

RESILIENCE IN HAITI AND PRISONS DESPITE AN OVERWHELMING YEAR

Violence, earthquake, pandemic, political unrest, insecurity, assassination of the President, tropical storm; yet the health team continues to provide care in the prisons.



Health through Walls (HtW) provides health care services in multiple prisons in Haiti's Southwestern region which suffered a magnitude 7.2 earthquake on August 14, 2021. Prisons suffered damages, some incarcerated persons broke out of their cells for fear of roofs collapsing on them, and there were escapes and injuries. HtW staff from across Haiti responded immediately to assist the prisons, local staff, their families, and community.

Our partner, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), chartered emergency airlifts. Donations to HtW helped fund rapid responses and supplies. Under the leadership of our Chief of Party, Karine Duverger, lives were saved and aid reached the remote areas where it was needed. Emergency water and food supplies were sourced, as well as medications and generators, and tense situations in the prisons stabilized.



HtW staff assisting earthquake relief efforts and bringing supplies to prisons and needed areas.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Resilience in Haiti.....1-2
 New Partnerships 3
 Hepatitis C in Dom Rep.....3
 Malawi Prisons..... 4
 Jamaica Prisons.....4
 Your Help is Needed..... 4

Meanwhile, travel throughout the country continues to be challenging, difficult and dangerous due to kidnaping, gang violence, and multiple roadblocks. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Haiti including persons inside prisons.

In spite of all of this and more, HtW staff enter the Haitian prisons daily and deliver care and treatment. Dozens of persons with tuberculosis have been newly identified and placed into treatment. Hundreds of persons receive their medication for HIV infections inside the prisons. HtW staff completed training this month to begin offering and administering COVID-19 vaccinations to all incarcerated persons in Haiti in early 2022.



PHOTO: Removing fluid from the lungs of a patient with TB in the prison.



PHOTO: COVID-19 testing at Haiti's National Penitentiary.



Staff and volunteers risk violence, kidnapping and roadblocks on their way to prisons in Haiti.

Solutions for Food Insecurity in Haitian Prisons

Haiti's political instability and street violence has created shortages of food within the prisons, resulting in severe malnutrition and exacerbating the impact of chronic and infectious disease. In early December, HtW announced a significant, short-term arrangement with World Hope International, Rise Against Hunger and AHF to deliver 12 shipping containers full of food donations from the USA that will cover food needs in the prisons for at least 3 months. Nutritional assessments are being done by the University of Florida with HtW. As a longer term solution, HtW is implementing a grant from US State Department International Narcotics and Law Enforcement to pilot food production at one of Haiti's rural prisons. Farming and planting is progressing with technical expertise from Medicine and Food for Kids. An aquaponics system has been installed and now functioning with technical expertise from Enterprise Aquatics of Louisiana who connected to HtW at an American Correctional Association conference. Additionally, a chicken coop has been constructed and layers have been delivered. These projects provide education, training and skills to incarcerated persons which they can take with them upon release, while also moving the prison system to food self-sufficiency.



PHOTOS: Incarcerated persons (above) preparing farm land. Completed chicken coop (below) built by the team.



PHOTOS: Ken Rust (blue shirt, above) of Enterprise Aquatics building aquaponic system at Haitian prison, followed by training and productive fish ponds (right).



MANY THANKS TO OUR 2021 VOLUNTEERS, SUCH AS

- Dr. Irving Waldman of Miami who reads thousands of digital x-rays from prisons in Haiti;
- Linda Waldman of Miami who prepares radiology reports;

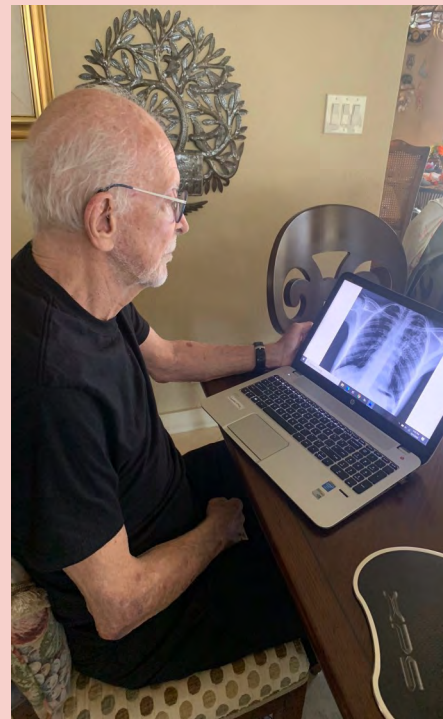


PHOTO: Dr. Irving Waldman reading x-rays for tuberculosis screening

- Since 2012, Dr. Irving and Linda Waldman have read x-rays and prepared reports for more than **50,000** persons in Haiti's prisons!
- Cathy Lynn May, Florida, who provides accounting and support services;
- Dr. Anne Spaulding, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, for program evaluation and support; in addition to staff and students Shanaika Grandoit MPH, Laura Dirks, Haley Kehus, MPH, Myrna Gonzalez-Montalvo
- Our volunteer Board of Directors and Officers.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BEGINS HEPATITIS C SCREENING AND TREATMENT IN LA VICTORIA PENITENTIARY



PHOTO: Laboratory located inside La Victoria Penitentiary processing thousands of hepatitis C, HIV and syphilis tests for HtW.

