

# Konbit Sante

CAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

## 2022 Annual Report





# Commitment and Tenacity

Letter from the Executive Director



Tezita Negussie (left) with  
Konbit Sante Finance Manager,  
Immacula Augustin

On the cover: A nurse checks the  
vital signs of a pediatric patient at  
Justinien Hospital. Our thanks to  
Konbit Sante staff, volunteers, and  
friends for this and the other photos  
in the 2022 annual report.

Dear Friends,

The past year in Haiti was deeply challenging. Political instability led to violence and insecurity. Severe malnutrition and cholera re-emerged as access to essential goods and services deteriorated. Many health centers closed or operated below capacity because of fuel shortages. Given these circumstances, a number of people have expressed a sense of hopelessness to me, asking why they should continue to invest in Haiti or our work.

These questions and concerns are understandable. And, when faced with doubts, I remind our friends to return to and find inspiration in the foundations/roots of the organization: our values, mission, and community.

Because we believe in the dignity of all people and the right to health care regardless of means, we stay in times of crisis and work with local health facilities to ensure uninterrupted access to care.

Because our goal is to help partners create a sustainable health system, we focus on initiatives that enable institutions, communities, and health providers to withstand shocks and respond to challenges.

Because we are a community bound by a commitment to justice and equity, we find strength and solace in each other, understanding that the path is long, rough, and often uncertain.

Girded by our vision, mission, and community, Konbit Sante remained steadfast in a tumultuous year. As you will read in the report, we supported the delivery of community-based services, improvements to medical education, upgrades in infrastructure, provision of essential supplies and medicines, and other efforts that delivered improved health care to vulnerable communities in both the short and long term.

I hope you continue to find inspiration in the forces that guide our work, in our tenacity, and in our achievements. Thank you for being part of the konbit that makes this possible.

With gratitude,

Tezita Negussie, MSW, MPH

Interim Executive Director



# Resilience

*Letter from the President of the Board*

Dear Friends,

Konbit Sante welcomed in the new year with a deep sense of gratitude for all of you, our supporters. Many of you have been with us for 20 years, others are new, and all of you are critically important to the continued work and impact of Konbit Sante.

We have learned much about ourselves, our organization, and our work this year. For me, resilience is the theme that keeps rising to the top of those learnings. In the face of security risks and hyperinflation, our staff continues to serve and find creative, nimble solutions to improve the health system. Our partners have managed to grow and expand the impact of their work in the midst of a national crisis, and the communities in and around Cap-Haitien have continued to receive healthcare services provided by our staff and partners.

We have evolved and grown in the face of organizational and financial challenges. Our new streamlined structure further leverages the work of volunteers, staff, and partners to deliver essential programs in Haiti. More than 1,800 children received their vaccines in 2022. New solar power enabled care in pediatrics when there was no power. Twenty-two shipments brought medicines, supplies, and wheelchairs for those in need. This and other work that you helped make possible.

Thank you for your support as we look to 2023. We pledge to continue to improve the quality of and access to excellent health services for the people of Cap-Haitien, focusing on strengthening the whole health system.

With deep gratitude,



Eva Lathrop, MD, MPH

President, Konbit Sante Board of Directors



Eva Lathrop (right) with Konbit Sante Vice President, Youseline Telemaque, MD



# Konbit Sante’s Mission and Values

Our mission statement, developed in 2001, and our values continue to guide our work.

**Mission:** To support the development of a sustainable health system to meet the needs of the Cap-Haitien community with maximum local direction and support.

We believe in the **dignity of all people** and that **all people have the right to health care regardless of personal means**.

In Haitian Kreyol, a *konbit* is a **group of people working together for a common goal**. *Sante* means health. So Konbit Sante is a group of people working together, shoulder to shoulder, to improve health. That is our model.

We focus on **building local capacity**. We believe in **strengthening Haiti’s health system**, from the grassroots community level to tertiary hospital care, **rather than developing a secondary, parallel system**.

