Meeting Unforeseen Challenges

Before the first COVID-19 case was even confirmed in Haiti, Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) was ready.

Our staff mobilized quickly to create emergency protocols and establish a COVID Treatment Center. Community health workers educated our communities about disease prevention. Together, we saved lives and contained the spread of the virus. Almost inexplicably, Haiti was spared the worst of the first wave of the pandemic but HAS did its part in managing COVID, treating nearly 100 cases. We stand ready for what the future may bring. Additional measures supported our efforts:

9,100+ Gallons of sanitizer distributed

600 Handwashing stations and 200 hands-free tippy taps installed

A new oxygen generator received from USAID/Project Santé, a crucial resource for treating COVID as well as for surgery
Making Essential Healthcare Accessible

While many people deferred health services during the COVID-19 outbreak, our medical team carried on with their life-saving work.

Essential, emergency care is always available at HAS, every night and every day. In 2020, our surgeons performed more surgeries than the previous year. The advanced care HAS provides is available nowhere else in our region.

11,259
Hospital admissions

51,203
Patient days of care

2,600
Surgeries

48,610 Outpatient visits
Helping Those Most Vulnerable

Haiti has some of the lowest health outcomes in the world for women and children.

HAS is committed to changing this unjust reality. Last year maternal deaths at the hospital were the lowest in over 5 years. HAS’ high-quality, compassionate maternity and neonatal care remains among the best in all of Haiti.

8,492 Prenatal consults and 1,730 postnatal consultations

3,633 Pediatric patient admissions

808 Neonatal patients

2,774 Babies delivered

715 Cesarean sections
Still tiny at one month old, Luc is not yet ready to be discharged. He spent his first 22 days in an incubator. His mother, Melinda, 27, stays by his side.

“Those days were a very scary time for me, seeing my baby hooked up to so many tubes, and he was so small! I can’t take him home yet since he isn’t strong enough. I’m happy to see him out of the incubator, where I can see him better, and I’m allowed to touch him.”

Before giving birth, Melinda held down two jobs, one as a receptionist and another as a cashier at stores in Delmas, close to the capital. She intends to breastfeed exclusively for at least six months, and for now has left work to focus solely on her newborn and his care.

I’m very happy with the service I’ve gotten here at HAS. If we had stayed at the Verrettes hospital, there’s no way that my baby would have survived,” she explains. “I’m incredibly grateful for the doctors of HAS.”

Luc Kendy was born premature at 8 months and 5 days at a hospital in nearby Verrettes. The hospital lacked the proper equipment to care for him, so he was transferred to HAS where he is getting stronger every day.
Creating Healthy Communities

Families in Haiti’s Artibonite Valley have access to preventive healthcare services close to home – at four community health centers and through health posts and home visits led by a network of 47 community health workers.

138,991
Screenings for malnutrition

82,787
People participated in community education sessions

51,281
Home visits

16,306
Pediatric community consultations
Elemental … Clean Water

Access to clean water can reduce water borne diseases by 66%.

HAS provides safe water and improved hygiene and sanitation for communities throughout our region. On the HAS campus, a multi-phase water system restoration is complete, including refurbishing our iconic 120-foot, 1950s era water tower.

50 Household bio sand filters

Daily clean water for

30,000 in Deschapelles

55,000 gallons of clean water processed each day

1 new latrine block and 2 latrine block repairs for local schools and community health centers
A Smart Hospital

From the very beginning, HAS was envisioned as a sustainable, smart hospital.

Building elements were structured around the natural environment, featuring passive cooling and heating and earthquake resilience, decades before the norm. HAS continues to add “smart,” environmentally-friendly features as the years pass. With solar panels donated over the years by our Swiss partners, we currently have the capacity to generate one-third of the hospital’s energy needs. Recent gifts of inverters, batteries and solar panels from CARIS have enabled us to use renewable energy at community health centers as well.
We Create the Future Together

As HAS celebrates 65 years, we know that we could not reach this milestone without supporters throughout the world.

Millions of people have been touched by HAS, but there is still more to do. HAS is ever present. We will meet future challenges head-on and continue building a healthy future for Haitians in the Artibonite Valley.

Mèsi Anpil! Thank You!

“May the flame of ‘Reverence for Life’ continue to burn until it has consumed us with a sincere and profound concern for all life that suffers.”

– Dr. Larimer Mellon at the hospital dedication
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