



# Konbit Sante

CAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

2009 Annual Report





Nate Nickerson, Executive Director (right), with Emmanuela Norcéide Béliard, Konbit Sante's In-Country Program Manager.

## Dear Friends of Konbit Sante,

Konbit Sante has been working in partnership with our colleagues in northern Haiti for eight years now, and in that time hundreds of supporters have invested considerable time, talent, and resources in realizing our mission of *“supporting the development of a sustainable health care system to meet the needs of the Cap-Haitien community with maximum local direction and support.”* Inherent in this mission are two ideas that we believe are keys to sustainable, positive change – the importance of strengthening systems, and building the capacity for self-determination.

We know that a strong functional public health system will result in saved lives and improved quality of life. But, what *makes* a system a system? Just as a random pile of pipes cannot be viewed as a plumbing system, a functional health system is much more than simply a collection of many disconnected health programs and clinics. Therefore, we focus as much on *the functional connections between* the component parts of the system as we do on each individual part. For us, the parts of the health “system” include everything from community involvement and empowerment, to the health centers and their community outreach and education efforts, to the regional referral hospital and Ministry of Public Health. Importantly, they also include linkages and coordination between the many private clinics working in the area and the Ministry of Public Health, so that they can work as a whole for the benefit of the community.

We also believe that Haiti and Haiti’s future belong to Haitians. At Konbit Sante we share in the belief that aid is not an end in itself, but rather, as President Obama recently said in a speech in Ghana, *“...the true sign of success is not whether we are a source of aid that helps people scrape by – it is whether we are partners in building the capacity for transformational change.”* He went on to say, *“Aid is not an end in itself. The purpose of foreign assistance must be creating the conditions where it is no longer needed.”* We agree. Everything we do is aimed at strengthening the capacity of our Haitian partners, and we judge our success on how successful they are in realizing their dreams to provide quality care to their own people.

Building long-term capacity sounds like the right thing to do, but how is this accomplished? We will always be a work in progress, but our evolving and ever-deepening understanding of the needs and complicated realities in Haiti has led us to develop and employ these multifaceted approaches:

**Support improvements of clinical care in the public health care facilities through volunteer partnerships:** Self-supporting Konbit Sante volunteers travel to Haiti frequently. Over time, long-term, supportive relationships have been established with key Haitian colleagues in the public system, some of whom have had the opportunity to visit the U.S. for periods of weeks to months for training and planning with Konbit Sante volunteers.



**Empower and support Haitian “heroes”:** There are many Haitians with extraordinary skills and passion for improving the health system. Konbit Sante identifies, hires, partners with, and supports some of them in leadership and teaching positions, community outreach and education, and others roles that are integrated with or complement the Ministry of Public Health staff.

**Help procure critical resources and supplies:** It is difficult for dedicated clinicians and health workers to be effective in an environment which lacks many of the most basic needed supplies, pharmaceuticals, and equipment. Konbit Sante develops linkages and strategies for obtaining these needed resources.

**Make frequent facility and infrastructure improvements:** Haitian health workers often have to work around severe limitations of poor facilities and infrastructure. Konbit Sante is working to improve facilities and electrical infrastructure, and to provide adequate amounts of clean water and sanitation – all crucial to improving the delivery of health care.

**Support community outreach, education, and engagement:** Konbit Sante began with a real focus on hospital-based clinical care. Over time, however, we have been increasingly involved in strengthening the public health system’s capacity to reach out to the community on a wide range of health issues, in part by supporting community health workers.

**Support management:** Effective delivery of health services needs well-managed institutions. Training, collaborative development of business plans and basic

information systems are becoming a focus of new partnerships.

**Collaboration and coordination with other organizations:** Konbit Sante has established a capable and respected Haitian administrative staff in our Cap-Haitien office, with strong working relationships with our Haitian colleagues and other non-profit and charitable organizations. Increasingly, other groups that bring significant resources to the area rely on our capacity to assist them on the ground.

