

NEONATAL CARE UNIT

PROVIDING CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Haiti struggles with the highest rates of infant mortality in the western hemisphere.

In 2012, in partnership with Hopital Convention Baptiste D'Haiti (HCBH), Hope Health Action opened one of the leading neonatal care units in northern Haiti that cares for over 600 babies a year. The unit has become a victim of its own success, having only been designed for 8 babies, it often cares for over 20, significantly impacting patient care.

This proposal sets out a comprehensive plan for a new neonatal care unit, developed by HHA, Konbit Sante, Build Health International, and an experienced team of Haitian and international experts. This unit will dramatically improve care for newborns in northern Haiti and will help save the lives of thousands of babies in the years to come.



60% of the Haitian population live below the poverty line.

13 years after the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti, the country's economic and social development continues to be hindered by political instability, governance issues, and fragility. With a Human Development Index ranking of 170 out of 189 countries in 2020, Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and Caribbean region and among the poorest countries in the world. 60% of its population live below the poverty line.

A World Bank report stated that between 2004 and 2017 the Haitian Government's budget allocation for health declined significantly from 16.6% (2004) of the national budget to 4.4% (2017), about \$13US per capita. Against this challenging backdrop, Haiti's health system has been reliant on the support of international NGOs like Hope Health Action and Konbit Sante, and private not-for-profit facilities like HCBH, to help fill critical gaps in health provision. This has been even more important recently, following a devastating period of political instability, increased gang violence, a major earthquake and national fuel shortages.

HHA co-founded HCBH in 2007, a 100+ bed Haitian led hospital that is now one of the leading health facilities in northern Haiti, supporting 300+ Haitian staff and typically serving over 35,000 patients a year. Central to the work of HCBH is its maternal and infant health departments that include one of the region's leading neonatal units which cares for babies with a range of needs from moderate to severe.

THE NEED

Haiti struggles with the highest rates of infant (48.2 per 1,000 live births)¹ and maternal mortality (480 per 100,000 live births)² in the region.

59% of births take place without a skilled health professional.³

1 in 39 babies won't survive their first month.⁴

1 in 29 children will die before their first birthday.⁵

The neonatal period (first 28 days of a child's life) is the most vulnerable time for a child's survival. According to the World Health Organisation, globally 2.4 million children died in the first month of life in 2019, with approximately 6,700 newborn deaths every day.

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This is especially true in a setting like Haiti which has a much higher infant mortality rate than any other country in the region. In 2012, a study showed that of all deaths of children under 5 years of age in Haiti, 34% died in the neonatal period, with approximately 90% of these deaths occurring in the first week of life.⁶

One report documents there are about 2.5 paediatricians per 100,000 children under the age of 15 in Haiti. By contrast, in 2017/18 there were 101.2 certified paediatricians (including specialists) per 100,000 children in the United States.⁷

