

## Report to the Canadian Friends of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer

### Improving Maternal and Child Health Outcomes in Haiti

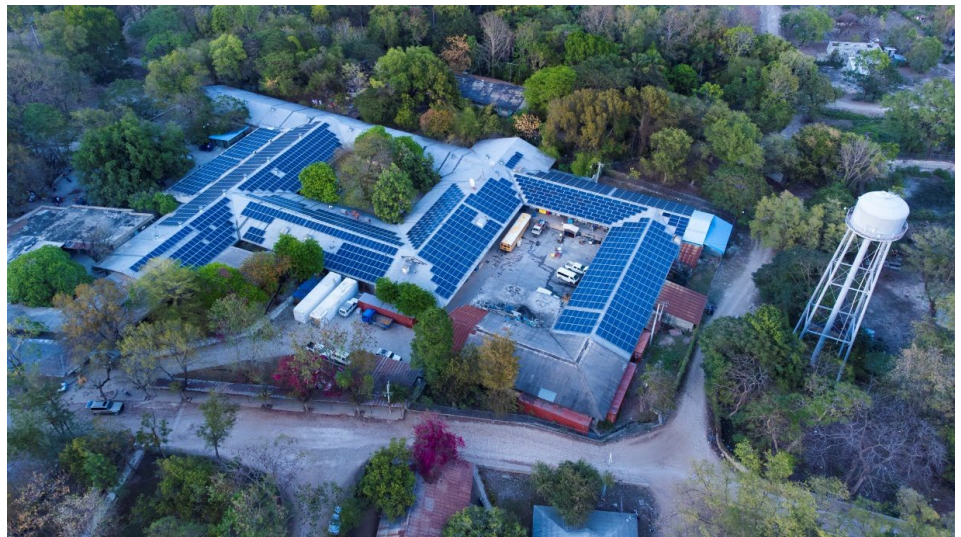
#### 2022 Activities

Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti (HAS) and our patients in the Artibonite Valley are deeply grateful for generous support from Canadian Friends of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer which allows HAS to continue in our ongoing efforts to provide health services to a population of 350,000 children, women and men who need our help. We particularly appreciate support from CFHAS for maternal and child health services.

Throughout 2022 and into 2023, Haiti has been facing a true humanitarian crisis. The entire country has been paralyzed with fear as gang violence escalates unchecked. There are shortages of everything from food and water to fuel to vitally needed medicines. Ports, banks, stores and schools are intermittently closed. It continues to be a dangerous and dark time.

But in the midst of it all, HAS has remained a shining beacon. While four out of five hospitals in Haiti have had to close during this crisis, HAS has remained open and carries on with providing life-saving care. We are a resource for all patients who come.

Last October, despite careful planning and rationing, the diesel fuel supply ran out at HAS. For most other institutions in Haiti this would be a catastrophic event, but HAS continued to remain open and serving patients. We were without fuel for over a month. The infrastructure investments made over the past decade – particularly with solar power and water infrastructure – were key factors in our success.



Solar power kept the hospital and health centers fully operational in daylight hours, with surgical suites ready for emergencies. Without diesel fuel, there was generally no power overnight, however solar charged batteries provided enough energy for HAS to light up operating rooms and equipment for emergency procedures.

We are incredibly proud of what our team of 500 employees accomplished in the past year, a deeply challenging time for Haiti: 13,653 hospital admissions; 2,442 surgeries performed; 77,193 home health visits by our community health workers. The list goes on and on.

Highlights of HAS' key maternal and child health services are featured in the following pages.

## HOSPITAL-BASED SERVICES

General hospital operations and services overall have rebounded to pre-COVID levels, even in an unpredictable security environment. The specialized surgical care available at HAS remains one of our great strengths for the people we serve. Female patients accounted for 62% of all hospital surgeries performed in 2022, primarily due to the large number of high-risk Cesarean sections performed (686).

