

Medicine, Supplies Reach Earthquake Survivors



On April 25, a powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal, killing more than 8,000 people, injuring many more and, in minutes, destroying homes and decimating the health system.

Landslides blocked roads, cutting off access to remote mountain villages.

Within 48 hours, a medical and emergency response team from AmeriCares India office was in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, with critical medicine for injured survivors. As the team began to treat survivors and assess damages, AmeriCares prepared air shipments of medical aid and mobilized and equipped additional staff and volunteer medical teams.

Just 10 days after the earthquake, AmeriCares airlifted close to \$1 million in medicine and supplies that met needs defined by Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population and the World Health Organization. The emergency response team established a warehouse on May 10 and, within a month of the earthquake, AmeriCares had made 18 shipments carrying donations of antibiotics, wound care supplies and other medical aid valued at more than \$20 million.

AmeriCares team members provided medical assistance to residents affected by the earthquake in the town of Khokana, Kathmandu (top). On May 5, AmeriCares airlifted nearly \$1 million in medical aid for those injured in the earthquake (right). All photos by Matthew McDermott/AmeriCares. See a video of the airlift at americares.org/nepalairlift.

"More than 1,000 health facilities were damaged or destroyed, disrupting the delivery of medical services and creating an immediate need for medical aid," says AmeriCares Vice President of Emergency Response Garrett Ingoglia, who traveled to Nepal in May. "Our medicine and supplies were distributed to 17 health partners, including hospitals and clinics."

Medical teams mobilized by AmeriCares traveled to remote areas to deliver care, even as aftershocks rocked the region. In Arughat, in Dhading District, an AmeriCares medical team was the first relief organization to arrive by land and, in just a few hours, treated 375 survivors. Within the month, AmeriCares-supported teams had treated more than 2,000 survivors—both in Kathmandu and remote mountain villages reachable only by helicopter.

Now, AmeriCares is working with local partners on plans for long-term recovery. "We are committed to providing health care access for immediate needs and restoring health services," says AmeriCares President and CEO Michael J. Nyenhuis.



Blu Pharmaceuticals Donations Critical in Emergency Response

Among AmeriCares emergency relief for survivors of the Nepal earthquake was a generous donation of antibiotics and diabetes medication from Blu Pharmaceuticals.

Blu Pharmaceuticals' donated products were used by AmeriCares Emergency Response Team as they treated injuries and addressed immediate health needs. Many patients had lost their chronic medication along with their homes, creating a critical need for products like Blu Pharmaceuticals' diabetes drugs.

