Lee Alexis, SUNY at Albany SPH
Maternal & Infant Health Internship
Cap-Haitian, Haiti
Cap-Haitian, North Department
Cap-Haitian ca.1700’s

- During the mid-1700’s, Cap-Haitian was widely known as France’s wealthiest colonial city famous for its beautiful architecture and was accordingly dubbed the Paris of the Antilles.

http://www.photochris.com/images/Cap-Haitien-4-ruelle-peinture.jpg
Pearl of the Antilles

- During the 18th century, Haiti produced more than half of all the coffee produced elsewhere in the world.
- Exports accounted for 40% of France’s foreign trade.
- However, decades of abhorrent and inhumane abuse against Haitian slaves lead to a long battle for independence.
Declaration of Independence 1804
Cap-Haitian, Haiti Today
Why Haiti?

Why is Maternal & Infant Health Important?
WHY HAITI?

Part of the reason why I decided to complete my internship experience in Haiti has to do with my Haitian ancestry as well as an interest in understanding how quality health care is delivered in a low resource country.
Health Care Delivery

• How do we deliver quality health care in a resource poor country? Moreover, is it even possible?

• The next slide displays the United State’s expenditure on health as a percentage of the gross domestic product.

• At >13% GDP, the U.S spends the most on health care than almost any other nation in the world.
Health Expenditure, 13% of GDP

Total expenditure on health
as a percentage of the gross domestic product, 2012 *

* Based on data updated in August 2014.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/29/most-efficient-healthcare_n_3825477.html
Health Care Delivery

• Yet, according to a recent Bloomberg report, the United State’s health care system is ranked among the least efficient health care systems in the world.

• The next slide displays an infographic from the Bloomberg report.
Efficient Healthcare World Ranking

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/29/most-efficient-healthcare_n_3825477.html
Health Care Delivery

• While analyzing this data from the U.S, one would assume it to be nearly impossible to deliver health care in a low resourced country, considering the significant inadequacies of the United State’s health care delivery even as a resource rich country.

• Even so, Haiti Hospital Appeal, my internship host, has used an innovated non-profit model to deliver health care to Haitian citizens in Cap-Haitian, Haiti with focus on maternal and child health.
Health Delivery in Low-Resourced Settings
**Importance of Maternal Health**

- National rates of fertility, maternal mortality, and infant mortality are critical indicators identifying issues of health and socioeconomic conditions.

- Poor maternal and infant health statistics are indicative of:
  - Considerably meager access to Antenatal/Postnatal care
  - High malnutrition in children under 5
  - Low socioeconomic status for majority of the population
  - Increased burden of disease
  - Extreme poverty
  - Low educational attainment
Critical Indicators In Haiti

- 59 infant deaths per 1,000 live births
- 350 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
- 18.9% malnutrition in children under 5 yrs.
- 34.5% contraceptive prevalence
- 78% of population impoverished
- 54% living in extreme poverty
- 44% are unemployed with >70% underemployed
Video Clip

• Please click on this link to view the passionate work of Haiti Hospital Appeal in partnership with the Haitian Baptist Convention Hospital.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxFq4TLHZ-A
Project’s Goal

To achieve a regional impact by specifically targeting marginalized pregnant women and newborns living in Quartier-Morin and Bande du Nord

- Improve maternal health
- Reduce child mortality
- Combat HIV/AIDs and malaria
Community Based Care

Use of Community Health Workers:

• Increased adherence to therapy

• Reduced lost to Follow-up

• Address social problems through nutritional supplementation programs

• Effective in treating HIV/TB co-infections
Community Health Workers
Community Health Workers
Community Health Workers
Community Health Workers
Hire & Train CHWs
Hire & Train CHWs
Successful 1st Week of Training!
Recruitment of Traditional Birth Attendants
Defining Our Target Area for Mobile Clinics
Project Responsibilities

• Project Planning and Implementation
• Development of monthly health reports to U.K Gov’t
• Design evaluation tools to measure health impact
• Collaborate between Ministry of Health and other partnering institutions
• Support in the recruitment and hiring of key project staff
Our Referral Center!
Referral Center Administrative Team
Invaluable Experience

• Opportunity to address a serious public health issue for those in great need

• Apply public health knowledge and theory in a challenging environment

• Manage a new model of health targeted at delivering health care to the poor

• Encouraged professional development, leadership skills, and problem solving
“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane”

–Martin Luther King Jr.
Thank you