We use the **World Health Organization’s framework of health system building blocks** to remind us of the importance of

financial viability, a sufficient and well-prepared workforce, health information systems to inform our work, access to essential supplies and medicines, and the importance of leadership in health system strengthening.

We seek **maximum local direction** from our Haitian colleagues and partners to help create a health system that supports their vision and their communities.

Konbit Sante **values the contributions** of its volunteers, donors, and suppliers of important materials and **strives to be a good steward** of the human and material assets entrusted to us, seeking the most benefit for the people of Cap-Haitien.



“Konbit Sante does not come with a program already prepared to implement. But, this organization sits down with local actors, and then we identify together the problems and decide together how we will address them. We each make a contribution. Sometimes, Konbit Sante does not have the resources required, so we look together to find them. An example of a difference: During the last cholera epidemic (in 2010), many people saw the need for Aquatab distribution, which is a good thing. Konbit Sante met with us, and together we decided to do water treatment demonstration sessions in the community. Community health workers were spread out in each neighborhood, they took the water in the community in a bucket and treated it with available chlorine or Aquatabs. Afterward, these same workers drank the treated water under the amazement of the people living in the community. Within two weeks, the cholera cases in these communities dropped drastically. Konbit Sante is making our way easier.”

— Youseline Telemaque, MD  
Vice President, Konbit Sante Board



Medicines, Supplies, & Equipment

A shipment of medical supplies begins with three questions:

- Of our partners in Haiti: What do you need, and how will you use and maintain it?
- Of our partners throughout the world: Where can we find the requested medications, medical equipment, and supplies?
- Of ourselves: How will we support, deliver, and distribute it?



22 Shipments in 2022 Bring Critical Supplies

In 2022, Konbit Sante supported health facilities in northern Haiti by consigning (meaning handled the logistics of getting shipments into the country) 22 shipments of humanitarian aid. Our partners tell us these shipments help make their work possible.

The shipments included sixteen 40-foot containers to Cap-Haitien. One of these containers from our warehouse in Maine delivered

anesthesia machines, an EKG machine, patient monitors, exam tables, and other supplies. The remaining shipments were from donor and partner organizations, including Direct Relief, MAP International, the Dalton Foundation, and Rise Against Hunger.

500 New Wheelchairs Deliver Mobility

Through the ongoing collaboration with Hope Health Action and the Walkabout Foundation, we enabled the delivery of 500 new wheelchairs in three containers for distribution throughout the country, transforming the lives of many people with mobility challenges.

Ongoing Technical Support Keeps Valuable Equipment in Service

Konbit Sante helped source parts and provided ongoing technical support to repair essential pieces of equipment such as neonatal incubators and oxygen concentrators so that they can stay in operation longer. This is ongoing work.

Finding Low-Cost Sources for Life-Saving Supplies and Pharmaceuticals

During 2022, as during every year, Konbit Sante purchased and helped partners source essential supplies and pharmaceutical products through



low-cost options. Most recently, we coordinated the purchase of 1.2 million Aquatabs water disinfection tablets from their manufacturer in Ireland to support the Ministry of Health and other NGOs’ cholera response efforts.

*“I would, first of all, like to thank Konbit Sante for such precious assistance on behalf of the patients. The materials received through the support of Konbit Sante have made a tremendous difference in the delivery of care at Serving Santé. For example, Konbit Sante has provided Serving Santé with a power system with solar panels and batteries. This immensely helped Serving Santé continue to provide health care, and perform surgeries during the “pays lock” (country lockdown) period. It helped save the lives of so many people at a time when so many health centers closed their doors. Konbit Sante’s help with infrastructure and equipment was the most important. The anesthesia machine, the power system, as well as the medicines were particularly helpful.”*

—Dr. Nelly Osias, Medical Director, Serving Santé

Health Facility Infrastructure

Upgrades to Water and Solar Systems Sustain Pediatric Care

In early 2022 Konbit Sante completed a major upgrade to the water and solar electrical systems at the Justinien Hospital’s pediatric service with funding from USAID and in collaboration with JustEnergy. During this challenging year in which there was no public electricity and such extreme fuel shortages that generators could not function, Kobit Sante’s investments in solar power infrastructure at several health facilities made the life and death difference between healthcare providers closing down or staying

open to serve their communities.

