

A Background Brief on PIH's Key Programs in Haiti

Partners In Health (PIH) and our sister organization in Haiti, Zanmi Lasante (ZL), have been working to improve access to dignified, high-quality health care for the poor and marginalized in Haiti for over 30 years. Working in partnership with Haiti's Ministry of Health, PIH/ZL seeks to lift up impoverished communities by developing innovative, scalable, and sustainable solutions to some of Haiti's most intractable health problems.

PIH/ZL provides high-quality health services across the full continuum of Haiti's public health care system—from the community, to the health facility, to the hospital. Through this model, PIH/ZL has achieved trailblazing results, and has expanded our program to now encompass a network of 15 health facilities in the Central Plateau and lower Artibonite of rural Haiti. Investments in training, medical education, social services, supply chain management, laboratory innovations, and community outreach complement PIH/ZL's health service delivery programs, enabling long-term impacts on the public health system. Today, PIH/ZL provides care to a service area of over 3.8 million people in Haiti.

Below you'll find summaries of PIH/ZL's key clinical and programmatic areas.

Maternal and Child Health

Maternal mortality in Haiti remains devastatingly high. The lifetime risk of maternal death in Haiti is 1 in 80—the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere. Fifteen percent (15%) of those who die of pregnancy-related causes are adolescent girls.

PIH/ZL's high-impact programs work to reduce these tragic inequities. From July 2017 to June 2018, PIH/ZL performed over **14,000 facility-deliveries across all sites**, averaging over **300 deliveries per month**. Of these deliveries, 25% were performed by C-section, ensuring lifesaving care for women and their babies.

With the launch of PIH/ZL's Journey to 9 Plus (J9 Plus) project in August 2018 at the Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM), PIH/ZL has developed its own group-based model of integrated care – a proven strategy for improving maternal and child health outcomes. J9 Plus is a comprehensive continuum of care package of four services: group antenatal care and group pediatric care, psychosocial services, community-based care, and hospital-based services. J9 Plus is already yielding promising results, with close to 600 pregnant women and 330 mother-child pairs enrolled over the past year. The antenatal groups have a 98% attendance rate, and 100% of enrolled women have received at least one ultrasound. The project provides an innovative and scalable solution for dramatically improving maternal and child health outcomes in rural Haiti and beyond.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS continues to be a great concern throughout Haiti, particularly for at-risk and marginalized populations. At the end of 2016, approximately 150,000 people in Haiti were reported to be living with HIV, and 7,900 new HIV infections were recorded. To address these challenges, HIV/TB programming is part of PIH/ZL's integrated package of primary care services, including case detection, testing, treatment



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and care. **Today, PIH/ZL is the largest provider of HIV care in Haiti's Central Plateau and lower Artibonite, with over 12,000 patients on treatment within our network.**

Malnutrition

Malnutrition is one of the most pressing medical issues facing the most vulnerable in Haiti. According to the 2016 Global Hunger Index and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in Haiti, roughly 50% of the population is undernourished. Malnutrition is the number one killer of children under five, and nearly half of all children suffer from some form of malnutrition. One in three children are stunted, or irreversibly short for their age.

Since 2006, PIH/ZL has locally produced *Nourimanba*, a highly fortified peanut-based product used to effectively treat malnutrition. In just six to eight weeks, *Nourimanba's* highly nutritious and scientifically-proven formulation can lead to dramatic clinical improvements in the health of children who receive it. **PIH/ZL has treated more than 30,000 children across our service area with *Nourimanba*, and currently enrolls more than 5,000 children a year into our nutrition program.** And by creating the product locally, PIH/ZL is providing long-term benefits to the local community through food security, job growth, agricultural capacity, and economic development throughout the region.

Oncology

Care for cancer in Haiti is deeply lacking. Currently, there are only three medical oncologists, two radiation oncologists, and four surgical oncologists practicing in Haiti—all of whom work in the private sector. Private cancer care, however, is financially inaccessible to most patients in the country, as a vast majority of the population lives on less than \$2 a day. Haiti has both the highest rate of cervical cancer incidence and related mortality worldwide with estimates as high as 25% and 15% respectively. PIH/ZL combats these challenges by providing comprehensive oncology care, including screening and diagnosis, oncological surgical care, adjuvant and neo-adjuvant chemotherapy, targeted outpatient therapy for breast cancer, chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST). All clinical cancer care is complemented by community-based follow up and health education. **The impact of these programs are significant, with 15-20 patients receiving chemotherapy each day, and more than 100 patients overall actively receiving chemotherapy.**

Medical Education

The 2010 earthquake destroyed an estimated 60% of the existing health facilities and a significant number of the nation's medical staff were either killed or subsequently left the country. In the matter of an instant, an already-fragile economy and health system was further devastated. Only one-third of Haitian physicians have the opportunity to do a residency program, enabling them to train in a medical speciality. PIH/ZL is one of the major partners of the public sector in medical education and clinical care provision. ZL cultivates clinical excellence and career development for hundreds of Haitian nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals each year, through trainings, longitudinal mentorship, and residency programs. Since 2012, ZL/PIH launched six residency programs in Haiti in partnership with the School of Medicine and Pharmacy from the State University in Port-au-Prince and the MSPP—in the critical areas of internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, ob-gyn, nurse anesthetists, and emergency medicine. 99% of our graduated specialist physicians are working in Haiti, with 58% within the ZL network. Since the start of these programs, **PIH/ZL has graduated over 130 residents, dramatically increasing highly-trained health professionals into Haiti's health sector and infusing medical specialties never before available in the country.**



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University Hospital at Mirebalais (HUM)

HUM opened in 2013 from the destruction of the earthquake to become a beacon health facility which provides advanced, high-quality tertiary care for individuals throughout Haiti. Its critical training programs are generating a cadre of providers committed to health equity. HUM is not only the home of six specialty residencies who will become leaders in providing provision, technical expertise, and capacity to transform health care delivery in poor settings, but is the home of scaling diagnostic services in its regional lab and pathology center, and advanced radiology capacity, including the only CT scanner in the public sector in Haiti. HUM is a national referral hospital that has opened an ICU for critically-ill adults and children and a NICU for sick neonates (the largest of its kind in Haiti). HUM also established the only ER in the country staffed by residency-trained ER physicians, ensuring trauma patients, children sick with asthma and pneumonia, and adults with heart disease and stroke, all get timely care they need to survive. HUM has seven operating rooms that perform more surgical cases than any other hospital in the country, and started an oncology program which has become the only public option in the country. HUM's maternity team delivers over 600 babies each month and serves as a referral center to ensure that no pregnant woman or her baby dies from lack of access to a safe c-section, blood transfusion, or other emergency obstetric need. HUM also developed mental health and psychosocial support services to provide both inpatient and outpatient care for people with acute and chronic mental health needs. **At University Hospital Mirebalais our vision is simple: provide the highest standard of care for our local community, train a nation of providers who believe in high quality, patient-centered care, and serve as a replicable model for other settings of poverty around the world.**