

HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Testing and Treatment
- Prevention and Education
- Social Support
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT)

IMPACT

Averaging over **100,00+** HIV tests per year

Over **15,000** patients on ARVs, with a viral suppression rate of **80%**

In 2019, over **9,000** patients were screened for TB, and **approximately 467** patients are active on TB treatment

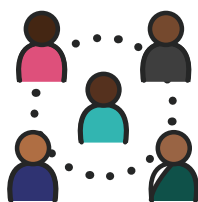
Over **10,000** Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) supported in social support activities

HIV/AIDS continues to be a great concern throughout Haiti, particularly for at-risk and marginalized populations. According to UNAIDS, in 2018 approximately 160,000 people in Haiti were reported to be living with HIV, and 7,300 new HIV infections were recorded. That same year the HIV prevalence was 2% in adults ages 15-49 years, which holds steadily as in 2006. In 1990, ZL launched the "HIV Equity Initiative," which is one of the first programs in the world to provide anti-retroviral therapy (ART) in resource-limited settings. Over the years, ZL has become one the largest provider of HIV care in the Central Plateau and Lower Artibonite departments.

PROGRAM HISTORY

During the time that ZL began the HIV Equity Initiative, anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs cost approximately \$10,000 per patient per year. ZL began with a core of 50 patients proving that HIV can be treated in low-resource settings. Using a holistic approach, ZL combines clinical care in collaboration with social support services; housing, food, school fees, travel allowances and other basic needs. An extensive network of "accompagnateurs", or Community Health Workers (CHWs), who create the link between patients and ZL- supported health facilities play a significant role.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWS)



In Haiti, CHWs or "accompagnateurs" focus on the importance of accompanying people in their journey through sickness and back to health. Living in the communities where they work, community health workers are trusted and welcomed into patients' homes to provide high-quality services for a wide range of health issues. Community health workers also make sure patients have food, housing, and safe water so that they recover and remain well. They lead education campaigns on topics such as mental health, sexually transmitted diseases, and palliative care, and empower community members to take charge of their own health. There are over 2,000 CHWs working within the ZL network.



PREVENTING MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

In rural Haiti, 5% of all women attending prenatal clinics are HIV positive. With no intervention, their chance of transmitting the virus to their child at birth is 30%. Since 1995, ZL began providing HIV-positive pregnant women with zidovudine, which resulted in a 10% drop in the rate of transmission to the child. Every pregnant women within the ZL network

is provided HIV counseling and testing. Women found to be HIV-positive are offered counseling, provided with a small monthly stipend to cover basic nutritional needs, as well as monthly travel costs to the clinic. These women are also assigned to a CHW who will deliver and observe them take their ARV medicine twice daily. In 2004, a PCR test was piloted, enabling us to more rapidly diagnose HIV in infants. ZL's capacity to provide comprehensive, high-quality health care has been instrumental in reducing the rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to less than 2% within the ZL network. ZL continues to improve on these successes through education, screening, and treatment.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES AND COUNSELING

ZL strives to treat HIV by addressing the social determinants of health. Using a holistic approach, we incorporate clinical care to include social support services. Social support services include, but are not limited to; housing food, school fees, stipends for travel, and other basic needs. Our team works throughout communities providing information with populations and encouraging. All patients must consent to be tested for HIV, and those who are diagnosed with HIV are placed on ARTs.



INTEGRATED CARE MODEL

In Haiti, HIV is prevalent in 2.2% of adults, demonstrating the stabilization of the HIV epidemic in Haiti. However, in the Central Plateau and Lower Artibonite regions where ZL works, a study by the Haitian Ministry of Health shows that the HIV prevalence in this region is 1.1%. The lower prevalence in the ZL-supported sites demonstrates the effectiveness of the integrated care model ZL uses to treat people living with HIV.

LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTIONS

Camille has been an HIV-positive patient for the past 12 years. He lives alone in a small house in Thomassique, not far from the city center. Like many of our patients, he had a career in the Dominican Republic. After staying there for over two years, he returned to Haiti due to health issues. It was then that he tested positive for HIV. At the beginning, he came regularly to the center for treatment. Unfortunately, since he didn't take his medicine regularly, this did not prevent him from having a very high viral load. At the time, he firmly believed that his salvation comes from traditional medicine, and that he trusted the traditional healer route more. The situation changed the day he was admitted to a healer for treatment due to worsening health from the adherence problem. He was on the verge of losing his life if it wasn't for the intervention of one of our CHWs who kept us informed.

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