

Overview

The in-kind model compels the nonprofit members of PQMD to develop responsible means (processes and networks) around the globe. Through the network, AmeriCares gains a bird's eye view of global resource needs.

Through our private sector partners, we have visibility into medicines and commodities companies are able to make available to meet areas of need.

This basic model requires two things: both the network and the capabilities to identify need and get what is available to where it will have a maximum impact

Both that network and those logistics expertise offer something else: the ability to pivot those capacities in new directions to address emerging challenges

The Ebola crisis in West Africa, provided a unique opportunity to do just that.

Highlights

Recognized as a high quality logistics operation with solid partnership development capacities, AmeriCares responded to the Ebola crisis with vigor.

First, by leveraging our private sector partners for emergency response funding and for meds/supplies, AmeriCares delivered commodities and funding to partners in Liberia and Sierra Leone and dispatched an emergency assessment team.

Then, as a second stage of the response AmeriCares was able to take a multifaceted approach to the complex emerging needs. Delivery of additional donated GIK was complemented by procurement and delivery of “specialized” GIK.

AmeriCares also was able to take on the role of management of one Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) as well as recruitment of medical professionals for this operation.

Highlights

Deeply entrenched in case management through the ETU project, we were able to go one step further. With funding support from our corporate network and other private donors, AmeriCares established in-county operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone and embarked on a \$1 million health systems strengthening program.

This initiative made possible to leverage donor support in new directions: Infection Prevention Coach training in Sierra Leone being one example.

Recognizing the long-term need for a stronger health infrastructure, grants from PQMD members enabled AmeriCares to maintain a long-term focus on the affected countries, and directly supported the hiring of country directors for those regions

Today, we actively work with partners in Guinea and have added Sierra Leone to our priority countries list alongside Liberia

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Traditional PQMD partnership network available commodities and medicines did not meet all of the unique needs of the Ebola crisis primarily related to protective equipment (PPE).

This PPE was primarily needed in bulk and matching a full agreed upon “ensemble” for which health workers were trained in using.

Therefore the supplemental and additional private funding allowed for significant procurement to meet emerging needs.

In addition, supply chain management for PPE used in Ebola case management necessitated up to two months advance stock to avoid “stock-out” which also steered many partners to procurement over donated GIK.

Insurance issues for staff/ETU staff

Conclusion

The PQMD partnership network empowers PQMD nonprofit partners to lead in building strong partners, identifying needs, and strengthening essential health services.

But those competencies compel us to do more – and as the Ebola epidemic demonstrated – leverage those global relationships (resources and programmatically) to play a unique role in responding to global crisis.