*“Before we had solar power, we spent many days without electricity. So we had difficulty taking care of patients. Sometimes we used the light from our cell phones. When we didn’t have oxygen, it was difficult to use the concentrator. Several babies died of hypothermia because we couldn’t warm them. Solar power helps save lives.*

—Dr. Rony Saint Fleur, Attending Faculty at Justinien Hospital and Program Manager at Konbit Sante

Generating Oxygen for a Community Hospital

Konbit Sante volunteers are



collaborating with Hope Health Action to buy a large, medical-grade oxygen generator for the Haitian Convention Baptist Hospital (HCBH). Oxygen, particularly medical-grade oxygen, has been very difficult to find and purchase for more than a year. When it is available, its high cost strains the hospital’s budget. The oxygen generator’s anticipated delivery in 2023 will be a game changer for HCBH by reliably producing this essential “medication” to patients with enough left over to share with other health centers in the area.

*“We at Hope Health Action are incredibly grateful to our friends at Konbit Sante for their amazing support in developing this oxygen generation project with us. There has always been a major need for oxygen generation at HCBH (their partner), but this has become even more critical in the last year with the increased instability in Haiti. This will be a major advancement for the hospital, and we couldn’t have done it without Konbit Sante. On behalf of everyone at HHA, thank you again Konbit Sante for your incredible support.”*

—Carwyn Hill, CEO and Co-Founder, Hope Health Action



Community Outreach



Last year, Konbit Sante’s community outreach helped ensure that 1,858 children received a complete set of recommended vaccinations before their first birthdays, and 748 women and newborns received post-natal visits in the Fort Saint Michel (FSM) neighborhood. Ms. Clotilde St. Jean, RN, Konbit Sante’s program manager for community health, states, “This community outreach program is very important because it helps reduce maternal and child deaths and complications.”

Community Health Workers Promote Pre-Natal Care

Konbit Sante supports community health workers, known as agents de santé, who visit households early in women’s pregnancies and encourage pregnant women to visit the FSM health center for prenatal care. Ms. St. Jean thinks this first step is especially important because it connects women with the health center for preventive care. She explains that often people are reluctant to seek care unless they are sick.

Community health workers help ensure that women get to the center as early in their pregnancies - preferably in the first trimester - so that they have access to the full array of tests and services that keep the mother and newborn healthy. The community health workers then follow up with women during their pregnancies to offer support and information.



Post-Natal Visits and Community-Based Services

After birth, the health workers visit homes within three days to assess the newborn’s health, referring them to the health center when complications or danger signs are observed. And they promote healthy practices such as exclusive breastfeeding. Community health workers ensure that newborns receive vaccines for polio and tuberculosis during the first month of life. The community health workers then follow the children in their care through the first five years, making vaccines, vitamins, and drugs such as Albendazol (a drug used to fight intestinal infections, specifically intestinal worms/parasites) available at community venues such as churches and schools.

Skill Building in Pediatrics

The Justinien University Hospital is one of four public teaching hospitals in Haiti. Dozens of residents arrive at the hospital each year to receive specialized training in a field of medicine. Residents are often the primary care providers at the hospital, and upon graduation, they go on to assume roles as senior physicians, educators, hospital administrators, and policymakers. The quality of education that residents receive impacts both the day-to-day care at the hospital and the long-term development of a strong healthcare system in Haiti.

Teaching Core Competencies

As a former resident at Justinien’s pediatric department and a current faculty member, Dr. Rony Saint Fleur understands that a resident’s

training experience depends on a solid curriculum. With this in mind, he approached Konbit Sante slightly over a year ago about working on a project to revise the pediatric residency curriculum at Justinien. He envisioned a curriculum that would clearly set out the course of learning and include expectations for residents and faculty, periodic evaluation of core competencies, and provision of feedback. In contrast, the curriculum used in the pediatric department at the time consisted only of a list of topics to be covered in each year of residency. Like other residency programs around the country, the pediatric curriculum at Justinien lacked structure, emphasizing didactic learning over skill-building.

