# Kopbit Sante

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CAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

2024 Annual Impact Report

### Persistence and Impact

Letter from the Executive Director



#### Dear Friends,

In last year's Annual Report, Tezita Negussie, our Country Director, wrote about the skyrocketing cost of goods, periodic fuel shortages and the impact of emigration on everyday life in Haiti. She also noted that, although we are a small organization operating in an environment of great turmoil, our size enabled us to be nimble and responsive, providing the healthcare institutions with which we partner materials and expertise that enabled them to remain open and functional during difficult times.

In 2024, the conditions Tezita described became even more challenging. Civil unrest, inflation, supply chain disruptions, torrential rains, flooding, and landslides impacted everyone, healthcare providers and patients alike.

I am pleased to report, however, that even as conditions on the ground have become more challenging, Konbit Sante has been extremely effective in maintaining and improving ongoing programs, including programs in pediatrics and community health. We have continued to deliver essential supplies and equipment needed for everyday operations by our partners. And while we have always stressed sustainability in our programs, we have now begun to implement a new strategic plan to focus our programs and strengthen sustainability within the Konbit Sante organization.

In this Annual Impact Report, you'll see evidence of our impact. You'll see that each of our partners has worked diligently to make the most of our collaborations and, importantly, that each has taken important steps towards building institutional strength.

While there are many miles to go and there are still mountains beyond mountains, I hope you will agree that together, we and our partners are making real progress.

Thank you for being an essential part of this vital effort.

With gratitude,

Perry Newman Executive Director

On the front cover: Miss St. Jean, Konbit Sante's Community Health Program Manager, shares a moment with a healthy mom and newborn. On the back cover: Konbit Sante staff hike to the Citadel during the STAND WITH HAITI. MOVE WITH KONBIT. summer fundraiser.

### **Strategy and Sustainability**

Letter from the President and Vice President of the Board



#### Dear Friends,

As longtime supporters and deep believers in Konbit Sante's mission, we believe that one of the reasons Konbit Sante has continued to make an impact is our commitment to stay the course and to focus on our role as accompagnateurs to our partners. Our role is to be there for those in need and to provide consistent support to those who are dedicated to overcoming healthcare challenges.

For nearly twenty-five years, we've remained driven by the core values that ground our work. The bottom line is that we can be depended upon.

Our challenge now is to build upon our impact to date, to look to our values and our relationships, not only to strengthen our ability to work in the here and now, but to solidify a foundation for the future.

Planning for the future can be difficult under the best of conditions. Assumptions have to be made, and choices must be made based on those assumptions. Factor in the continuing uncertainties in Haiti, and planning becomes that much more challenging.

In 2024, Konbit Sante's board of directors approved a strategic plan that will guide our efforts for the next three years. Informed by dozens of interviews with partners and stakeholders and reflecting comprehensive survey responses from many more, the plan directs Konbit Sante to focus on three essential pillars.

First, we will continue to strengthen organizational stability.

Second, we will leverage our board's strengths and develop an engaging and generative leadership dynamic.

Third, we will refine our focus on maternal and child health, developing comprehensive tools to measure quality of care at each of our partner facilities, and cooperatively implement strategies that will achieve better health outcomes for community members.

Guided by our plan, we have already begun to take steps necessary to achieve our goals. If we are successful, the results will be seen in improved quality of care and, most importantly, healthier mothers and children.

We thank you for your continuing support of our work, and we invite you to learn more about our impact, our aspirations, and our plans for the future. With your help, 2025 will be another year of progress and a year of health and hope for those whom we serve.

With appreciation,

Eva Lathrop, MD President, Konbit Sante Board

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Youseline Telemaque, MD Vice President, Konbit Sante Board



### Konbit Sante's Mission and Values

- 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 seek maximum local direction from our Haitian colleagues and partners to help create a health system that supports their vision and works in their communities.
- 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 leadership in health system strengthening.
- We strive to be good stewards of the human and material assets entrusted to us, seeking the greatest benefit for the people of Cap-Haitien.
- We believe in the dignity of all people and that everyone has the right to health care regardless of personal means.

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.

### **Our Partners**

Our partners, all in northern Haiti, include large and small public and private hospitals and clinics. Konbit Sante only provides hands-on care in the context of teaching or special circumstances. Rather, we are a resource for Haitian doctors, nurses, administrators, and community health workers who are part of their communities and who understand their communities' needs better than we do. We support them with medicines, medical supplies, equipment, technical assistance, and training according to their individual interests and needs. While some medicines and supplies we acquire are distributed to additional health facilities in the north, most of our efforts focus on four hospitals and clinics that we know well and call our "partners."

Medical residents and nurses assemble a new incubator for Justinien Hospital's NICU.



