



SANTE TOTAL
Healthcare for Haiti's Poor

Winter Newsletter *2023*



Sante Total, which means “Total Health” in Haitian Kreyol, aims to provide sustainable healthcare to rural communities in the central plateau region of Haiti. We believe you can only improve health through eradicating the disease of poverty. The Sante Total approach considers the entire person – physical health, well-being, education, and employment, to be essential to health and quality of life.

FUTURE MEDICAL TEAM DATES

On hold due to safety concerns

Be a part of the team! Contact us at
santetotal.healthcare@gmail.com



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support for the work of Sante Total. The situation in Haiti has continued to deteriorate, and I admire the courage of Gaby, Berteau, and all of the Haitians who are continuing to help people to their best abilities despite the terrible conditions.

There are now some gangs in Pignon that have started threatening people, and several people have been murdered, which is very unusual in that area. They have had to close the schools because the gangs were threatening to murder the children if they went to school. Gaby tried to open school again this week, but only 24 of the 150 kids showed up because they were so afraid. Fuel is very difficult to come by, and the price of food is very high. It is hard to get money out of the bank because several banks have closed and the ones that are still open have barricaded their offices to keep the gangs from attacking them, and only let small numbers of people in at a time. People line up very early in the morning to get in, and you sometimes have to wait in line all day. After you get the money, you have to be careful because the gangs watch the bank, and you can be attacked before you get to the store to buy your supplies. This is making it difficult to get anything done on the clinic or any other projects, as you can imagine.

Gaby said that many families don't have enough food, and the UN confirms that Haiti faces tremendous food insecurity. Ben Ben, one of the students we support, could not start his pharmacy internship because the "hospital had no petrol." He is hoping to start in January. The medical school Dominica is going to had to close because they couldn't find enough food to feed the students and there are safety concerns. Gaby said they are carrying on and doing what they can, but it is difficult. They are very appreciative of the support they receive from Sante Total for the community.

Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts!

Barbara Weis, MD MPHTM

Executive Director, Sante Total

Current Environment in Haiti - Pandemic & Politics

These are excerpts from a report prepared by OCHA Haiti in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It contains the latest available information as of 7 November 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kidnappings** and **gang clashes** are on the rise. Civil unrest starts to subside.
- **Cholera** continues to spread across the country. The number of suspected cases has almost doubled within a week with 604 confirmed and 6,072 suspected as of the beginning of November. The geographical expansion is significant, with cases confirmed in four regions and three more reporting suspected cases.
- The **humanitarian response continues to be challenged** by persistent insecurity, the lack of fuel and sharp increases in cholera cases.
- More than 113,000 people are **displaced** in Haiti, 85% of them as a result of violence in urban areas.
- The multidimensional crisis in the country is having an impact on **children's access to education**. Schools have not opened for the 2022-2023 scholastic year affecting around 4 million children.

Current Environment in Haiti - Pandemic & Politics

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

- While there have been fewer demonstrations, and civil unrest continues to decrease across the country, Haiti continues to face significant **insecurity and violence due to gang activity**. Gang activity **hinders travel** through the main national roads leading to the North. **Kidnappings** are also on the rise, as are deaths and displacements caused by clashes between gangs.
- Access to the main ports in and around the capital remains extremely difficult. This situation **prevents the entry of essential imported goods (i.e fuel and essential items)** into the country for the humanitarian response. On Thursday 3 November, after 56 days of complete blockage, the Haitian National Police (HNP) announced that they had successfully gained control of the Varreux port.
- While tensions continue due to reduced basic services and lack of basic supplies, **economic life is resuming** with the gradual reopening of local markets. However, the weeks of shutdown have resulted in the closure of some companies, with the textile sector appearing to be particularly affected.
- On 28 October, Éric Jean Baptiste, Secretary General of the National Progressive Democrats (RDNP) and former presidential candidate in Haiti, and his bodyguard were **assassinated**.

