

# IMPACT REPORT

JAN-NOV  
2020

Those who are most vulnerable during an emergency are the same people who were most vulnerable the day before. That is why Direct Relief's response efforts have prioritized areas and people where the new threat of Coronavirus exacerbated the existing chronic challenges.

Direct Relief has drastically expanded its Covid-19 response to become:

- › The largest non-profit provider of medical materials such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medications to safeguard health workers and facilitate care for those who fall severely ill and require treatment in intensive care units.
- › The source of the largest private philanthropic infusion of cash grants (\$35 million) to U.S. community health centers to enable them to fulfill their vital front-line role in providing access to health care, including Covid-related services such as testing and referrals, for persons without other options.
- › A crucial source of actionable information products and analyses to guide operations and inform policymakers through extensive collaboration with infectious disease experts, epidemiologists, technology companies, and public agencies.

This report provides an overview of how Direct Relief has leveraged support from generous individuals, companies, and foundations to significantly expand global operations while continuing ongoing services and long-term support for local health systems in 2020.

## 2020 AID TRACKER

Unaudited totals from  
Jan. 1, 2020 – Nov. 15, 2020

**\$1,085,711,545**  
in medical assistance

**157,662,379**  
in Defined Daily Doses  
of medicine

**4,745,074**  
pounds of medicine  
& supplies

**27,010**  
deliveries

**2,991**  
healthcare providers  
supported

**100**  
countries





# STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Direct Relief equips local healthcare providers serving low-resource communities around the world with medicines and supplies on an ongoing basis and in response to emergencies. In 2020, the organization has been called upon to continue its support for medically vulnerable communities and those still affected by disasters from previous years while the global Covid-19 pandemic has intensified.

As most global commercial and humanitarian activity significantly contracted due to the impact of Covid-19 in 2020, Direct Relief drastically expanded its response efforts through large-scale provision of medical materials such as PPE and other

essential resources to support and protect frontline health workers and strengthen critical care in hospitals. The organization delivered millions of masks, gloves, gowns, and other protective items to facilities across the U.S. and in **100** countries in Latin America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia.

Direct Relief provided

**\$35 million** of emergency funding to more than **500** safety-net healthcare facilities and other nonprofit health providers, including the largest private philanthropic infusion ever received by U.S. community health centers. Working with longstanding partner, the National Association of Community Health Centers, these funds were directed to frontline facilities struggling to keep their staffs safe while meeting high demand for essential services and stepping up public health measures including community-based Covid testing.

"We do not know for certain how long this pandemic will last, but what is certain is that primary care and health centers are critical to the national response."

— TOM VAN COVERDEN,  
President & CEO of the National  
Association of Community Health Centers

This year, the organization has simultaneously supported responses to Covid-19 while continuing to help health systems rebuild, recover, and increase resilience in:

## PUERTO RICO ▶

- Provided more than **\$100 million** in aid and funding to strengthen local health systems across the island in the three years since it was devastated by Hurricane Maria
- Provided more than **\$2.5 million** in medical aid and hosted six health fairs for communities affected by earthquakes in January and February
- Delivered PPE including more than **152,000** masks, **169,000** gloves, **36,000** face shields, and **4,000** gowns/coveralls in addition to supplying ventilators, oxygen concentrators, and air purifying respirators for community health centers and hospitals



## THE BAHAMAS ▶

- Became the largest provider of medical aid after Hurricane Dorian, providing more than **\$8.1 million** of aid, including **1.3 million** defined daily doses of medicines
- Funded and coordinated major restorations of primary referral hospitals and the construction of new medical clinics
- Ensured that the island nation was prepared to prevent shortages and respond to Covid-19 as large supplies of PPE had been received in the response to Hurricane Dorian



## CENTRAL AMERICA ▶

- Staged pre-positioned medicines and supplies for immediate deployment as part of emergency preparedness efforts with the WHO's Pan American Health Organization ahead of Hurricane Eta
- Provided nearly **\$10 million** of essential medicines, supplies, and PPE to Honduras and Nicaragua
- Coordinated support for rescue teams assisting remote communities stranded by severe flooding and landslides

