



**Health
through
Walls**

Newsletter

December 2024 Edition

Sharing our latest **news, stories, and program updates.**
Thank you for being part of this journey toward real change.



HtW staff taking boat to bring supplies and treatment to Haitian prison cut off from road access due to violence.

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Navigating Crisis: Sustaining Healthcare in Haiti's Prisons and Communities Amid Escalating Violence

Haiti faces a continued severe and complex safety crisis, driven by gang violence and political instability. The National Police are under-resourced and struggling to contain the violence, leaving many citizens feeling unprotected. This lack of security and ongoing violence has hindered healthcare services, and the risk to our staff has reached alarming levels.

With a dedicated team of 130 staff, HtW has continued to deliver critical healthcare in Haiti's prisons and communities despite extraordinary challenges. Operations have had to adapt to the volatile situation. Staff members have been redeployed to safer prison locations, laptops have been provided to ensure the continuity of care, and a "call-in tree" was established so all could stay connected and responsive.

www.healththroughwalls.org

On November 25, 2024, HtW launched a mobile clinic in front of their central office to assist gang-displaced individuals and families who had set up temporary shelters outside. Over the week, 120 adults and 26 children were served, and a total of 109 HIV and syphilis tests were conducted, with seven new HIV-positive cases and five syphilis cases identified.

Despite the severity of the crisis, HtW remains committed to delivering medical care to incarcerated individuals and the community. We need your help to continue this life-saving work.



Meeting Healthcare Needs in Unexpected Ways



Any support that can be provided for the mother-child pair is greatly appreciated.

In November 2024, a 21-year-old woman was admitted to the Women's Civil Prison while 37 weeks pregnant. Two weeks later, she showed symptoms suggesting labor and was sent to a local hospital. After 24 hours, however, the hospital's medical team sent her back to the prison due to a lack of space.

Back at the prison, the staff prepared for a delivery in the dispensary, and on November 24, 2024, we all celebrated the birth of a healthy baby girl!

This endearing story illustrates HtW's capacity to continue bringing healthcare services despite ongoing challenges in Haiti. Even though in crisis, daily needs of food, water, and healthcare continue inside the prisons, and we are there to meet them. In this story, without the HtW staff, mom and baby could have had a bad outcome.



[Donate Now](#)

Your support helps provide critical medical supplies, care, and training to those in need. Donate today and make a difference in the lives of thousands.



Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Combat Tuberculosis in Mozambican Prisons

In Mozambique, from July 2023 to August 2024, Health through Walls led a transformative TB REACH-funded project implemented in collaboration with SERNAP (National Penitentiary Service), and the Center for the Health of Incarcerated Persons at Emory University.

This initiative introduced digital chest radiography read by artificial intelligence (A.I.) to screen and rapidly detect TB in three prisons in Maputo, and thanks to your help we were able to screen nearly 8,000 people!



Results

The project achieved significant milestones:

- **TB Findings: TB prevalence is 9 times more in prisons than in communities.**
- **Screening Expansion:** 7,912 individuals were screened, resulting in 246 new TB cases identified, yielding an incidence rate of 3,100 per 100,000 among the screened population.
- **Preventive Measures:** 1,343 individuals were initiated on TPT, mitigating the risk of active TB development.
- **Broader Health Benefits:** The initiative identified and addressed other conditions, including malnutrition (830 cases), skin conditions (462), chronic respiratory diseases (313), cardiovascular diseases (428), newly diagnosed HIV (28), and mental illness (70).



Moving forward, the project aims to scale these interventions to 150 additional prisons across Mozambique, ensuring broader access to life-saving TB care.

Celebrating Excellence in Service and Compassion

Grace Butler, Program Director for HtW in the Dominican Republic, Recognized as Runner-Up in the Country's "Women Who Change the World" Award

For nearly a decade, Grace Butler has led transformative health initiatives in the Dominican Republic's overcrowded prisons, impacting over 50,000 inmates, family, and friends through the Test and Treat Plus project. Beyond combating HIV, syphilis, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis, she has championed programs like "Education for Peace" and the HtW ECHO initiative, bringing dignity and hope to underserved communities.



Dr. John May, Honored with the 2024 Jack MacCarthy Service in Medicine Award

The Stritch School of Medicine proudly honored Dr. John May with the 2024 Jack MacCarthy Service in Medicine Award, recognizing his compassionate dedication to providing healthcare to underserved and incarcerated populations. As Chief Medical Officer of Centurion Health and co-founder of Health through Walls, Dr. May works nationally and internationally to deliver sustainable care to often-overlooked communities.



Expanding Healthcare Knowledge Behind Prison Walls: ECHO Projects

Starting in January 2024, Health through Walls (HtW) launched two ECHO projects: one for ending hepatitis and the other for ending HIV in prisons. This initiative equips staff and detainees with the skills to improve healthcare in places of detention. Funded by Gilead Sciences, the Latin American and Caribbean Project ECHO is led by Jessica Roquemore, and the African Project ECHO is led by Mario Vincente of Mozambique.



Through their expertise these programs have made significant strides in fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration across international borders. Healthcare providers and peer-to-peer educators from prisons in 15 countries participated in discussions over the course of monthly virtual educational sessions that were presented in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

With your support, we can extend the impact of Project ECHO to more prison systems, advancing health and education through the power of digital platforms, and winning the fight to eradicate HIV and hepatitis.



Donate to Health through Walls

Help support Health through Walls by donating or sharing with your friends.

 [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com)



We're excited to share some big news—Health through Walls has a new logo and is working on an updated website!

Our refreshed image reflects our growth and evolution as an organization, but one thing remains constant: **our unwavering commitment to providing healthcare and support to incarcerated individuals worldwide.**

Our mission to combat infectious diseases, enhance care, and promote dignity within correctional facilities continues to guide everything we do. These changes symbolize our dedication to innovation and collaboration as we work to expand our reach and impact.

We invite you to explore our new website and join us on this journey as we continue breaking barriers and building healthier futures.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Special thanks to all of our **donors, funders, volunteers, and partnership organizations** without whom our work would not be possible.

Special thanks to our volunteers this year including Dr. Marc Stern, Jane Reich, Dr. Anne Spaulding, Dr. Amadin Olotu, Rachel Boehm, Betty Colburn, Andy Leslie, Goncalo Ribeiro Das Neves and Jane Gressel for assisting with the clinical blitz in Mozambique, and Cathy-Lynn May for tracking donations.



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