“Adequate prisoner health not only controls infectious disease, but also contributes to safe, secure, and humane institutions—part of establishing a society of justice, prosperity and peace.”

Dr. John May, President, Health through Walls

In 2017, the Minister of Justice of Mozambique invited HtW to collaborate with their prison’s medical unit to help bring improvements to care and treatment. With one of the highest HIV rates in the world, Mozambique’s prisons are also overcrowded and overwhelmed with medical needs including tuberculosis. In photo above, HtW’s Karine Duverger visits one of the prison housing units with officials. HtW has identified interventions to assist with TB control and treatment and currently putting together funding proposals to donors.

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HTW NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR PRISONERS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

- Financial donations toward prisoner health services. So many needs!
- Medical equipment collected by HtW for the American Correctional Association’s Container Donation Program shipping supplies to prisons of low income countries
- Volunteer at home or abroad
- Donate online at www.healththroughwalls.org or send check to: Health through Walls 12555 Biscayne Blvd., #955 North Miami, FL 33181

( Please include your name, address and email.)

Contributions are tax deductible under the IRS codes for 501(c)(3) organizations.

Thank you for your support! And in appreciation of foundation support from the Elton John AIDS Foundation, Gilead Foundation, USAID, Global Fund, Public Welfare Foundation.

www.healththroughwalls.org
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PUSHING FORWARD

MALNUTRITION AND OVERCROWDING YET CLINICAL SUCCESSES.

Shocking as it was, prisoners in Haiti’s National Penitentiary were dying of malnutrition in early 2017. Monies apportioned for prisoner food did not make it to the prison in the final months of an interim national government. Health through Walls (HtW) bore witness to the disaster and rallied solutions which were finally realized when the new government assumed leadership and corrected the problem. Meanwhile, HtW staff worked around-the-clock to provide support and nutrition to prisoners weakened by disease and malnutrition.

Although the crisis is over, adequate food and clean water has long been a challenge at the National Penitentiary. With more than 4,200 male prisoners in a space intended for 800, cycles of malnutrition, nutrient deficient disease such as beriberi and anemia, and water-borne diarrheal disease and cholera occur. A solution is to reduce the numbers of pre-trial detainees, presently more than 90% of the prison population, and HtW partners with groups dedicated to that cause. Meanwhile, HtW delivers nutritional supplements and support to prisoners with HIV infection or tuberculosis so that they can remain healthy in this challenging environment.

HtW’s has worked with the Haitian Prison Authority with USAID to establish a clinic inside the prison with laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, medical records and infirmary. Medical staff are at the prison 7-days per week. Prisoners with HIV and TB infections receive care and treatment in accordance to national standards.

DECEMBER 2017. This is the same prisoner (center) from the February 2017 AP photograph above; now recovered from his severe malnutrition thanks to the HtW team including nurses Gladist Petit Homme (left) and Barbara Rousier (right).
Volunteers make it happen

Above: Haitian prisoner with malnutrition receiving supportive care from HtW during the prison food crisis in early 2017.

Volunteers provide tremendous support to HtW through prison health missions. Teams with and without experience in correctional healthcare join HtW to deliver care and treatment. Missions in 2017 included dental, mental health, optometry, specialty care and more.

Photo above: Dental team of students and dentists led by Dr. Thomas Beague of Elmont, NY at the Les Cayes Prison, Haiti (July 2017).

Above: Haitian prisoner with malnutrition receiving supportive care from HtW during the prison food crisis in early 2017.

Above: HtW staff conducting cell checks for malnourished prisoners.

Below: Prisoners in line for nutritional supplements.

Photo above: OB/GYNE Dr. Carol Ritter of Baltimore (left) training HtW’s Dr. Sabine Carre (right) in conducting cervical cancer screening of female prisoners in Haiti, March 2017.

Photo right: One of more than 30,000 digital x-rays read by Miami volunteer radiologist, Dr. Irving Waldman, to identify prisoners with tuberculosis disease. Dr. Waldman reads x-rays each week sent to him digitally by HtW.}

Sustainable healthcare in developing countries
AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION AND HTW PARTNERSHIP

HtW now works with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Jamaica by staffing community health clinics for released prisoners and their contacts or families. The HtW-AHF partnership exists to reduce the barriers to HIV and TB care and treatment for former prisoners. Previously stymied by stigma, denial, shame, poverty and more, former prisoners were often lost to follow-up medical care. These community clinics, supported by AHF, are places where former prisoners and their partners can receive care free-of-charge. HtWs’ prison care managers and discharge planners link prisoners to these clinics upon release. Often the same doctor who treated them in the prison and with whom they have developed trust is the same doctor in the community clinic. Furthermore, in the Dominican Republic, HtW works with Foundation Genesis and AHF to offer free HIV testing and treatment to prison visitors. As of December 2017, more than 1,000 persons are enrolled and receiving care in these community clinics.

PHOTO ABOVE: AHF/HtW community HIV testing campaign in Haiti, August 2017.

PRISONER SUPPORT IN MALAWI

HtW provides nutritional and clinical support to prisoners with HIV/AIDS in Malawi Prisons Service through Pastor Daniel Mitepa.

PHOTO ABOVE: AHF Board Members tour Haiti’s National Penitentiary to understand the health needs of prisoners, December 2017.