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ▶

- Partnered with **30** other nonprofit organizations to form the Covid-19 Action Fund for Africa to address the known need for PPE among more than **900,000** community health workers across the continent
- Delivered more than **57 million** units of PPE (masks, gloves, gowns/coveralls, face shields, and more) to Ministries of Health, healthcare facilities, and nonprofit partners in **12** countries



## RAPIDLY MOBILIZING MEDICAL RESOURCES

As overlapping health concerns compounded the effects of Covid-19 in 2020, it has been more crucial than ever before that Direct Relief can deploy necessary medicines and supplies at a moment's notice. For years, the organization has stockpiled materials in kits to be deployed to support first responders in emergencies, equip health workers, and treat cholera.

This year, in close consultation with experts and partners in the field, Direct Relief introduced new specialized kits to rapidly and precisely address the most pressing healthcare needs that arise when hospitals experience a surge in patients requiring intensive care, like those with Covid-19, and the health threats wildfires pose when they encroach on vulnerable communities:

- Wildfire Kits provide health workers and first responders with medications to treat respiratory issues, topical ailments, ophthalmic issues, orthopedic injuries, and pain and inflammation to assist approximately **250** people affected by wildfires for **3-5** days.
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Critical Supply Modules provide health workers with the required injectable IV fluids, IV and oral antibiotics, vasopressor therapies, sedatives, and other essential items to treat up to **100** patients who require critical care services for Covid-19. Direct Relief delivered **178** ICU modules across the U.S. and **199** worldwide.

### RESPONDING TO WILDFIRES ACROSS THE WEST COAST

Direct Relief continues to respond to wildfire seasons of increasing frequency and intensity. Six of the ten largest wildfires ever recorded in California raged this fall. More than one million acres burned across Oregon, Washington, and Colorado at the same time.

In response, Direct Relief worked with public health officials and partner health facilities across the west coast to rapidly mobilize medical material aid, supplies, and PPE such as N-95 masks to filter heavy smoke particulate that fills the air during wildfires. In total, the organization delivered more than **\$2.2** million of aid in **307** shipments to **213** partners throughout the Western U.S. to meet emergency health needs of those affected by this year's devastating wildfire season.

Partners in these states also received 17 wildfire kits in its first full season of distributions during emergency responses. These kits serve as a critical element of Direct Relief's long-term work with partner healthcare facilities to enhance preparedness for wildfires and efficiency of responses.

Additionally, Direct Relief continues to recognize the need for power as a pre-requisite for public health. In addition to assessing and, increasingly, providing power generation and backup capacity for health centers and free/charitable clinics, the organization is taking a leading role to connect its partners with public financial resources and solar energy installations to increase resilience and expand capacity to accept medical product donations among these facilities.







## SUPPORTING MOTHERS & CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

In low-resource countries, improvements in pregnancy care and children's health strengthen health systems overall. In 2020, Direct Relief has supported midwives and other maternal and child healthcare providers with medicines and supplies, including:

- Equipping trained midwives to ensure safe births in medically vulnerable communities during the pandemic with the provision of more than **380** full midwife kits and **240** replenishment kits) in partnership with the International Confederation of Midwives, including the first shipment to support midwives in Latin America
- Delivering the organization's first shipment of aid (**997** pounds of personal protective equipment) to Iran in more than a decade, providing protection to midwives at the height of the coronavirus pandemic in the country
- Expanding one of the largest global distribution programs in the world for children with type 1 diabetes in partnership with nonprofit organization Life for a Child, providing enough insulin, insulin delivery devices, blood glucose monitoring equipment, and HbA1c testing supplies to meet the needs of **14,500** children in **25** countries
- Receiving a multi-year commitment of cancer drugs in partnership with pharmaceutical manufacturer Teva, the Texas Children's Hospital, and the Global Hope initiative in Uganda, Malawi, and Botswana



**100%**  
EFFICIENT  
- Forbes

**TOP 10**  
MOST INNOVATIVE  
NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES  
- FAST COMPANY

**#1** TOP 10 CHARITIES  
CHANGING THE WORLD  
- **CNBC**