HtW, with a non-commercial grant from the Gilead Foundation, began an intervention to screen and treat hepatitis C among all incarcerated persons at the largest prison in the Dominican Republic, La Victoria, comprising nearly 9,000 adult men. With project director, Grace Butler of HtW and Fundacion Genesis, and the Prison Services of Dominican Republic and Ministry of Health, incarcerated persons are receiving education about hepatitis C and the opportunity for free disease testing and treatment. Incarcerated persons are also offered screening for HIV and syphilis and provided treatment. AHF also supports the project with funding for peer educators who reach out to other incarcerated persons. This is the region's first major prison screening and treatment initiative for hepatitis C outside of the USA or Puerto Rico. The project provides counseling, testing and treatment to several hundred persons each week and will take nearly a year to reach each person.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

RubiconMD— Doctors for HtW Haiti now have electronic access to more than 120 medical specialists to assist the management of complicated patients through this innovative platform.

Project ECHO— HtW is now an official partner of Project ECHO, preparing to use live video conferencing for training, advising and supporting prison health clinicians and peer educators.

United Nations Peace Operations
HtW completed a one year advisory role to UNPO for COVID-19 mitigation strategies in post-conflict nations and developed a checklist for rapid health assessment.

COVID-19 Vaccinations offered inside Prisons of Dominican Republic

The Ministry of Health in the Dominican Republic has launched a campaign to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all incarcerated persons. HtW has been assisting as our health promoters/ peer educators provide encouragement to their peers in prison to accept the vaccine. More than 90% of the incarcerated population has been immunized to date.

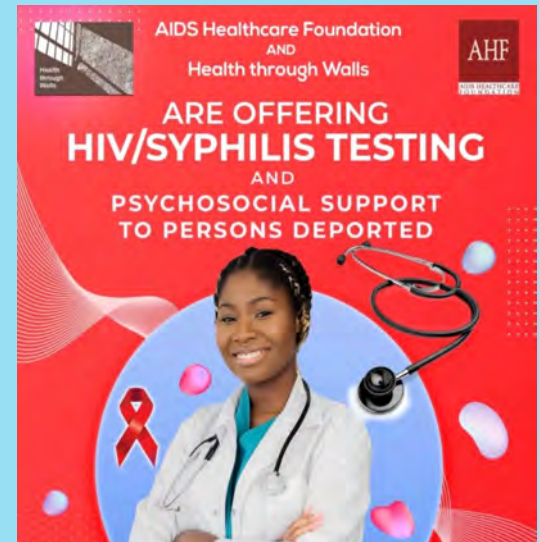


"The professionalism of your personnel and network of experts has had a significant impact in our COVID mitigation and management guidance used to support our United Nations personnel, and the staff and prisoners of national prison services in our DPO mission environments."-Justice and Corrections Service, Department of Peace Operations, United Nations, New York (Letter to HtW dated November 12, 2021)

“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 P. May, President, Health through Walls

Malawi Prison Services

Pastor Danileck Mitepa, Program Director of HtW in Malawi, visits several prisons, including the women’s and the children’s prisons to conduct HIV health education as well as to provide needed supplies including vitamin-enriched peanut butter. The prisons are overcrowded, lack basic materials and have limited medical care. AIDS Healthcare Foundation provided funding for HtW to purchase COVID-19 relief items necessary to prevent its spread including buckets to create handwashing stations, soap, bleach, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, basins, blankets, food, and more. Additionally, HtW participated in national training for COVID-19 mitigation with prison wardens.



In 2021, HtW implemented a program with AHF in **Jamaica** to provide health and psychological support to persons deported back to Jamaica from the USA and other nations. HtW continues to provide Care Management to incarcerated persons with HIV infection with support from Gil-ead Foundation as well as COVID-19 mitigation for the Jamaica Department of Correctional Services.

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Creating holiday cards to express appreciation.

Leading up to the December holidays, HtW provides art materials and compensation to incarcerated persons in Haiti who create greeting cards for HtW to send to its donors and friends. These men and women enjoy expressing themselves artistically as well as the opportunity to show their appreciation for HtW’s services.

Thank you for your support! And much appreciation for generous 2021 support from USAID, Global Fund, US State INL, Gilead Foundation, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and partners such as RubiconMD, SureAdhere and clinical advisors.

www.healththroughwalls.org

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF INCARCERATED PERSONS IN LOW-RESOURCE COUNTRIES

- Financial donations to HtW for prison health services. So many needs! Medications, supplies, technology, medical services, and more.
- Medical equipment collected by HtW for the American Correctional Association’s Container Donation Program shipping supplies to prisons of low-resource countries
- Volunteer at home or abroad
- Donate online at www.healththroughwalls.org or send check to:

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(Please include your name, address and email.)

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