"For some of us, this hospital is the culmination of a dream dating back a quarter century, and underlines our commitment to the country and people of Haiti, which is stronger than ever after the earthquake."

– Dr. Paul Farmer
In Haiti, an impoverished country of almost 9 million people with the worst basic health indicators and highest rates of extreme poverty in the Western Hemisphere, high quality health care for people living in extreme poverty is in short supply.

Partners In Health (PIH) has over two decades of experience in improving the health and well-being of some of Haiti’s poorest communities. In all of our work we strive to achieve two overarching goals: to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them, and to serve as an antidote to despair. Together with our Haitian sister organization Zanmi Lasante, (“Partners In Health” in Haitian Creole) we are tackling the twin epidemics of disease and poverty through medical care and community-level social support and poverty alleviation programs. Together, PIH and Zanmi Lasante (ZL) have been providing health care to people in rural Haiti regardless of their ability to pay for more than 20 years.

Mirebalais Hospital
National Referral Facility, State-of-the-Art Teaching Hospital in Central Haiti

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Mirebalais Hospital background

Before the earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, the town of Mirebalais, located at the intersection of two main roads in Central Haiti, was the hub of a catchment area with a population of more than 140,000 residents. These two roads have been major thoroughfares for earthquake refugees fleeing Port-au-Prince in search of new places to call home. Due to its high-traffic location, an estimated 20,000 new residents have migrated to the area since the earthquake.

With the landscape of health care provision and education in Haiti having changed dramatically following January 12, 2010, the Haitian Ministry of Health, local Mirebalais officials, PIH, and ZL have together expanded plans for a community hospital into plans for a national referral hospital and have accelerated the time line for construction. The Mirebalais Hospital has become one of the central projects in Haiti’s reconstruction efforts and will help transform the country’s health sector.

Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of PIH, Chair of the Harvard Medical School’s Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and Chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, says of the facility, “For some of us, this hospital is the culmination of a dream dating back a quarter century, and underlines our commitment to the country and people of Haiti, which is stronger than ever after the earthquake. It is also a manifestation of our integrated model of research, teaching and service, and will serve as a site for all three. Mirebalais is being developed by a broad coalition which includes hundreds of individuals, many foundations, private corporations, Harvard teaching hospitals, including Brigham and Women’s, Harvard Medical School, and of course our Haitian colleagues at Zanmi Lasante and the Ministry of Health. We are fortunate to be building upon the lessons learned in ZL’s long experience of strengthening infrastructure in Haiti, and to have the support of partners both old and new in this essential effort.”

On July 3, 2010 PIH and ZL broke ground for the hospital, and by the first anniversary of the earthquake, the seven buildings of the main hospital campus, comprising 180,000 square feet, will be standing. Work on the interiors structures will begin in late 2010, and by January 12, 2012, Mirebalais Hospital plans to be serving patients and training the next generation health care leaders in Haiti. When complete, the Mirebalais Hospital will provide relief to the badly damaged Hôpital de l’Université d’État d’Haïti (HUEH)—currently the central public teaching hospital in Haiti—as it rebuilds.
Mirebalais Hospital Overview

The construction of the new national referral center and teaching hospital will bring to bear all that ZL has learned over the past 25 years about hospital design that serves health care delivery, provides a dignified setting for patients in very poor settings, and allows health professionals to train and develop new skills. The long-term viability of Haiti’s health system depends on rebuilding both the delivery of clinical services and the health education system to ensure sufficient levels of nurses, doctors, and rehabilitative personnel in the country.

Estimates of demand for health care in the area suggest that the new hospital will serve approximately 450-550 patients per day. The facility will meet this need with 320 beds—more than twice the capacity of our largest existing facility in Haiti—and with quality, comprehensive clinical services. Through innovations in hospital design for a setting like Haiti, the hospital will be able to provide many services that are not available at any other public site in the country.

The addition of a large-scale training center to the campus will provide a quality educational environment for medical and nursing students to gain experience in the delivery of high-quality care in a rural setting. Health professionals will have the chance to develop strong links to the hospitals and universities throughout Haiti as well as universities and teaching hospitals in the United States that are committed to supporting the medical training of Haitian clinicians.

