



INNOVATION

Lidabel Marina Ríos Gutiérrez works in PIH's tuberculosis lab in Carabayllo, Peru.

Photo by Raúl Silverio Carbajal / PIH

REDEFINING THE POSSIBLE

For more than 30 years, Partners In Health has been dedicated to finding concrete solutions to the world's most pressing health problems. **We refuse to give in to doubt and cynicism regarding the limits of global health and have developed lifesaving innovations as a result, transforming the communities where we work and beyond.**

Take HIV as an example. In 1986, Co-founder Dr. Paul Farmer began caring for people living with HIV in Haiti, despite the lack of effective treatment. A decade later, antiretroviral therapy, or ART, emerged as the new standard for treatment and care. With the new drug regimen's entrance into the medical world, HIV evolved from a death sentence into a manageable chronic illness—but only for the wealthy.

PIH's deep understanding of barriers to health care, based on decades of working alongside patients in impoverished communities, allows us to develop realistic, lifesaving solutions.

For poor patients, ART was simply out-of-reach. At up to \$16,000 per patient per year, ART was expensive and believed too difficult to deliver in remote communities without modern clinics. The drug combinations had to be taken reliably over an entire lifetime to prevent drug resistance and relapse. Hunger also inhibited patients' ability to tolerate the strong medication.

PIH's deep understanding of these barriers, based on a decade of working alongside patients in impoverished communities, gave us the insight to develop a creative solution. Community health workers were the key. They delivered the drugs to patients each day, provided psychological support, and helped connect them with food and housing assistance.

In 1998, we launched the HIV Equity Initiative to test this idea among a small group of people living in Cange, Haiti. Within months of starting ART, patients rose from their deathbeds, gained weight, and found hope. **This work added to the growing body of evidence that convinced world leaders to create PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which together fuel the worldwide battle against HIV.**

PIH is now leading a similar sea change in the fight against tuberculosis, which has surpassed HIV as the world's deadliest infectious disease. Through a partnership led by PIH called endTB, we are helping introduce the first new TB drugs in more than 40 years to patients in 17 countries, while conducting a clinical trial to identify the shortest, most effective, and least toxic drug regimens.

Based on endTB's early results, the World Health Organization has already issued new treatment guidelines that eliminate months of painful, daily injections, which used to be standard practice for patients suffering from multidrug-resistant TB.

In each country where we work, PIH has innovated locally with an eye toward redefining what's possible globally. So far, our optimism, grit, and tenacity have paid off in thousands of lives saved around the world.



Merçon, pictured with Dr. Paul Farmer, was among the first patients who received antiretrovirals through PIH's HIV Equity Initiative in Haiti.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

“People helping people” is how Mohamed Lamin Jarrah describes his work as a community health worker in Sierra Leone. **“I have witnessed the darkest moments of my neighbors’ lives,”** he says, **“and I have seen the joy of relief in their eyes.”**

PIH’s 12,000 community health workers, or CHWs, form the foundation of our model of care and prove to be one of our most radical, transformational innovators. **They solve the problems of distance and affordability in health care by connecting even the most remote, impoverished members of their communities to PIH’s free, high-quality care.**

Living in the communities where they work, and with intimate knowledge of the challenges their neighbors face accessing health care, CHWs are trusted and welcomed into patients’ lives. **They assess their patients’ health, help them through difficult illnesses and treatments, and accompany them to clinics and hospitals to ensure they get the care they need.**

CHWs also help patients get access to food, adequate housing, and safe water so they can recover quickly and remain well. They lead public education campaigns on topics such as mental health, family planning, and nutrition, and hold community-wide screenings for malnutrition, HIV, TB, diabetes, and hypertension.

For people living in poverty, far from a clinic or hospital, a CHW’s technical and psychological support enables them to live longer, healthier lives.

“ I am the most sophisticated, least expensive technology in Sierra Leone. I am a community health worker, and I am the solution.”

—Mohamed Lamin Jarrah, PIH community health worker



Photo by Jon Lascher / PIH



Technician Hugo Iván Díaz Vásquez works in our tuberculosis lab in Carabayllo, Peru.

Photo by Raúl Silverio Carbajal / PIH

LIFESAVING LABS

Laboratories are essential to every high-quality health system, providing the tools critical to diagnose and manage illnesses like HIV, tuberculosis, cancer, and diabetes. In eight of the countries where PIH works, we closely collaborate with ministries of health and support **23 laboratories** staffed by **190 lab technologists, technicians, assistants, microbiologists, histo-technicians, and managers.** These facilities and staff enable clinicians to quickly and accurately diagnose and treat patients.

In Peru, for instance, our cutting-edge tuberculosis lab, housed inside a renovated shipping container, has all the necessary equipment and safety measures for staff members to diagnose and monitor patients on treatment for the world’s deadliest infectious disease.

INNOVATION, ACTION, & ADVOCACY

For more than 30 years, we've turned health challenges into unique opportunities to transform lives locally and globally. We use our impact on individual communities as leverage to advocate for change on a global scale, ensuring high-quality, humane health care around the world.



Dr. Paul Farmer and Loune Viaud, co-executive director of PIH in Haiti.