Evaluating and Refining

With the support of Konbit Sante



volunteers Dr. Adam Silverman, Dr. Dan Sobel, and Dr. Harrem Park, the pediatric residency program is now the only one at Justinien Hospital with a comprehensive curriculum that guides the professional development and evaluation of medical residents. Over the next year, we will continue refining the curriculum’s implementation, using an assessment tool to strengthen competencies and an in-training exam to assess residents’ progress in acquiring core clinical knowledge.

*“Because of the curriculum, we are able to receive more lectures, gain more knowledge, and provide better care for patients.”*

—Dr. Metalus, Resident 3, Justinien University Hospital Pediatrics





# Our Partners

Our partners, all in northern Haiti, include large and small public and private hospitals and clinics.

## Hôpital Universitaire Justinien

In 2001, Konbit Sante began its relationship with Justinien University Hospital (JUH), the 300-bed teaching hospital in downtown Cap-Haitien. As part of the public healthcare system, the tertiary care hospital serves people of all incomes and helps instruct future doctors for Haiti. We have worked in many departments, with a particular focus on pediatrics, and have helped build an infrastructure that sustains care.



*“Konbit Sante is an organization that plays the role of consultant–advisor for Hôpital Universitaire Justinien. It financially supports certain activities in order to help the administration solve certain critical problems. It also acts independently with its own resources in solving other problems. Konbit Sante is integrated naturally into the operation of the hospital. As such, its support is invaluable.”*  
—Dr. Jean Géo Dubé, MSc, Administration de la Santé et Evaluation, Directeur Exécutif HUIJ

## Hôpital de Fort Saint Michel

Hôpital de Fort Saint Michel (FSM) provides care to an underserved urban neighborhood of Cap-Haitien. The public health center, established in 2002, includes a birthing center, a clinical laboratory, and community outreach services. Konbit Sante has been a partner since 2004, with a focus on public health, maternal health, and infrastructure improvements.



*“Konbit Sante has always been supportive of FSM. It supported many construction projects, like building the TB clinic and then providing food for patients with TB so that they can continue their treatment. It organizes continuing education for traditional birth attendants and procures many needed supplies and equipment. It helped train community health workers who offer education and services like vaccination and home visits so that we can reach more people. Konbit Sante supports FSM immensely.”*  
—Ina Jasmin, RN, Chief Nurse, Hôpital de Fort Saint Michel

## Hôpital de la Convention Baptiste D’Haiti

Hôpital de la Convention Baptiste D’Haiti (HCBH) is a 60-bed private hospital in Quartier Morin, about six miles southeast of Cap-Haitien. Konbit Sante and HCBH began their partnership shortly after the earthquake of 2010 and have worked together since. HCBH has grown to include maternity and pediatric units, a respite center for children with physical, mental, and special needs, a community health center, an emergency ambulance response service, and a spinal cord rehabilitation center for northern Haiti.

*“Konbit Sante helps us find supplies and equipment and helps us with administrative management as well as care management. Dr. Adam Silverman (Konbit Sante volunteer and board member) assists with the pediatric mortality reviews. This is very helpful for us. We continue to look to Konbit Sante to help with cholera treatment and resolve the hospital’s oxygen problem. Konbit Sante is very important.”*  
—Dr. Paul Toussaint, Medical Director, Hôpital de la Convention Baptiste D’Haiti



## Unite de Lutte pour la Sante

Unite de Lutte pour la Sante (ULS) is a private health center providing clinical services and public health outreach to the rural Bande du Nord neighborhood on the outskirts of Cap-Haitien. Konbit Sante helped design and fund its construction in 2012 and continues to support its operations.

