



A NEW CHAPTER IN HAITI

STATEMENT FROM CARWYN HILL MBE, HOPE HEALTH ACTION CEO

APRIL 4TH 2024

On behalf of all the team, we'd like to express our deep thanks for your thoughts and prayers following the recent troubles in Haiti. Whilst greatly saddened by the devastating situation in Port-au-Prince, I'm pleased to share that our team in Cap-Haitien has remained safe and the communities we support have, on the whole, remained relatively stable.

Our commitment to Haiti is unwavering, however, I am writing with a heavy heart to share an update regarding a difficult decision we have recently had to make about HHA's work in Haiti.

Our partnership with Convention Baptiste d'Haiti

When HHA was founded, our Haiti mission was focused on our partner hospital, HCBH, managed in partnership with Convention Baptiste d'Haiti (CBH). Despite many years of positive collaboration, the current CBH leadership has willfully strayed from the shared values upon which we co-founded the hospital. Sadly, the recent behaviour of some CBH leaders has fallen well below the high standards we are committed to, including nepotism, unethical treatment of hospital staff and questionable financial practices. We simply cannot condone this - both ethically and in accordance with international charity standards.

We have worked tirelessly to address these issues, but have been met with resistance, and after much reflection, prayer, and consultation with key stakeholders, we have collectively reached the difficult decision that HHA's future vision in Haiti will be best lived out in new ways. We will therefore be ending our partnership with CBH and withdrawing from HCBH by 30th April 2024. As co-founder of HCBH, this has not been an easy decision at all, but we are confident given the situation that it is the right one and will enable us to make a greater positive difference in the years ahead.

With your support, thousands of lives have been saved and transformed

This takes nothing away from the incredible impact we have all made through HCBH and nor does it diminish our passion and commitment to continue our mission in Haiti.

Looking back, we can be incredibly proud that together we helped HCBH become one of the leading hospitals in northern Haiti, transforming healthcare in the region. We helped pioneer one of Haiti's first Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centres, and started one of the region's leading maternity and neonatal units, facilitating the safe birth of thousands of babies. We were at the forefront of major emergencies, establishing cholera treatment centres and a COVID19 unit, and we built the largest wheelchair programme in the country. We have seen hundreds of thousands of lives saved and transformed.

A new chapter for our mission in Haiti

As well as reflecting on what has been achieved, we look forward with renewed passion and commitment for our mission in Haiti. Particularly at this time of such turmoil, the communities we serve need our unwavering support more than ever, and we are committed to providing it.

Building on our years of experience in Haiti, and learning from the exciting new models of care we have successfully implemented in East Africa, this spring we are starting a new chapter in our Haiti mission. In the coming months our key projects will transition into a new 'HHA Haiti Hub' where we are confident they will flourish. Our new 'hub' will house our respite care centre for children with disabilities, alongside our rehabilitation efforts and national wheelchair distribution centre. It will also become the centre of our future maternal and infant health work, where our longstanding collaborations with local partners are as strong as ever. As one local community leader said to us, "This is not the end of the story, it's just a new chapter!"

We are committed to keeping you, our supporters, updated and we will share more details of our exciting plans with you very soon.

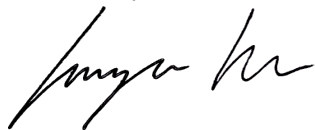
Haiti continues to need our love, support and solidarity

While moving our mission in Haiti to a new home is one of the hardest decisions we've ever had to make, we strongly believe it is the right one, and we are excited for the next chapter and the opportunities it will bring. We understand that you may have questions about this transition, so we've included additional information below. If you'd like to chat further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Over Easter weekend, many of us have been reflecting on the Easter story: a story that shares the suffering of a broken world, but also a hope and love that makes all things possible. We founded HHA on this hope, inspired by the call of Jesus to love others as we would wish to be loved. Even in these difficult times, we chose to stand in love, hope and solidarity with the people of Haiti, and hope you'll continue to stand with us.

