

## AmeriCares Relief Work in Haiti

AmeriCares was on the ground within 48 hours of the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010. Since then, we have been working around the clock to deliver and distribute medical aid throughout the country. Thanks to your tremendous support, AmeriCares has:

- Delivered \$40 million in aid to more than 90 health care partners treating survivors;
- Delivered 64 shipments of lifesaving cholera supplies to 38 health care providers across the country;
- Procured emergency nutritional supplements to address critical shortages;
- Supported more than 200 volunteer medical teams traveling to Haiti to treat survivors;
- Funded satellite clinics treating patients with chronic diseases;
- Co-founded a program to empower and protect adolescent girls;
- Established a transitional field hospital providing training and outpatient services for St. Francois de Sales Hospital.



Photo by AmeriCares/Tom Turley

Dear Friends,

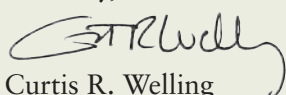
During my visit to Haiti, I was profoundly moved by not only the resiliency of the Haitian people, but the difference we are making in restoring health throughout the country. Haiti is a country that has long faced what seem like insurmountable obstacles. The earthquake of 2010 decimated an already fragile country and one year later, Haiti is still crippled by the many aftereffects. From ongoing earthquake recovery efforts to a deadly outbreak of cholera, Haiti cannot and will not be ignored. That's why AmeriCares has not let up on our relief efforts.

Your support helped us place lifesaving medicines directly into the hands of doctors and nurses caring for the survivors. Today, we continue our emergency response efforts, including delivering lifesaving aid to help stem the cholera outbreak. Since the earthquake, we have delivered more than \$40 million worth of medicines, medical supplies and aid to more than 90 health care partners throughout the country.

At the same time, we have kept our eye on the future and have developed plans focused on rebuilding Haiti's health care system. As we did in Sri Lanka and Indonesia following the 2004 tsunami, we will invest our resources in Haiti with great care in order to maximize our impact. Given the many obstacles Haiti still faces, we expect this could take years.

Despite the enormous challenges, we have accomplished a great deal. Your support for our work is instrumental in helping us restore health and hope for countless people in Haiti. Amidst a challenging environment, we are making a difference thanks to your caring and concern.

Sincerely,



Curtis R. Welling  
President & CEO

### AmeriCares Delivered and Distributed More Than \$40 Million in Aid Over the Past Year

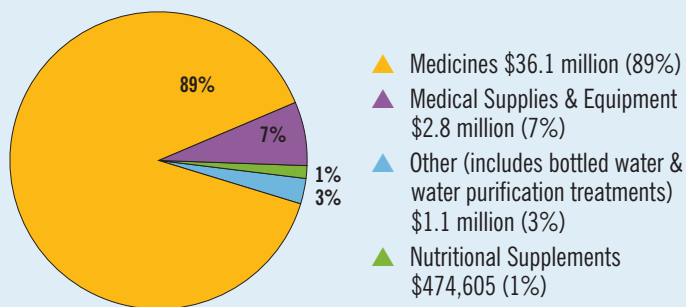


Photo by Matthew McDermott

An AmeriCares relief worker unloads a shipment at the Port-au-Prince airport only days after the earthquake

# Meeting Urgent Health Needs

Haiti was still recovering from the devastating earthquake when it was hit with a cholera outbreak last October. Cholera, a deadly disease spread by contaminated water, was first reported in rural areas but quickly spread to the capital city. AmeriCares had pre-positioned cholera medicines and supplies in our Haiti warehouse ready to be mobilized in the event of such an outbreak and immediately began shipping more medical aid into the country. We continue to deliver medicines and supplies to stem the outbreak, as well as bottled water and water purification tablets to ensure access to safe drinking water.

AmeriCares has been working in Haiti since 1984. We will be there indefinitely delivering ongoing medical assistance that includes helping people manage their chronic illnesses and responding to disease outbreaks and other health emergencies.

## Aiding Cholera Patients

Like many farmers, Samuel Salsunt contracted cholera from exposure to contaminated water. Having learned of the outbreak from public health announcements, he sought care as soon as he felt ill. With a wife and eight daughters to support, Samuel could not afford transportation to the nearest cholera treatment center so he made the trip on foot. When he finally arrived, Samuel collapsed at the door. Health workers rushed out, carried him in and immediately started him on IV rehydration solutions. Starting treatment immediately is critical because patients can die of dehydration within 10 to 12 hours.



Photo by Frederic Dupoux

**AmeriCares is sending cholera medicines and supplies for patients like Samuel, pictured above with his wife**

Samuel was treated at a center run by an AmeriCares-supported partner organization in Haiti. After receiving standard cholera treatment of IV and oral rehydration solutions, Samuel was given a clean bill of health and sent home with medications and additional oral rehydration treatments in the event he or another member of his family showed signs of cholera.

AmeriCares keeps treatment centers stocked with medicines and supplies to combat this deadly, but treatable disease. In the coming months, AmeriCares will continue to provide medical aid, enough to treat more than 25,000 cholera patients like Samuel.

## Helping People Living With Chronic Diseases, Including Diabetes



Photo by Frederic Dupoux

**AmeriCares supports a program in Haiti that helps patients with chronic diseases**

When a major disaster strikes, people must evacuate their homes without warning. There's no time to grab medications and other necessities. This is a dangerous situation for people living with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes. After the earthquake, The Haitian Foundation for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases provided free medical treatment, testing and medications to over 1,000 chronically ill earthquake survivors, many of whom continue to receive follow-up care for their diabetes and hypertension.

