



# Learn about **GHESKIO**

AN INTRODUCTION FOR DONORS



*The community has known us for the last 33 years. You can be walking on the street outside and they will call to you as a friend... they know it's their institution.*

# Introduction to GHESKIO

Founded by Haitian health professionals in 1982, GHESKIO (Haitian Group for the study of Kaposi Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections) operates medical treatment and research centers in Port-au-Prince in addition to health clinics around Haiti. GHESKIO delivers critical healthcare services as well as social and economic support to low-income Haitians who face a myriad of challenges.

GHESKIO is well known to large global health organizations and has been funded historically by The Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria (GFATM) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), as well as other public and private organizations. It is among the few locally led health centers in the developing world whose outstanding clinical outcomes and research have resulted in uninterrupted funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) for over three decades. GHESKIO created the Haitian Global Health Alliance in the U.S. to secure financial support that supplements and, looking forward, replaces threatened funds that are currently received from PEPFAR, GFATM, and other public sources.

We offer you the opportunity to learn more about GHESKIO and discover how **best-in-class healthcare** can be effectively delivered free of charge in a resource-constrained environment to an economically challenged population.

You can read our literature (available at [www.gheskio.org](http://www.gheskio.org)), attend a webinar, or arrange an in-person meeting. We'd love to get to know you and hope that you will become sufficiently intrigued to visit GHESKIO (a direct flight from many U.S. cities), or include us in your philanthropic plans.

## GHESKIO Leadership

Dr. Jean "Bill" Pape and Dr. Marie-Marcelle Deschamps, both Haitian nationals, direct GHESKIO's staff of over 450 health and service professionals.



DR. JEAN "BILL" PAPE



DR. MARIE-MARCELLE DESCHAMPS

**"You have people who are living in darkness, we should be able to brighten their life."**

Dr. Jean "Bill" William Pape, Les Centres GHESKIO, Executive Director



# GHESKIO Services in Haiti

## **Voluntary HIV Testing, Counseling, and Treatment for HIV/AIDS**

GHESKIO provides voluntary counseling and testing as well as treatment and prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). GHESKIO's antiretroviral therapy treatment program is used as a model to treat patients and train healthcare workers throughout Haiti. GHESKIO's research on when to start HIV treatment and how to maximize retention in care has been used as a model throughout the developing world.

GHESKIO opened the first HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Center in Haiti in 1985. The number of people seeking HIV testing at GHESKIO has continued to increase, reaching more than 100,000 in 2017. A GHESKIO-Ministry of Health joint project successfully reduced the rate of transmission of HIV from pregnant mother to child from 27% to less than 5% in 2009. As HIV care and prevention services have expanded, national HIV prevalence has decreased from 6.2% (1993) to <2% (2012).

GHESKIO works with the Haitian Government to implement its prevention and care model in a network of 37 hospitals and healthcare centers throughout the country. GHESKIO provides

## **Mother's Programs**

GHESKIO focuses on the most vulnerable populations, including women, adolescents, and children who are at particular risk of acquiring HIV.


GHESKIO's Mother's Club Program supports the clinical and psychosocial needs of pregnant women, new mothers and infants. Mother's Clubs meet monthly so that women can learn skills for safe and appropriate prenatal care, receive education on optimal infant nutrition, and access opportunities to share experiences and build a support network. Life-skills training focused on empowerment and self-confidence builds self-esteem and enables women to improve their health, their lives and the lives of their children.

Since implementing the Mother's Clubs, instances of infant malnutrition have been cut by up to 50%, resulting in healthy and thriving children.



*For us, the three pillars for development are health, education, and economic opportunities...it's really global health in action.*





***GHESKIO has become  
one of the largest centers  
for the care of HIV and  
tuberculosis in the Americas.***

training, supervision, administrative support, financial oversight, and continuing quality control for all HIV and tuberculosis (TB) clinical services provided at these sites.

## ***The Adolescent Program***

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) has reported that adolescent HIV-related deaths have risen by as much as 50% in recent years. Adolescents and young adults represent one third of all new HIV infections in Haiti.