Current Environment in Haiti - Pandemic & Politics

CONTEXT OVERVIEW *(cont.)*

- In this context, most **international actors have reduced their presence** in the territory to the operational minimum. Some have even announced their temporary closure. For instance, the World Bank decided to close its offices for 30 days from 18 October and Japan closed its embassy in Haiti on 24 October for an indefinite period. The NGO Caritas Haiti, victim of recurrent criminal attacks and looting in recent months, has also temporarily closed its office since 25 October.
- On 24 October, the Haitian Red Cross, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, issued a **press release** calling for the observance of humanitarian law, the protection of the medical mission, humanitarian access and respect for the Red Cross emblem.
- The 15 members of the UN Security Council unanimously adopted **Resolution 2653** on 21 October, co-authored by the United States and Mexico, to establish a sanctions regime (travel ban, asset freeze and targeted arms embargo) against gang members and their relatives.
- While the situation is grim, we are forging ahead with our projects because **we can still help**! Our projects are designed to develop local resources and to provide health care, nutrition, education, and so much more. Thank you for helping us reach our goals!

Featured Board Member: Devi Yalamanchili, MD

Devi Yalamanchili, MD, Board Member, Research/Grant Development Chair, is an Internal Medicine & Pediatrics Assistant Professor/Hospitalist attending with University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. Her primary focus is in global health and service in resource-poor areas, and she has been extensively involved in medical projects in several countries including India, Rwanda, Vietnam, Mexico, Bangladesh, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. She is also involved in local service programs such as the University of South Florida Refugee Clinic and the Tampa Bay Street Clinics, which provide access to care for homeless individuals.

Devi has taken an active role in global health since her days as a medical student at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, where she was president of the Student International Health Organization and worked in the Dominican Republic to provide care for Haitian refugees and orphans.



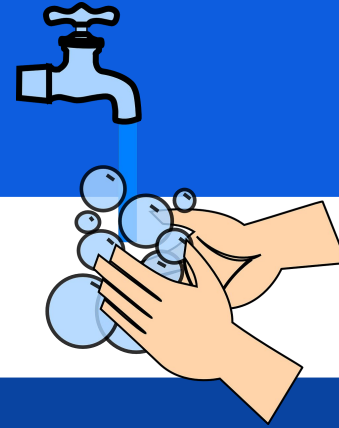
Devi became involved with Sante Total in 2009 and has traveled regularly to Haiti with the organization since then. She has played a vital role in providing medical care at clinics in Jacsonville as well as working toward staffing clinics with locals to achieve the goal of a self-sustaining clinic. Devi strives to encourage the health of the entire community by contributing to the growth of other Sante Total initiatives to ensure that Jacsonville residents have access to clean water and healthy food.

One of Devi's favorite things about working with Sante Total in Haiti is forming long-lasting relationships with patients and community members that stand the test of time and distance. Devi is a cherished member of Sante Total and we thank her for her contributions to the people of Jacsonville and the Sante Total organization.

Project Updates



COVID & Cholera Prevention



It is hard to estimate the prevalence of COVID in Jacksonville because there isn't much testing. The vaccine is available, but not many people are willing to get it because they are afraid it will make them sick. There have been a few cases of cholera in PAP, but none in Jacksonville so far.

We have supported ongoing COVID prevention, and now cholera prevention, by demonstrating how to construct hand-washing stations and educating families on the prevention of COVID and the importance of wearing masks. We plan to educate each household individually again this year now that cholera is back.

We plan to run another "Hygiene Education" project. This will involve setting up hand washing stations and distributing soap and bleach. This project will cost around \$2,000 and donations would be greatly appreciated!



Clinic Construction

Medical Care

We provide medical advice for the community through Telemedicine consults. We provided over \$1000 to help patients pay for their surgery, hospitalizations, and medications.

Permanent Medical Clinic

The permanent clinic is basically done thanks to the Rotary Club of Ellicott City! The fence is almost finished, and we received a \$10,000 grant through the club to provide furnishings and equipment.

Furniture Grant

The Rotary of Ellicott City put together a 10k furniture grant to provide the furniture for the clinic. It is extremely difficult to get building materials delivered because of the fuel shortage and violence, but they are trying to move forward on this.

Sante Total Receives \$10,000 Grant to Furnish Jacsonville's Medical Clinic

By Temrah Okonski, Board Member

Sante Total was awarded a \$10,000 grant to build furniture needed in Jacsonville's medical clinic. Sante Total and The Ellicott City Rotary Club collaborated to raise \$5,000 that was matched by Rotary District 7620, to total \$10,000.

