

DONOR UPDATE: HAITI PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

Five-Year Report on Direct Relief’s Recovery Efforts since the 2010 Earthquake

Thank you for your commitment to, and support of, Direct Relief’s ongoing response and rebuilding efforts in Haiti. On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake struck the island nation, taking more than 250,000 lives and further devastating the country’s economy, infrastructure, and healthcare system. Direct Relief is extremely grateful to supporters who have made its work to rebuild and restore health in Haiti possible. Backed by the generosity of supporters like you, Direct Relief has transformed the immediate disaster response into a commitment to making the availability of quality health care resources viable for the long term for vulnerable people living throughout Haiti. This report details Direct Relief’s ongoing efforts to help on-the-ground partners rebuild community health systems and strengthen resiliency in Haiti.

Five years after the earthquake, Direct Relief remains among the largest providers of medical aid to Haiti, supporting over 100 health facilities which serve approximately 4 million people throughout the country. Since the quake, Direct Relief has shipped over 1,700 tons of medical resources aid, valued at over \$144 million (wholesale), which has been delivered to partner healthcare facilities throughout Haiti to strengthen their capacity to care for people in need. Consistent with Direct Relief’s policy, **100 percent of contributions received for Haiti have been used in support of the efforts to strengthen health care systems in Haiti.**

Partnering to Improve Outcomes

Direct Relief has worked closely with partner organizations to enable access to essential medical resources throughout Haiti. By working closely with the Haitian Ministry of Health, nonprofit medical organizations, hospitals, and other health facilities, Direct Relief has committed to helping partners access many necessary medical supplies. These include basic antibiotics, gloves, needles and syringes, and IV fluids that often times are not available for their patients.

Direct Relief’s activities were initially devoted to immediate relief, but have evolved into health-focused efforts to sustain local health care programs that address ongoing medical needs. Consistent with Direct Relief’s organizational capabilities and resources, these activities are focused on the following three objectives:

- 1. Providing Medical Resources to Underserved Populations**
- 2. Repairing and Re-equipping Health Centers**
- 3. Increasing Capacity and Building Resiliency**

Providing Medical Resources to Underserved Populations

Direct Relief has donated medical resources to more than 100 health facilities in Haiti, in addition to establishing and operating a warehouse locally, since the 2010 earthquake.

One example is Direct Relief’s support of [Partners in Health \(PIH\)](#), which not only ensured its medical staff had the resources needed to treat patients immediately following the earthquake and the subsequent cholera outbreak, but also enabled ongoing





support of its comprehensive cancer program in Haiti. In addition to working with large international NGOs such as PIH, much of Direct Relief's recovery efforts have been in support of local Haitian-operated health organizations. For example, Direct Relief has worked closely with [Saint Damien Pediatric Hospital](#) to help the organization continue providing specialized care for patients, including the training of additional health care staff.

◀◀◀ *Sylfanie, who was treated for a leg injury at St. Damien Pediatric Hospital with the help of medical supplies provided by Direct Relief*

In late 2013, as Haiti's efforts toward recovery and reconstruction continued, the Chikungunya virus emerged as a new health challenge. The mosquito-borne virus had proven to be a contributing cause of death in vulnerable groups (including infants, elderly, pregnant women, and people with other health conditions), and the Haitian government formally declared a medical emergency in 2014 as the virus spread rapidly across the island nation. After receiving an urgent appeal for help from the Ministry of Health, Direct Relief provided the medical products needed to reduce the symptoms and treat patients who required hospital care. Medicines to treat one million people were placed at Direct Relief's warehouse in Port-au-Prince for distribution to health centers across the country in September 2014. Because of Direct Relief's strong partnerships in the country, the response was well-coordinated and quickly executed.

Repairing and Re-equipping Health Centers

Direct Relief supported partners by restoring damaged health centers throughout Haiti, with the majority of this work completed in the three years following the quake. For example, in Northern Haiti, Direct Relief worked with [Haiti Hospital Appeal](#) to provide high-quality maternity care. With support from Direct Relief, the hospital was able to fully equip its operating theater and has provided quality care to thousands of vulnerable women in the surrounding region.



A cesarean section is performed in Haiti Hospital Appeal's equipped maternity ward ▶▶▶

Your support has also enabled Direct Relief to work with the group to launch its mobile maternity outreach services to provide essential pre-natal care and screenings to pregnant mothers who cannot access the hospital. This service is not only saving the lives of mothers and babies, but is also resulting in healthier babies born to mothers who received the pre-natal care they needed.

Increasing Capacity and Building Resiliency

Direct Relief continues working with partners in Haiti to strengthen resiliency among health systems addressing critical health issues and reaching the most disadvantaged people. In collaboration with [Mother Health International](#) (MHI), Direct Relief has supported midwife training sessions at five birthing centers in Haiti. One of several Direct Relief-supported training programs for Haitian health workers, this particular course provides birth

attendants with training to properly assess pregnancy and prenatal complications, perform safe deliveries, and provide proper postnatal care. Direct Relief is also equipping trained birth attendants and midwives with the supplies they need to work once trained, to ensure they can provide essential medical services to pregnant women.

To better prepare health facilities in Haiti with resources needed during emergencies, Direct Relief has pre-positioned five disaster preparedness modules in-country each year at hospitals located in hurricane-prone regions. These modules contain enough medicines and medical supplies to treat 5,000 people each for up to one month immediately following a disaster situation. The supplies contained in each module are essential in case of future emergency situations, but are absorbed into clinic inventory if not utilized within the year.

