



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Grammy-Winning Reggae Group Steel Pulse Releases New Song for Haiti Charity

Proceeds Fund Solar Electrification for Partners In Health Clinics

Washington, DC – August 17 – Partners In Health (PIH), The Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF) and Grammy-winning reggae band Steel Pulse today announced the release of *Hold On [4 Haiti]*, a new song composed by lead singer David Hinds and recorded to raise funds for the solar electrification of health clinics for PIH in Haiti. The clinics, operated by Zanmi Lasante, are located in the remote mountain highlands and do not have access to the electric grid. In the aftermath of the January earthquake in Port-au-Prince, the facilities have experienced a rise in demand for health-care services, countered by dangerous fluctuations in fuel supplies needed to operate their generators.

Steel Pulse has launched a new website, www.holdon4haiti.org, where the song is available for download on a donation basis. One hundred percent of donations received will benefit Haiti.

Explained Mr. Hinds: “Because the initial media coverage has waned considerably, we want to revitalize the focus on Haiti’s plight. We wrote *Hold On [4 Haiti]* to support the people of Haiti through the work being done by the Solar Electric Light Fund and Partners In Health. We’ve got to make a real difference on the ground — that’s what this project is all about.”

“Steel Pulse’s *Hold On [4 Haiti]* is a song of hope,” said SELF’s executive director, Bob Freling. “Our hope is that we can solar electrify all 12 hospitals and health centers for Partners In Health in Haiti. We were already working on electrifying PIH clinics, but in the wake of the earthquake we’ve been requested by PIH to accelerate our timeline for bringing solar power to all of their sites in Haiti.”

Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners In Health, has been an advocate for the Solar Health Care Partnership between the two organizations from the very beginning, when SELF worked on electrifying PIH clinics in Africa. “We know that solar energy is self-replenishing and sustainable. It works for us in Africa, and we want to use it across all our facilities in Haiti; diesel is already in short supply and will likely become even more difficult to obtain as time goes by,” said Dr. Farmer. “This song by Steel Pulse serves as a reminder that we stand with the people of Haiti in solidarity and compassion.”

About PIH

Partners In Health (PIH) works in 12 countries around the world to provide quality health care to people and communities devastated by joint burdens of poverty and disease. PIH has been providing vital health care services in Haiti for more than 20 years and is the largest health care provider in the country, working with the Haitian Ministry of Health to deliver comprehensive health care services to a catchment area of 1.2 million across the Central Plateau and the Lower Artibonite Valley. Learn more: www.pih.org.

About SELF

The Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF) is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit working to reduce energy poverty and combat climate change by bringing solar power and wireless Internet access to remote rural villages in the developing world. SELF has pioneered innovative applications of solar power for drip irrigation in Benin, telemedicine in the Amazon rainforest, vaccine refrigeration in Rwanda, online

distance learning in South Africa, and microenterprise development in Nigeria. These successful pilot projects culminated in SELF's whole-village approach, or Solar Integrated Development model. Since 1990, SELF has completed projects in 20 countries, making it a leader among non-governmental organizations in realizing practical and cost-effective alternative energy solutions for rural villagers. For more information, please visit www.self.org.

About Steel Pulse

For over 35 years, Grammy-winning reggae band Steel Pulse has won the hearts and minds of audiences all over the world. Bob Marley numbered Steel Pulse among his favorite reggae bands when the group had just come up out of Birmingham in 1975. Steel Pulse performed at Bill Clinton's inaugural celebration, the first reggae band to appear at such an event. African Holocaust, their most recent album, was been hailed as "the rebirth of political consciousness in reggae music" and was received with accolades from fans and critics alike. The band is currently working on a new album and DVD. Visit: www.steelpulse.com.

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