

2024 ACTION & IMPACT REPORT

Believing in women’s rights as human rights, PIH focuses heavily on caring for women and expectant mothers. In partnership with our global communities, we deliver comprehensive women’s and maternal health care to save lives and promote the right to health, safety, and autonomy among those marginalized by gender.

Your support ensures that PIH-supported facilities can offer the full spectrum of maternal health care, from prenatal checkups to safe deliveries, postnatal monitoring, and follow-up, even through home visits. PIH’s continuum of women’s and maternal health care aims to help create a healthier, more just world.

EMPOWERING MOTHERS AND MIDWIVES

Since joining PIH in Sierra Leone, Sister Patricia Efe Azikiwe has cared for expectant mothers, trained nurses, and transformed the maternity ward at Koidu Government Hospital (KGH), including launching personal hygiene and bereavement support initiatives. Through a hands-on approach, Sister Patricia is highly involved in all aspects of care.

“I speak to the mothers directly... Did you breastfeed, have you had your shower,” Patricia, the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent clinical program

manager at KGH, shared.

Simultaneously, she mentors young nurses ensuring they have the skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality care, which will be increasingly important following the opening of the Maternal Center of Excellence.

Samuella Mcauley, a registered nurse in KGH’s maternity ward, shared: “Being in this particular facility, learning with people, [and] seeing people as a role model like Sister Patricia has really [made me] want to go further with nursing.”



Sister Patricia Efe Azikiwe holds a newborn baby shortly after she was born via C-section. Photo by Abubakarr Tappiah Sesay / PIH

The Maternal Center of Excellence

Thanks to the generosity of our remarkable donors and partners, the new state-of-the-art Maternal Center of Excellence (MCOE) at Koidu Government Hospital will expand services for mothers and babies in Sierra Leone.

- **OPENING DAY:** We are excited for construction to wrap up in October 2025 and for the facility to welcome its first patients in January 2026. The MCOE will transform care in Sierra Leone and serve as a global model of innovation. As we prepare to open the doors, we are ushering in a future where no woman dies giving life.
- **ADVANCED CARE:** With dedicated spaces such as a neonatal intensive care unit, labor and delivery suites, surgical units, and adolescent-friendly services, the MCOE is designed to meet the diverse needs of women and

babies, leveraging global best practices and setting a new standard for care for women and children in Sierra Leone.

- **SETTING THE EXAMPLE:** The MCOE will train the next generation of Sierra Leonean maternal health experts—doctors, nurses, and midwives—equipping them with the skills and supplies to further reduce maternal mortality. More than just a clinic, the MCOE will serve as an example of excellence in all ways—from the building design and patient flow to staff training and equipment procured.

Your 2024 Impact

Your support allows PIH-supported facilities to offer comprehensive maternal health care before, during, and after birth. Here are a few transformative programs you helped make possible in 2024:

- **FEELS LIKE HOME:** Since 2009, PIH Lesotho has included maternal waiting homes at clinics in some of the most underserved regions of the country to help reduce maternal and neonatal deaths. In 2024, PIH opened a new maternal waiting home to serve Lebakeng Health Center. The facility provides expectant mothers with a dignified environment to stay both before and after childbirth, significantly improving health outcomes.
- **MOTHERS CLUB:** Zanmi Lasante (ZL), PIH's sister organization in Haiti, hosts "Mothers Club" dedicated to women living with HIV and their children. This

program offers a lifeline to those families, providing care, social support, and other essential resources. ZL's efforts have led to a reduction in mother-to-child transmission of HIV and improved survival rates.

- **SCALING IMPACT:** PIH researchers conducted a study to explore the impact the Journey to 9 Plus (J9) program—supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation—has on mothers and children in Haiti. They found that by fostering collaboration through integrated care, promoting community engagement, and prioritizing health education, J9 offers a scalable blueprint for improving maternal and child health outcomes globally.



152,430 prenatal care visits

PIH provides prenatal checkups that can detect conditions that, without diagnosis and treatment, could lead to a complicated—or worse, fatal—birth.