Haiti has the highest incidence of cervical cancer in the Western Hemisphere, but the majority of these deaths are preventable with screening and early detection. Working collaboratively since 2013, Direct Relief and [Basic Health International \(BHI\)](#) have equipped Haitian medical professionals with low-cost cervical cancer screening and treatment techniques. In the first phase of the program, 20 local healthcare professionals were trained, over 2,200 women were screened, and nearly 300 pre-cancerous lesions were identified and successfully treated. In addition, one woman with advanced stage cancer has already had surgery and is now being treated with radiation and chemotherapy. As part of a 2014 commitment with the [Clinton Global Initiative](#), Direct Relief will focus on sustaining the Cervical Cancer Screening Program to promote integration of screening into the standard operations of local health providers and ensure more women are screened and treated in Haiti.

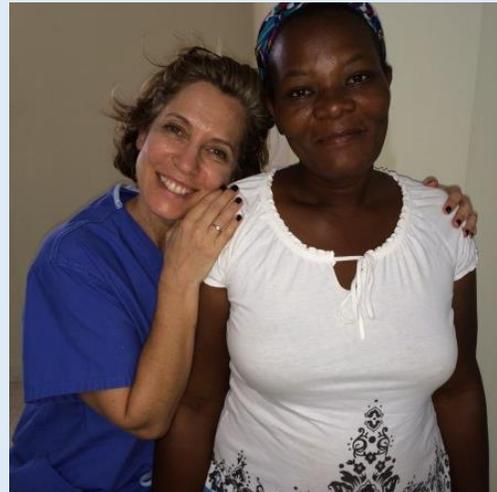
Nanotte's Story: Battling Cervical Cancer in Haiti

Nanotte is a 43 year-old mother in Haiti who heard about the Free cervical cancer screening services offered at Klinik Manitane and came in for screening. Health workers found that Nanotte had an undiagnosed lesion that had already progressed to cervical cancer. This diagnosis can be a death sentence for women like Nanotte, who have limited means and live in a country where access to screening is severely limited and treatment options are few. To ensure that Nanotte did not become another national statistic for cervical cancer mortality, Direct Relief worked with multiple nonprofits to launch a massive collaborative effort to save her life.

Nanotte was the first patient screened through the program whose condition was more advanced than the treatment the health workers were trained to provide. Dr. Rachel Masch of BHI performed a pro bono hysterectomy at St. Damien Hospital, and pathology from the procedure revealed that chemotherapy and radiation therapy were necessary for successful treatment.

Direct Relief partner, Partners in Health, committed to providing the necessary radiation therapy, Direct Relief provided the chemotherapy drugs, and additional partners provided lodging, transportation, food, and all other necessities required for the 16-week treatment. During the week of Thanksgiving 2014, Direct Relief received the best possible news: Nanotte was on her way home.

With regular screening, cervical cancer is a completely preventable disease. Yet **more than a quarter of a million women die each year from cervical cancer**, almost all of them in developing countries—Haiti is one such country. Direct Relief is committed to scaling this program to train more Haitian health workers and ensure comprehensive and early screening for as many women as possible.



*Nanotte with Dr. Tracy Flum of BHI.
Photo courtesy of BHI.*

Next Steps

Looking forward, Direct Relief will continue to support its on-the-ground partners in Haiti to help strengthen health systems left fragile by the devastating earthquake in 2010. Direct Relief has maintained strong relationships with Ministry of Health officials and partner organizations in Haiti, and these relationships continue to guide Direct Relief's efforts to plan and implement long-term solutions to strengthen resiliency among vulnerable communities.

“Over the years I have seen the health of the population we serve improve immensely. This leads to improved quality of life. Patients are happy and grateful to see us. Children who never used to smile, dance around the providers now and laugh. These are success stories. To make the life of an individual just a little easier, that's success.”

- Richard Hammond, Founder, Friends of the Children of Haiti

Direct Relief's warehouse in Port-au-Prince ensures that essential materials are safely stored in-country and can be efficiently delivered to the clinic sites that order the needed items. With this in-country resource, Direct Relief is also able to support a large number of small local clinics who would not otherwise be able to receive shipments of medical aid due to Haiti's strict customs regulations. Direct Relief's efforts to scale Haitian health worker training in numerous specialties will continue, and the disaster preparedness program will continue in 2015.

In 2014 alone, Direct Relief provided nearly \$25 million in medical assistance to partners in Haiti, and will continue this important work going forward. Direct Relief's goal is to ensure that qualified and approved healthcare facilities who are providing care to those most in need do not have to turn patients away for lack of essential medical supplies.



September 2014: Haitian First Lady Sophia Martelly (second from right) and Health Minister Florence Dupreval Guillaume (second from left) at the Direct Relief warehouse in Haiti to announce the distribution of Chikungunya treatment kits.

Conclusion

Five years ago, you stepped up to help the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the most destructive earthquake in the nation's history. Haiti is still working to improve conditions for thousands of people who are remain vulnerable. But progress has been made—lost amid the negative headlines are the ample stories of hope that Direct Relief sees on the ground. As health infrastructure developments in Haiti improve, Direct Relief remains committed to supporting in-country partners to achieve long-term recovery.

Please do not hesitate to contact Direct Relief at (805) 964-4767 or via email, info@directrelief.org, if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting Direct Relief to make this work possible.