, receiving medicine at no cost makes a huge difference. Last year in the U.S., AmeriCares provided enough medicine to fill 3.1 million prescriptions.



India

After Cyclone Biparjoy battered Gujarat, India, with high winds and rains that caused widespread flooding, AmeriCares rushed medicine, relief supplies and logistics support to affected communities.



Ukraine

AmeriCares provided emergency funding for the Acceptance Foundation's ambulance that provides specialty care for LGBTQ+ people in Lviv, Ukraine.



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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.