Photo by Ansumana O. Sesay / PIH

57,450 safe, facility-based deliveries

PIH provides care in some of the most dangerous places to give birth to ensure the health and safety of mothers and babies.

Photo by Chiara Herold / PIH



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Tuberculosis (TB) is the world's deadliest infectious disease, despite being completely treatable. PIH aims to eliminate TB through comprehensive care, particularly in impoverished communities where disease is more likely to spread. TB, like many infectious diseases, glaringly reveals health care inequities with over 80 percent of deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

PIH has battled this inequity for nearly three decades, by treating and preventing TB and its more severe variants—multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB—in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. Our community-based approach to care has resulted in innovations in care and some of the highest cure rates ever recorded.

MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TB CARE IN SIERRA LEONE

Saio Kamara was an MDR-TB patient at PIH-supported Lakka Government Hospital in Sierra Leone—the first MDR-TB treatment center in the country—for more than two years. On March 31, 2022, she was officially cured.

On this day, after years of intensive inpatient and outpatient care, the now 29-year-old widow was reunited with her son and two daughters. Many patients with TB

around the world don't get to experience that moment—or proper care, at all. But, thanks to your support, the situation is far different at Lakka, where the cure rate for MDR-TB is around 75%.

Kamara, who was unable to stand upright on her own when she was admitted, told us: “If I ever tell anyone I was a TB patient, they don't believe me, because look at me now. I'm happy and strong.”



Saio Kamara poses for a portrait outside of Lakka Government Hospital, where she was treated and cured of TB. Photo by Caitlin Kleiboer / PIH

Eliminating TB in Lesotho

In the remote villages of Lesotho, where families often live in close quarters and health care access is limited, TB remains a persistent threat. Through your generosity, PIH Lesotho is at the forefront of efforts to curb the spread of this deadly disease through innovative care strategies.

- **CONTACT TRACING:** One method PIH Lesotho utilizes is meticulous contact tracing, a strategy that is particularly vital in overcrowded households. TB is an airborne disease and can linger in cramped spaces, increasing the likelihood of transmission. TB contact tracing involves identifying and screening all individuals who have been in close contact with TB and providing them with testing and, if necessary, treatment or preventative therapy.
- **TREATMENT SUPPORTERS:** Taking daily medication can be challenging, especially when there are unpleasant

side effects or, for those with TB, when treatment regimens can last months to years. To support TB patients on their road to recovery, PIH Lesotho relies on treatment supporters: non-clinical individuals who provide at-home support to patients living with TB.

Treatment supporters ensure patients consistently take their TB medication in the right dose, at the right time. This accompaniment continues for the full duration of a patient's treatment—no matter how long it takes—and includes connecting patients to social support resources, such as nutritious food.

Your 2024 Impact

Your support allows PIH to provide comprehensive care for TB, serving as a model for TB treatment globally. Here are some highlights from our shared achievements this year:

- **GUIDING TREATMENT PROTOCOLS:** PIH has helped guide advancements in TB policy and practices for decades. In August 2024, the World Health Organization recommended the use of three new MDR-TB treatment regimens studied in the endTB clinical trial—a partnership between PIH, Médecins Sans Frontières, Interactive Research and Development, and Unitaid.
- **AI-POWERED TECHNOLOGY:** Your generosity has allowed PIH to invest in innovative TB care tools. This year, in Peru, modern equipment with radiology, artificial intelligence (AI), and molecular biology

capabilities are improving the early detection of TB. And in Lesotho, PIH is redefining care through a revolutionary tool—utilizing AI, point of care testing, and geographic information system technology—called TB hunter.

- **PROVIDING HOPE:** Recognizing the impact that TB has on mental health, PIH sites around the world have integrated mental health care into their treatment programs to improve overall quality of life for patients. PIH Lesotho began screening all TB patients for depression and anxiety in 2017. The team diagnoses, manages, and provides psychosocial support for patients.

34,300 TB tests performed

PIH provides access to TB testing in countries with some of the highest burdens of the disease to improve early detection.

Photo by Janissa Delzo / PIH



2,900 TB patients treated

TB is curable. With your support, PIH is able to provide safe, effective, and innovative treatment to the patients in our care.