¹ The World Bank Infant Mortality Ratio Haiti 2019

² The World Bank Maternal Mortality Ratio Haiti 2017

³ UNICEF, 2017

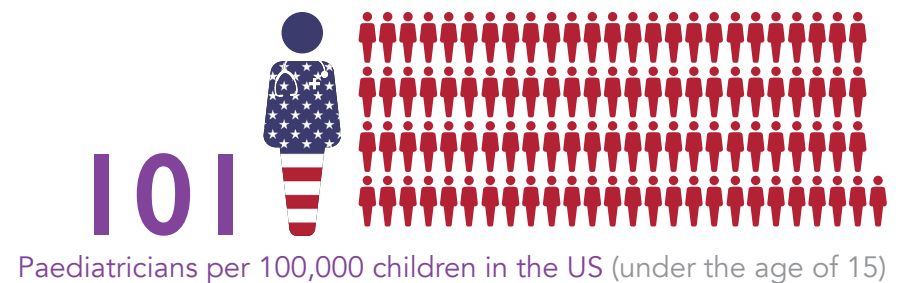
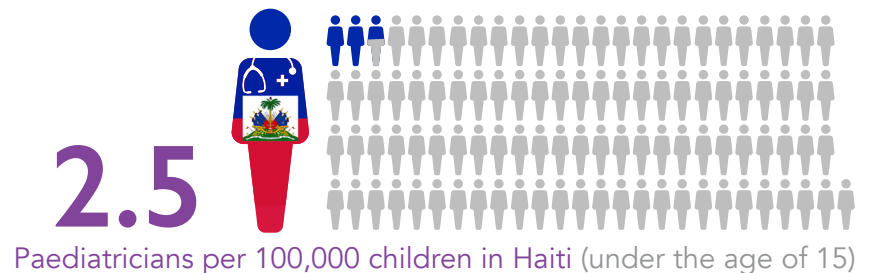
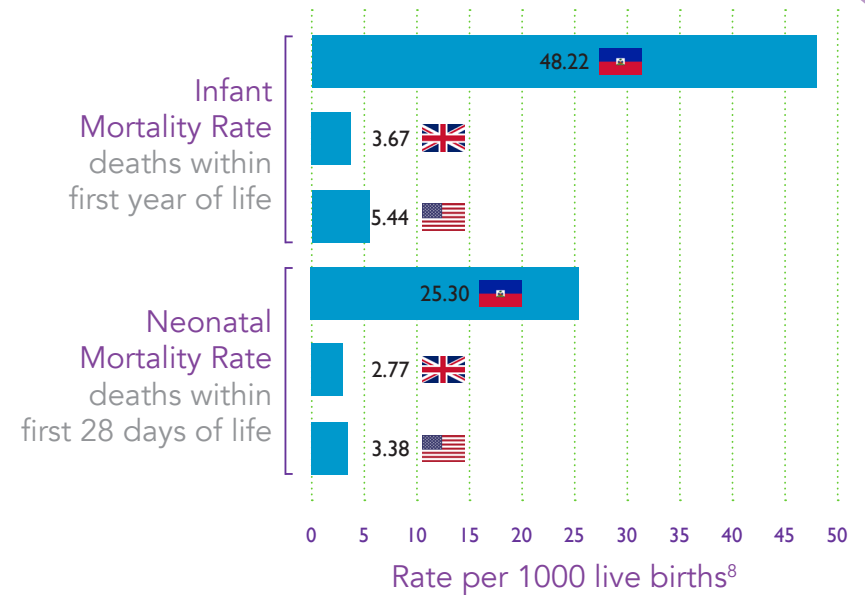
⁴ UNICEF, 2019

⁵ UNICEF, 2019

⁶ Haiti: neonatal and child health profile: WHO: Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health; 2012

⁷ WHO The Global Health Observatory, latest data (accessed 2022)

⁸ Pediatric Physicians Workforce Data Book 2017–2018 American Board of Pediatrics 2018



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



Hope Health Action has been working in Haiti since 2007, where they co-founded one of the leading hospitals in the north of the country, Hospital Convention Baptiste d'Haiti (HCBH). For 16 years, HHA has been working alongside local Haitian staff and leaders to grow their hospital facility and ensure their community has access to critical and comprehensive health and disability care. This has included training and capacity building, the provision of new technology, equipment and infrastructure, and support and expansion of the hospital's programmes. Where there was previously an empty field, there is now a 100+ bed facility, including a maternity ward, neonatal care unit, rehabilitation centre (the first of its kind in Haiti) and a respite care centre for children with disabilities.

Today, HCBH treats over 35,000 patients annually and employs over 330 Haitian staff.

In 2017, HHA expanded their work into Uganda and South Sudan, where they support refugees displaced by the South Sudanese war. In December 2021, they opened the New Hope Rehabilitation Centre in BidiBidi, one of the largest refugee settlements in the world, which provides services to an immediate population of over 190,000 refugees, alongside a range of health, nutrition, disability and other relief projects.



Konbit Sante is a US-registered non-profit that has been working in Haiti since 2001, supporting the development of a sustainable health system that meets the needs of the community in and near Cap-Haitien, the second-largest city in Haiti. They focus on empowerment and local capacity building to improve care, viewing their Haitian colleagues as full and capable partners. Konbit Sante works directly with four Haitian health facilities: two hospitals and two health clinics. Together, these institutions provide care to over 300,000 people in greater Cap-Haitien.

