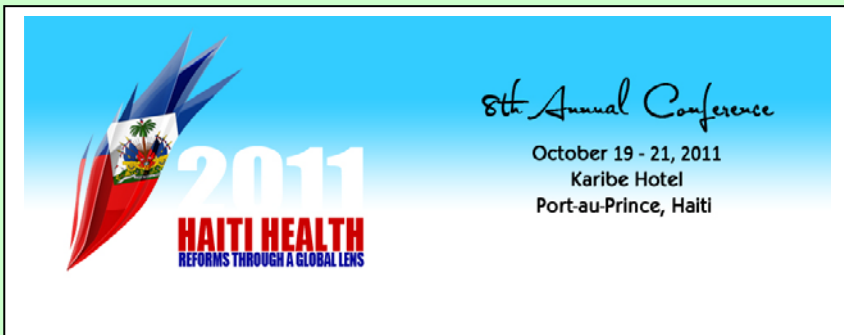


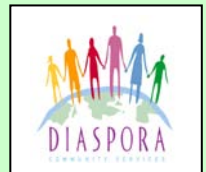
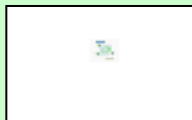
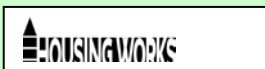
# NATIONAL HAITIAN AMERICAN HEALTH ALLIANCE (NHAHA)



## *Haiti Health Into the next Decade: Shaping Haiti's Public Health future through collective Action* OCTOBER 20-23, 2010



## *Haiti Health Reforms through a Global Lens*



*A cry for help*



# Conference 2011 summary

## Foreword

Before the earthquake that destroyed Port-Au-prince and killed close to 300.000 Haitians, the health of Haiti was in dire strait. The health situation today is even more worrisome and the future uncertain.

Our 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> annual conferences focused on Health Systems Strengthening in Haiti's reconstruction looking into 2010-2020. The 2010 and 2011 conferences provided a venue for stakeholders to interface in ensuring that health is placed front and centre as a priority issue in Haiti rebuilding.

The conference was successful in:

- showcasing innovative research, policies and practices that addressed specific health areas and systemic health infrastructure issues.

- exploring strategies for building the capacity of the public health system at local, national, and international levels, and leverage the potential of partnerships and collaboration.

- Creating meaningful linkages for engaging the Haitian Diaspora in the reconstruction of Haiti.

- offering solutions for improving care delivery coordination in the country.



The National Haitian American Health(NHAHA) is a US-based organization whose mission is to improve the health and welfare of Haitians by enhancing communication, promoting and facilitating collaborative projects and fostering cooperative relationships among similar organizations through coordinated resource and information sharing, advocacy, capacity building and education.



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## CONFERENCE TRACKS & TOPICS

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### Summary

#### Governance and Policy

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##### Health Economics and Financing – Pharel Kesner

##### Health Care Policies affecting third world countries – USG in Haiti

#### Engaging Haiti Civil Society in Improving Haitian Health

##### Programs and Capacity Development

##### Mental Health

##### HIV/AIDS

##### Cholera

##### Building local workforce capacity in Health

# Acknowledgements

## Conference Planning Committee:

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## Collaborators:

Ministere de la Sante Publique et de la Population

Association Medical Haitienne

Hotel Karibe

## Sponsors:

Housing Works

Caribbean Women Health Association

Banque de la Republique d'Haiti

Hudson River Health Care

Diaspora Community Services

Haitian Center's Council

I-TECH

Fondation pour le Développement Des Ressources Humaines en Santé



## Volunteers

Carol Plaisir of AMH

Marie Josee Francois of  
Housing Works

Maggy Remy of NHAHA

Claude Colimon of NHAHA

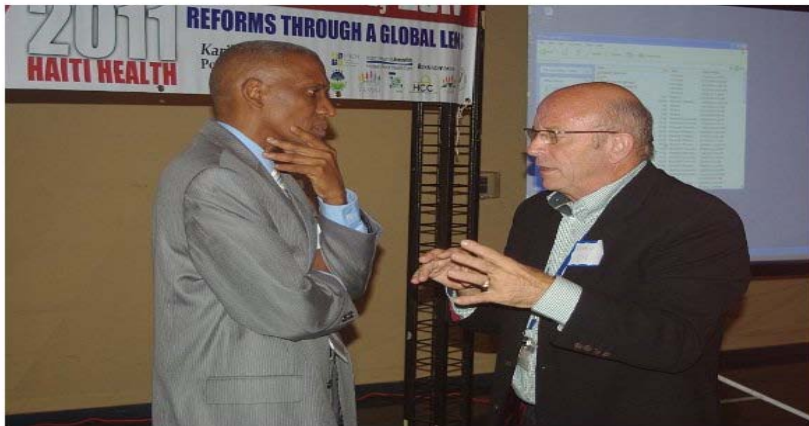
Ronald Aubourg of NHAHA

Geraldine Duperville

## Conference Speakers

There were a total of 35 speakers conducting over 30 presentations during a two-day dialogue of facts, experience, ideas and reports from the field.

The speakers covered a wide variety of expertise, skills, and disciplines from Economy to Governance, from Public health program, human rights and women rights to mental health and HIV.



## Conference Purpose and Objectives:

The main Goal of the conference was to Inform, educate and communicate by engaging members of the civil society with government officials, non-government agencies, and international organizations and grassroots communities and the Diaspora in the reconstruction of the health infrastructure in Haiti.



From its very beginning, NHAHA conference aimed at addressing the disparities in health care among Haitians where ever they are. During the course of its organizational development, NHAHA has established a specific strategic plan to reach its objectives. Entitled “*NHAHA Haiti Health Initiative*”, this strategic plan is fourfold:

Goal 2. - To foster a supportive partnership with the ministry of Health of Haiti and all other stakeholders to break the divide between Haiti and the Diaspora

Goal 3. - To support best health care practices and formulate specific health policies that benefit Haitian

Goal 4. - To advocate for better health care as a human right for all Haitians

## 2011 Conference Speakers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yanick Sanon Eveillard</li> <li>• Dr. Gabriel Timothe – General Director of the Ministere de la Sante Publique et de la Population</li> <li>• Dr. Ginette Rivierre Lubin – President of the Haitian Medical Association</li> <li>• Mrs. Joelle Daese – Haiti HIV Program Coordinator for MSPP</li> <li>• Dr. Desormeau – Division de la Sante Familiale , MSPP</li> <li>• Dr. Gregory Jerome – Director of Monitoring and Evaluation and Quality Improvement, Partners in Health (PIH) Zanmi Lasante</li> <li>• Mr. Kesner Pharel, Economist and Professor , Chairman and CEO of Group Croissance, SA</li> <li>• Dr. Jocelyne Pierre Louis, Director of Promotion, MSPP</li> <li>• Dr. James Myers , PhD , Executive Director of Haiti Outreach Pwoje Espwa (HOPE) and Director of Resource and Environmental Economics, Michigan State University, Global Outreach, Rochester Institute of Technology</li> <li>• Dr. Olbeg Desinor, Society of Haitian Pediatricians</li> <li>• Clare Loprinzi, Traditional Midwife and Certified Professional Midwife, Mother Health International</li> <li>• Dr. Marisa Nadas, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, department of ObGyn, Boston Medical Center</li> <li>• Dr. Claude Surena, AMH</li> <li>• Dr. Ronald Eveillard, SHP</li> <li>• Dr. Jean Gabriel Ballan, International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Carmelle Bellefleur, RN PhD Director of Promoting Health in Haiti, Inc.</li> <li>• Mona Prismy</li> <li>• Lucile Charles, President of the Haitian Nurses Association</li> <li>• Jimmy Beaubrun, Director of Human Resources, MSPP</li> <li>• Charlotte Eddis, Coordinator of Haiti Health Reconstruction, US Government</li> <li>• Dr. Marc Cohen, PhD, Senior Researcher, Humanitarian Policy, OXFAM America</li> <li>• Dr. Gemina St. Louis, PhD, Clinical Psychologist, Boston University</li> <li>• Roemonde Menard-Webb,, The Haitian Mental Health Network and NHAHA mental Health workgroup</li> <li>• Jacqueline Baussan, Vice President of the Association of Haitian psychologists</li> <li>• Dr. Jean Levelt, MSPP</li> <li>• Esther Boucicaut Stanislas, Founder and Executive Director of Foundation FEBS .</li> <li>• Lisa Davis, Advocacy Director of MADRE and Clinical Professor of Law for the IWHR Clinic at CUNY Law School and of International Politics at American University</li> <li>• Amand Klasing, J.D. Research, Women Rights division of the Human Rights Watch</li> <li>• Dr. Gerson Jeudy, POZ</li> </ul> |
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## Major Players in the system: MSPP, US government, NGO's and the Haitian Diaspora