Photo by Joshua Berson for PIH

2024 ACTION & IMPACT REPORT

To build sustainable health systems, PIH—alongside strong networks of partners and supporters like you—advocates every day, both behind the scenes and by the bedside, to advance global health equity. We advocate for the populations we serve, generating more resources or changing policy for the diseases most important to

those communities. Historically, PIH programs on the ground have influenced policy by example. Today, PIH has a dedicated advocacy team with a strong network of grassroots supporters—informed by evidence, considering both our clinical care and social justice roots, to influence policy and advance global health equity.



Fynn Crooks motivates Engage members in front of the Capitol before they begin congressional meetings. Photo by Jesse Dearing / PIH

LEADING THE CHARGE

Fynn Crooks first heard of PIH when a college roommate started a chapter of PIH Engage—a grassroots network of community organizers—and began hosting events in their home. Several years later, they came back to PIH as part of the Community Tracing Collaborative: a collaboration between PIH and the Massachusetts State Government to respond to COVID-19.

Fast forward to 2024, and Crooks is now Senior Community Organizer for Advocacy at PIH Engage, the group

they had joined a decade prior.

“All [Engage] teams represent a lot of constituent voices, and my job is to help chart the course for government advocacy,” Crooks said. “We teach Engage members how to reach out to their members of Congress.”

Being active participants in the legislative process has been critical, especially as global health funding is under threat. Crooks finds hope in the many voices that Engage is bringing to the conversation, advocating for the right to health, everywhere.

Addressing Tribal Health Care Inequities

Indigenous people in the U.S. face significant health disparities, rooted in a history of colonialism, racism, and discrimination. The system responsible for the care of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) people is plagued by a lack of resources.

- **STAFF SHORTAGES:** The Indian Health Service (IHS)—responsible for providing federal health services to AIAN people—faces severe physician vacancy rates caused by a lack of training opportunities and health professionals leaving due to a lack of resources and career advancement opportunities.
- **LIMITED FUNDS:** Each year, the IHS’s funding is determined by a budget that Congress allocates. When the budget runs out, services become more limited or disappear altogether, affecting the number of patients

they can serve. The IHS is chronically underfunded and neglected, impacting both staff and patients.

- **PEOPLE’S POWER:** PIH partnered with the Association of Native American Medical Students (ANAMS) to host constituent meetings on Capitol Hill, educating Congress on the needs of the IHS and the staffing shortages. Over 4 days, the group of 37 people participated in 55 meetings with Congress. By advocating alongside ANAMS, PIH strives to empower Indigenous medical students and the next generation of Tribal health leaders.

Your 2024 Impact

Members of the PIH community and supporters like you have been an essential component of our advocacy efforts. Here are a few examples of the transformative work we've accomplished together this year:

- **GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY:** PIH Engage is our grassroots advocacy network that trains teams of volunteer community organizers in high schools, colleges, and major U.S. cities. In August 2024, Engage hosted a Hill Day at the Capitol with 230 Engagers from 85 teams across the U.S. in attendance to meet with members of Congress and raise awareness around global health funding.
- **END TB NOW:** With inspiration from Dr. Paul Farmer's efforts to codify TB elimination strategies into federal law, thousands of PIH supporters called on Congress

to take action through the End TB Now Act—a bill requiring all U.S. government-funded TB programs to deliver the highest standard of TB care. In September, the act passed the U.S. Senate.

- **EXPANDING COMMUNITY ACCESS:** PIH U.S., Community Health Worker (CHW) coalitions, and PIH Engage have been partnering to advance the CHW Access Act, a bill that would increase access to CHW services. In March, more than 80 CHWs and advocates gathered on Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress and legislative staff.

1,900
advocates trained on
organizing legislative
engagement

With your support, PIH is training global health activists to advocate for legislation that advances health equity.

Photo by Jessey Dearing / PIH



27,006
calls and emails sent
to congress through
advocacy efforts

PIH provides resources and education that make reaching out to senators and representatives easy.

Photo by Jessey Dearing / PIH