Konbit Sante focus on empowerment and local capacity building to improve care.

HHA and Konbit Sante have worked closely together in Haiti since the devastating 2010 earthquake. Since then, they've partnered on a range of programmes in northern Haiti, including helping to set up north Haiti's largest Cholera Treatment Centre, which treated 80% of cholera patients in northern Haiti; setting up Haiti's first permanent spinal cord injury and rehabilitation unit; and implementing a regional maternal and infant health strategy across northern Haiti, strengthening facility and community based care.



Build Health International (BHI) was founded in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, as the tragedy highlighted the need for accessible, comprehensive, and seismic-proof healthcare infrastructure in Haiti. BHI's first project after the earthquake, Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais, redefined what was possible for designing and building health infrastructure in low-resource settings. Over the past decade, BHI has carried the lessons learned from building Haiti's largest public-sector hospital into over 60 projects across the country.

BHI promotes global equity by developing high-quality health infrastructure to enable access to dignified and affordable healthcare to those who need it most. Working with public sector and NGO partners in fragile health systems, they develop infrastructure solutions that elevate the quality and accessibility of healthcare in the most impoverished and resource-constrained regions of the world.

BHI's approach allows for delivery of high-quality care that can be operated and maintained in a resource-constrained setting.

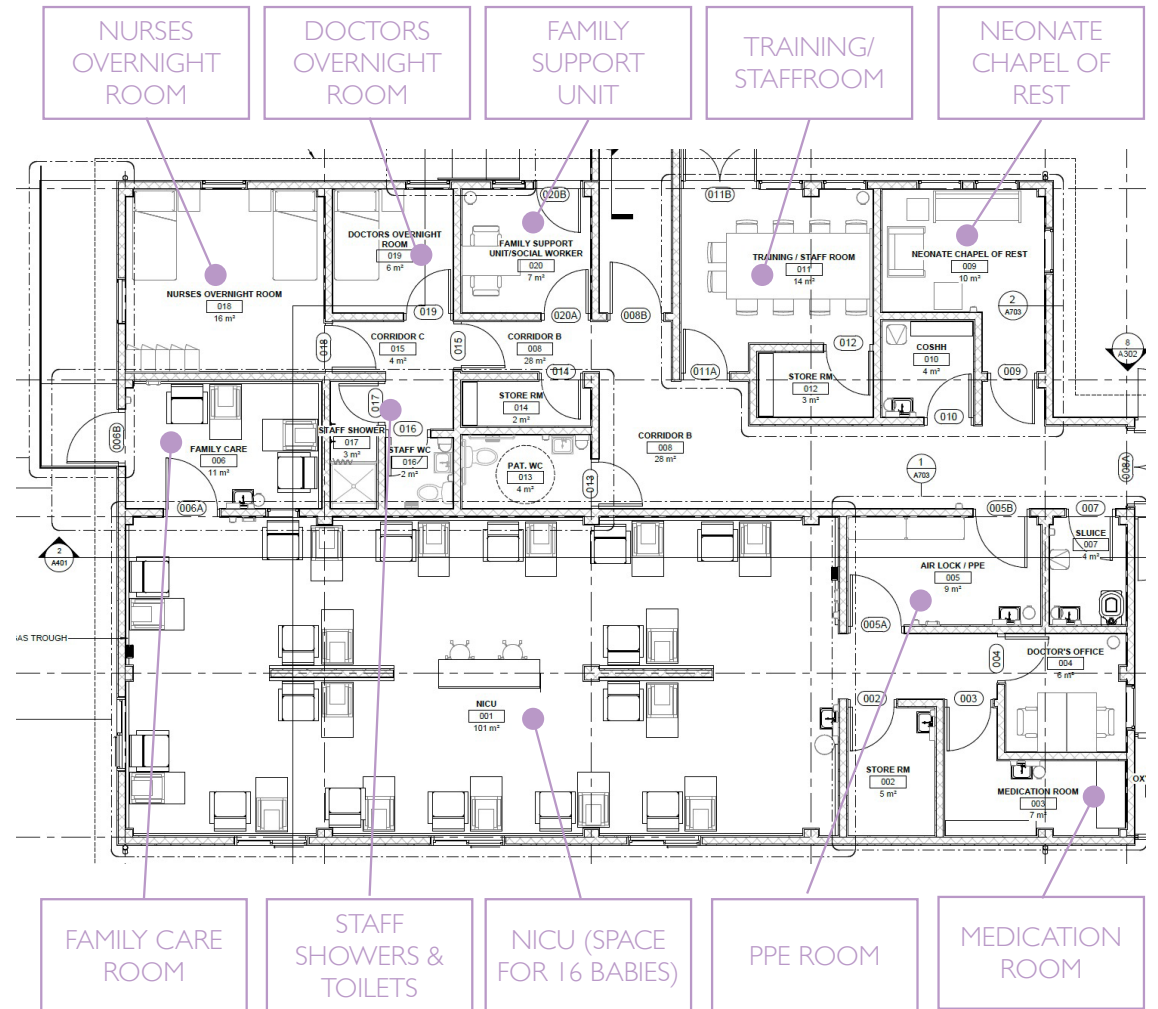
They work to make each of their healthcare facilities a part of robust public healthcare systems that will provide long-term quality, accessible, and affordable care to the local community.