In order to provide continuity of care, AmeriCares is providing \$96,000 to support the foundation's satellite clinics, which serve diabetic patients in the Port-au-Prince area. The clinics provide medical attention, education and training, as well as medications, such as metformin, a critical drug for those with type 2 diabetes.

One of the clinic patients AmeriCares helped was Solange, a 72-year-old diabetic who lost her home and her job as a result of the earthquake. Without treatment, her blood sugar level spiked to 500 – more than five times the healthy level. As part of her treatment, she was given medicines and was referred to the foundation's health clinic for free testing.

Prior to enrolling in the program, Solange was on the verge of going blind and suffered severe foot pain – both symptoms of untreated diabetes. Thanks to AmeriCares she will continue to get medication, blood sugar testing and other support to keep her diabetes under control.

# Investing in Haiti's Future

AmeriCares work in Haiti is focused on health care and meeting the needs of the country's most vulnerable populations, including mothers and children, adolescent girls and people living with chronic diseases. In the months and years ahead we will spend the \$11 million remaining of the \$15.6 million donated to restore health and hope and rebuild the country's health care system.

Our long-term plans include:

- Responding to disease outbreaks and other health emergencies;
- Continuing ongoing deliveries of medicines and medical supplies;
- Rehabilitating hospitals and health clinics;
- Supporting programs to address chronic diseases, such as diabetes;
- Providing aid for maternal and child health programs;
- Protecting and empowering adolescent girls;
- Establishing training and education programs for health care workers.



Young earthquake survivors receiving treatment at an AmeriCares-supported hospital in Milot

Photo by AmeriCares/Tom Turley

## Empowering and Protecting Adolescent Girls in Haiti

The earthquake left many children orphaned. In many cases, adolescent girls were left with younger siblings to care for. With so much responsibility thrust upon them at such a young age, the girls are at risk of not finishing school, continuing the cycle of poverty.

Even worse, living in displacement camps and slum communities, girls are now especially susceptible to violence. A recent survey by INURED, a local Haitian research organization, found that 14 percent of the residents of one of Port-au-Prince's largest shantytowns witnessed or experienced violence, including beatings and rape. The study also reported that it is common for girls living in relief camps to resort to trading sex for food and shelter.

That's why AmeriCares has co-founded the Haiti Adolescent Girls Network, a program to help break the cycle of poverty and violence. The program brings at-risk girls together with peer mentors for education and training in dedicated "safe spaces" throughout the country. The program includes informational sessions on health care, financial literacy, skills training as well as psychological support for violence, trauma and loss. Participants also receive personal hygiene kits.

The program is helping girls like Mitterlove, a 19-year-old hairdressing student, cope with the loss of her older sister, who died in the earthquake. Mitterlove receives education, training and social support through the Haiti Adolescent Girls Network. With the help of her dedicated mentor, Lovemarley, she is building her self-esteem and learning how to protect herself from violence.



Mitterlove, one of the girls in the program

Photo by Frederic Dupoux



Lovemarley, one of the mentors

Photo by Frederic Dupoux

## Supporting Medical Volunteers and Increasing Access to Health Care

AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program donates medicines and medical supplies to U.S.-based health care professionals providing volunteer medical care and surgeries for people in need. For many of the people they treat, it is the first time they see a doctor. Since the program began, Haiti has consistently been the top destination for medical teams.

When the earthquake struck, many teams sprung into action, contacting AmeriCares immediately to help supply them with lifesaving aid. Over the past year, the Medical Outreach Program has supported more than 200 volunteer medical teams traveling to Haiti to treat survivors of the earthquake.

The program increases access to primary and surgical care in communities lacking even the most basic health care and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.



Photo courtesy of Project Medishare



Above: Medical Outreach Program volunteer Dr. Mona Khanna examines a young earthquake survivor in Port-au-Prince

Left: Medical Outreach Program volunteers perform emergency neurosurgery on a child in Haiti

Photo by Rebecca Fox

## AmeriCares Lifesaving Aid Reaches Communities Across Haiti

With Haiti still in a very fragile state, our work is far from over. AmeriCares is committed to the people of Haiti and will be there indefinitely, providing ongoing deliveries of medical assistance to meet their health care needs. And thanks to the tremendous outpouring of support from our donors, we will continue our earthquake relief efforts, investing in programs focused on rebuilding the country's health care system over the next two to three years.

To date, we delivered more than \$40 million in medicines, medical supplies, nutritional supplements, bottled water and water purification treatments and humanitarian aid to a network of more than 90 health care providers. While the majority of our deliveries were in Port-au-Prince and its surrounding communities, our response has been comprehensive, reaching as far as Cap-Haitien in the north and Jeremie in the west.



**AmeriCares Aid Delivered Throughout Haiti**

**HAITI**

**Dominican Republic**



**Above: Patients receive IV fluids at a cholera treatment center supported by AmeriCares**

**Left: AmeriCares Medical Director Dr. Frank Bia examines a girl with an earthquake injury at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince**

Photo by AmeriCares/Tom Turley

Photo by Frederic Dupoux



*AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization which delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States. Since 1982, AmeriCares has delivered more than \$10 billion in aid to 147 countries.*

