

Ukraine Update: Cancer Medicine Reaches Children in Wartime



With Americares help, Vitalina and her daughter are battling cancer in wartime Ukraine.

As a doctor working in an ambulance in central Ukraine, Vitalina had endured a lot, but nothing prepared her for learning that her daughter had cancer.

Just a month after Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Vitalina noticed that her daughter had weakness on one side of her body; an MRI scan revealed a brain tumor. Now, Vitalina needed both cancer medicine and safety from bombs — a seemingly impossible task in wartime.

In Lviv, Vitalina found the cancer medicine and care her daughter needed — because of a partnership between Americares and the Ukrainian health organization Tabletochki.

Americares began responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine just after Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 and focuses its support on local organizations, including Tabletochki, which is dedicated to

children's cancer care. Tabletochki works closely with Americares to identify and distribute medicines to specialty hospitals across the country; Americares worldwide connections to pharmaceutical companies ensure that needs are met.

"The support from Tabletochki and Americares is a matter of life and death for our patients," says Dr. Roman Kizyma, head of clinic of pediatric oncology at the children's hospital treating Vitalina's daughter. "They have a chance to survive."

Importantly, these medications are free, which is critical. "We are immensely thankful to the organization for enabling our children to receive these life-saving drugs," says Vitalina.

To help with the stress and trauma of war and cancer, Americares has also provided Tabletochki and 24 other regional partners with mental health training and support for health workers and patients.

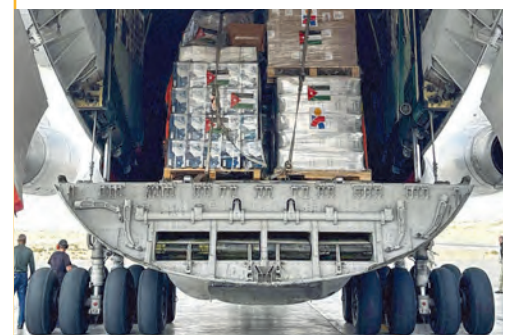
In total, in the two years since Russia's invasion, Americares has provided aid valued at more than \$121 million to 83 local organizations assisting those affected by the war. Aid includes more than 500 tons of medicine and medical supplies, including the precious cancer medicine for Vitalina's young daughter.

Gaza Crisis: Your Gift at Work

Americares continues to provide aid to help people in Gaza, where the health system is collapsing due to attacks on health facilities and shortages of medicine, equipment, electricity and medical personnel.

Americares aid includes emergency funding to support medical teams providing health care in southern Gaza. The teams are working in hospitals and clinics, alongside local medical staff. In Egypt, Americares funding increases access to medical care and mental health support among children. The funding supports distribution of hygiene kits, clothing and educational materials to families in Gaza and those evacuated to Egypt for medical care.

In all, since the escalation in hostilities after October 7, 2023, Americares has awarded emergency funding to seven partner organizations working in Gaza, Israel and Egypt and mobilized 19 tons of medicine and medical supplies for Gaza.



Americares has mobilized 19 tons of aid for Gaza. (Bottom photo courtesy of Anera.)



From the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

My spring calendar includes many dates that mark anniversaries of emergencies and disasters. In each instance, I think of the people affected, who are too often displaced from their homes and separated from health care. Here are just some of the ways Americares is increasing access to quality health services, in times of emergency and every day:

13 years: Since the civil war in Syria began in March 2011, Americares has provided \$30 million in aid for people living through the war. Our support includes mental health programs for health workers who have endured over a decade of trauma and stress. *Status:* Ongoing.

10 years: Americares Philippines team, established after Typhoon Haiyan in February 2014, manages health programs throughout the country. Most recently, staff responded within 24 hours to a powerful earthquake on the island of Mindanao. *Status:* Ongoing — and growing!

2 years: For people caught in the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Americares has provided more than 500 tons of medicine. Americares support for local partners is a "matter of life and death," one doctor told us. *Status:* Ongoing.

6 months: Americares responded immediately with aid to Israel and Gaza after the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, mobilizing 19 tons of medicine and supplies that will save lives. *Status:* Ongoing.

Every day: I am thankful for you. Your generosity save lives and improves health. Thank you.

