

Your Donation at Work: Earthquake Aid Reaches Syria in Days



Millions of people lost their homes and livelihoods when powerful earthquakes struck Türkiye and Syria in February.

When he was just 12 years old, Abdulrazak fled the destructive war in Syria with his parents and siblings. Then, on February 6, 2023, powerful earthquakes destroyed the new life his family had built in Türkiye (Turkey), toppling their home and the factory where Abdulrazak worked.

“We went back to zero, to destroyed homes,” he says. “We need help with everything.”

The magnitude 7.8 and 7.7 earthquakes shattered millions of lives in Türkiye and Syria. More than 50,000 people were killed, and millions lost their homes and were left searching for safety as they experienced trauma from the devastating event. For weeks, aftershocks continued to damage buildings and fray nerves.

Within three days of the initial quakes, Americares medicine and medical supplies arrived in Syria, the first aid to reach the Syrian American Medical Society, which operates hospitals and health centers in the war-torn country. Americares immediate response also included a team in Türkiye to

coordinate deliveries of aid and emergency grants so partners could quickly meet the most urgent needs.

Within three weeks, Americares had delivered 16 tons of medicine and medical supplies into Syria, despite barriers. Because of the ongoing civil war in Syria, border crossings from Türkiye are limited and moving aid across Syria is not always possible. Since 2012, in response to the civil war in Syria, Americares has been providing aid to health organizations, including funding for mobile clinics and hospitals. “After the earthquake, these ongoing partnerships ensured Americares aid could reach survivors quickly,” says Americares Interim Vice President of Emergency Programs Betsy Warfield. A month after the disaster, Americares had provided more than \$1.7 million in aid to the region.

To address mental health needs, Americares also supported local organizations in Türkiye, providing funding for a therapy space for adults, referrals to mental health services and, for children, a playground. “We will continue to deliver medicine and medical supplies into the hardest hit area and meet other needs with funding,” says Warfield.

With Your Help: “The Child’s Life Was Saved!”

In medicine, a quick diagnosis can save a life, especially in Ukraine, where deadly bombs cause injuries far too often.

“Over the past month, we have transported children several times from the city of Nikopol. [...] It was artillery and rocket fire every day,” says Aleksij Obolonskij, a pediatric anesthesiologist who works in the intensive care unit of a regional medical center in south central Ukraine. “I remember one boy, 4 years old, who suffered from an abdominal injury and had signs of shock. With the help of a Butterfly iQ ultrasound, we were able to diagnose internal bleeding in time, and the child, who had a ruptured liver capsule, was urgently taken to the operating room. The child’s life was saved!”

Obolonskij’s hospital was one of 15 in Ukraine that received ultrasound devices from Americares — part of the more than 300 tons of medicine and relief supplies Americares provided to 32 partners in the first year after Russia’s invasion. In all, over the past year, Americares has provided aid valued at more than \$70 million to 74 partner organizations assisting those caught in the humanitarian crisis.

The ultrasound devices are small and mobile so clinicians can make diagnoses nearly anywhere — even in an ambulance — which is extremely useful when communities are under attack. “We use the Butterfly ultrasounds routinely every single day,” says Obolonsky.



Doctors in Ukraine can make lifesaving diagnoses, thanks to ultrasound devices donated by Americares.



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

When disasters happen, those affected most are the people with the fewest resources, often in communities already dealing with poverty. Americares nurtures ties with local health organizations around the world who know these communities best. These strong partnerships are one reason Americares can quickly and effectively save lives and improve health during emergencies.

That is certainly true in Syria. For more than a decade, Americares has been supporting partners, hospitals and health teams in northern Syria, sending essential medicine and supplies to mobile clinics and hospitals. When earthquakes devastated the region on February 6, our strong partnerships ensured we could get critical aid into Syria quickly. And we did — with our first shipment reaching one partner within three days — the first aid they received, in a time of crushing need.

And it's true in the United States. Hurricane Ian devastated the region in and around Fort Myers, Florida, where thousands of people rely on free and charitable clinics for care. Americares year-round support for those clinics helped us quickly deliver supplies, funding and mental health support for hurricane survivors.

Every day, around the world, Americares is making health happen in communities affected by poverty or disaster. And that's because of you. Thank you for being an important partner! Your support is critical and makes a difference in so many lives.

Sincerely,

Christine Squires
President and CEO

Because of You: A Mother Can Hope for Her Child



Americares clinic in El Salvador provides warm, quality care for the community, including Yenny's young family (above). Clinic staff includes many health specialists (below).

When Yenny delivered her son, Edwin*, at a hospital in San Salvador, El Salvador, in March of 2020, she had a lot to be concerned about: Not only was her son born prematurely, but El Salvador was at the beginning of a strict three-month lockdown for COVID-19.

When she was finally able to bring the tiny infant home, after 40 days in a hospital two hours from her house, Yenny could relax: Now her little boy could be cared for nearby, at La Clínica Integral de Atención Familiar, Americares clinic in rural Usulután.

With quality care from the clinic, Yenny learned more about her son's condition: Americares pediatrician Dr. Helene Gutierrez diagnosed hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid around the brain, in addition to other related health conditions.