*“Konbit Sante support is very important for ULS Health Center. It provides medical equipment and supplies and financial support for staff. Because of Konbit Sante, ULS is now sustainable. With our property and permanent health center, we don’t have to pay rent. And Konbit Sante provides technical support to improve staff skills in management and administration, which increases our visibility and credibility.”*  
—Dr. Maudelin Mesadieu, Executive Director, Unite de Lutte pour la Sante





# Thank You

Our thanks to the many people who make this work possible.

## Volunteers

*October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022*

Christina Alva, MPH

Casey Bartlett

Michael Canarie, MD

Joseph Adrien Emmanuel Demes,  
MD, MPH

Conor Fay

Ryan Denison

John Devlin, MD

Erica Felker-Kantor, PhD

Vic Herson, MD

David LaQuerre

Polly Larned, RN

Richard Lemieux, DMD

Bob Mackinnon

Jeff Musich, PE

Nan Nickerson, ANP

Nathan Nickerson, RN, DrPH

John Nye

Hareem Park, MD

Deborah Patten, MD

Marianne Ringel

Tracy Rosebrock, PhD

Carlos Sabogal, MD

Adam Silverman, MD

Daniel Sobel, MD

Sarah Sorenson Coppi

Gerard Default

Wendy Taylor

Hugh Tozer, PE

Aubrey VanFleet

Richard Williams

Fran Zilkha

## Supply Chain Partners

Direct Relief

MAP International

Dalton Foundation

Rise Against Hunger

Hope Health Action

The Walkabout Foundation

## In-Kind Contributors

Coffee By Design

Coryell Health

JB Brown

Millinocket Regional Hospital

Northern Data Systems

Penobscot Valley Hospital

## Foundations and Grants

USAID

Tom’s of Maine



Donated exam tables are ready to ship out of the Maine warehouse.

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Youseline Telemaque, MD,  
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Jonathon Simon, MPH, DSec,  
SECRETARY

Frank (Rich) Feely, JD,  
TREASURER

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J. Michael Taylor, MD, MPH

Wendy Taylor



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Tezita Negussie, MSW, MPH,  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marcella Felde, MPH,  
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Haiti Administrative Staff

Immacula Augustin, FINANCE  
MANAGER

Rony Saint Fleur, MD, PEDIATRIC  
PROGRAM MANAGER

Clotilde St. Jean, RN,  
COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM  
MANAGER

Odelin Pierre, CUSTODIAN

Emile Eustache, DRIVER

Konbit Sante Staff Embedded at Justinien University Hospital

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NURSE

Edouard Ludovic, PEDS-NURSE’S  
AIDE

Marie Ange Francois, PEDS-CLEANER

Kettle Deslandes, DEPOT ASSISTANT

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Marcellus Leone, PEDS-FEEDER

Derius Melick, PEDS-ASSISTANT  
FACILITIES MANAGER/STOCK  
MANAGER

Jeanine Jean Baptiste, PEDS-FEEDER

Konbit Sante Staff Embedded at Fort Saint Michel Hospital

Jesula Augustin RN, NURSE  
STATISTICIAN/ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
MANAGER

Myrlande Sejour, VACCINATION  
AUXILIARY NURSE

Merline Joseph, HEALTH WORKER

Aleine Georges, HEALTH WORKER

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Financial Information

For the 2022 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022)