I think that you will see from this report that a tremendous amount has been accomplished using these approaches, but there is still much to do. The going is not always easy. At times progress seems painfully slow, but ours is a true partnership that, with a good dose of tenacity and the help of many, has yielded some extraordinary results. We continue to learn a great deal in our *konbit*, and our commitment to helping Haitians build their own better future only grows. I am proud to share the highlights of 2009 with you, and I trust that you will find fidelity to our mission and vision reflected in all we do.

Sincerely,



Nathan Nickerson, R.N, DrPH  
Executive Director



## Highlights of 2009

Several important additions were made to our **in-country team** during the past year. Emmanuela Norcéide Béliard, RN was hired to be our new In-Country Program Manager in Cap-Haitien. Funds from Direct Relief International enabled us to hire Supply Chain Coordinator, Nadine Mondestin, to develop systems to manage donated supplies, equipment, and medicines. Dr. Rony St. Fleur was hired as the second full-time pediatrician to train health care providers and improve the quality of care for children at our two partner hospitals. Miguelle Antoine, RN, was hired to supervise the six Konbit Sante-sponsored *agents de santé* (community health workers) at Fort St. Michel Health Center. She has instituted weekly training seminars and now visits the *agents de santé* in the field to provide guidance and support.

**Obstetrical services** at the Fort St. Michel Health Center have grown dramatically under Dr. Youseline Telemaque's leadership. In the community, she provides monthly training about safe birthing practices and other women's health issues to traditional birth attendants, and she has trained a group of 40 community leaders about sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and general reproductive health. Women's health initiatives are supported by Oxfam UK and USAID/MSH/SDSH PROJECT. Women's health staff and volunteers also completed a study of postpartum women's family planning needs and practices which will inform program development this year.

The leadership of the **pediatric service** at Justinian Hospital, including Konbit Sante-supported pediatricians, Drs. Paul Euclide Toussaint and Rony Saint Fleur, have embraced quality improvement processes such as instituting weekly mortality and morbidity review meetings, introducing practice-based research into their residency training program, and by making significant management changes to reduce infections; all resulting in improved pediatric outcomes.

To further **build capacity through training**, five Haitian physicians and one hospital administrator came to the U.S. for clinical and administrative training and planning with their U.S. colleagues.

We have made significant and sustainable progress toward realizing our goal of having **life-saving**

**resources** available when and where they're needed. Konbit Sante, with support from USAID/MSH/SDSH PROJECT shipped our tenth and eleventh containers of largely donated and carefully selected supplies and equipment to Cap-Haitien. This year, partnering with Direct Relief International, we procured the first of what will be an annual additional container of hurricane relief supplies to be pre-prepositioned and available to the Ministry of Public Health so that it can respond quickly in the event of a natural disaster.

This year, 31 volunteers made 43 self-supported trips to Cap-Haitien, **establishing and expanding partnerships**. Their work included conducting in-depth situational assessments for internal medicine, community health, pediatrics, nursing, the blood transfusion system, and dentistry. These assessments provide the basis for informed decisions about strengthening these services. For example, as recommended in a prior assessment of infection control practices, in-service training by a volunteer infection control nurse kicked off a campaign emphasizing hand washing with Purell hand sanitizer at Justinian Hospital, resulting in a doubling of its use; an extremely important step in reducing infections in hospital settings.

Continuing our work to improve **health infrastructure**, the initial phase of our water project was completed, including the creation of an additional well and pumping and disinfection station. These efforts, made possible by Rotary International, GlobalGiving, and MINUSTAH/UNOPS, have greatly increased the availability of water to the hospital for sanitation and infection control. Konbit Sante volunteers also expanded and upgraded the hospital's computer and communications capacity, and installed a donated rolling medical records filing system in the Family Medicine Center, replacing an outgrown system and enabling efficient storage of many more medical records in limited space.

Consistent with our approach of respecting and supporting Haitian regulatory systems, Konbit Sante became a **legally recognized nonprofit organization in Haiti** this year.

## Focus on Community Outreach

### Creating Sustainable Links to the Community

While improving the care at the Justinian Hospital has been, and continues to be, a big part of our focus, we realize that to affect the health *status* of the community, we need to support effective outreach to people throughout the community; to provide community-based services and help connect them to the health system. To that end, our volunteer public health team established ties with a small health facility serving the very poor neighborhood of Fort St. Michel on the edge of Cap-Haitien. Roughly 40,000 people live there in often makeshift housing with limited access to potable water and sanitation, and frequently suffer from the many diseases associated with poverty.