In response, GHESKIO has implemented major initiatives to specifically improve adolescent HIV care in Haiti. A dedicated adolescent HIV clinic opened in 2009 remains the only program of its kind in the country.

GHESKIO has provided treatment and adolescent-specific services for over 25,000 adolescents. Many GHESKIO staff are specifically trained to provide adolescent-friendly services, which include group care, peer-to-peer counseling, and individual case-management. Adolescent patients receive HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services in a dedicated safe space, resulting in optimal health outcomes that provide hope for a bright future to thousands of young people.

Over the past eight years, unwanted pregnancies have decreased by 75% and adherence to life-savings antiretroviral medication has increased by 50%.

## ***Tuberculosis Testing and Treatment***

TB is the leading cause of death worldwide resulting from an infectious disease. According to the World Health Organization, 10.4 million people became ill with the disease in 2016 and 1.7 million people died, including 400,000 people infected with both HIV and TB.

GHESKIO has been providing TB testing and treatment since its inception.

After the earthquake in 2010, about 1.5 million people lost their homes and were moved to camps for internally displaced persons. Many TB patients stopped receiving medication and dispersed to crowded refugee camps. Subsequently, the number of reported TB cases in Port-au-Prince and the number of patients diagnosed with multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) increased. In response, GHESKIO opened a 100-bed TB tent field hospital on its





BSL3—Microbiology Lab



campus in May 2010 and increased TB treatment capacity from 600 to 1,800 patients per year. GHESKIO is now the largest TB center in the Caribbean.

Although the most common form of TB can be treated in six months, the multi-drug resistant form of TB requires a significantly longer and more intense treatment that takes up to 2 years. Even in the best-case scenario, mortality for MDR-TB remains high. GHESKIO has a state-of-the-art inpatient treatment facility for MDR-TB, designed to provide beautiful surroundings for patients, while minimizing the risk of transmission to others. GHESKIO's treatment outcomes for MDR-TB are among the best in the world.

## ***Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment***

Significant progress has been made in the prevention and treatment of cervical cancer in resource constrained settings. However, Haiti still has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the world. Simple and cost-effective 'screen and treat' strategies and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine have yielded life-saving results. Cervical visual inspection with acetic acid can detect precancerous lesions before invasive cancer develops. Nurses can perform this test, and offer simple, same-day treatment.

GHESKIO has partnered with the Haitian Ministry of Health to scale up cervical cancer prevention programs nationwide to include screening, treatment, and vaccine administration. To date, GHESKIO has vaccinated 2,000 adolescent girls against HPV vaccine with 98% of these patients receiving the required two-dose regimen.

## ***Cholera Hospital***

When the massive cholera outbreak occurred in Haiti in 2010 following the earthquake, GHESKIO established an emergency cholera treatment center in Port-au-Prince. Since the initial outbreak, GHESKIO has treated over 100,000 individual cholera patients with a mortality rate of 0.3%. GHESKIO trained over 8,000 community health workers to conduct widespread education on sanitary practices and provide safe drinking water in the community through a chlorination program. Since August 2012, the GHESKIO chlorine factory has distributed its product in conjunction with education on how to use it to create safe water. GHESKIO engineers rapidly

respond to any request for chlorine in the event of an outbreak. To date, GHESKIO has distributed over 74,000 bottles of chlorine and educated more than 200,000 households on the importance and use of clean water.

GHESKIO and local partners, including the Haitian Ministry of Health and Partners in Health, administered 100,000 doses of the oral cholera vaccine (OCV). This successful vaccination program demonstrated that the cholera vaccine could be effectively administered during an epidemic and that logistical challenges could be overcome in a low-income country with limited infrastructure. This program has become a model for other countries to emulate and was instrumental in changing the World Health Organization's guidelines to endorse the use of OCV during cholera epidemics.