The approved grant met "Disease Prevention and Treatment" and "Economic and Community Development" Rotary grant requirements. The goal of this grant is to furnish Jacsonville's empty medical building with basic furnishings and medical equipment by using local labor, promoting Jacsonville's economy. The medical clinic has 4 treatment rooms, a nursing area, lab, and a front desk area. Four exam tables, six bookshelves, eight worktables, thirteen waiting room benches, sixteen chairs, and two (front desk) stools will be built. The grant includes a gift to the Pignon Hospital.

Gabi Thelus is named the project manager for this grant and will secure the needed building material and local workers. The Ellicott City Rotary Club members and Sante Total members will supervise the project from afar. The grant will also allow for the purchase of medical equipment that cannot be secured in Haiti, including an adult and pediatric scales, a laptop, and an Ophthalmoscope and Otoscope set.

This grant will not only transform the empty building in Jacsonville into a medical clinic with essential supplies. This grant will also be a stepping stone towards a Global Grant that will transition the medical clinic from a dependent model of care to a sustainable-independent model of care, supporting Jacsonville and surrounding residents.

The current political climate has unfortunately made it difficult to secure building material. However, we continue to be hopeful that the project can be completed before the grant deadline in May 2023.

Educational Support

School Lunch Program

We expanded the school lunch program and are providing daily lunches to all of the pupils and teachers of St. Rose of Lima School. When schools close due to COVID or political reasons, Gaby sends the food home monthly to help support the families. This is sadly often the only food the kids receive during the day.^a

We received a large grant from the St. Thomas of Villanova Parish that covers the school lunch program, which has received its delivery of food for the year. The food from the organization is being supplemented with local food to make it more tasty.

School Update

The Dells family put together a grant for small libraries in each classroom. The school has bought the books and just need to construct the book cases.

In addition to this, Gaby put a new roof on the school. He would like to finish the computer lab over the admin offices, and they would also like to build a separate building for Kindergarten.

Students & Scholarships

We have invested **over \$18,000 dollars in scholarships** for students who will help us staff the permanent clinic including: one medical, one nursing, one pharmacy and one administrative student.

Ketteline is now a certified nurse and will begin working at the school and in the community in January.

BenBen finished pharmacy school and will hopefully be starting his practical training in January.

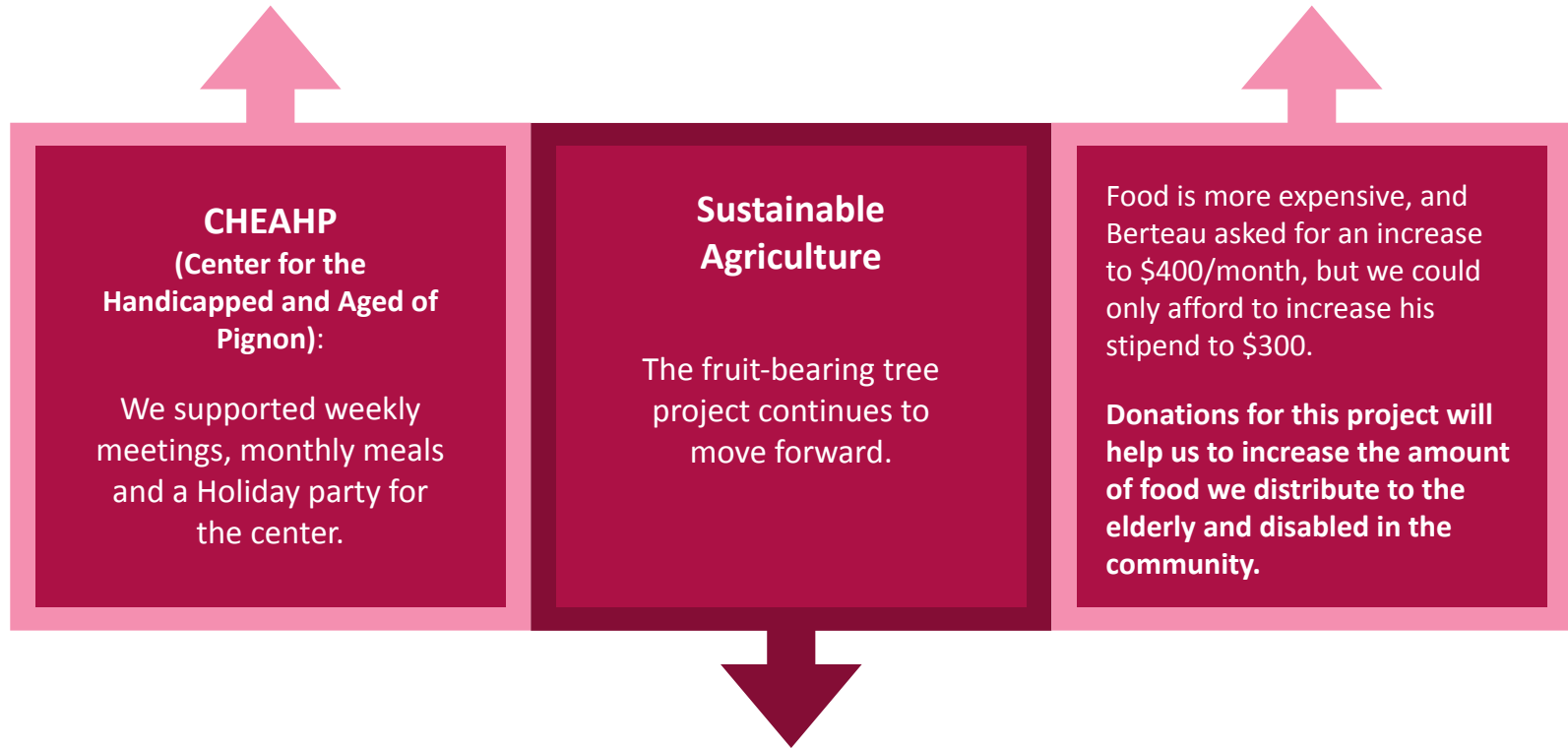
Maisson is in his second year of administration at the university.