Despite extraordinary challenges, Konbit Sante made significant strides in advancing maternal and child healthcare in partnership with four key healthcare facilities in northern Haiti: Hôpital Universitaire Justinien (JUH), Hôpital de Fort Saint Michel (FSM), Hôpital Serving Santé, and Unite de Lutte pour la Santé (ULS). Our efforts, guided by our strategic plan and reinforced by a comprehensive needs assessment, focused on strengthening service delivery, addressing material shortages, expanding training opportunities, and improving infrastructure.

# Essential Medicines, Supplies, and Equipment

Haiti's political environment and accompanying supply chain and logistics disruptions impacted the ability to ship and distribute essential medicines and supplies. Nonetheless, with remarkable effort from staff, volunteers and partners, six containers were shipped to Cap-Haitien this year. These shipments contained hospital beds, birthing kits, cPAP machines, surgical supplies, digital X-ray machines, and many other items. In addition to many basic hospital supplies (gloves, IV tubing, dressings, etc.), here are some of the critical items shipped to Cap-Haitien:

- An entire 40-foot container of essential medicines, all specifically requested by our partner health facilities, shipped from Direct Relief in Santa Barbara.
- Twenty hospital beds and mattresses for our partner ULS.
- Lithium batteries and solar panels to expand ULS' solar capacity for clean and reliable power 24/7.
- Furnishings, including bassinets, incubators, and patient monitors for the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Justinien Hospital.
- Physical therapy equipment, beds, and other furnishings for our long-term collaborator, Hope Health Action's newly relocated spinal cord rehabilitation center in northern Haiti.
- Furnishings for a new teaching/conference room, as well as an x-ray printer and film for our partners at Serving Sante.



Doors close on a 40' container bound for Cap-Haitien.

### Hôpital Universitaire Justinien

In 2001, Konbit Sante began its relationship with Justinien University Hospital (JUH), a public 300-bed teaching hospital in downtown Cap-Haitien. This tertiary care hospital serves people of all incomes and educates future Haitian doctors. We have worked in many departments, with a particular focus on strengthening the pediatric service.

The pediatric service at Justinien Hospital is led by Konbit Sante's faculty physician, Dr. Emanise Muscadin. Dr. Muscadin is an integral part of our effort to strengthen pediatric care at Haiti's largest public hospital in the north. Earlier this year, four Konbit Sante–sponsored nurses were hired to work at Justinien University Hospital. These nurses, all with strong credentials and experience, have garnered excellent feedback.

Under Dr. Muscadin's guidance, with additional nursing staff, and with Konbit Sante's support, UNICEF has identified the Justinien Hospital pediatric service as one of the top ten in the country this year.



Dr. Emanise Muscadin (right) on rounds with pediatric residents.

"I returned in October to Cap-Haitien for the first time in several years, and the improvement and progress in pediatric care at Justinien Hospital is palpable. What I see now is truly amazing. The teamwork, the 'esprit de corps', the leadership are all fantastic. The impact of Konbit Sante is profound."

— Dr. Adam Silverman

# Justinien Hospital pediatric unit by the numbers:

- **Outpatient Services:** The Justinien Pediatric Department provided outpatient care to more than 5,500 patients this year, ensuring access to essential pediatric healthcare for children in northern Haiti.
- Hospitalized Pediatric Care: More than 2,600 children were hospitalized at Justinien Pediatrics in FY24, addressing critical and acute pediatric health needs.
- Neonatal Admissions: The pediatric team managed 762 neonatal admissions throughout the year, delivering life-saving care to Haiti's most vulnerable infants.
- Emergency Services: The Pediatric Department cared for 1,400 emergency admissions in FY24, responding to urgent and life-threatening situations.

"The hands of skilled nurses, along with the highly engaged medical residents, can accomplish many things. The human touch, as much as anything, can help our youngest patients return to good health."

> —Dr. Emanise Muscadin, Konbit Sante Attending Faculty Pediatrician

### **ULS Health Center**

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 operation with financing, materials, and technical assistance.

To facilitate safe and dignified patient transport, Konbit Sante accessed a special Toyota program that sells new 4-wheel drive ambulances and other specially equipped vehicles at favorable prices to purchase an ambulance for ULS. Since becoming operational, the ambulance has transported approximately 90 patients in critical condition to hospitals with advanced medical services, such as Justinien University Hospital and Hospital Sacre Coeur in greater Cap-Haitien, and even as far as Hinche in the Central Plateau, 144 kilometers away.

A second vehicle, a truck purchased by a European NGO called MIVA and consigned by Konbit Sante, arrived just before the end of 2024 and is being used at ULS' center in Mombin Crochu. Without these vehicles, patients ride in the backs of "tap taps" (pickups) or "motos," neither of which is conducive to good health and safe outcomes.

In keeping with Konbit Sante's focus on impact, measurement, and planning, ULS and Konbit Sante are collaborating to track ambulance usage to assess gaps in service and opportunities to serve patients and community members in greatest need. Konbit Sante also continued to support ULS' community outreach and its focus on holistic care.