## ***Key Populations***

In an atmosphere in which men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender persons, and female sex workers (FSW) are stigmatized and often ostracized, access to optimal and timely HIV care is challenging. These key populations often do not feel welcome in traditional health facilities because of concerns about negative attitudes from health providers. Yet these populations are disproportionately affected by HIV and are in need of health services. A nationwide study in Haiti funded by USAID reported HIV prevalence at 18% in MSM.

GHESKIO has trained a cadre of MSM and FSW community health workers (CHWs), who provide community-based HIV care and serve as a link to GHESKIO's services.

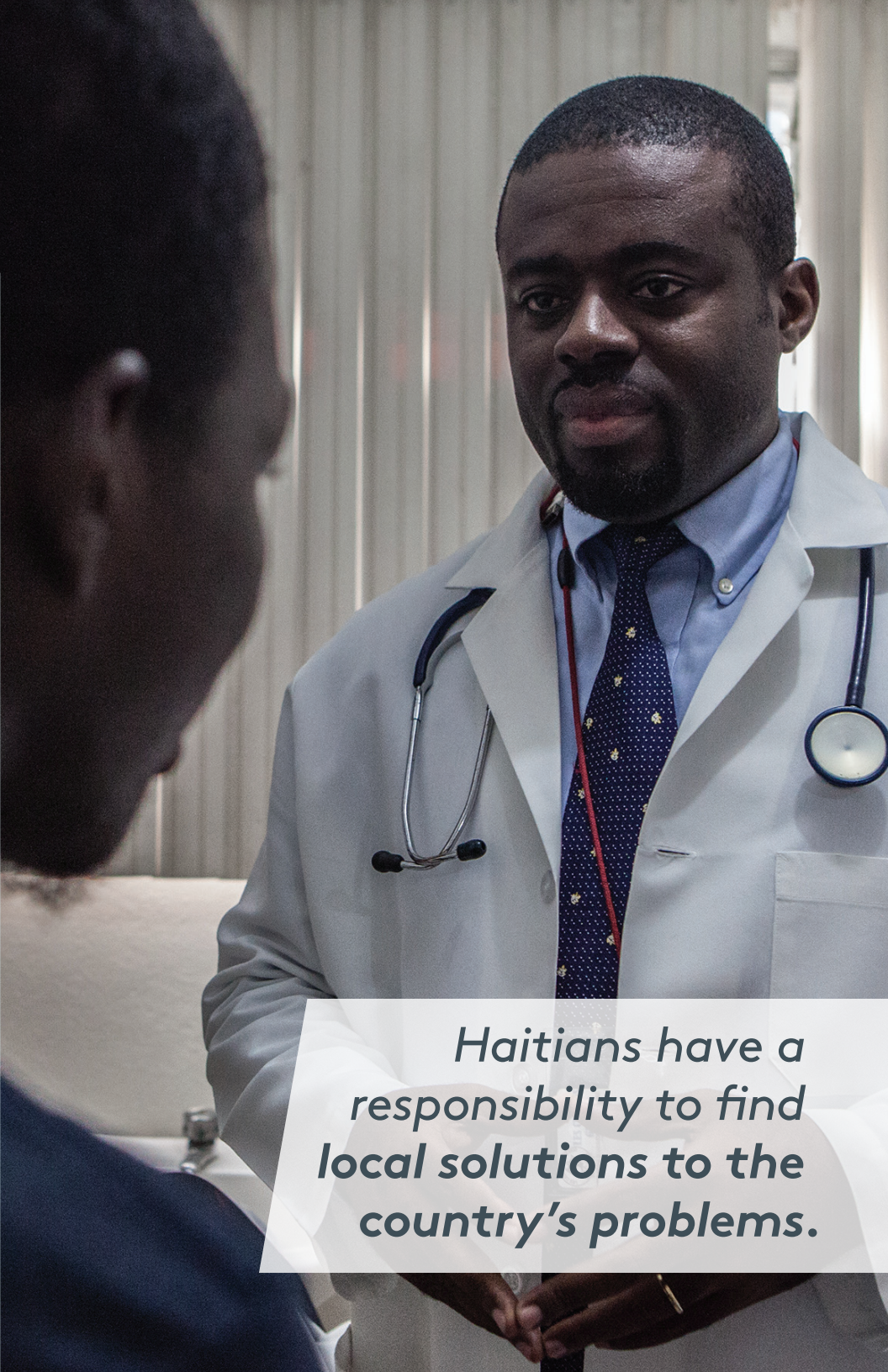
## **Women in Crisis**

In 2000, GHESKIO established a crisis hotline and clinic for victims of rape or sexual assault. Victims receive medical care, counseling, family planning, and prevention of HIV and other STIs, along with opportunities for education and job skills training.

In 2005, GHESKIO established a microcredit program with a focus toward women living with HIV, women who have suffered from sexual assault, and female commercial sex workers.

To date, GHESKIO has provided microcredit and vocational training to nearly 5,000 women; women trained in the vocational program have created home accessories, crafts, and furniture for retail sale.





*Haitians have a  
responsibility to find  
local solutions to the  
country's problems.*





## ***GHESKIO Research and Training***

There are many challenges in delivering medical care to economically challenged populations in which there is an immense demand for services and limited resources. GHESKIO has made significant investments in electronic medical records that are easily accessible and accurate across its sites. GHESKIO team members perform extensive analytics to determine best practices in treating and retaining patients in care.

Through rigorous research and innovative treatment, GHESKIO has developed programs that have become models across the world through publication of their impact in prominent medical journals that demonstrate treatment outcomes rivaling those of medical centers in the United States at a fraction of the cost. These programs have resulted in modified global guidelines for treatment of HIV/AIDS, particularly in the early stages of the disease. A recent study published in *PLOS Medicine* (2017) showed that antiretroviral therapy

