

# Haiti

## Current Situation

Four hurricanes in one month's time have pounded Haiti leaving an estimated one million homeless and affected more than 300,000 children. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere is in a state of "ecological disaster," announced the newly elected Prime Minister, Michelle Pierre Louis. "Not a single place in the country was spared. We now have no roads and six major bridges fell down."

The floods damaged most of the country's crops, wiped out irrigation and pumping stations. School has been postponed due to facilities being used as temporary shelters for flood victims. With some of the country still flooded, the risk of malaria and other diseases are rising.

This makes the work of NPFS critically important, as access to healthcare is basically non-existent. The NPFS Medical Services, including Outreach Programs and Public Health are reaching the poorest of the poor and the most needy in a time of desperation.

A child from the slum of Cité Soliel waits to fill up her jug with free water from the Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs (NPH/NPFS) water truck.



## NPH/NPFS St. Damien Medical Center

Tabarre, Port-au-Prince

Haiti has the highest rate of infant, under-five and maternal mortality in the Western hemisphere. Diarrhea, respiratory infections, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are the leading causes of death. Source UNICEF.

### Pediatric Hospital

The pediatric hospital outpatient clinic attends to 100 children daily. There is a symbolic fee of 10¢ for services, but waived for most because mothers cannot afford it. If the child is admitted to the Emergency Room, the parent is required to stay with the child 24/7 and the average stay is three days. If a child is admitted to a ward, infectious or non-infectious, then the parent can visit and does not have to stay overnight. The average stay for a child is two months and the hospital currently has 120 beds.

# NPH/NPFS St. Damien Medical Center



## Annex

About 20 children who are suffering from chronic disease such as malnutrition and tuberculosis, who are on the road to recovery, are currently recuperating in the annex. It is located on the bottom floor of the visitor/volunteer center. This was recently introduced so that beds would be freed up in the hospital for more urgent cases. Some of these children have also been abandoned and are now wards of the state. The child welfare agency investigates each case and depending on their findings can place a child in a temporary home to await adoption.

Pediatric Hospital annual budget \$1,500,000



## Surgery Ward

A general surgeon from Italy, Dr. Guiseppe Riitano, has graciously taken on the responsibility of the surgery ward. He will be in Haiti part-time throughout the year. Currently there are three hospital employees; two are ex-pequeños, who are being trained in Italy under Dr. Guiseppe's supervision. They will return to Haiti at the end of October with the goal of opening the surgery ward in November.

Estimated budget \$500,000

## Cancer Ward

All cancer treatment is currently performed in the Dominican Republic in collaboration with the Good Samaritan House, run by Sister Beatrice Barry, SSJ, in Santo Domingo. Patients return to Haiti for chemotherapy. There are plans to collaborate with the French government to establish a cancer program at the St. Damien Hospital. Some challenges initiating this program are recruiting and keeping competent staff, training, implementation and management.

Estimated budget \$300,000



Other hospital areas are: outpatient waiting room and examination rooms, pharmacy, radiology, emergency ward, critical care, isolation room, infectious and non-infectious wards, dental clinic, administration, social services, kitchen, laundry, staff lounge, warehouse, storage and conference room.

The Medical Center employs 400 Haitians.

One salary is estimated to support a family of five.

Nurse	\$15 day	Maintenance	\$6 day
Lab tech	\$8 day	Cook	\$6 day
Driver	\$7 day	Social Worker	\$8 day

## NPH/NPFS St. Damien Medical Center



### Public Health and HIV Programs

The Public Health center is an outpatient program located on the hospital grounds, which serves 10,000 children and mothers annually. The staff of 11 provide healthcare services at the facility plus on-the-ground health agents conduct home visits. Services provided are immunization to children under five, health education such as sanitation, nutrition, children's illnesses and HIV prevention and transmission. This program also supports a prenatal clinic with physicians, nurses and a midwife.

### HIV Clinic

In 2003, President Bush launched the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to combat global HIV/AIDS. Currently NPFS is receiving a grant of \$450,000 in collaborating with I-TECH, International Training and Education Center on HIV. I-TECH provides development and guidelines for prevention, care and treatment efforts. Goals are to scale up anti-retrovirals, reduce stigma, and provide educational materials. There are 136 children who fit the criteria to receive anti-retrovirals and another 164 benefiting from the program in other areas. Many of the population are referred from the outpatient clinic at the hospital. The staff supporting this program are 17 employees, including physicians, field agents, psychologists, pharmacists and administrative support.



Dr. Jacqueline Gautier is the director of the Public Health program and has been working with NPFS since 1993. Every fiscal year, Dr. Gautier re-applies for the PEPFAR grant, which has increased each year based on the tremendous need.

The participants in these programs pay a symbolic fee, such as \$5 for their entire pregnancy care. Since there has been such growth in the programs, the second floor of the Public Health building is being refurbished for the HIV programs and bottom will be used for general Public Health.

Estimated budget \$500,000



### Street Clinics

The St. Luke Medical Team operates clinics three times a week, mainly in Wharf Jeremy and once a week in the busy Saturday market. These clinics have taken a set-back with the extenuating administrative duties that Fr. Rick Frechette is now managing. They have not been as frequent as before. Currently there are 100 patients receiving treatment for tuberculosis, 50 HIV/AIDS antiretroviral therapy, 50 hypertension and 50 type two diabetes. X-rays are also available and emergency surgeries.

Estimated budget \$244,000



## NPH/NPFS St. Damien Medical Center

### Kay Germaine Rehabilitation and Educational Center for Disabled Children

In 2004, Gena Heraty, Director of Kay Christine, started offering outpatient services to disabled children and their mothers in the slum of Wharf Jeremy. Gena found if the mothers are given the tools to care for their child then they are less prone to abandon them. The program grew and was relocated to the old hospital facility in Pétionville. The program has expanded and now there are 50 children who receive therapy and 17 children enrolled in the onsite school alongside 10 staff. These children still attend this program at this facility due to the ease of location.

At the Hospital Medical Center in Tabarre, a rehabilitation center, finished construction and was officially opened on September 8, 2008. The three main components to the Kay Germaine program are physical therapy, school and a feeding program. Thirty children are registered for school and 20 are enrolled in physical therapy. Currently the staff consists of 13 employees with the goal of hiring three more.

A typical scenario of a mother in this program is that her husband or partner has abandoned her once he realizes that the child is disabled. The majority of the mothers have four other children and live in rented accommodations. They are unemployed and humiliated by everyone because the general population views disabled children as a waste of time. They usually receive handouts or possible assistance from other family members. A micro credit program was started to help these mothers and the reimbursement rate has been quite successful. The average first loan is for \$140 and the largest has been for \$385. With this amount they can purchase goods to then re-sell on the street or buy food to make lunch and sell on the street. Gena is hoping to start craft and embroidery activities for resale that the mothers can participate in while at both centers. The children that benefit the most spend at least a few hours a week and receive a protein drink and lunch. The average visit is 2-3 times per week. These programs also support three ex-pequeños as employees.

The operation of both centers are vitally important to continue providing these families with resources, education and dignity.