Bicovensen has one more year of medical school.

Mackensen has finished his training.

Dominica has entered her 2nd year of medical school with a partial scholarship we provided last year.

Community Programs



How to Contribute

The background of the slide is a photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds that are illuminated from below, giving them a warm, orange and yellow glow. The sun is partially visible as a bright, glowing orb behind the clouds on the right side of the frame. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of various trees and foliage are visible against the bright sky, creating a high-contrast scene.

Dear friends of Sante Total,

Mesi Anpil (thank you so much), for your generous donations of time, energy, and money, and your willingness to help! Sante Total is counting on your participation to continue our projects in Haiti.

Why? Because Haiti is still the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and the recent political turmoil has caused suffering in Jacsonville. Our friends are struggling with inflation, gang violence, and gas, food, and medication shortages. The gangs even forced Gaby to close the Elementary School and threatened to kill the kids if they came to school. Through all of the difficulties, he has persevered, and we are excited that school has reopened and the clinic is done and we are moving forward with furnishings and buying equipment.

Invest with us in Haiti. You will not regret it!

If you would like to donate in someone's honor as a holiday gift, we will send you cards that you can gift to your favorite person.

Please lend us your support this giving season! Together, we can make a difference!

You can donate directly online at www.santetotal.com, send a check to the address listed there, or follow the directions on the website and designate Sante Total as one of your charities in Amazon Smile. Or you can also do all three!

Here's to the hope that someday soon, we will work ourselves out of a job!



\$25 will pay for soap and hygiene stations for 3 families to prevent spreading of cholera and other illnesses



\$50 will feed a family of four for one week, especially important now that food access is limited



\$75 will support the "Center for the Handicapped and Aged program" for a week



\$100 will support a student's education at St. Rose for the year and pay for their school lunches



\$150 will help pay for hospital stays, medications, and so much more!

Support Sante Total when you shop through Amazon!

Here is how to add us on **Amazon Smile** and support our mission while shopping! It is free for you, and Amazon donates a small percentage of their profits to Sante Total.



Two ways to add us that each take less than 5 minutes:

1. In your browser, search **[smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)** then type in Sante Total and select our charity. Now shop! Just make sure you type in **smile.Amazon.com** when you search on Amazon in the future. It will be linked to your Amazon account with all the same benefits without spending any additional money!
2. Shop in the **Amazon mobile app**? Then link to Smile account. You must do step 1 first, then open your Amazon mobile app, log off then log back in. Under the main screen scroll down to Settings, then select Amazon Smile and activate the smile account on the app! That's it! Now when you shop you are supporting our clinic!

Thank you so much!

We're making progress with your generous support. Thank you to our 2022 donors!

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