can be initiated on the day of HIV diagnosis and that same-day treatment leads to increased uptake, retention in care, and viral suppression.

GHEKIO's research into the management of HIV and tuberculosis co-infection has had global impact. GHEKIO demonstrated that using the antibiotic isoniazid prophylactically decreases new infections of TB and AIDS and improves survival in HIV-positive individuals. Recommendations from GHEKIO's clinical trials and observational studies have been adopted by the World Health Organization, thereby changing international guidelines on the management of HIV-TB co-infection.

GHEKIO has worked in partnership with the Weill Cornell Medicine, Center for Global Health, since 1980. The Center collaborates with international partners to improve the health of people in resource-poor countries through research, training, and service.

Since 2001, GHEKIO has developed a partnership with Fondation Merieux (FM) Lyon, France. FM provided needed expertise to build and maintain GHEKIO's Rodolphe Merieux laboratory, which includes a BSL3 unit. Fondation Merieux also provides support for microcredit programs aimed at HIV-infected women.

GHEKIO has also secured the pro bono collaboration of a U.S.-based statistical and programming team from a prominent research firm that provides analytical and systems support to GHEKIO researchers and IT specialists to facilitate outcomes measurement and real-time review of clinical practices to improve the quality of care and patient experience.

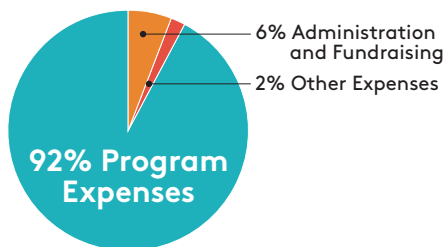
## ***GHEKIO Finances***

Since 2003, in collaboration with the Haitian Ministry of Health, GHEKIO has been funded by GFATM, PEPFAR, USAID, MAC AIDS Fund, other foundations, and a small number of individual donors. The National Institutes of Health has funded GHEKIO's research for over 30 years.

Because of the high quality of care at GHEKIO, the demand for services has rapidly increased. Meanwhile, international funding for humanitarian services in Haiti has decreased. This has placed significant strain on GHEKIO's doctors, nurses, and patients. To maintain our high quality of care and to meet the rising demand for services, we need to raise additional funds.

