

# AmeriCares

## AmeriCares Response to Typhoon Haiyan

**In the two months since Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines, AmeriCares has provided \$6.7 million in critical medicines and relief supplies and committed more than \$250,000 in project support to our partners working in affected areas.**



Typhoon Haiyan is one of the strongest storms ever recorded. It made landfall in the Philippines on November 8, with sustained winds of approximately 150 mph, wind gusts over 200 mph and a 15-foot storm surge that left widespread destruction in its wake. An estimated 16 million people were affected in total, and the death toll has climbed to more than 6,000 people. More than 4 million people have been displaced, of which only 100,000 are being sheltered in evacuation centers.

AmeriCares has mounted a large-scale response. Our emergency response team arrived in the Philippines within 72 hours after the typhoon hit to assess needs, coordinate the delivery of relief aid in the hardest-hit areas, and work on long-range projects to assist in the recovery. In the last two weeks we sent two shipments of urgently-requested medicines and relief supplies totalling \$ 950,000, one by sea and the other by air, with more shipments on the way. These shipments were in addition to the more than \$5.5 million in aid we previously provided. Two shipments valued at \$285,000 were also sent to volunteer medical teams conducting emergency care for disaster survivors.

Our aid has reached some of the most devastated areas, including the provinces of Leyte, Capiz, Cebu, Samar and Eastern Samar. In addition to supplying critical medicines and medical supplies to hospitals and clinics in these areas, we also provided relief aid to medical teams, such as NYC Medics and the International Medical Corps, deployed to less accessible areas.

Our emergency response team members have been participating in health cluster meetings to stay abreast of health priorities and plan the most effective response, and coordinating with the local ministries of health to identify specific needs. They have been working closely with our local partners, including the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the International Medical Corps, the International Organization for Migration, and the Philippines Department of Health Region 7, focusing on providing health care to those who need it most.

AmeriCares is implementing a program, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, to restore and expand primary care services in Capiz province, where health facilities were damaged and there is increased demand for care. We are now providing primary care services for thousands of displaced people and other affected residents, and will soon begin work on repairing and re-equipping six damaged health stations in the area. We are currently assessing the expansion of this program to serve thousands more people. We are also evaluating a number of other projects, working closely with the Philippines Department of Health, including the rehabilitation of rural health units and the provision of training for local health care workers dealing with post-disaster mental health issues.

The recovery process will be long-term and AmeriCares plans to be in the Philippines at least until 2015 to help survivors of this tragedy regain their health and rebuild their lives. Our immediate priorities are to continue providing critical medicines and supplies to those who need it most and assisting in the restoration of health services. In the months to come we plan to help restore health care services by rehabilitating health facilities, addressing the mental health needs of survivors, and improving local preparedness efforts.

**Stay posted on AmeriCares relief efforts around the world at: [americares.org/](http://americares.org/)**