



September 22, 2009

PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF DISEASE AND POVERTY IN HAITI

Collaboration through the Clinton Global Initiative seen as innovative approach to addressing challenges in Haiti

Fonkoze, BRAC, BRAC USA, Partners In Health/Zanmi Lasante, CGAP, CHF Partners in Rural Development and Linked Foundation have joined forces to commit \$50 million towards a two-year effort to implement a proven, replicable, cost-effective approach to improving health and reducing extreme poverty in Central Haiti.

President Clinton's appointment as United Nations special envoy to Haiti and the fifth annual Clinton Global Initiative draw attention to the extreme and persistent poverty in Haiti and the need for innovative solutions.

Fonkoze and Zanmi Lasante, two leading Haitian NGOs with decades of experience in the target area, together with BRAC, the largest NGO in the Global South, and other organizations are using their complementary strengths to improve health, eliminate extreme poverty, and develop youth leaders in this hemisphere's poorest country.

"The needs are so great," said Fazle Hasan Abed Founder and Chairperson of BRAC. "We will work in partnership to address each facet of extreme poverty and to break its grip."

Targeting 575,000 people in Haiti's Central Plateau, the major components of this commitment involve building:

- safety nets with transitions to sustainable enterprise for the most vulnerable;
- comprehensive health services;
- food security and agricultural training and employment;
- improved water access and sanitation; and
- youth leadership development and training.

"Bringing together our combined successes and expertise in a comprehensive economic, health, and leadership development approach is the precise, direct strategy needed at this crucial time," said Anne Hastings, Director of Fonkoze. "We all seek to build a sustainable future for Haiti and her people."

###

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS AND CONTACTS



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DISEASE AND POVERTY IN HAITI

Fonkoze is Haiti's largest micro-finance organization with a mission to build the economic foundation for democracy in Haiti by providing the rural poor – mostly women – with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Fonkoze is national in scope with more than 40 branches throughout Haiti offering a full range of financial services to the rural-based poor, currently reaching more than 225,000 savers and borrowers. To learn more about Fonkoze visit www.fonkoze.org.

Zanmi Lasante, the Haitian sister organization of the U.S.-based NGO **Partners In Health**, is one of Haiti's largest health care providers, serving a catchment area of 1.2 million in Central Haiti and the lower Artibonite Department. Zanmi Lasante has been working for more than two decades in Haiti to increase access to a full range of high-quality health services and to lift entire communities out of poverty through a range of social support and community development. To learn more about Partners in Health visit www.pih.org.

BRAC/BRAC USA BRAC, the largest non-profit in the developing world, was launched in Bangladesh in 1972 and currently touches the lives of more than 110 million people through its programs addressing poverty including micro-loans, education, health services, self-employment opportunities and human rights education. BRAC's vision is to improve the health, wealth and well being of millions of the poorest families primarily in Asia and Africa. BRAC has provided \$5 billion in micro-loans to nearly seven million borrowers, mostly women, and created 8.5 million self-employment opportunities. BRAC's 73,000 community health promoters have provided basic health services to more than 93 million people. To learn more about BRAC, please visit www.bracusa.org

CGAP, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor is a consortium of 33 public and private development agencies working together to expand access to financial services for the poor in developing countries. CGAP was created in 1995 by aid agencies and industry leaders to help create permanent financial services for the poor on a large scale (often referred to as microfinance). To learn more about CGAP visit www.cgap.org.

CHF Partners in Rural Development (former **Canadian Hunger Foundation**) is a non-profit organization helping to eradicate poverty in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and the Americas. Founded in 1961 by Mitchell Sharp and headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. To Learn more about CHF Partners in Rural Development visit www.chf-partners.ca.

Linked Foundation invests in leading organizations to create high-impact solutions in improving the health and economic self-reliance of underserved women in the U.S. and Latin American. To learn more about Linked Foundation visit www.linkedfoundation.org.

Contact information

Fonkoze

Anne Hastings
Director, Fonkoze
011-509-2221-7631 (Haiti)
director@fonkoze.org

Leigh Carter
Director, Fonkoze USA
202-628-9033

BRAC/BRAC USA

Alyssa Herman
BRAC USA
212-808-5615
alyssa@bracusa.org

For Partners in Health:

Ali Lutz, PIH Haiti Program Coordinator
617-432-7124 (w)
917-969-4194 (c)
alutz@pih.org