**GHESKIO must now rely on the generosity of individual donors more than ever before** to fill programmatic gaps and to create the flexibility to maintain critical life-saving programs.

To narrow the impending funding gaps, our U.S.-based partner, Haitian Global Health Alliance, has set a fundraising goal of \$5,000,000 (by 2020) to support GHESKIO's life-saving work. Haitian Global Health Alliance enables U.S. donors to make gifts to GHESKIO that are tax deductible. Haitian Global Health Alliance's operating expenses are underwritten by angel funders for the next five years; thus, **100% of U.S. donations go directly to support GHESKIO in Haiti.**



## Contact GHESKIO

For more information about GHESKIO in Haiti, please contact Scott Morgan in the U.S. at [info@hgha.org](mailto:info@hgha.org). Available information includes peer-reviewed journal articles, GHESKIO's local and global impact, GHESKIO partnerships, and GHESKIO's awards and global recognition. Or visit [www.gheskio.org](http://www.gheskio.org).



SCOTT MORGAN

## Donate to GHESKIO

**There are many ways you can contribute to sustain GHESKIO.**

- Go to our website at [www.gheskio.org](http://www.gheskio.org) and click on the DONATE NOW button (all donations to GHESKIO through Haitian Global Health Alliance are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law). You can support a specific program or provide general support that will go where it's needed most.
- Host a house party to help us spread the word about GHESKIO's innovations in HIV/AIDS and TB prevention, treatment, research and training in Haiti.
- Come visit us! We host delegations to our sites in Port-au-Prince to meet GHESKIO doctors, nurses, and social service professionals so you can see firsthand how GHESKIO is changing lives.



# GHESKIO By the Numbers

**Treatment and Care:** GHESKIO network includes two large centers located in Port-au-Prince with 35 collaborating public and private hospitals nationwide.

**AIDS:** GHESKIO is one of the largest AIDS care centers in the Americas. As of July 2018, the GHESKIO network has provided lifesaving antiretroviral therapy to 30% of Haiti's 100,000 patients on treatment.

**Tuberculosis:** GHESKIO is one of the largest TB centers in the Americas, with roughly 3,000 patients diagnosed in 2016 and 2017.

**Other STIs:** GHESKIO is the largest center in Haiti for the prevention and care of STIs other than HIV. In 2017, 6,597 cases were diagnosed and treated.

**Cholera:** GHESKIO evaluated over 100,000 patients for cholera and admitted 18,710 patients with acute diarrhea for treatment and care. GHESKIO, with Partners in Health, was the first to introduce OCV in Haiti. In April 2012, 50,000 persons in the slums of City of God received OCV and over 74,000 bottles of chlorine were provided to 200,000 households. The City of God has been free of cholera ever since.

**HPV:** GHESKIO successfully provided HPV vaccines to 2,000 adolescent girls both in and out of schools.

**Adolescents:** GHESKIO has opened the only unit in Haiti dedicated to the well being of adolescents at risk for HIV, other STIs, TB, and unwanted pregnancies. Over 25,000 adolescents have benefited from these services.

**Gender-based violence:** GHESKIO opened the first center for rape victims in Haiti in 2000, with over 5,000 persons served.

**Global health:** GHESKIO provides microcredit to over 5,000 HIV-positive women, support for primary and secondary school students (more than 1,000 scholarships) as well as for 350 students at Prince Albert Primary School located at the GHESKIO downtown campus.

**Training:** Since 1993, GHESKIO has trained 16,526 health care professionals including 4,371 physicians, 6,338 nurses, and 2,021 laboratory technicians. 475,101 community and religious leaders were informed about Haiti's major public health diseases. In partnership with Quisqueya University and Weill Cornell Medical College, GHESKIO initiated the first Master of Public Health degree (2005) and the first Nurse Practitioner (2009) program in Haiti.

**Research:** GHESKIO has published over 250 articles in some of the best medical journals providing important data that has helped changed WHO guidelines on AIDS, tuberculosis, and cholera.

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All photos by Bahare Khodabande