A NEW NCU

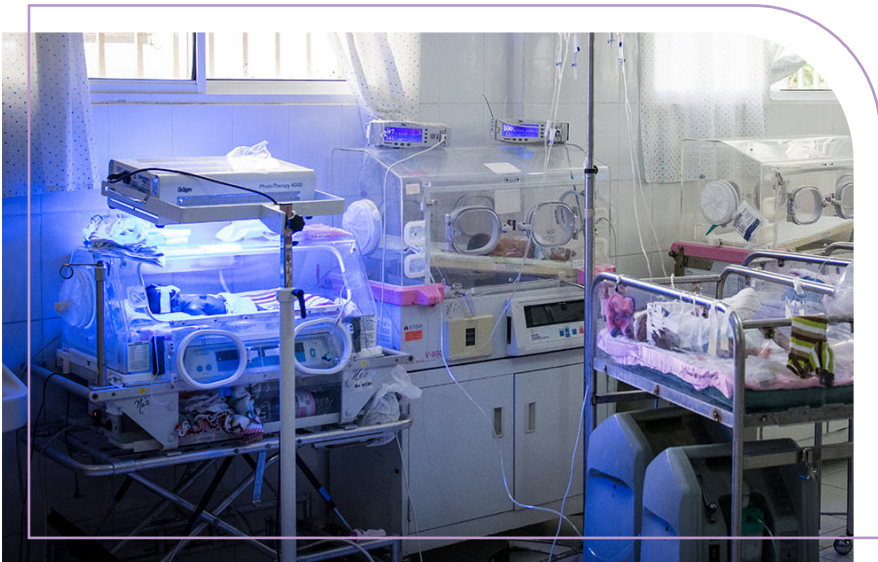
Together, HHA, Konbit Sante and BHI are working to build a new neonatal unit at HCBH to transform care in northern Haiti.

The existing Neonatal Unit at HCBH opened in 2012, and is now stretched beyond capacity. In the final few months of 2022, the unit regularly cared for 20+ babies at once, despite having been designed for just 8 – who are forced to share cots, oxygen and specialist equipment. In these situations, despite the best efforts of staff, quality of care is significantly affected, with infection control and other critical standards impacted, alongside the negative impact on staff morale and care for mothers on the unit.

Following many years of consultation with leading local health providers and international experts, we have now finalised plans to build a new Neonatal Care Unit at HCBH which will significantly improve the hospital's capacity to cater for the population's need and reduce neonatal mortality rates in the region.



EXISTING WARD



A NEW NCU



TRIPLED FACILITY SPACE

The new NCU will triple the space capacity of the current unit, expanding from 37.7m² to 110m². It will be able to safely accommodate up to 16 babies (compared to the current 8) with an increased distance between cots (2.4m vs. current 0.5m), helping to reduce the risk of infection between babies.