Christine Squires
President and CEO

Report from the Philippines: Disaster Preparedness in Action



Americares Philippines staff stocks emergency supplies and works with communities on preparedness plans. by Provash Budden, Americares Deputy Senior Vice President, Emergency Programs

People ask me: How can we protect communities most at risk from natural disasters? I recently joined our team in the Philippines, where they are making changes that protect health now — and will save lives in the next emergency.

I accompanied staff to a community in Calumpit, a region repeatedly battered by storms one and a half hours north of Manila. As we drove, I could see how low-lying roads and homes would be quickly flooded after heavy rain from cyclones, which come from the north and south in every season. But communities here are ready: With their knowledge and Americares resources, changes have been made.

Together, we have created emergency plans that include communications, staffing and access to critical supplies and, with support from Xylem Watermark, AquaBlock systems, which generate clean water, often difficult to access during floods. Americares also has a roster of trained volunteer emergency responders in the Philippines, ready to deploy at all times, and a warehouse in Manila that stocks pre-positioned supplies for emergencies, including medicines, hygiene and first aid items and medical supplies that clinics need.

We know from experience that our best value-add in any location is investment in frontline clinics, especially those that public health services don't reach. If disaster survivors can access health services in their community, they don't need to risk their lives traveling to a regional health center. In turn, those facilities won't be overburdened. Seeing the ongoing preparedness work at a local level in the Philippines was a proud moment for Americares staff and the community.

Mindanao Earthquake Update

After a powerful 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck the Filipino island of Mindanao in December 2023, Americares Manila-based team was on the ground in 24 hours to launch a holistic response that included mobile medical units, water purification, mental health support and training for frontline health workers and more — 12 weeks of critical aid delivered, reaching thousands of people and working shoulder to shoulder with local responders to save lives and improve health.



Your Gift Brings Life

In December 2023, Fawzia and her husband took their newborn baby boy home from the hospital alive – a joyful event made possible by one critical medicine.

Two years earlier, Fawzia's first child had died within an hour of birth when the newborn lacked oxygen. The young mother lives in Kabul, Afghanistan, and had sought care at a government hospital.

During this pregnancy, a relative told Fawzia to seek care at Afshar Hospital, a nonprofit hospital supported by AmeriCares through AMOR, a longtime partner. So, when her labor began, weeks before her due date, Fawzia and her husband rushed to Afshar Hospital. After birth, the tiny baby struggled to breathe and was immediately admitted to the neonatal unit with severe respiratory distress syndrome. "The one and only solution was the administration of endotracheal surfactant," says Dr. Amarkhail, head of the neonatal department, who cared for the baby. Surfactants keep a newborn's lungs open to receive oxygen. AmeriCares provided



A dose of medicine from AmeriCares saved this newborn's life.

the surfactant Survanta, donated by AmeriCares pharmaceutical partner AbbVie. "Luckily and fortunately, we had donated Survanta from the U.S.," says Dr. Amarkhail.

"Survanta improved the critical clinical condition of this baby 180 degrees toward positive," says Dr. Amarkhail, whose team also provided comprehensive care the infant needed. AmeriCares has been supporting Afshar Hospital since 2011 and has provided \$77 million in aid to the facility, including 470 doses of surfactant.

Partner in Profile: AstraZeneca

When Tep felt a lump in her breast, she sought care near her home in Takeo Province, Cambodia. But after costly surgery at a private clinic, her condition grew worse. Then Tep met a breast cancer survivor who had received effective treatment at no cost from Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE in Phnom Penh, where AmeriCares and biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca were collaborating on a 15-year comprehensive breast cancer project.

At Sihanouk Hospital, Tep immediately received the quality care she deserved. "I am thankful for your support," says Tep.

The Cambodia Breast Cancer Initiative is just one way AstraZeneca and AmeriCares have collaborated since 2003. AstraZeneca is a global, science-led biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the discovery, development and commercialization of prescription medicines, including those that treat diabetes, heart disease and cancer. To AmeriCares, AstraZeneca has donated enough medicine to fill 1.6 million prescriptions, valued at \$240 million, for distribution to clinics serving patients in need in 75 countries, and more than \$15 million in critical funds for disaster response and ongoing health projects, including the breast cancer initiative in Cambodia.



