

## Restoring Access to Health Care in Maniche

Ever since the 2021 earthquake crumbled the walls of the Maniche Health Center, HEI has partnered with the Center to restore access to care in this hard-to-reach area with a population of over 20,000. Rosebenette, 38 years old, lives in Fond des Frais, a one-hour walk from the health center. This is her story:

We've been coming to the Maniche Center since 2006, for all our health care. After the earthquake, when I saw the building was destroyed, I lost hope. But when I was pregnant, I came [to the temporary location] for my prenatal appointments, and I found good quality care.

Eight months into my pregnancy, I learned I was going to have two little girls. I was worried, because of the country's problems. But I decided to expect them with a happy heart.

I went to the hospital in Les Cayes to give birth, in case I needed a C-section. Ever since, I've been coming back here for care. The twins are 18 days old now. They

are really lovely, and they laugh every time I play with them. Their father, Predilhomme, is very happy to have these two little girls. He always accompanies me to the Center.

Thank you to everyone who joined together to provide care in the community of Maniche.



Dr. Laraque examines Rosebenette's children.

### MÈSI ANPIL | WORDS OF THANKS

"I have learned so much at [HEI/SBH's spinal cord injury center]. I found all of the support I needed here, whether it was mental or physical. I say a huge thanks to everyone who supports the program."



**Casimir**  
Patient | Cavillon, Haiti

"If not for SBH, I could have lost Vanel, my youngest son. I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helps the hospital, enabling me to get free care for my little boy."



**Dorcilia Belle**  
Mother | Roche-à-Bateaux, Haiti

### CRISIS RESPONSE

## Empowering Women, Feeding Families

HEI/SBH's community health team is empowering women to help combat malnutrition amid rising food insecurity in Haiti.

Juliana's and Rosemita's hands move swiftly as they slice potatoes and carrots. In a small outdoor kitchen, they work with other mothers from their community to prepare a hearty meal for their families.

These women are members of Ti Fwaye ("little hearth"), a program that is helping combat malnutrition in the region. Through Ti Fwaye, our community health team identifies mothers of children who are thriving in communities with widespread malnutrition. Working together, they teach good cooking practices, proper feeding, and nutrition to caregivers of malnourished children.

Food insecurity in Haiti reached crisis levels in fall 2022 as unrest, drought, inflation, and other complex factors made food more expensive and harder to find. Through Ti Fwaye, mothers like Juliana and Rosemita are learning how to best keep their children healthy and strong through this crisis.

"The Ti Fwaye program is very important because there are many things we didn't know, and now we know how to take [better] care of ourselves and our children," says Juliana. Rosemita agrees, saying, "When I came to the Ti Fwaye program, I saw how I could feed my daughter differently. Now she has become healthy and gains weight rapidly."



Juliana is proud to provide her daughter—and her community—with a tasty, nutritious meal.



All smiles in the kitchen as the women of Ti Fwaye prepare dumpling soup.

**Save the Date!**  
**11.02.23**  
**HEI/SBH 2023 Celebration:**  
**40 Years of Proving**  
**What's Possible**  
Saint Cecilia Parish  
Boston, MA



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It's an honor to be celebrating our 40th anniversary year with you.

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about how we're moving the needle on some of southern Haiti's most pressing issues including malnutrition, maternal health, and health system strengthening.

And in the weeks and months ahead, we'll be bringing our community together in new and exciting ways as we celebrate all we have achieved over the past four decades. I cannot wait for you to see all we have in store.

Your unwavering support helped SBH transform from a one-room clinic into one of the largest and busiest hospitals in Haiti. Although the challenges have been many and there is still much work ahead, I know together we can keep proving that anything is possible.

Kenbe Fém,

Conor Shapiro  
President and CEO



## WHY WE GIVE

“HEI is one of the best and most reliable healthcare and community health systems in Haiti and we are committed to supporting them to expand and deepen their work.”

**Adeline Azrack**  
Donor | Fondation CHANEL

## FEATURE

# Leading Collaboration Among Health Facilities

*HEI/SBH has embarked on long-term work to strengthen southern Haiti's health systems. Let's break down what health system strengthening means, and why it's so important.*

## What is a health system?

A health system is all of the people and institutions that deliver health care in a geographic area. It includes the staff and infrastructure of hospitals, health centers, and laboratories, as well as people in the communities, like traditional healers and midwives.

SBH is the hub of the local health system in the Fond des Blancs area. As one of the only fully functioning hospitals on Haiti's southern peninsula, it is also central to the regional health system, and a key player in Haiti's national health system.



Miss Marie prepares to weigh a young patient.

## Why does southern Haiti's health system need to be strengthened?

Lack of public resources and coordination have made maintaining a high standard of care across the region nearly impossible. With our local leadership and reputation for quality and reliability, we have been entrusted with building a more effective and resilient system.

Over the past forty years, HEI/SBH has earned the trust of funders and of health system actors at all levels who have looked to us for crisis response. This work allows us to share our knowledge with them in a systematic way, increasing overall capacity.

## What is HEI/SBH doing to strengthen the regional health system?

Working with 37 health facilities across southern Haiti, we aim to improve patients' access to care by:

- Training hundreds of health system actors in technical and management skills

- Meeting with health facility leaders to understand their needs, build mutual trust, and strengthen collaboration
- Coordinating with the Ministry of Health on health delivery standards and resource distribution
- Convening regularly with partners for data-driven decisions to improve facility management and delivery of services.

## What results do you expect?

Over time, we will see healthier communities due to better patient care and greater utilization of health services.

By using our proven model of healthcare delivery, we will make quality, equitable care available to more patients in more communities in our region. At the center of everything is the patient, and patients will see a difference.

HEI/SBH is **building connections** between health facilities at all levels.