### 1. Haiti Ministry of Health:

Haiti is still in ruins 22 months after the January 12 earthquake with no signs of major demolition or construction. Countless collapsed buildings continue to serve as tombs for their earthquake occupants. Half a million are still living in tents. Camps are lacking water and food. The country is still transitioning to a new government which somewhat affected our conference programming.

### Haiti Major Health challenges:

- Lack of health infrastructure;
- 914 health institutions in the West 60%;  
243 communal sections not covered: 43%
- Inadequate human resources to needs
- Lack of trained staff in peripheral areas:
- Lack of coordination of partners



#### Poor Health indicators

- Life expectancy: 54 years
- Infant mortality rate: 57/1000
- Maternal mortality rate: 630/100.000
- Incidence of Tuberculosis 132/100.000
- HIV prevalence rate: 2.2%
- 47% of the population has no access to health services
- 60% of births are attended by trained personnel
- 40% of women expressed an unmet need for family planning
- 74% of PHAs express unmet need ARV

## Human Resources

Human Resources for Health are inadequate.

- Doctors 5.9/10.000
- Nurses 5.9/10.000
- Health professionals 6.5/10.000

The medical curriculum has not been updated since 1963. Not enough health practitioners being trained to keep up with the demand.

Many trained by the state are lured by NGO's for higher salaries. Between 1997 et 2006

- 24 % des gradués de la FMP ont quitté le pays (184 médecins sur 780 formés)
- 11 % des infirmières des quatre écoles nationales ont quitté le pays (126 infirmières des 1109 formées)

There are some projects being implemented by outside collaborators to complement the training of Physicians and Nurses. MSPP invites NHAHA, AMHE, AMH, NGOs and associations of medical specialists in organizing workshops on the National Strategic Plan of the MSPP to identify ways to help strengthen HR activities in their respective fields.

The MSPP wishes that the strategy of brain circulation (internal and external) initiates a process of academic excellence for the benefit of the Haitian health system strengthen HR activities in their respective fields.

## Other Issues:

**Cholera epidemic:** The cholera outbreak has not slowed down its course. The epidemic has claimed the lives of 6,600 and counting in spite of the educational prevention efforts by Haiti and its partners. As vaccination was being debated at the conference, an article from Miami Herald announced a vaccination campaign to begin in January 10, 2012 by a major NGO, Partner In Health (PIH).

**Tent Cities:** Reconstruction has not started. There are an estimated 5,000 individuals still living in squalor in the streets of port-Au-Prince. The conditions of the tents have deteriorated due to the reduction in the availability of basic services such as clean water increasing the vulnerability of children and women. In March, 48% had access to clean water, today its only 7%. Rape, violence and unwanted pregnancies continue to be of great concern for women's advocacy organizations.

### Economic issues and budget constraints:

The Health sector is under financed

- Country Budget : 88 milliards of gourdes
- Budget of MSPP : 3,5 milliards of gourdes,
- or 86 million US (85,889,570 US) which represents 4% du budget of which

- 90% goes into salaries

Allocation breakdown

- 40% households
- International cooperation 31%
- Treasury 29%

When mapped, the fraction allocated by regions is severely inadequate to address the needs of the population while the US government is urging Haiti to contribute a higher percentage to the health sector budget.