Edvin is one of nearly 30,000 patients who received care at Americares clinic last year. Since its founding in 2003, the Americares clinic in El Salvador has grown to provide not only high-quality primary care, but also specialty care including pediatrics, neurology, ophthalmology, physical therapy, gynecology, obstetrics and other vital services.

Now, Dr. Gutierrez manages care for Edwin, giving Yenny peace of mind. At the clinic, the curious 3-year-old sees a neurologist, an orthopedist, an ophthalmologist and the speech and physical therapy team.

Yenny says that if she didn't have the Americares clinic nearby, she would have difficulty taking Edwin to all the appointments he needs. The specialists would be too far away or too expensive. She shines with hope for her little boy: "With God's help, he will get ahead in life ... and have a normal life."

**name changed for privacy*



Clean Water Flows at Kibondo Hospital

Imagine a hospital without water: That was Kibondo District Hospital in rural western Tanzania until last year. The water supply was not dependable, so patients, health workers and staff had to bring their own — often paying for it — or work in unsafe conditions, risking infection. Now, thanks to a partnership with AmeriCares, clean water flows in all wards of the hospital, and staff and patients alike can access new toilets.

“The community that surrounds our district hospital is thankful for the availability of clean water at all times in the hospital because it has gotten rid of the whole ordeal of buying water [or] fetching water from distant homes,” says Advira Peter, who delivered her youngest child at the hospital last year. “We will benefit a lot from it since it will save us from huge costs.”

“We are proud to work alongside the government and the staff at Kibondo to make these improvements,” says Dr. Nguke Richard Mwakatundu, AmeriCares country director, Tanzania. “AmeriCares improved the entire water supply system — from storage to treatment and distribution — and ensured there is proper waste management, laundry services and infection prevention control protocols.”



At Kibondo District hospital, patients like Safina value the new sinks AmeriCares installed throughout the facility.

Hospital staff know a cleaner environment is safer for everyone. “With enough water, you can prevent disease,” says Dr. Matias Bwashi, the former medical officer in charge of Kibondo Hospital. Everything can be kept clean — from health worker’s hands, to medical equipment, to sheets and towels. The hospital was also paying for water — funds that can now be used for medicine and supplies, says Bwashi.

The hospital is a point of pride in the community. Says Advira, “As the old saying goes, ‘the better the toilet, the better the house.’”

After a Hurricane, the Strength to Go On

On September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian devastated 19 Florida counties in the Fort Myers area, killing nearly 150 people and leaving damage estimated at \$100 billion.

AmeriCares responded to Hurricane Ian with medicine, relief supplies, emergency funding for 10 damaged clinics and, for stressed health workers, mental health services. A team of licensed mental health clinicians from AmeriCares provided more than 250 free counseling sessions for staff and patients at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, a not-for-profit provider in Charlotte County. “Although they are already resilient, they too need support,” says AmeriCares Mental Health and Psychosocial Specialist Jen Peng. “We helped give them the ability to rebuild their lives in their dual roles as survivors and health care providers.”

Like so many Floridians, the CBHC staff endured a lot: One behavioral health counselor lost two sons when they drowned during the storm. The AmeriCares team filled in and provided patient care so the counselor had time to grieve. Another manager was stuck upstairs in her house for days. The AmeriCares team provided individual and group counseling. “They gave me a tremendous amount of strength in the midst of something that I wasn’t sure I had strength for,” says Assistant Vice President of Community Services Gina Wynn.



Survivors showed AmeriCares staff how Hurricane Ian damaged their Florida community.



Donor Steve Gross

MORE WAYS TO GIVE!

- Give from Donor-Advised Fund
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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, 2022, and March 1, 2023, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Eswatini	Honduras	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mexico	Pakistan	Rwanda	Tajikistan	Vietnam
Armenia	Chad	Ethiopia	India	Malawi	Namibia	Palestine	Saint Lucia	Tanzania	Yemen
Bangladesh	Colombia	Fiji	Indonesia	Mali	Nepal	Panama	Senegal	Togo	Zambia
Belize	Dominican Republic	Ghana	Iraq	Mauritania	Niger	Peru	Sierra Leone	Türkiye	Zimbabwe
Benin	Ecuador	Grenada	Jamaica		Nigeria	Philippines	Somalia	Uganda	
Bolivia	El Salvador	Guatemala	Jordan		Northern Mariana Islands	Poland	South Sudan	Ukraine	
Brazil		Guyana	Kenya			Puerto Rico	Sri Lanka	United States	
Cambodia		Haiti	Kyrgyzstan			Romania	Syria	Uzbekistan	

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

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



United States

AmeriCares Free Clinics connected Abigail with everything she needed to manage her diabetes, giving her confidence in a healthy future.



Pakistan

After historic floods inundated Pakistan in 2022, AmeriCares partnered with Xylem Watermark to provide clinics with AquaBlocks, which filter and provide clean water.



Indonesia

Earthquake survivors in West Java, Indonesia, needed access to health services after an earthquake in 2022, and AmeriCares was there, supporting the local health system.



Puerto Rico

After Hurricane Fiona struck Puerto Rico, AmeriCares provided mental health and psychosocial support in hard-hit communities, including Cayey.



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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