"We believe everyone should have access to health care, no matter who they are or where in the world they live," said Courtney Sunna, Director, Global Community Investment at AstraZeneca. "This is critical — from prevention, early detection and diagnosis to the effective treatment of disease. Our contribution to society extends beyond our innovative medicines to include our wider efforts to benefit people, society and the planet."

Over its course, the initiative strengthened the breast cancer service at Sihanouk Center of HOPE, including breast cancer education, screening and treatment free of charge to women in underserved areas of Cambodia.

The benefits are widespread and lasting: More than 100,000 Cambodian women were reached with information, and 10,000 women were screened for breast cancer, leading to more than 1,000 new diagnoses. The hospital improved its five-year breast cancer survival rate; created peer outreach; strengthened its monitoring and evaluation capacity; and trained physicians, nurses and laboratory technicians. As planned, the Center of HOPE is now independently funded through local fundraising efforts and reimbursements from the government.

Gift Annuities Give Now

As Hardy Mason tells it, he had a "hardscrabble beginning" in Virginia. "I remember living on bread and peanut butter for a month," he says. He worked his way through college at Virginia Tech, established himself in a couple of careers and then built his own financial business. Mason appreciates organizations that are, like himself, effective with resources, and that's why he is a long-term supporter of AmeriCares.

"I have an overall preference for organizations that are very effective," says Mason. "I have money to give but don't want to waste it. AmeriCares is the only disaster relief organization I support." He met AmeriCares through news articles and he regularly checks AmeriCares financial ratings — "AmeriCares remains effective," he reports.

Mason retired in January 2024. "As long as I remember, I've wanted to help others," he says. He established a charitable gift annuity with AmeriCares as part of his long-term estate plan. "Gift annuities give me what I need now, and promptly pass on the remainder when my time comes."

Mason spends time with his adult children and "sweetie" and also supports education and local conservation organizations. He is an amateur arborist and enjoys walking among trees he has nurtured, knowing they will grow and contribute to the environment for years to come. Says Mason, "I am comfortable and doing things I love, but also want to share with other people."



AmeriCares donor Hardy Mason.

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

Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between November 1, 2023, and March 1, 2024, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Dominican Republic	Gambia	Israel	Lebanon	Northern Mariana Islands	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Uganda
Armenia	Colombia	Ecuador	Ghana	Jamaica	Liberia	Pakistan	Puerto Rico	Sudan	Ukraine
Bangladesh	Costa Rica	Egypt	Grenada	Jordan	Malawi	Palestine	Rwanda	Syria	United States
Belarus	Cote d'Ivoire	El Salvador	Guatemala	Kenya	Mali	Panama	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Belize	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Eswatini	Guyana	Kosovo	Mexico	Paraguay	Senegal	Tanzania	Vietnam
Bolivia	Fiji	Honduras	Haiti	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Namibia	Peru	Sierra Leone	Thailand	Zambia
Brazil		India			Nigeria			Togo	Zimbabwe

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

Amneal	Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.	Northrop Grumman	Teleflex Foundation
Baxter International Foundation	Elevance	Novartis	Dean and Denise Vanech
Catalent	Envestnet	Odyssey Group Foundation	Vertex Foundation
Cencora	Horizon Therapeutics	Patagonia	Voya Foundation
Chevron	Integra Foundation	PVH Foundation	Xylem Watermark
	Medtronic		



Florida

With heat season starting soon, patients receive extra care and advice — and help with transportation — as high temperatures can be a health threat. AmeriCares supports free clinics across the U.S. with advice for heat season.



India

Students in Mumbai brush up on their oral health skills, thanks to AmeriCares in-school health programs, which include education on nutrition and hygiene and vision and anemia screening.



Colombia

Millions of people have fled Venezuela because of political instability and lack of health services. In Colombia, AmeriCares operates 10 clinics to provide Venezuelan migrants and others in need with quality health care.



Liberia

Midwives in rural Liberia who have had only informal training are eager to learn medical skills so they can better care for mothers and newborns. AmeriCares provides training, medicine, supplies and other resources.



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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