



Impact Report / Summer 2021

You Make a Difference



Through Challenging Times, We Continue to Serve



Dear Friends,

Haiti's history has been punctuated by hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters. COVID-19 is yet another catastrophe in this series, one with the potential to devastate the national healthcare system as the number of cases climbs.

The first few cases came from outside Haiti in March 2020. The lack of infrastructure, and the need of medical supplies and clean running water in both urban and rural areas are critical.

Haiti is now weathering a second wave. And given the nation's fragile healthcare system, limited health literacy, distrust of the science, high population mobility, and preponderance of multigenerational households, this second wave is proving worse than the first.

Despite these challenges, and despite Haiti's weakened health system, CMMB Haiti continues to serve the most vulnerable. Our staff are committed to the work and to our mission—to provide health services to women, children, and their communities. In impoverished Côtes-de-Fer, CMMB Haiti led in the fight against COVID-19. Before the first case in March 2020, CMMB built a triage center and refitted a cholera center for COVID-19 patients who required hospitalization.

Educating the population proved the most difficult challenge. The population resisted masking up, especially because they did not personally witness many cases. We needed to ensure that the population understood preventive measures such as mask wearing and their importance.

Community health workers conducted home visits to explain the importance of continuing immunization so as not to lose the gains that their communities have made against preventable diseases. They also re-emphasized why babies need to be delivered by skilled birth attendants—to prevent maternal and neonatal mortality.

Community health workers also reminded HIV/AIDS patients to continue their treatment and to come for regular testing. The fear of COVID-19 affected everyone, but the engagement of CMMB Haiti staff and the trust that communities feel toward the health workers helped us through many days of the pandemic without great losses.

Years of providing care, building partnerships and the foundational elements of our CHAMPS program (Children and Mothers Partnership)—access to clean water, building healthcare capacity and access to



medicines and supplies—proved pivotal as many of these practices mirrored the vital needs in helping treat and slow the spread of COVID-19. The expansion of our CHAMPS program will allow us to extend the reach and impact in our communities.

Even in these difficult times, CMMB staff will continue to travel to the countryside to provide services to the different communities we serve, where every human life is valued, and health and human dignity are a priority for all.

To you, who make this work possible, we say, Thank you. Merci.

Dianne Jean-François
CMMB Country Director, Haiti

Your Generosity Travels Far

At CMMB, we strive to reach as many women and children with quality healthcare as possible. To better measure our success, our Monitoring and Evaluation team has refined their collection and reporting methods so that data-supported decision-making helps maximize the impact of our work.

Your love and generosity made an incredible difference for CHAMPS global numbers from October 2020 through March 2021. Because of you:





CHAMPS – Transforming the Lives of Women and Children Around the World

At CMMB, we see how women and children are disproportionately affected by poverty, limiting their access to the health services they need. CMMB's Children and Mothers Partnerships (CHAMPS) program targets these inequities, bringing quality healthcare to women and children in extremely poor and isolated communities.



Healthcare

We improve mission hospitals and rural clinics by enhancing the skills of the healthcare workforce, upgrading dilapidated infrastructure, and more.



Life

We train and deploy community health workers, who encourage health-seeking behavior. We provide advice to mothers for safe pregnancies and deliveries.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

We support access to clean water and improve sanitation and hygiene for healthcare facilities, communities, and schools.



Medicines

We develop effective pharmacy systems in hospitals and clinics serving remote areas by training staff. We fill shelves with critical medicines and supplies.

CHAMPS is a trusted partner in building sustainable health systems. Key pillars upon which CHAMPS operates:

Strong partnerships promote deeper impact alongside governments, UN agencies, catholic hospital systems, corporations, women religious, family foundations, and thousands of caring donors.

Long-term commitments of 15–20 years at each CHAMPS site means we know communities' needs.

