

## COVID-19 Response: India Surge 6-Month Report



### Americares Donors Provide Critical Support

Americares would like to recognize the support of its corporate, foundation and individual donors during the spring 2021 COVID-19 surge in India. Your swift action saved lives.

Our community of philanthropic partners allowed Americares to provide critical medical equipment and personal protective supplies, which helped individuals, health workers and health facilities confront the crisis with the resources they needed.

Our donors are the driving force behind all of Americares emergency response and health programming for people affected by poverty and disaster.

The groundswell of support for this response demonstrates how, when we work together, we can have a direct and lasting impact on people's lives. With Americares expertise and partnerships across India, we were able to make a difference in communities in crisis.

In April 2021, a second wave of COVID-19 infections began to surge across India. At the peak of the crisis, more than 400,000 people a day were testing positive, and the death toll skyrocketed. Hospitals and other health facilities were overwhelmed with patients and faced shortages of supplies, such as PPE and critical care equipment.

Americares expanded its response to COVID-19 in India immediately, drawing on its ongoing health programs, which include mobile health centers and school-based health programs in Mumbai, and working closely with state and district COVID-19 teams across the country. By early November 2021, Americares had distributed more than 4.7 million units of equipment and supplies to over 200 hospitals and health departments across 21 states and territories.

"This is a situation we had never seen before. Our health system was not equipped to handle the rising case load," says Americares India Managing Director Shripad Desai. "The support that Americares is providing is so vital, so timely that most of the hospitals and health centers and health care workers have expressed that this help is just in time."

Working with supply chains in and out of India, Americares was able to support hospitals, clinics and COVID-19 centers in the worst affected states, including upgrading eight newborn and pediatric intensive care units and setting up a 30-bed intensive care COVID-19 unit at a hospital in Mumbai.

In September and October, Americares partnered with a local hospital on an outreach program to provide COVID-19 vaccines to people in need, vaccinating more than 5,000 people at 11 one-day events.

**Equipment:** During the second COVID-19 wave, the demand for oxygen in India rose from less than 1 million tons per day during the first wave to 6 million tons per day. Americares provided 3,800 oxygen concentrators, more than 400 cylinders, 88 ventilators and installed 30 oxygen plants, increasing capacity for years to come.

**Supplies:** To keep health workers and patients safe and reduce the spread of infection, Americares delivered critical supplies, including more than 2 million swab sticks for testing, as well as 250,000 PPE kits, and more than 1.5 million masks.

**Community Education:** Americares provided community education around COVID-19 preventive behavior and vaccine confidence building to more than 50,000 residents in Mumbai's slum communities.