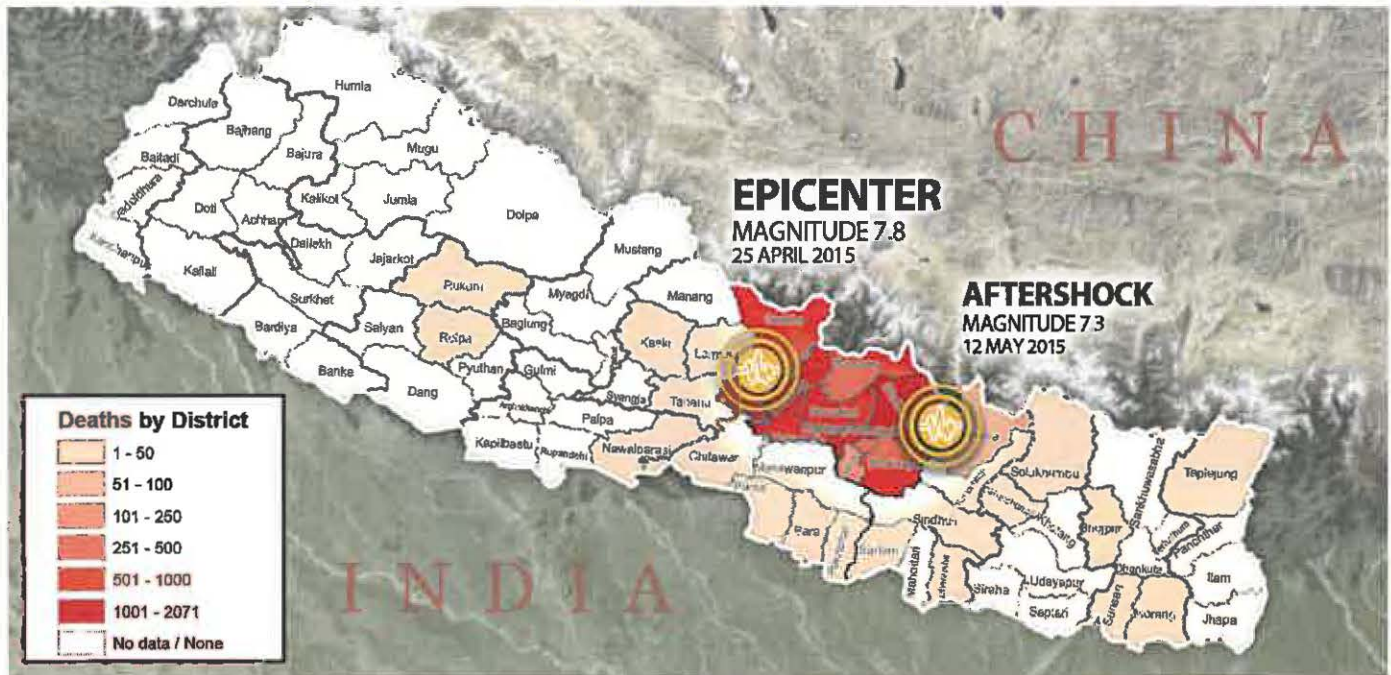
We thank Blu Pharmaceuticals for its commitment to this critical humanitarian relief effort, yet another example of the strong partnership we've built since 2008. Blu Pharmaceuticals has donated nearly \$170,000 in medicines and medical supplies to 21 countries and 29 U.S. states. This support includes almost \$6,000 in supplies to AmeriCares emergency response efforts. Blu Pharmaceuticals continues to help AmeriCares fulfill its commitment to saving lives and building healthier futures for people in crisis.

Earthquake Devastates Nepal

April 25, 2015

8,659 killed* • 22,000 injured • 500,000 homes destroyed • 1,000 health facilities damaged or destroyed • 4.2 million people affected

* as of May 26, 2015



Map Imagery Sources: ©2015 Landsat, Google; Map Data Sources: Map Action, OCHA, Ministry of Home Affairs, USGS, OpenStreetMap.

Voices from the Field: What Survivors Need Now

By Dr. E. Anne Peterson, Senior Vice President of Global Programs



As I traveled with an AmeriCares emergency team on muddy, rutted roads in Dhading District to communities hard-hit by the earthquake, I found that the general mood among survivors was uncertainty. Every aftershock evoked a strong reaction—I saw people run outside after tremors that were barely perceptible to our group.

At our mobile medical clinics, most of our patients were farmers, shop owners, tourist guides, daily wage laborers and their children—lots of children. AmeriCares doctors treated a range of medical needs from earthquake injuries

to more usual illnesses exacerbated by the earthquake or living in the cold and damp under tarps in the days since.

As well as minor limb and head injuries from the quake, survivors were also suffering from respiratory conditions such as cough, cold, sore throats, tonsillitis, ear infections and asthma, probably caused by dust from debris and living near smoky fires. Many patients complained of stomach pain and loss of appetite, signs of stress and anxiety. We also met survivors who lost their chronic disease medicine in the disaster, leaving them at risk of uncontrolled diabetes or hypertension. We were carrying the medicines these patients needed.

Doctors and staff at functioning health facilities told us about shortages of medicine and supplies and requested primary care medications as well as wound dressings for injuries. Everyone is concerned about the coming monsoons, the torrential rains that are crucial for agriculture but, this year, may bring more health risks for people still struggling after the earthquake.



Dr. E. Anne Peterson ensured that medicine and supplies reached hospitals and clinics (top). AmeriCares mobilized medical teams to treat survivors (right).

AmeriCares

We thank Blu Pharmaceuticals and look forward to continuing a successful partnership in the years to come.

AmeriCares is an emergency response and global health organization that saves lives and builds healthier futures for people in crisis in the U.S. and around the world. Since our founding in 1982, AmeriCares has distributed more than \$12 billion in humanitarian aid to 164 countries. For more information, visit americares.org.

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