Dr. Maudelin Mesadieu with the ULS ambulance.

#### Unite de Lutte de la Sante by the numbers:



Treated **822** pregnant women and prenatal cases, sutpporting maternal health.



Vaccinated **658** children, protecting them from preventable diseases.



Provided care to **41** malnourished children, addressing critical health concerns.



### Hôpital de Fort Saint Michael

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

FSM is a critical provider of women's health care in Cap-Haitien. Hundreds of women and thousands of children have received medical attention this year owing to our USAID-funded work at Fort Saint Michel.

This year, torrential rains and flooding frequently prevented movement of people and goods throughout the region. Nonetheless, community health workers continued their impressive outreach efforts to provide support to expectant mothers and young children.

## Hôpital de Fort Saint Michel by the numbers:



**719** births were supervised by a health attendant at the health center



More than **2,500** children under one received all recommended vaccines

More than **7,500** children received vitamin A to support healthy development

A Konbit Sante community health worker checks a child's weight.



### Serving Sante

Serving Sante is a private facility in Limbe, about 27 km from Cap-Haitien. Serving Sante's Medical Director is Dr. Nelly Osias Charles, an OB/GYN who Konbit Sante first met in 2012 when she was a resident at JUH in Cap-Haitien. Serving Sante offers a wide variety of care including OB/GYN care, pediatric care, general surgery, and cervical cancer screenings in the community.

This year Serving Sante worked closely with Konbit Sante to enhance the quality of neonatal care at their health center. The donation of a bCPAP machine has led to a welcome decrease in referrals to geographically distant hospitals in Cap-Haitien; such referrals pose challenges to families, including prohibitive costs, hazardous journeys due to deteriorating roads, and potentially life-threatening delays in care for newborns. Dr. Osias Charles reports that the machine has enabled the center to provide immediate lifesaving care.

In addition to equipment support, nearly 20 doctors and nurses from Serving Sante are participating in a year-long neonatal care training program organized by Konbit Sante. This initiative is designed to strengthen their ability to provide high-quality care to newborns.

At Konbit Sante, we are committed to equipping our partners not only with the tools they need but also with the skills and knowledge to use them effectively, ensuring sustainable health facilities and lasting impact in the communities they serve.

"Volunteers from Konbit Sante provide training to improve the quality of care we offer to the community. With so many people leaving the country now, being able to train our staff and young people provides hope for our patients and hope for our future."

-Dr. Nelly Osias Charles, Medical Director

Serving Sante staff check patient records.

#### Serving Sante by the numbers:

539 deliveries



697 cervical screenings



10,304 consultations across all services

**282** lifesaving c-sections made possible by the anesthesia machines provided by Konbit Sante and our generous collaborators





### **Supply Chain Partners**

Direct Relief Dalton Foundation Hope Health Action

#### Volunteers

Michael Canarie, MD Sarah Sorenson Coppi John Devlin, MD, MPH Erica Felker-Kantor, PhD Vic Herson, MD Erik Jensen David LaQuerre Polly Larned, RN Richard Lemieux Manuchca Marc Alcimé, MSN, RN Nancy Nickerson, ANP

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#### **Foundations & Grants**

Apple Lane Foundation Corus International Daniel Raymond Nickerson Foundation Ekedahl Family Foundation Gipson Family Foundation

### In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two remarkable members of the Konbit Sante family, Donald E. Nicoll and Dr. Stephen Larned, whose contributions have left an indelible mark on our organization.

**Donald E. Nicoll,** a founding board member, was recruited by co-founder Dr. J. Michael Taylor for his wisdom and mentorship, which were instrumental in shaping Konbit Sante's development and ensuring its success. Don's perspective, steady guidance, and quiet dedication helped keep the organization focused during its formative years. **Dr. Stephen Larned**, a former board president and early leader, brought his passion, intellect, and generosity to every role he held. Steve's medical expertise, strategic insights, and dedication to sustainable improvements were evident in his countless trips to Haiti and in initiatives such as organizing Konbit Sante's first shipment of medical supplies, a cornerstone of our work to this day. Together with his wife Polly, also a longtime board member, Steve exemplified the spirit of collaboration and compassion at the heart of Konbit Sante.

### Board Members, Advisors, and Founders

### **Board Members**

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### Strategic Advisor

Nathan M. Nickerson, RN, MSN, DrPH

### Founders

J. Michael Taylor, MD, MPH Wendy Taylor

### **Honorary Advisors**

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Konbit Sante volunteer and Honorary Advisor, Hugh Tozer, works on electrical repairs at Justinien Hospital.