Clinical Services Available

- Primary care
- Pediatrics
- Emergency medicine
- Neonatal, pediatric, adult medicine, and surgical intensive care
- Infectious disease services
- Chronic disease management
- Women’s and reproductive health care
- Advanced surgical services
- Rehabilitative medicine and physical therapy
- Comprehensive nutrition program
- Mental health and social services
- Health promotion and disease prevention programs

Highlights of Facility Design, Capacity, and Function

Expanding clinical service capacity through advanced facility design

- Multiple intensive care units with advanced life-saving equipment, including full ventilatory support and monitoring
- Operating theatre complex includes six operating rooms capable of accommodating complex procedures, including intrathoracic surgery
- Sophisticated laboratory services, including microbiology
- Advanced diagnostics suites with digital radiology capabilities

Improving health professional training capacity through advanced facility design

- Patient beds spaced to accommodate teaching rounds for students
- Modern internet and communications technologies to support educational exchanges, distance learning, and remote collaborations
- Multiple offices, classrooms and conference rooms
- Student and staff dormitories

Ensuring high quality, reliable care through functional systems innovations

- State-of-the-art infection control measures integrated into all patient care spaces, including ultraviolet lighting, ultra-filtered HVAC systems, and seamless flooring in the operating theatre complex and laboratory space
- Wall-mounted oxygen and medical gases for inpatient beds
- Potable, running water throughout all buildings
- Reliable electricity and internet technologies functionally integrated into each building
- Fully accessible throughout to people with disabilities

Minimizing environmental impact via green design and construction techniques

- Photovoltaic solar panels oriented towards direct sunlight to generate supplemental electricity
- Ultra-high-efficiency ceiling fans and light fixtures
- Extensive use of natural ventilation and shading
**Financial Summary**

The total estimated cost of the new hospital and training center is $15 million; more than $7.5 million has already been committed to this project by generous funders. The approximate breakdown of the phase one budget allots 70 percent for construction and labor costs, with roughly 10 percent each for design and site preparation (planning, management, etc.), equipment and furnishings (medical equipment, information technology and furniture), and reserve costs. The estimated yearly operating budget is between $7.6 and $8.5 million.

The work described here represents one of PIH’s most pressing priorities in Haiti over the next two years. Please consider joining us in this unprecedented endeavor to help rebuild Haiti’s national health system.

**Breakdown of expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architecture, engineering, program management, Haiti team expenses</td>
<td>$535,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical equipment, IT, furniture</td>
<td>$1,377,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitework</td>
<td>$1,196,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction of shell</td>
<td>$6,178,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction finishes and mechanical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction contingency (12%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project reserve</td>
<td>$1,471,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff housing and furnishings</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,969,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**About Partners In Health**

Partners In Health is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to delivering quality health care to people and communities devastated by the joint burdens of poverty and disease. PIH’s work has three goals: to care for patients, to alleviate the root causes of disease, and to share lessons learned around the world.

In Haiti there is a saying, *tout moun se moun*, or “everyone is human.” Paul Farmer, Ophelia Dahl, Jim Yong Kim, and the other founders of PIH began acting on these simple words when they first started working with the people in a small squatter settlement called Cange in Haiti’s Central Plateau over two decades ago. Today, the small clinic in Cange has grown into one of the most effective and widely admired health programs in the developing world and proves it is indeed possible to provide quality health care even in the poorest of settings.

Building on this success, PIH has extended its work across twelve countries and achieved numerous advances in global health. Key accomplishments include pioneering models for treating multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, sustainable approaches to delivering comprehensive, high-quality health care through the public sector, and the integration of social and economic services with health care delivery, as well as encouraging their adoption in other resource-poor settings. Through strategic partnerships with academic institutions, governments, multilateral agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations, PIH with its local partner organizations has leveraged these successes to catalyze substantive change in international policy and reallocation of global resources and has helped inspire a movement for equity in global public health and medicine.
“The new teaching hospital at Mirebalais will be a model for our national health system, offering high-quality medical services, a place for our clinicians to study and train, and hope and dignity to all who will seek—and offer—care there. We look forward to building upon our long-standing partnership with Partners In Health/Zanmi Lasante with this desperately-needed facility.”

Dr. Alex Larsen, Haitian Minister of Health