PIH is founded upon two innovative ideas: social medicine and public partnership. We treat patients by understanding their illnesses within their unique social context. Our partnerships with ministries of health enable governments to expand access to high-quality care.

2012

PIH leads a cholera vaccination campaign in Haiti that reaches more than 80,000 people with the required two oral doses, and in so doing **inspires the World Health Organization to create and maintain a global stockpile of the vaccine** for use during outbreaks around the world.



Stefany Flores receives treatment for extensively drug-resistant TB in Peru. Photo by William Castro-Rodriguez / PIH

A PIH-led clinical trial of new drug regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis begins, early evidence from which **pushes the World Health Organization toward eliminating daily injections from its treatment guidelines for MDR-TB patients.**

2017

Our study of Hepatitis C in Rwanda provides a new, lifesaving drug to patients who otherwise wouldn't have access to care, and enables us to recommend better global treatment policies.

1987

1990

1998

2000

2004

2010

2012

2017

2018

1998

Our HIV Equity Initiative delivers ART treatment to patients living with HIV in Cange, Haiti, and goes on to **inspire global funding for HIV testing, treatment, and research.**

2004

PIH co-creates OpenMRS, an open-source electronic medical record system used across our facilities and later adopted by the ministries of health in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Mozambique.

2012



Photo by Cecille Joan Avila / PIH

Nurse Christophe Rwagema administers chemotherapy in Butaro, Rwanda.

PIH's Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence opens in rural Rwanda, offering cancer care to patients who previously never had access. **Our oncology work in Rwanda and Haiti encourages the World Health Organization to add chemotherapy to its list of essential medicines.**

2018



Photo by Cecille Joan Avila / PIH

Dr. Patrick Mkondanyirazo examines Mokone Tukiso, an HIV and MDR-TB patient in Lesotho.

Lesotho's National Health Reform, a PIH and ministry of health collaboration designed to widen the availability and improve quality of health care, shows **promising results for implementing universal health coverage in impoverished countries.**

TECH-ENABLED CARE

PIH works to implement and improve data systems that empower community health workers, clinicians, and governments to deliver high-quality care to patients around the world.



Communities: CommCare, a mobile health software, allows community health workers to easily record and track patient information during home visits.



Health Facilities: OpenMRS, the open-source electronic medical record system co-founded by PIH, empowers clinicians by giving them access to patients' complete medical histories, and stores patient records safely and efficiently. And OpenBoxes, the open-source supply chain management software we developed, helps warehouse staff more quickly deliver lifesaving medical supplies to clinics and hospitals.



Ministries of Health: DHIS2, an open-source software that provides data from health facilities, allows PIH and governments to collaboratively improve the quality and collection of data that informs programs.

OpenMRS, the open-source electronic medical record system co-founded by PIH, supports

8.7 million

patients across

64

countries.

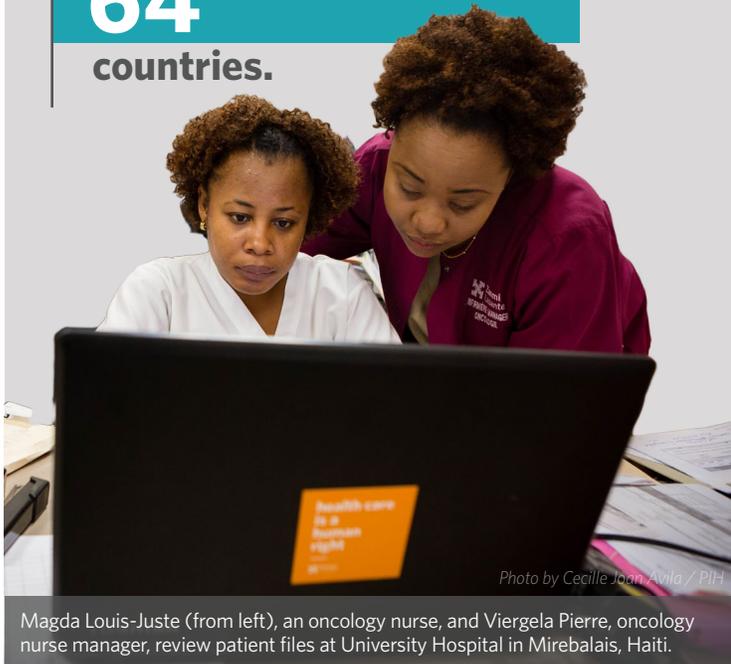


Photo by Cecille Jean Awila / PIH

Magda Louis-Juste (from left), an oncology nurse, and Viergela Pierre, oncology nurse manager, review patient files at University Hospital in Mirebalais, Haiti.

Photo by Andrew Jones / Build Health International

In Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Malawi—where we use our open-source supply chain management software, OpenBoxes—we fully deliver more than

90%

of all supplies and medications requested by clinicians.

PIH's distribution center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Why I Stand With PIH

“We hear a lot today about how data and technology are the answer to tackling thorny issues in health. But we recognize that technology is an enabler; it's not a silver bullet. That's why it's critical that we work with innovators, like Partners In Health, who experience these challenges day in and day out and who are directly and persistently changing the complex systems that impact health.”

—Deborah DiSanzo, General Manager, IBM Watson Health

GET IN TOUCH



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