Konbit Sante is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation organized in the State of Maine. This report was printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



### Staff in US and Haiti

### **US Staff**

Perry Newman, Executive Director Marcella Felde, MGHD, Operations Manager

### Haiti Staff

Tezita Negussie, MSW, MPH, Country Director
Immacula Augustin, Finance Manager
Clotilde St. Jean, RN, Community Health Program Manager
Emanise Muscadin, MD, Attending Faculty Pediatrician
Melick Darius, Assistant Facilities Manager and Stock Manager
Odelin Pierre, Messenger and Cleaner
Emile Eustache, Driver

# Konbit Sante Staff Embedded at Justinien University Hospital

Myrta Pierre, RN, Peds-Auxiliary Nurse Marcellus Leone, Peds-Feeder Jeanine Jean Baptiste, Peds-Feeder Edouard Ludovic, Peds-Nurse's Aide Marie Ange Francois, Peds-Cleaner



Konbit Sante's Melick Darius and two Dalton biomed techs work on equipment repairs at JUH

Ketlie Deslandes, Depot Assistant Manager Cleaves Denis, Groundskeeper Dieunette Duvisien, Nurse Yotty Antenor Louis Charles, Nurse Fania Vertus, Nurse Annecise Phanord, Nurse

### Konbit Sante Staff Embedded at Fort Saint Michel Hospital

Jesula Augustin, RN, Nurse Statistician/Assistant Program Manager Adeline St-Firmin, RN, Maternity Nurse Davilmar Roudelyne Cherizole, RN, Postnatal Nurse Nirvana Issac RN, Family Planning Nurse Germain Hierlene, RN, Vaccination Nurse Cesar Odile, Prenatal Auxiliary Nurse Myrlande Sejour, Auxiliary Nurse Mompremier Micionise, Auxiliary Nurse Antoine Sherlyne, Field Supervisor for Agent de Sante Charles Widlyne, Assistant Field Supervisor for Agent de Sante Jean Claude Obas, Agent de Sante Dorelus Flore, Agent de Sante Cenatus Maguy, Agent de Sante Imise Irlande, Agent de Sante Fabien M. Daniel, Agent de Sante Joseph Sandly, Agent de Sante Lucien Iselande, Agent de Sante Merline Joseph, Agent de Sante Sophonie Montrevil, Agent de Sante Vilberly Seide, Data Clerk Ruth Onne, Data Clerk Honore Violene Desjardins, Lab Technician Murielle Joseph, Lab Technician Kesnel Marcellin, Stock Manager Dorcine Ghislene, Cleaner Estime Micheline Pharaon, Cleaner Viles Augustin, Cleaner Wisnique Jean, Driver

With great appreciation to all our donors.

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"You will never regret supporting this hard-working NGO. I guarantee you."

—Honorable Pamela A. White, former United States Ambassador to Haiti (ret.)

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#### Comparing Fiscal 2023 to Fiscal 2024

Revenue for fiscal 2024 was \$666K, a decrease of 14% over prior year. The year-over-year decrease is partially due to timing, as \$100K in donations were pledged at the end of FY2023 and required to be recognized as FY2023 revenue, despite not being received until 2024. Grants income decreased 11% in FY24 but was partially offset by increased program revenue and more favorable interest rates on savings.

Total expenses increased 28%, or \$207k in FY24. Mainly driven by increased administrative and program costs, these increases represent the direct deployment of revenue into the mission of Konbit Sante. Program expenses, administration, health workforce, and medicine/supplies/equipment represented 90% of the costs incurred in FY24.

On a cash basis, the disparity between FY2024 revenue and expenses is much smaller compared to the accrual method of recognition.

Professional Fees 3%

Health Facility Infrastructure 1% \$12,0278

Crisis & Emergency

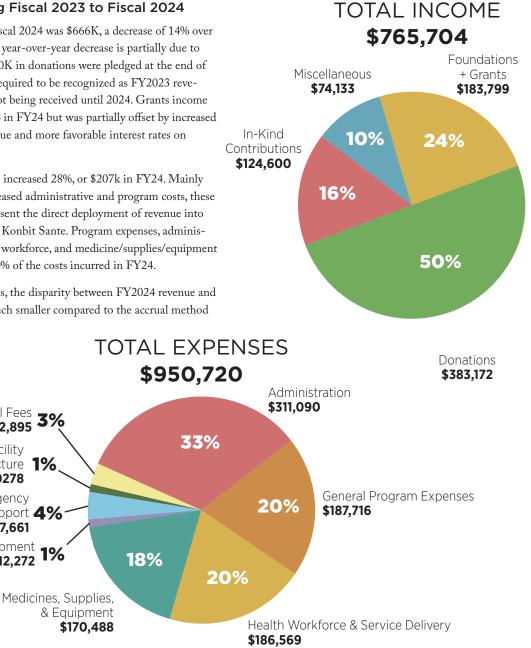
\$32,895

Support 4%

1%

\$37,661 Development .

\$12,272





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