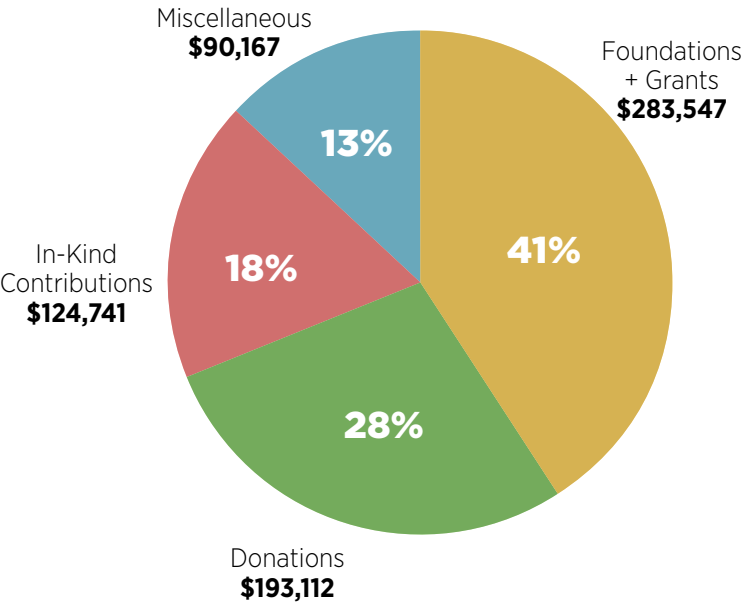
Comparisons FY 2021 to FY 2022

Total revenue fell by 28%, largely as a result of decreased donations (down 39%) and some decrease (26%) in grants, largely reflecting the completion early in the FY 22 fiscal year of the USAID-supported solar project at Justinien University Hospital.

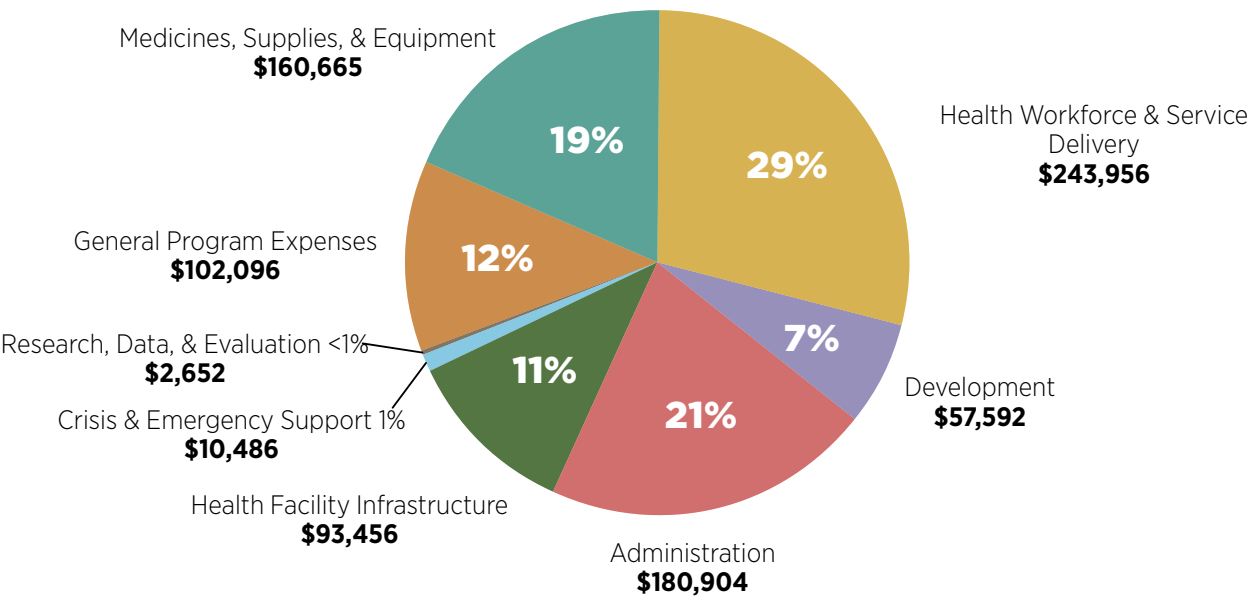
Total expenses fell by 9% during the year, reflecting some decrease in grant-supported infrastructure and health services work.

In FY2022, we experienced financial challenges that required us to make significant changes to meet our mission going forward while maintaining program-matic support in Haiti.

TOTAL INCOME  
\$691,567



TOTAL EXPENSES  
\$851,806





# Konbit Sante

CAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

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