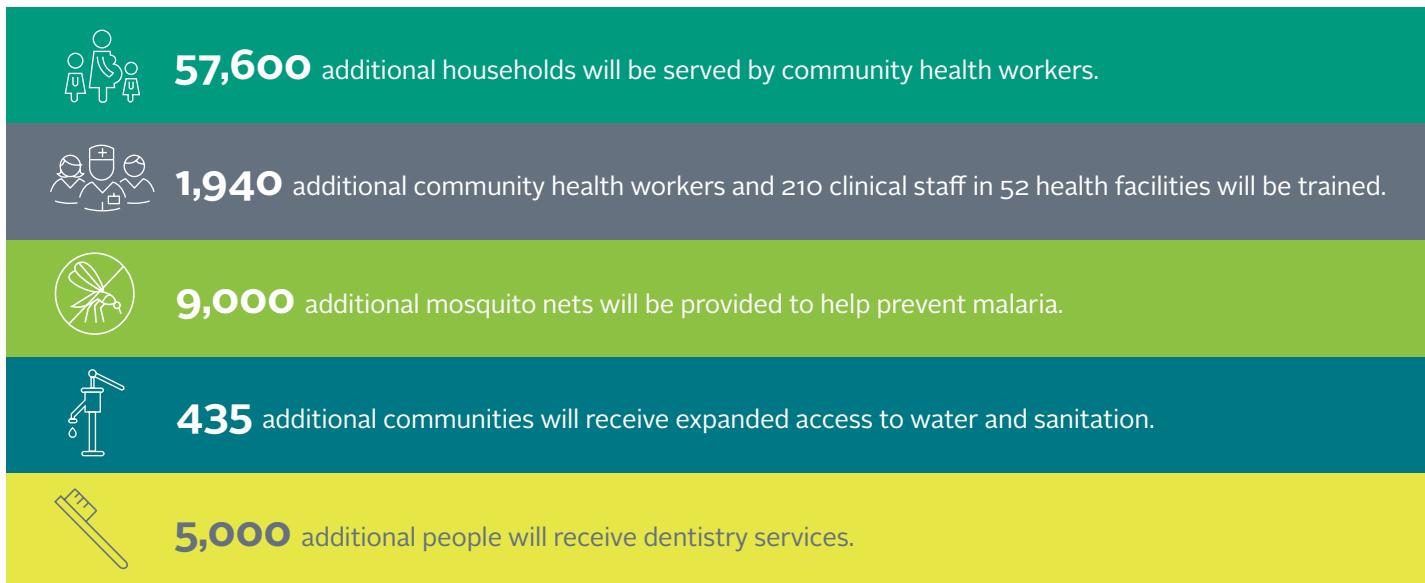
Building local capacity by providing training on clinical skills and community health promotes sustainability. Our programs are supported by over 1,000 skilled national staff and represented by the communities we serve.

Monitoring and continuous learning ensures that our interventions reflect global best practices and are tailored to local needs. Our data demonstrates the tangible impact we have on those we serve.

Building on Success - Expanding and Deepening CHAMPS Services

The positive impact of our CHAMPS program has proven to be a major factor in reducing illnesses and morbidity. The program successes call for both an expansion into additional communities and a deepening in the quality of care provided. We are thankful for your support as this program continues to provide the highest quality of care and compassion to women and children.

CHAMPS expansion goals over the next 3 years:



A New Mother's Precious Life is Saved in Rural Zambia

On a warm April afternoon in Mwandi, Zambia, nine-months pregnant, Nawa felt the first sharp pains of labor. This wasn't Nawa's first baby so she thought she had some time. Under the guidance of her community health worker, Precious, Nawa attended all her prenatal appointments and planned to give birth at Mwandi Mission Hospital.

Nawa's house is far from the main road and the taxis she called for a ride were taking a long time to get to her. She called Precious, who sent for an ambulance. Nawa's labor progressed quickly and within just a couple of hours, she delivered her baby girl, Sharon, at home. The ambulance arrived shortly after to a challenging scene—Nawa's life was in danger. She had not delivered the placenta yet and was losing a lot of blood. The ambulance rushed her to Mwandi Mission Hospital where she received a life-saving blood transfusion.

Today, Nawa is grateful for the care she received and the quick action from Precious. "My daughter would be an orphan today if I didn't get to the hospital in time—I am one of the lucky ones," said Nawa.

Trauma and Resilience: Addressing Mental Health for Providers in the Global South

Dr. Andruma Mustapha Yusef in South Sudan: “We Face This Every Day”

South Sudan is challenging. Armed conflict, economic hardship, and poor health outcomes have plagued South Sudan before it even officially became a country in 2011. Healthcare providers here face extreme resource shortages and poor health infrastructure at work. They see patients needlessly die from a lack of resources, violence, and poverty.

Dr. Andruma Mustapha leads our Safe Motherhood project in South Sudan. The project supports women during their pregnancy and encourages hospital delivery to reduce maternal and child mortality. In this interview, he talks about the trauma of practicing medicine in South Sudan and how the pandemic exacerbated existing mental health strain on providers and communities.

Tell us about this past year as a healthcare provider in South Sudan.

I participated in case management with COVID-19 in our isolation center, in addition to my responsibilities with the Safe Motherhood project.

We had to train the staff to multitask. If you are a midwife, you had to deliver the baby, pass on information about preventing COVID-19, identify anyone with symptoms, and isolate suspected cases. This was challenging because it did not allow providers to focus on their usual tasks.

South Sudan has had instability and internal violence since its inception and before. How has this affected the population? How did COVID affect this already fragile situation?

There are a lot of psycho-social challenges in South Sudan. These



people lived through war for so many years. Then after South Sudan became independent, there was internal fighting. One moment they are trying to cultivate crops near their home and send kids to school, only to have a civil war erupt the next month. This disrupts all the systems—especially health systems.

The past two years there has been more stability and systems were growing stronger. Then COVID-19 came.