### Women's Health Services – Obstetrics and Gynecology

HAS's reputation for high-quality, compassionate maternity care remains among the best in all of Haiti. **Maternal, newborn, and pediatric care account for roughly 60 % of HAS' services.**

Mothers in the HAS service area network receive at least one consultation with a skilled professional before giving birth. HAS' excellent medical staff continue to provide lifesaving, resource-intensive care to a growing number of expectant mothers suffering from serious conditions such as preeclampsia, placenta previa, post-partum hemorrhage, and peripartum cardiomyopathy. Highlights for 2022 are below:

- **9,147 prenatal consultations were held at the hospital in 2022**, a decline of 10% from the prior year, in part due to security issues, but close to pre-COVID levels
- In 2022, **1,912 babies were delivered in the HAS hospital**, and 815 births attended by midwives were recorded in the communities we serve
- **36% of hospital deliveries in 2022 were high-risk Cesarean sections**, about 2% lower than in the previous year

### Neonatal and Pediatric Health Services

In spite of the challenges of 2022, **163,304 patient days were registered** in the hospital, 50% of which were dedicated to pediatric patients. This was an increase of 10,000 patient days over last year and 5% more patient days were dedicated to pediatric patients.



In 2022 HAS **provided neonatal care to 791 infants**, on track with the five-year average of 780 neonatal cases per year. There were **4,571 pediatric hospital admissions**, averaging 13 admissions per day – nearly a 25% increase over the prior year. We are grateful for CFHAS support which helps make care for these vulnerable patients possible.



**In 2022, 179 children were admitted to the hospital for treatment of severe malnutrition.** This is an alarming 20% increase over 2021, in part reflecting growing food insecurity throughout Haiti. A child’s inpatient stay in the hospital Nutrition Stabilization Unit averages three weeks and the recovery rates are exceptional. No deaths were recorded in the Nutrition Stabilization Unit. At the community level, 342 children participated in early intervention programs for malnutrition, also up about 20% over the prior year. The numbers affirm that malnutrition screening and prevention, with early treatment at the community level, are a critical service for the community to positively address and continue in the prevention of severe childhood malnutrition.

Outpatient clinics in the hospital were also essential for children. 10,483 children were treated through hospital outpatient clinic visits, and **2,197 outpatient pediatric surgeries** were performed.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

2022 brought many challenges to the delivery of community health services. The fuel crisis and deep safety concerns meant that our health teams were not able at times to be transported to local communities to provide preventive health services and routine care. By the same token, many of our patients were hampered in safe travel and thus less likely to seek health services except in true emergencies.

This changed the work pattern for some of our community health teams. When there wasn’t enough fuel to make multiple trips during the week to bring health workers to our remote health centers in Tienne and Bastien, many community health team members selflessly stayed for a full week or even two weeks at a time at the health centers, with makeshift sleeping arrangements.



Our 48 Community Health Workers (CHWs), worked diligently to navigate through communities despite security concerns, logging over 77,000 home health visits in 2022. Extra efforts by the full HAS team enabled us to maintain health services and continue the rebound to pre-COVID levels.

### Community-Based Women's Health Services

Highlights for 2022:

- **97,301 beneficiaries participated in 4,273 community education sessions** conducted by CHWs discussing topics ranging from good hygiene and sanitation practices to reproductive health and pregnancy, COVID, water treatment and cholera
- CHWs made **77,193 home visits** – back on track with pre-COVID levels from 2018
- **7,788 prenatal consults and 1,668 postnatal consultations** were held at community health centers
- **4,000+** pregnant women received voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS
- **14,430 family planning/reproductive health consultations** were held with women and men. This follows the trend of a steady increase in the demand for family planning services

### Community Children's Health Services

Preventive care, such as vaccinations and screenings, are at the heart of care for children in HAS' four community health centers. Services provided in 2022 include:

- Malnutrition screenings are performed on 9,000 children per month, which included weighing **111,308 children** and taking **100,390** middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) measures
- **578 mobile clinics** enabled 3,852 pediatric consultations in the hardest to reach communities
- **2,206** children age one and under received all of their required vaccinations
- **342 children** were treated through community-based malnutrition programs, early intervention to avoid hospital care

### COVID

In 2021, HAS launched Haiti's top COVID vaccination campaign, with over 21,000 people vaccinated in our service area. As a result of this hugely successful campaign, COVID was barely an issue in 2022. Only 248 COVID tests needed to be administered in 2022, with just 21% of these having a positive result. HAS logged **zero days of inpatient care for COVID in 2022**, as compared to over 500 days of COVID-related inpatient care in 2021.

### Thank You! / Merci! / Mèsi Anpil!

Generous support from CFHAS has made a huge impact for HAS and our maternal and child health patients. Thank you for your dedication and partnership which is helping to keep HAS operating as well as making us a strong and viable health care facility for the future. We are deeply grateful to our Canadian Friends for all that you do to support this important work.