Your support will be more important than ever over the coming months – and we'll be in touch soon about a very exciting match-funding opportunity to make your support go even further during the month of May. For now, as our dear local team say, *kenbe fèm* - 'stand strong', as we continue to hold this wonderful nation in our thoughts and prayers, trusting in a brighter future, and venturing forth in this new season.

With love,



Carwyn Hill
CEO and Co-Founder
Hope Health Action



A NEW CHAPTER IN HAITI QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What has led to this decision?

It has become clear that our current partnership with CBH is untenable and continuing would risk our good stewardship of your generous support. Recent behaviour of CBH leadership has begun to affect staff and patients. Examples include acts of nepotism following unethical removal of key, long-term hospital staff, bullying and threatening behaviour (including public, unfounded defamation of innocent staff), and working outside agreed financial policies and procedures.

HHA's senior leadership team and trustees have worked tirelessly over recent months trying to overcome these challenges and, as the situation developed, we exhausted every avenue to preserve the partnership with CBH. Unfortunately there were a number of sensitivities that prevented us sharing anything publicly sooner, so we are delivering this update as soon as we could following the decision to end the partnership.

Is there no way to continue working with the hospital?

HHA co-founded the hospital with CBH on the principle of local empowerment. Hence the President of CBH has always assumed the role of the HCBH Board Chair, with HHA and CBH having equal representation on the Board, and CBH legally own the land and buildings at HCBH. However, this means that ending our partnership with CBH sadly entails our withdrawal from HCBH.

We have worked tirelessly to try and continue working with CBH, however, ignoring the behaviour we have witnessed would not only go against the Christian values by which we operate, but would conflict with our legal responsibilities as an international charity and potentially jeopardise HHA's wider mission to provide care for the most vulnerable people.

What does this mean for the hospital, its staff and patients?

Since co-founding HCBH, we've worked to equip and empower the hospital with the infrastructure, skills and capacity to run as self-sustainably as possible. Whilst we have made huge strides towards this, we cannot ignore the reality that certain services remain reliant on international support. This context has made the CBH leadership's behaviour all the more distressing for us. Nevertheless, we continue to hope and pray for a change in direction by CBH, in which case we would of course be open to exploring any possible future involvement to help HCBH.

However, HHA's new Haiti Hub will ensure that the core services that have been reliant on HHA can continue in a new location. Our work at our respite care centre for children with disabilities will continue, with the same staff and children, in this new location. Thanks to the continued support of our disability partners, we will transition our rehabilitation work, as well as our wheelchair distribution centre, to our new Haiti Hub. We are also preparing a new vision for maternal and infant healthcare, which we look forward to sharing with you in the coming months.

Does this mean HHA is scaling back in Haiti?

We have absolutely no intention of scaling back! We remain fully committed to delivering and expanding life-saving health and disability care to the world's most vulnerable people, and it is clear our mission can be fulfilled in new ways.

The existing services you are generously supporting will continue to flourish in our new Haiti Hub and we are already working with our major stakeholders to build on this.

Are HHA making any changes in East Africa?

No, this decision has no impact on our work in East Africa. However, failure to act on this difficult situation with HCBH would have impacted our capacity across all countries, due to our legal and ethical responsibilities as a charity.

What can I do to help Haiti and HHA in this new chapter?

HHA's history shows that even in the darkest, seemingly hopeless situations, with your prayers, support and generosity, hope always prevails. Haiti faces great uncertainty, but with your support, together we will continue to care for the most vulnerable. Please don't lose hope - pray with us, continue to stand with those we've come to love dearly in Haiti, and together we will see countless more lives saved and transformed.

A really exciting opportunity is approaching in May when, thanks to a generous match-funder, you'll have the opportunity to double your donation. So if you can support our work as we transition into our new Haiti Hub, and at a time when the country desperately needs our support more than ever, we ask that you consider doing so in May when your generosity will go even further.