I see people every day who look depressed, who look sad. If you go deep into the villages, COVID-19 shutdowns have hit them so hard. Even healthy people are impacted.

How do you feel at work knowing this virus is out there? Has it affected you?

Definitely. South Sudan had COVID-19 lockdowns and I had to stay in South Sudan for nine months without going home—I am from Uganda and my family is there. I missed my family. Socially, I felt it was very difficult.

The staff and I watched the news every day. We saw so many people dying in the US and we felt really afraid. We saw it coming like a bushfire approaching your home—you couldn't stop it.

Initially, we didn't have a lot of information to give to our community. It took time for us to pass the message to the community on how to social distance, wash hands, and more.

South Sudan was not prepared—there was no PPE, no sanitizer, facilities were not ready. Donations from CMMB made it possible for us to receive a lot of PPE and supplies that we initially didn't have.

What would you want people to know about your work this past year?

I am committed to this work. When I see a patient has recovered and they leave the hospital with a smile, I feel proud. I feel we should not complain about what we do not have but use what we do have and be innovative. You can see the meaning of life through this work.

Have you or your staff been vaccinated yet in South Sudan?

CMMB is working to roll out vaccines at the state level, so I hope to get it next week. We are looking forward to it.

To read Dr. Mustapha's full interview, visit cmmb.org/mustapha-interview

Training for Resilience

For healthcare providers around the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic has not just been a medical crisis but a mental health crisis, for themselves as well as for the communities they serve.

Recognizing this, CMMB created a volunteer-led effort to equip our teams on the ground with the skills to build resilience, deal with grief, and care for self and others under these most extraordinary of circumstances.

One of those volunteers is M. Therese Lysaught, a theologian and ethicist and professor in the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics & Healthcare Leadership in the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago. Her work focuses on domestic and international healthcare and issues of social justice.

The resulting collaboration is the Building Resilience Program, a virtual, ongoing educational effort to develop resources and programming to address an unanticipated dimension of the pandemic: the spiritual, emotional, and moral toll on in-country healthcare workers and communities.

An immediate challenge was that much of the emerging literature and resources on the mental health toll of COVID-19 is informed by the healthcare realities of wealthier countries, while little exists for use in globally diverse, resource-challenged settings.

An impetus for resiliency training in the first place, Therese said, was the knowledge that healthcare workers are not trained to care for themselves, but rather, she said, to “be stoic, which is counterproductive to good healthcare. A key piece of this has been to say, you have permission to take care of yourselves. You are a priority, and this is going to make you a more effective care provider.”

There is also the reality that the global South had been dealing with trauma for years before COVID-19 hit.

Read the full story here: cmmb.org/training-for-resilience



"The resiliency training was timely and important against the backdrop of decades of political and communal conflicts in South Sudan. Getting health staff to open up and support each other during the pandemic requires trust building, and this training reminded us of why building resilience should be given priority."

— Jacqueline George
CMMB Country Director,
South Sudan



Medical Donations Program: Partnering to Deliver Medicines Worldwide

In partnership for over twenty years, together CMMB's Medical Donations Program and Merck & Co. have expanded access to healthcare for the world's most vulnerable communities.

CMMB's Medical Donations Program believes that to create innovative and long-lasting impact for those facing the greatest need throughout the world, we must adopt a multifaceted, collaborative, and community-based approach. This belief is shared with our long-time partner Merck & Co. who has helped shape our work for more than twenty years.

Since 1998, CMMB delivered donations to over 600 partner organizations throughout 88 countries with medical donations provided by Merck & Co.

Merck & Co. has made an important impact on CMMB's CHAMPS communities. Every year, our teams have the opportunity to identify their

most critically needed items which Merck & Co. produces for donation. Merck & Co. provides quality medicines and medical supplies that are in high demand by local hospital partners but in some cases, beyond the reach of their limited budgets.

Beyond donations of product, since 2008, Merck & Co. has supported 13 CMMB health initiatives with cash grants totaling \$375,000. In 2018, Merck & Co. supported CMMB's Medical Donations Program supply chain capacity building initiative in Haiti. This funding complemented investments in team design and implementation of inventory management training for recipient organizations. The initiative also included creation of resources to empower beneficiary facilities to track and forecast their medical needs and to integrate donations into their analysis.

"CMMB is proud to partner with Merck & Co. to not only increase access to high

quality medicines around the world and to optimize their use, but to enhance support of those at the forefront of the crucial work of healthcare for their communities," said Darnelle Bernier, Vice President of CMMB's Medical Donations Program.



You Make a Difference

Together in faith, we are advancing our shared mission and vision to provide quality healthcare that serves vulnerable women, children, and communities with love, dignity, and respect. **We love what we do, but we can't do it without you.**

Your tax-deductible gift to CMMB will enable us to continue to deliver sustainable, impactful healthcare programs. Our services and deployment of essential medicines and supplies reach the most vulnerable. To give online, visit cmmb.org/donate



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