Konbit Sante began this effort five years ago by sponsoring training and salary for two community health workers, known in Haiti as *agents de santé*, initially focusing on improving the effectiveness of the clinic's tuberculosis program. The nurse manager of the TB clinic attributes the clinic's very impressive treatment-completion rates to Konbit Sante's support which has enabled them to reach more people with education, identify new cases, minimize disruptions in needed supplies, and provide food for people under treatment.

Today, through a grant from USAID/MSH/SDSH PROJECT, we support the salaries of eight *agents de santé* (with plans to hire two more soon), and their roles have expanded to include an even broader array of services and activities. Two *agents de santé* work under the supervision of the Pediatric Department of the Justinian Hospital to provide follow-up care to malnourished children after hospital discharge. At Fort St. Michel Health Center, the *agents de santé* have received training in family planning, pregnancy, and women's health from Dr. Youseline Telemaque, the Konbit Sante-sponsored OB/GYN. They are working with Dr. Telemaque to build the skills of the local traditional birth attendants who attend the vast majority of births in Haiti. Educating them to recognize obstetrical emergencies and provide better overall care holds the promise of lower infant and maternal mortality rates in a high-risk population.

As part of a two-year program evaluation study related to intestinal parasites, we trained *agents de santé* to field test hemoglobin levels. Together with volunteer Haitian

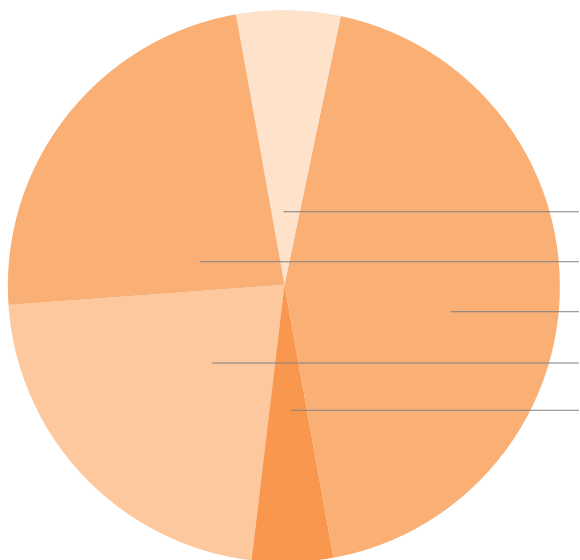
nursing students from the local public nursing school and Konbit Sante volunteers, they helped demonstrate that widespread treatment for intestinal parasites could reduce rates of moderate to severe anemia in women of reproductive age by 50 percent – and healthier mothers mean better birth outcomes.

From vaccination campaigns to health surveillance activities, from community parasite treatment to family planning activities, the *agents de santé* role is essential. We believe that supporting these workers can produce some of the greatest impact for the investment that we can make. Because these well-trained public health professionals are so integral to a sustainable, community-connected, system for introducing a variety of health interventions, we anticipate continued expansion of this program, with more workers, more training, improved referral systems, and more material support.



## Konbit Sante by the Numbers

Fiscal Year September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009



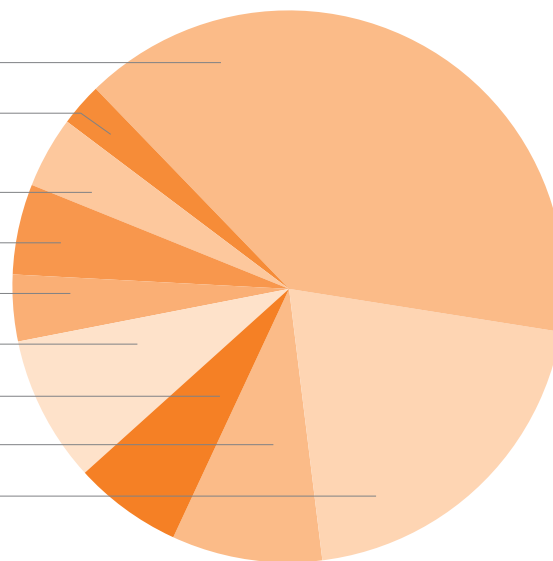
### 2009 Total Income

Revenue Category	Amount (\$)
6.3% Restricted Donations	48,675
23.4% Undesignated Donations	182,075
43.9% In-kind Contributions	342,488
21.8% Foundation and Grants	170,183
4.6% Other	36,115
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$779,536</b>

Note: Revenue does not reflect value of volunteer time and skills contributed. Value of the professional time volunteers spent in Haiti is estimated at \$180,497.

