



## PRISON STAFF PERSEVERE DESPITE TURMOIL IN HAITI

IN 2019, CIVIL UNREST PARALYZED MUCH OF HAITI, BUT HEALTH THROUGH WALLS CONTINUED TO DELIVER SERVICES TO PRISONERS

Haiti's crisis this year included a month long absence of gasoline, followed by months of nation-wide anti-corruption strikes, civil strife, riots, property damage and demonstrations with barricades erected throughout the country preventing people from leaving their immediate neighborhoods for many days. It left schools closed and people without access to healthcare, money, water, generator fuel, transportation and food supplies. Businesses and government offices were closed and hospitals quickly ran out of supplies including oxygen.



PHOTO ABOVE: A common road-block scene in Port-au-Prince in late 2019 during civil unrest.

### The crisis continues and impacts more than 11,000 prisoners in Haiti's national prisons with in-

creased overcrowding due to mass arrests and closed courthouses. To reduce the potential for uprisings, movements inside the prisons has been reduced causing prisoners to spend most of the days inside the already overcrowded, overheated cells. Food delivery is difficult and families who normally brought food for their loved ones cannot travel to the prisons. Prison staff is reduced and prisons are more insecure. Access to bathing and toilets is limited. Prison uprisings and escapes have occurred.

Despite this, Health through Walls (HtW), under leadership of Karine Duverger, has continued its presence in the prisons and delivering healthcare services. Staff work closely with security agents to ascertain safety and screen for those in prison with the most serious needs. In the past quarter of the year, for example, 57 prisoners were newly identified with HIV infection and started on life-saving antiretroviral therapy. Another 185 prisoners are presently receiving daily treatment for active tuberculosis. Health through Walls delivers food supplements and assists with sanitation programs in the prisons.



Typical overcrowded prison cell without running water.

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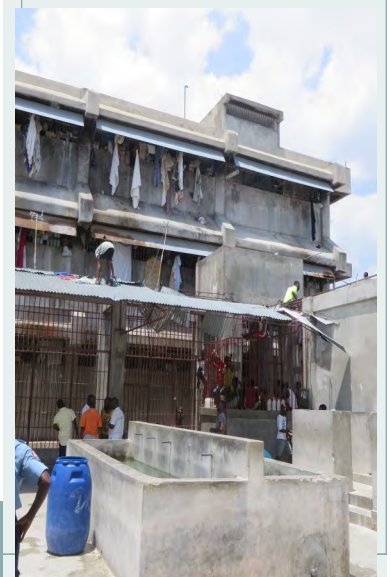
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PHOTO ABOVE: HtW team providing treatment to an injured prisoner (Nov 2019).

PHOTO LEFT: Malnutrition unit in Haiti's National Penitentiary (July 2019).



*Sustainable prison healthcare in developing countries*

## VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STUDENT MISSION WITH JAMAICA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES



PHOTO: Far right, Arnold Campbell, Program Director, HtW Jamaica, with HtW volunteers, students and faculty of NOVA Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.019.

Each June, the Jamaica Department of Correctional Services hosts a medical mission with medical, dental, pharmacy and physical therapy students from NOVA Southeastern University and HtW. The students work with attending physicians to provide clinical services. In June 2019, the team provided services to the men in the maximum security prisons of Tower Street Adult Correctional Center and St. Catherine's Adult Correctional Center following an orientation by Dr. Donna Royer-Powe, Medical Director for prisons, a welcome by the Superintendent of each facility and musical tribute from the prisoner band.



## MANY THANKS TO MORE 2019 VOLUNTEERS, SUCH AS

- Dr. Irving Waldman of Miami who reads thousands of digital x-rays of prisoners from Haiti;
- Linda Waldman of Miami who prepares radiology reports;
- Cathy Lynn May, Florida, who provides accounting and support services;
- Dr. Juan "Rudy" Nunez, Florida, who provides education to staff and prisoners on hepatitis;



PHOTO: (L) Haley Kehus; (C) Dr. Edwin Prophete, (R) Dr. Anne Spaulding

- Dr Anne Spaulding, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, for program evaluation and support
- Haley Kehus MPH, Emory, for studying baseline conditions in the TB program for her master's thesis and writing a manuscript for a peer review publication;
- Shanaika Grandoit MPH, Emory University, for surveys and focus groups on TB adherence;
- Laura Dirks, Emory University, for data management program of the TB adherence program.
- Our volunteer Board of Directors and Officers.



## AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION AND HTW PARTNERSHIP: CLINICS FOR FORMER PRISONERS IN HAITI, JAMAICA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

AIDS Healthcare Foundation and HtW have formed a unique partnership to provide safe community health clinics for persons released from prison and their partners with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other disease for ongoing care and treatment. These clinics operate in Haiti, Jamaica and Dominican Republic and welcome all patients regardless of ability to pay. HtW provides

the clinical staff and connects patients to the clinics through prison discharge planners and community mobile clinics. The clinics also provides services to women experiencing sexual abuse, and provide an affirming, supporting environment. In 2019, the clinic in Haiti, Clinic Solidarity, served more than 1,000 persons despite civil unrest and restricted movement for patients and staff.



PHOTO ABOVE: The new AHF/HtW clinic for former prisoners and their families.



## PRISONER SUPPORT IN MALAWI

HtW continues to provide nutritional and clinical support to prisoners with HIV/AIDS in Malawi Prisons Service through Pastor Daniel Mitepa. In 2019, HtW completed formal registration as a nongovernmental organization in Malawi.



HtW distributes food supplements to prisoners in Malawi with health needs related to HIV or tuberculosis, and general support and hygiene items for the prisons, 2019.



*"Adequate prisoner health not only controls infectious disease, but also contributes to safe, secure, and humane institutions - part of establishing a society of justice, prosperity and peace."  
Dr. John May, President, Health through Walls*

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRISONS BEGINS INITIATIVE TO CURE HEPATITIS C

**HtW is coordinating efforts of the Prison Authority of the Dominican Republic with local partner, Fundacion Genesis, to offer hepatitis C testing and treatment to nearly 9,000 prisoners in the Caribbean's largest prison, LaVictoria Penitentiary.**



PHOTOS ABOVE: *Hepatitis C video-conference training with Project ECHO (New Mexico), Dr. John May (Florida), Dr. Juan Nunez (Florida) and Health Promoters in Dom Rep LaVictoria Penitentiary.* PHOTO RIGHT: *General Tomas La Paz Houlgin addresses prison health promoters at health training.*

In 2020, volunteer and staff teams will begin offering hepatitis c testing at the prison. Additional partners include Gilead Sciences and the Ministry of Health under guidance of Dr. Annalice Roa, Medical Director of Prisons and Grace Butler, HtW's D.R. Program Director. Using the successful model of the University of New Mexico's Project ECHO, prison health promoters and healthcare staff participate in distant learning and case presentations to understand and manage the disease. This model was demonstrated at the International Corrections and Prisons Association conference in Buenos Aires in October 2019. While the initiative is still pursuing final funding, it will become the first and largest hepatitis c eradication project in the Caribbean.



### PRISONER ART, HAITI

**Women prisoners enjoy creating artistic holiday cards to express appreciation.** Leading up to the December holidays, HtW provides art materials and compensation to women prisoners who create greeting cards for HtW to send to its donors and friends. The women enjoy expressing themselves artistically as well as the opportunity to show their appreciation to those who make HtW services possible.

*Thank you for your support! And in appreciation of 2019 generous support from the Gilead Foundation, USAID, Global Fund, TB REACH, AIDS Healthcare Foundation.*

[www.healththroughwalls.org](http://www.healththroughwalls.org)

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### HTW NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR PRISONERS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

- Financial donations toward prisoner health services.  
**So many needs!**
- Medical equipment collected by HtW for the American Correctional Association's Container Donation Program shipping supplies to prisons of low income countries
- Volunteer at home or abroad
- Donate online at [www.healththroughwalls.org](http://www.healththroughwalls.org) or send check to:

**Health through Walls**  
12555 Biscayne Blvd., #955  
North Miami, FL 33181

(Please include your name, address and email.)

Contributions are tax deductible under the IRS codes for 501(c)(3) organizations.

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