**The Haiti Ministry of Health (MSPP) continues to work on its interim plan. It had established a process for registering NGO's but many have not been registered and realigned. Its focus continues to be on reinforcing a mechanism for coordination, strengthening partnerships, and aligning foreign assistance with national goals and maximizing available resources.**

## **2. The US government:**

The US government has modified its campaign now referred to as “USA Forward” which is a philosophy to provide funding directly to the government provided they are trained on Management of funds and on contracts. Traditionally the funding was outsourced to a third party which in turn provided funding to the government. Together with other multilateral partners the US government is coordinating their resources to address the needs, the Haiti government priorities and respond to the challenge that is

on hand. There is a plan to establish zones of intervention, to manage these zones using a system of Referral network with network outside of Haiti. A total of 4 departmental hospitals are planned. “USA forward” is looking at how funding need to be changed from traditional to better management and strengthening governance and capacity of MSPP.

**GOAL:** Support Haitian systems to provide primary and comprehensive health services in key geographic areas under the USG Haiti strategy.

**OVERVIEW:** The new project will support the GOH to manage the delivery of health services

The project will pursue an agreement to channel service delivery financing through the GOH

Additional procurement mechanisms will be used to:

Strengthen the technical and management functions of GOH institutions and NGOs carrying out service delivery assistance  
Monitor performance and certify payments made through partner country systems

**The US government is committed to help Haiti build better but cannot do it alone and urge the Haitian government to allocate a higher percentage of the budget to health.**

### **3. Civil Society & the Diaspora**

There are a number of professional, grassroots and Haitian organizations in Haiti and in the Diaspora with the desire and expertise to contribute to the reconstruction in the country. These organizations combine a wealth of information and resources and should be tapped in the reconstruction of the country. Many Haitian civil organizations are limited due to a lack of resources and targeted mobilization. However Nursing, Doctors, Mental Health, PLWHAs Public Health associations, schools and grassroots organizations in Haiti and in the Diaspora present at the conference believe that there is an opportunity to make a difference if they work together and coordinate their efforts and resources.

**There is the need to develop a common vision and mechanisms among civil society organizations for information exchange, and to better leverage their assets.**

#### **NGO's:**

NGO's contribute greatly to the provision of health services in Haiti. They provide an array of services all across the country and are the sole providers of services for many Haitians. There are very innovative programs that were presented.

However, the NGO's system in Haiti is disjointed. They are scattered around the

country in a disparate in an unequal fashion since they do not have neither funding nor reporting obligations to the Government of Haiti. There are exceptions to this rule. In fact, the conference showcased an Electronic Medical Record project as a **Best Practice example** which has been successfully implemented in many HIV/AIDS programs across the country through a government/ NGO's partnership approach. Successful strategies and tools developed for HIV programs are being examined to improve the entire health care system. A new I santé information Technology system has the potential use in primary care including support, standardization of care; Disease surveillance; Quality of care and services; Effectiveness of program monitoring and Increasing availability of data for decision making across programs.

It should be noted that the most progress witnessed in the HIV sector is impressive. The rate of infection has been reduced to 2.2% and progress is being made in prevention and care.

**The most recurring themes raised on this topic are the need for a realignment of NGO's, the reallocation of resources to follow the needs of the county; and the strengthening of MSPP to fulfill its mandate as the overseer of the system.**

## Next Steps:

As a result of the conference, new partnerships have been created. NHAHA will continue to organize community stakeholders of the Diaspora to help prioritize and define a policy plan with Haiti partners and shape subsequent strategies.

The past two conferences have informed us on



*Dr. Florence Guillaume, MSPP New Minister*

the host of challenges Haiti is facing and brought our attention on the following critical priorities:

**Populations:** children, women and the disabled.

**Health focus:** communicable, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, and Mental Health.

**Policy issues:**

- Involvement of Haiti civil society in the reconstruction
- Access to clean water and sanitation

- Housing for Internally Displaced Persons
- Food and Nutrition

**Conference will be held in Washington DC and will focus on policy.**

**We will continue to work with our Haiti partners to create forum opportunities for updates, exchanges and collaboration with the Diaspora.**

**Please let us know if you are interested in taking part on the planning committee, or interested in joining our effort, via email at: [info@nhaha.org](mailto:info@nhaha.org)**

**A full report is being prepared .**

**Initial meetings with potential partners and high level officials in Haiti and the US are being discussed.**

**We will continue to discuss issues that are the forefront of Haitian Health through social networking and blogs on NHAHA.org. Please follow us, better yet, become a member.**

**We welcome your input and exchanges.**