### 2009 Total Expenses

Expense Category	Amount (\$)	
Equipment and Supplies	294,064	39.6%
Other Clinical Initiatives (Surgery, Emergency, Nursing)	19,192	2.6%
Community Health	30,695	4.2%
Women's Health	39,664	5.3%
Internal Medicine	28,198	3.8%
Pediatrics	64,870	8.7%
Infrastructure	47,809	6.4%
Administration Expenses	64,964	8.7%
General Program Expenses	154,065	20.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$743,522</b>	



**Fiscal Year 2009 Net Income: \$36,014**



## Konbit Sante Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2009 and August 31, 2008

ASSETS	<u>08/31/09</u>	<u>08/31/08</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
Current Assets			
Cash	\$120,337	\$205,854	(\$85,517)
Investments	\$134,617	\$0	\$134,617
Accounts Receivable	\$10,897	\$24,763	(\$13,866)
Prepaid Travel Expenses	\$400	\$0	\$400
Total Current Assets	<u>\$266,251</u>	<u>\$230,618</u>	<u>\$35,633</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$266,251</u></b>	<b><u>\$230,618</u></b>	<b><u>\$35,633</u></b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>08/31/09</u>	<u>08/31/08</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
Liabilities			
Accrued Payroll	\$2,009	\$0	\$2,009
Net Assets			
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$76,169	\$78,559	(\$2,390)
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$188,073	\$152,059	\$36,014
Total Net Assets	<u>\$264,242</u>	<u>\$230,618</u>	<u>\$33,624</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$266,251</u></b>	<b><u>\$230,618</u></b>	<b><u>\$35,633</u></b>

## Konbit Sante Statement of Activities

For the twelve months ending August 31, 2009 and August 31, 2008

Revenues:		<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Undesignated donations		\$182,075	\$155,801
Restricted donations		\$48,675	\$48,456
In-kind contributions		\$342,488	\$303,335
Grants		\$170,183	\$146,876
Other		\$36,115	\$9,721
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b><u>\$779,536</u></b>	<b><u>\$664,189</u></b>
Expenses:			
Salaries		\$220,052	\$168,881
Benefits and taxes		\$19,549	\$23,396
Rent and utilities		\$15,165	\$14,932
Supplies and equipment		\$327,886	\$272,460
Postage and shipping		\$10,529	\$75,889
Travel		\$91,308	\$36,592
Improvements to Haitian assets		\$23,913	\$34,425
Marketing/Fundraising/Development		\$13,529	\$6,937
Other		\$21,591	\$9,646
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b><u>\$743,522</u></b>	<b><u>\$643,158</u></b>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets		<b><u>\$36,014</u></b>	<b><u>\$21,031</u></b>
Change in temporarily restricted net assets			
Contributions		\$86,052	\$93,115
Net assets released from restriction		(\$88,442)	(\$96,859)
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets		<b><u>(\$2,390)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$3,744)</u></b>
Change in permanently restricted net assets		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets		<b><u>\$33,624</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,287</u></b>
Net assets at beginning of period		<b><u>\$230,618</u></b>	<b><u>\$213,331</u></b>
Net assets at end of period		<b><u>\$264,242</u></b>	<b><u>\$230,618</u></b>

## Where Would We Be Without You?

**We gratefully acknowledge the many contributions made to Konbit Sante during the fiscal year 2009 (September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009).**

Konbit Sante wishes to express appreciation for **foundation grants** from the following organizations:

Conservation, Food & Health Foundation	Pan American Health and Education Foundation
Direct Relief International	Rotary International
Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation	SG Foundation
Francis Hollis Brain Foundation	United States Agency for International Development (USAID/MSH/SDSH PROJECT)
GlobalGiving	
Oxfam UK	

