“The new teaching hospital at Mirebalais will be a model for our national health system, offering high-quality medical services, a place for our clinicians to study and train, and hope and dignity to all who will seek—and offer—care there. We look forward to building upon our long-standing partnership with Partners In Health/Zanmi Lasante with this desperately-needed facility.”

— Dr. Alex Larsen, Haitian Minister of Health

“For some of us, this hospital is the culmination of a dream dating back a quarter century, and underlines our commitment to the country and people of Haiti, which is stronger than ever after the earthquake.”

— Dr. Paul Farmer, PIH Co-Founder

For more information about Mirebalais Hospital, please visit www.pih.org/mirebalais

Mirebalais Hospital
National Referral Facility
State-of-the-Art Teaching Hospital
in Central Haiti
About Partners In Health

Partners In Health (PIH) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to delivering quality health care to people and communities devastated by the joint burdens of poverty and disease. PIH has three goals: to provide quality care for patients; to alleviate the root causes of disease; and to share lessons learned around the world.

Partners In Health began in a small squatter settlement called Cange in Haiti’s Central Plateau over two decades ago. Today, the small clinic in Cange has grown into one of the most effective and widely admired health programs in the developing world, and proves it is indeed possible to provide quality health care even in the poorest of settings.

Together with our Haitian sister organization, Zanmi Lasante (“Partners In Health” in Haitian Creole), we have been providing health care to people in rural Haiti, regardless of their ability to pay, for more than 20 years.

“For some of us, this hospital is the culmination of a dream dating back a quarter century, and underlines our commitment to the country and people of Haiti, which is stronger than ever after the earthquake. It is also a manifestation of our integrated model of research, teaching, and service, and will serve as a site for all three. Mirebalais is being developed by a broad coalition which includes hundreds of individuals, many foundations, private corporations, Harvard teaching hospitals, including Brigham and Women’s, Harvard Medical School, and of course our Haitian colleagues at Zanmi Lasante and the Ministry of Health. We are fortunate to be building upon the lessons learned in 25+ years of strengthening infrastructure in Haiti, and to have the support of partners both old and new in this essential effort.”

— Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of PIH, Chair of Harvard Medical School’s Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Kolokotrones University Professor at Harvard University, and United Nations Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti

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Financial Summary

The total estimated cost of the new hospital and training center is $16 million; more than $10 million has already been committed to this project by generous funders. The approximate breakdown of the phase one budget allocates 70 percent for construction and labor costs, with roughly 10 percent each for design and site preparation (planning, management, etc.), equipment and furnishings (medical equipment, information technology, and furniture), and reserve costs. The estimated yearly operating budget is between $7.6 and $8.5 million.

Mirebalais Hospital was one of the first projects approved by the government-led Interim Haiti Recovery Commission and is a pressing priority for PIH. Please consider joining us in this unprecedented endeavor to help rebuild Haiti’s national health system.

Breakdown of Expenditures

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Building Back Better in Haiti: Mirebalais Hospital

In the town of Mirebalais, located at the intersection of two main roads just 30 miles north of Port-au-Prince, the walls are going up rapidly at the biggest reconstruction project launched in Haiti since the January 12, 2010 earthquake — a 180,000 square foot, 320-bed teaching hospital.

Before January 12, Partners In Health and Zanmi Lasante (ZL) had been planning to build a new community hospital in Mirebalais. Then the earthquake struck, leaving most of the health facilities in and around Port-au-Prince in ruins, including Haiti’s only public teaching hospital and nursing school. Responding to an urgent appeal from the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), we quickly scaled up our plans.

On July 3, 2010, less than six months after the earthquake, the MSPP and PIH/ZL broke ground not for a community hospital but for a world-class national referral hospital and teaching center. By the first anniversary of the disaster, the walls for the women’s health and community health building had been completed and construction of three additional buildings was well underway.

When the hospital opens its doors less than a year from now, in early 2012, the main medical campus will encompass seven buildings offering a level of care never before available at a public hospital in Haiti. And at a time when Haiti desperately needs skilled professionals, Mirebalais Hospital will provide high-quality education for the next generation of Haitian nurses, medical students, and resident physicians.
Putting Hard-Won Lessons Into Practice: Mirebalais Hospital Overview

The construction of the national referral and teaching hospital draws on lessons PIH/ZL has learned over the past 25 years about delivering high-quality, comprehensive health care in a poor country, providing a dignified setting for patients, and training health professionals to develop new skills. The long-term viability of Haiti’s health system depends on rebuilding both the delivery of clinical services and the health education system to ensure sufficient levels of nurses, doctors, and rehabilitative personnel in the country.

Estimates of health care needs in the area suggest that the new hospital will serve approximately 450-550 patients per day. The facility will meet this need with 320 beds — more than twice the capacity of PIH’s largest existing hospital in Haiti — and with quality, comprehensive clinical services. Through innovations in hospital design, the facility will be able to provide many services that are not available at any other public site in the country, such as neonatal and surgical intensive care units and operating rooms capable of doing thoracic surgery.

As critically, the large-scale training center on campus will provide a quality educational environment for medical and nursing students. Health care professionals will gain experience in delivering high-quality care in a rural setting and have opportunities to develop strong links to Haitian hospitals and universities, as well as to US teaching hospitals committed to the medical training of Haitian clinicians.

Clinical Services Available

- Primary care
- Pediatrics
- Emergency medicine
- Neonatal, pediatric, adult medicine, and surgical intensive care
- Infectious disease services
- Chronic disease management
- Women’s and reproductive health care
- Advanced surgical services
- Rehabilitative medicine and physical therapy
- Comprehensive nutrition program
- Mental health and social services
- Health promotion and disease prevention programs

Highlights of Facility Design, Capacity, and Function

Expanding clinical service capacity through advanced facility design
- Multiple intensive care units with advanced life-saving equipment, including full ventilatory support and monitoring
- Operating theatre complex includes six operating rooms capable of accommodating complex procedures, including intrathoracic surgery
- Sophisticated laboratory services, including microbiology
- Advanced diagnostics suites with digital radiology capabilities

Improving health professional training capacity through design and technology
- Patient beds spaced to accommodate teaching rounds for students
- Modern internet and communications technologies to support educational exchanges, distance learning, and remote collaborations
- Multiple offices, classrooms, and conference rooms
- Student and staff dormitories

Ensuring high quality, reliable care through functional systems innovations
- State-of-the-art infection control measures integrated into all patient care spaces, including ultraviolet lighting, ultra-filtered HVAC systems, and seamless flooring in the operating theatre complex and laboratory space
- Wall-mounted oxygen and medical gases for inpatient beds
- Potable, running water throughout all buildings
- Reliable electricity and internet technologies functionally integrated into each building
- Fully accessible throughout to people with disabilities

Minimizing environmental impact via green design and construction techniques
- Photovoltaic solar panels oriented towards direct sunlight to generate supplemental electricity
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