REDUCED RISK OF INFECTION

One-third of neonatal deaths around the world each year are caused by severe infections. The new unit design not only incorporates more space between cots, but also includes improved WASH facilities, helping to reduce the risk of infection.



PROMOTION OF MOTHER-LED CARE

In addition to the dedicated **Breastfeeding/Family Care Room**, increased ward space will also allow for seating for mothers beside each cot, providing a comfortable environment for breastfeeding (which has significant health, social and economic benefits) and kangaroo care (an evidence-based strategy known to significantly improve neonatal outcomes). We will also be investing in patient education to promote these types of mother-led care.



CONTINUOUS CAPACITY BUILDING

A dedicated training room (with the infrastructure for telehealth training over the internet), alongside increased investment in staff training and mentorship, will continue to build the capacity of the staff and improve the quality of care they are offering.



BETTER PATIENT EXPERIENCE FOR MOTHERS

A new mother's accommodation block will include eight beds, a bathroom and a shower - and will be available for mothers to stay in while their baby is in the NCU. This will provide a safe, comfortable space for mothers at an incredibly stressful, emotionally and physically challenging time.



IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS

Staff morale has at times been impacted due to insufficient clinical space, lack of toilets and rooms for resting. This new design provides staff accommodation - a safe, dignified space to rest and recharge during a busy work day - and we will also be implementing improved staffing ratios alongside the infrastructure improvements.



SENSITIVE AND DIGNIFIED CARE SPACES

New offices for the Head Doctor, Head Nurse and Hospital Social Worker at the heart of the unit will enable our staff to meet the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of the patients in a more sensitive manner. A Mortuary/Chapel of Rest and a garden space will provide dignified, peaceful spaces for families after the loss of a child.



DATA COLLECTION AND M&E

Alongside these critical infrastructure and resource improvements, we will also be investing in operations - including more robust and effective data collection and analysis, and the introduction of mortality reviews which partner organisations have seen to help dramatically reduce mortality rates.

FINANCIALS

PROJECT COSTS		
ELEMENT	COST USD	%
Construction	\$533,300	77%
Architecture/engineering	\$55,900	8%
Administration & Project Management	\$80,000	11%
Contingency	\$26,700	4%
TOTAL	\$695,900	100%

\$347,400

50%

secured through Noah's Fund and other anonymous donors

\$348,500

50%

to raise in order to execute this life-saving project

Thanks to Noah's Fund and a group of anonymous donors, we have **secured half of the funds** needed to execute this project. We have the capacity to commence this project either in the second half of 2023 or early 2024 depending on fulfilment of fundraising goals.

We are looking for partners to collaborate with us on this exciting and ambitious project. We have a number of unique and rewarding ways for you to support our goal of transforming the lives of vulnerable babies and their families in Haiti. This could be donating funds towards the building costs of the unit, contributing towards new equipment or even sponsoring a member of staff.

Every donation, no matter the value, can make a difference and we would be delighted to discuss bespoke opportunities with potential partners and look forward to working with you to make this dream a reality.

NOAH'S FUND

In 2019, HHA's CEO and Co-founder's son, Noah, tragically and unexpectedly passed away. Rather than receiving gifts following the loss of their son, Carwyn and Reninca set up a fund in his memory called 'Noah's Fund', with the aim of providing life-saving care to the most vulnerable mothers and babies across HHA's work.

Carwyn and Reninca's family and HHA have been humbled by the incredible generosity of so many people who donated in memory of Noah, enabling the dream of a new unit to become more of a reality. In the last few years these funds have already provided life-saving neonatal equipment to Haiti. In 2023, with funds committed to the new Neonatal Care Unit development, it is our hope that the vision of Noah's Fund may start to become a reality and ensure thousands of babies can be saved in the years to come.

"Noah received the very best care imaginable. For most women and babies in Haiti, such care is a distant dream."

Carwyn has said, "Noah received the very best care imaginable when he passed away. He was surrounded by a specialised army of highly qualified doctors and nurses with more equipment and materials than you could imagine. For most women and babies in Haiti, such care is a distant dream. We're passionate about Noah's Fund changing this through the new neonatal unit, so thousands of babies can be offered the life-saving care they deserve and need."