Our thanks to **in-kind donors** who provided space to work, medical equipment and supplies, educational opportunities for our Haitian colleagues and much more:

American Academy of Pediatrics	Len Freeman Global Links	Elizabeth McLellan/ Partners for World Health	Portland Free Clinic Robert Roswell Elizabeth Rudenberg
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	GOJO Industries Chris Grasse Lynn Hannings	Maine Medical Center Martin's Point Health Care	Sigma Medical Equipment Services Time Warner Cable
American Cutting Edge, Inc.	Donald Haskell Health Dialog	Mercy Hospital Milestone Foundation	University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Haiti Project
Dr. Richard and Bea Broder-Oldach	The Florida Association of Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and America	Judith Moll MAP International	University of New England
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Drs. Charles de Sieyes and Carol Ward			
Paul Dymont, MD			
Flatbread Company			
Florida Heart CPR			

Our special appreciation to those who have generously volunteered their time to travel to Haiti during the past year, and also to those who have rolled up their sleeves at home to make our work possible:

Warren Alpern, MD*	Brad Cushing, MD	Carol Kuhn, MD*	Curt Sachs
Sobia Ansari, MD, MPH*	Diane Devlin, RN	Eva Lathrop, MD, MPH*	John Saucier, MD
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Samuel Broaddus, MD*	Renee King, MD, MPH*	Robert Roswell*	Wendy Taylor*
Judy Carl*	Gary Laclaire*	Nicholas Risko, MPH*	Hugh Tozer*
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Dalinda Carpenter*	Steve Larned, MD*	Amy Robbins, MPH*	John Wilcox*
Greg Connolly, MD*	Ann Lemire, MD*		
Kristen Connolly*	Brianna Bean Hirsch, MPH*		

And to the *many* others who help load containers of equipment and supplies.

\*Traveled to Haiti



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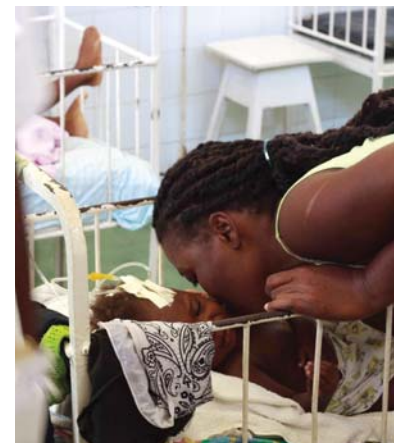
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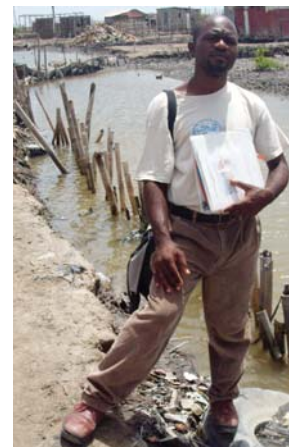
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### HAITIAN PROVERB

*Piti piti, zwazo fe nich li.*

*Little by little, the bird makes his nest.*

*This Haitian proverb reminds us that progress is made in small steps, and that big things can be accomplished with patience and persistence.*

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Started in 2000, Konbit Sante Cap-Haitien Health Partnership's mission is to save lives and improve health care by building local capacity for Haitians to care for Haitians. Konbit Sante believes the key to improving health care in northern Haiti involves making long-term improvements to the public health system. To that end, Konbit Sante volunteers and staff work in collaboration with Haitian clinicians and administrators to build local capacity in all aspects of the health system – from door-to-door community outreach programs, to strengthening community health centers, to improving care at the regional referral hospital. Haiti, with a population of 9 million people, is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. In Haitian Creole, a *konbit* is a traditional Haitian method of working together to till your friends' fields as well as your own – working together toward a common goal. The word *sante* means health.

Konbit Sante is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation organized in the State of Maine. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made to Konbit Sante, P.O. Box 11281, Portland, ME 04104. To donate online, please visit [www.healthyhaiti.org](http://www.healthyhaiti.org).

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CAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

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