



PROGRAM IN GLOBAL HEALTH DELIVERY

Bridging the Gap Between Aspiration and Action

Across the globe, **millions of people die each year** from treatable, preventable diseases like AIDS, TB and malaria. Most of these deaths occur in the **world's poorest corners**.

Today, the world has committed **unprecedented new funding** to provide treatment and save lives. But this new investment will fall short if the programs it supports are not well-designed, broadly implemented and efficiently managed. For that, the world's caregivers need to be able to rely on the most sophisticated, up-to-date knowledge and training.

For too many caregivers today, the **gap between aspiration and effectiveness** is frustratingly large. Global health professionals trying to scale up treatment programs desperately want to know what has worked, what has failed, what barriers can be predicted and how they can be overcome.



Right now, no comprehensive program exists to give them the tools they need.

To meet this challenge and bridge the gap, Partners In Health--building on 20 years of pioneering success in providing modern

medical care in the poorest settings---is joining its long-time collaborators at Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham and Women's Hospital to launch a new Program in Global Health Delivery.

The program's overarching goals? Promote innovation, develop leaders, join them in long-term communities of practice support, and---ultimately---**save lives**.

The program will bring together **expert teachers** to share the best practical knowledge with health care professionals **worldwide**, with a core focus

on significant and measurable improvements in care. Through a combination of case-based, intensive coursework and field-based learning, the program will emphasize leadership, management skill and **thoughtful decision-making** in real world situations.



The program's first HIV/AIDS Leadership Fellowship, in May, 2007, will bring together 70 top health professionals from four African countries. Students will be selected based on their **potential to lead transformative change**. After two weeks of intensive course work at Harvard University, students will participate in a year-long field project in their home countries that is specifically designed to result in measurable improvement in the delivery of HIV/AIDS care. Project teams will be linked to each other and to the program by a sophisticated Internet based communications network, with program faculty providing **continuous support**. Each team's progress will be measured quarterly.

A hallmark of the initiative will be the use of **cutting edge technology** to link participants with each other and with experts. Electronic medical records, community building software, low cost laptops, Internet video delivery, inexpensive satellite Internet access and powerful cell phones can leapfrog health care delivery in poor settings decades ahead. The program will take advantage of all these tools and forge program participants and alumni into a long-term community of practice to support continuous learning and **improvement in care**.

Partners In Health (PIH) is a non-profit corporation based in Boston and affiliated with Harvard Medical School; one of its teaching hospitals, Brigham and Women's; and the Harvard



School of Public Health. For two decades, PIH has worked in rural Haiti, bringing modern medical care to destitute communities and serving over **one million patients** in 2005 alone. Today, PIH also has programs in Peru, Russia,

Rwanda, Lesotho, Mexico, Guatemala and the US.

In partnership with in-country sister organizations, **PIH brings the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need** and works to alleviate the crushing economic and social burdens of poverty that exacerbate disease. PIH's comprehensive approach is based on five key principles: providing a wide range of basic medical services in conjunction with infectious disease treatment; offering free medical care for the poor; engaging the community in health care, with community health workers providing a vital interface between patients and PIH clinics; providing food, shelter, clean water and other basic needs; and working closely with the public sector to ensure the **long-term sustainability** of services.

PIH has long been **considered a pioneer** in the provision of care to impoverished people living with chronic infectious diseases such as **AIDS** and **tuberculosis**.

HIV/AIDS Treatment in Haiti & Africa

In Haiti, PIH was one of the first programs in the world to provide free, comprehensive HIV treatment and prevention services to the destitute sick. The program's unique success helped pave the way for unprecedented new funding and attention to the diseases of the poor, and **elements of PIH's model have now been adopted** by projects worldwide.

With support from the Clinton Foundation and private donors, Partners In Health has now brought this model of care to Rwanda. In an impoverished area that previously boasted not a single doctor, more than 420,000 people now have access not only to AIDS prevention, testing and antiretroviral treatment but to a wide and growing range of medical and social support. In 2006, PIH launched its second HIV/AIDS project in Africa, in the nation of Lesotho.

TB Treatment in Peru

There are 500,000 new cases of **multidrug-resistant tuberculosis** (MDR TB) worldwide each year. Yet for many years world health policy denied care to MDR TB patients in poor countries because treatment was thought to be too expensive and complex. In 1996, in the shantytowns of Lima, Peru, PIH began the first large-scale treatment of MDR TB in a poor country. Cure rates among the first group of patients approached 83 percent—**better than in hospital settings in the United States**. PIH's successful approach helped lead to the overhaul of global treatment policies, and the model of care PIH developed is now in use in more than 30 countries.

Strong Partnerships

The work of Partners In Health is

uniquely reinforced by "Four Pillars" of institutional support. Alliances with Harvard Medical School, one of its teaching hospitals, the Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health **provide access to skills and resources** that enhance the quality of care and translate lived experience serving the destitute sick into clinical and operational research, education and training models, and programs and policies that reduce health disparities and improve treatment outcomes.

"No program to treat people in the poorest countries has more intrigued experts than the one started in Haiti by Partners In Health."

The New York Times
