IN THIS ISSUE

Our work, from Chiapas to Rwanda
Our generous supporters
Fiscal year 2016 financial summary
Canadian students unite for global health equity
Strengthening family medicine in Haiti

Real Impact that Lasts

It may have taken us five years to publish PIH Canada’s first-ever annual report, but that’s because we wanted to wait until we had a story worth telling. After all, what counts most for any social mission organization—more than size or brand awareness or percentage of revenue that goes to fundraising and administration—is impact. During the first few years after PIH Canada was founded in 2011, our impact was minimal. That started to change in 2014 and 2015 thanks to the wonderful generosity of so many Canadian supporters, and the usual awe-inspiring efforts of PIH staff around the world. It has continued on into 2016. I hope in these pages you get a small taste of what we mean.

The impact is now felt by hundreds of families affected by HIV in Rwanda who receive comprehensive care and social support, and by community health workers and patients in rural Mexico whose lives and health are enriched through increased social connectedness. In Haiti, it is felt every time an emergency medicine resident at University Hospital of Mirebalais sees a new patient who can’t get similar care anywhere else in the country. Our patients feel it when compassionate Haitian doctors and nurses and social workers push back against societal stigma to treat and comfort a victim of sexual or physical assault. It is evident in the halls of a newly renovated pediatric facility at a 100-year-old hospital in St-Marc, where children can now be treated in a setting of dignity, and clinicians have the tools needed to do their jobs.

These activities and others are being supported by PIH Canada, but they all take place within the larger context of Partners In Health’s work, indivisible and interwoven. This is by design. The lives and needs of people living in poverty and ill health aren’t neatly segmented into ‘projects’— which is why it’s so important instead to build health systems and stick around for the long haul. Thank you for staying with Partners In Health Canada and those we serve.

Mark Brender
Director, Partners In Health Canada
Our work, from Chiapas to Rwanda

Partners In Health Canada carries out its activities in partnership with PIH sister organizations based in settings of poverty. In our fiscal 2016 (July 2015 – June 2016), through the support of our generous donors, Partners In Health Canada spent more than $797,000 on direct programming at project sites in Haiti, Rwanda, Malawi, and Chiapas, Mexico.

In Chiapas, Mexico
Leveraging the power of social connectedness

Working with sister organization Companeros En Salud, PIH Canada funded an initiative to support, explore, and document the role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in reducing social isolation and fostering social connectedness. Learnings will be used to deepen PIH's evidence base for the crucial role played by CHWs in a strong health system.

In Haiti
A comprehensive approach to preventing and treating gender-based violence

PIH Canada and sister organization Zanmi Lasante helped launch PIH’s first-ever comprehensive project focused on prevention and treatment of gender-based violence. The project provides medical and psychosocial support services for victims, training and support for facility- and community-based health care providers, and works with police, the judicial system, local officials, and women’s associations for a coordinated response.

A world-class emergency medicine residency at University Hospital of Mirebalais

Equipping the next generation of specialized health professionals is critical to raising standards of emergency care across Haiti’s public sector health system. University Hospital of Mirebalais, in Haiti’s Central Plateau, is home to the first emergency medicine residency program in the country’s history. PIH Canada’s support provides training for the inaugural class of six residents throughout their three-year program.

“We can say it was an idea of genius to start this [emergency medicine residency] program, the only one in the whole country.”
– Dr. Edrist Duneant

Transforming pediatric care in St-Marc

PIH Canada funded the renovation and expansion of pediatric facilities at Hôpital Saint Nicolas in the coastal city of St-Marc in lower Artibonite. It replaced cramped, congested, and substandard pediatric wards with a redesigned and better-equipped space, nearly twice the size, prioritizing infection control and allowing for improved neonatology and emergency pediatric services.

In Malawi
Recovery and Rebuilding in Kaingilira Village

In September 2015, a devastating bush fire in Kaingilira Village – an area already affected by drought – left 52 families homeless. PIH Canada contributed to an emergency response for families who lost their homes and livelihoods, and continues to help rebuild the community by improving access to water and healthcare screening.

In Rwanda
Social support and medical care for families affected by HIV/AIDS

More than 7,000 families affected by HIV/AIDS are being supported through the delivery of medical services and food packages to patients in Kirehe and Kayanza districts.

Groundbreaking cancer work and chemotherapy support

Cancer care provided in part through support from PIH Canada has brought treatment to nearly 5,000 people since 2012, much of it at the groundbreaking Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence. In many cases, the lifesaving medications patients receive are not available anywhere else in the country.

Fiscal year 2016 financial summary

PIH Canada received $1.4 million in cash and grants revenue, a 7% increase over fiscal year 2015*. Of this, 54% came from individual donors and family foundations, and 45 percent from institutional foundations and corporations. These figures do not include revenue that was sent by third parties directly to PIH field sites for which PIH Canada played a contributing role – in particular, a sub-award of approximately $900,000 / year from Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund to PIH Rwanda for maternal and child health programming, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada.

Audited financial statements are available at http://pihcanada.org/our-story/about-pih-canada/.

*Revenue in fiscal 2015 included a contribution in-kind valued at $127,000.
Strengthening family medicine in Haiti

Canadian global health and family medicine leaders from the University of Sherbrooke and University of Toronto travelled to Haiti in May for collaborations with PIH Canada and Haitian sister organization Zanmi Lasante (ZL) around strengthening family medicine and primary care.

A team including Dr. François Couturier, Dr. Paul Grand'Maison (also a PIH Canada board member) and Sarah Stecko from Sherbrooke and Dr. Melanie Henry from Toronto visited ZL’s family medicine residency program in St-Marc to learn more about ZL’s work and discuss partnership opportunities.

The St-Marc family medicine residency is one of just two such programs in the country. Training the next generation of family medicine leaders is a priority in Haiti, given that family medicine is central to the package of primary care services that form the base of a well-functioning health system. Canadian knowledge sharing and long-term accompaniment to strengthen teaching, curriculum, and primary care infrastructure can play an important role.

More family doctors are especially needed in Haiti’s rural and remote areas, where a wide array of illnesses and injuries affect generations of families who live far from hospitals, and where an appreciation for the social contexts in which patients live is integral to the development of patient-centered care.

Canadian students unite for health equity

Students for Partners In Health Canada is a student-led movement for global health equity and social justice. Membership is open to students passionate about social justice, healthcare, and development – a cohort that PIH co-founder Dr. Paul Farmer refers to as his “retirement plan”. Over the course of the school year, our nine student chapters set and work toward a number of fundraising and education goals. With speaker panels, samosa sales, and our cross-network ‘Strides In Solidarity’, our students are fighting for health as a human right one semester at a time.

“PIH is the best model for students to learn about how to work toward eliminating the global health equity crisis and truly make a positive difference.”
– Raksha Sule, former Student for Partners In Health Canada member

To learn more: http://pihcanada.org/get-involved/student-network/

More from Partners In Health Canada available at pihcanada.org/latest-news/


PIH Canada’s submission to Global Affairs Canada’s International Assistance Review: http://pihcanada.org/global-affairs-canada-international-assistance-review/