

**Partners In Health  
The Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation  
Interim Report – Zanmi Agrikol – July 2010**

**I. Introduction/Background on Zanmi Agrikol**

In November 2009, The Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation made an award of \$25,000 to Partners In Health (PIH) and its sister organization Zanmi Lasante (ZL) to support Zanmi Agrikol, our agricultural program in Haiti. With this support, Zanmi Agrikol has continued to grow in scope and impact as the cornerstone of our approach to developing sustainable food security practices in Haiti.

Zanmi Agrikol (ZA)—“Partners In Agriculture” in Haitian Creole—was established in 2003 to help increase agricultural production, and to play a leading role in PIH/ZL’s effort to stem the tide of hunger and malnutrition in Haiti. ZA has three main components: the treatment of malnourished children with therapeutic foods; the operation of a farm and contracts with local farmers who grow crops used to make these foods; and the Family Assistance Program, an agricultural assistance program for the poorest families whose children have been treated for malnutrition.

As you are no doubt aware, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti just one day after we received your gift, making your contribution to fight food insecurity in Haiti more crucial than anyone could have ever imagined. PIH is extremely grateful for the support from the Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation. Below, we have highlighted our progress toward the program goals that were included in our initial proposal and included information about Zanmi Agrikol’s response to the unforeseen and urgent demand for immediate food supplies in the aftermath of the earthquake.

**II. Update on Activities/Program Achievements**

Treat Malnourished Children with *Nourimanba* and *Nourimil*

Through Zanmi Agrikol, Zanmi Lasante produces *Nourimanba* and *Nourimil* to meet the pressing need for effective and cost-efficient treatment for malnutrition, which affects a third of children living in Haiti. By producing these therapeutic foods locally, we are creating jobs and contributing to the local economy, as well as building back the agricultural capacity of the country. *Nourimanba* is a “Ready to Use Therapeutic Food” (RUTF), or vitamin-fortified peanut paste, that is used to treat severe acute malnourishment in children. *Nourimil* is a flour mixture of beans and grains that is used as a supplementary food in the treatment of moderate malnutrition. As of mid-July we have already produced 145,330 lbs of *Nourimil* and 29,829 kilograms of *Nourimanba* and as of the end of June, we had 5,272 children enrolled in our nutrition programs across 10 sites (including the four IDP camps in Port-au-Prince).

Support Local Commercial Farmers

Currently, Zanmi Lasante operates a small production center in Cange where local workers conduct quality control on the peanut stock, mix ingredients, produce, and package *Nourimil* and *Nourimanba*. To reduce cost and stimulate the local economy, Zanmi Lasante operates a farm in the nearby village of Corporant, where farmers are employed to grow the corn and beans used for *Nourimil*. We also buy peanuts for *Nourimanba* from local farmers around Corporant. Zanmi Lasante provides initial seeds to these farmers (who return an equivalent amount of seeds at the end of the growing season) and pays a fair market price for their entire peanut crop. This arrangement provides the farmers with predictable revenue and in sufficient quantity to invest in new tools, land, and other inputs. Currently over 200 farmers are involved in growing peanuts for Zanmi Lasante. Construction is currently underway at Corporant to build a small agronomy school that will further bolster the capacity of these farmers to increase their crop yields and take good environmental care of their land.

The Family Assistance Program

The third component of Zanmi Agrikol is the Family Assistance Program, which helps extremely destitute families improve their basic household food supply in order to battle long-term food insecurity. Typically, Zanmi Lasante has enrolled families of children who are being treated for malnutrition at a Zanmi Lasante site. Each family is assigned an *ajan agrikol* – a local resident employed by Zanmi Lasante as an

agricultural outreach worker – who works with each family to boost their household production of food and increase the dietary diversity of foods being consumed by these households. Practically, this means the *ajan agrikol* provides tools, seeds, training, and at least bi-weekly visits to families enrolled in the program. Each *ajan agrikol* is responsible for 10 families, visiting them weekly or every other week. Families also receive a goat and chickens through the animal husbandry component of the project, and by giving back an offspring of their livestock, they enable other families to partake in the benefits of the program. There are 240 families who have been enrolled in the project over the past two years. When the families were first enrolled in the program, only 12% had children enrolled in school, but figures show that at the end of the two years, 60% now had children in school, an irrefutable testament to the success of this program to boost the income of these families and help them rise out of extreme poverty.

#### Unanticipated Developments, Changes, and Challenges

The earthquake on January 12, 2010 left hundreds of thousands of people without access to food. To meet immediate food needs, PIH/ZL established malnutrition clinics in each of the four settlements of internally displaced people (IDP) where we are working, and distributed over 175,000 tons of food through the end of March.

An exodus of people directly impacted by the earthquake to rural areas where PIH/ZL works has increased the pressure on already fragile food production systems. Shortly after the earthquake, we successfully planted and harvested a fast-growing variety of corn to alleviate hunger among displaced families in the Central Plateau region, and provided food assistance to vulnerable patients and their families, many of whom were struggling to provide food and shelter for relatives who had fled Port-au-Prince.

To transition from our post-earthquake emphasis on immediate food assistance to programs supporting sustained food security, ZA activities have already begun to dramatically scale up. For example, since January, PIH/ZL identified 1,000 extremely vulnerable families who are now being trained in innovative and effective agricultural techniques by ZA. To supplement our farm in Corporant, we have also purchased a hilly plot of land in Lashto in the Central Plateau, which will serve as a demonstration farm for families cultivating crops in similar mountainous areas. ZA will employ 100 new farmers in order to increase production of *Nourimanba*, which will be given to 7,500 children suffering from acute malnutrition over the next year. This expansion of ZA by 20 to 25 percent will contribute significantly to improving the long-term food security and health of our patients and their families.

### **III. Additional Information/Demonstration of Impact**

Following the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, we expect that Zanmi Agrikol will become more critical than ever as families that were already struggling to access basic needs like food take in displaced relatives from Port-au-Prince. In PIH's experience, a truly effective response must take a holistic approach to address hunger and malnutrition in the short term, and food security, agricultural capacity, and economic opportunity in the longer term. Zanmi Agrikol encompasses each of these objectives and serves as a model for what can be done in Haiti and elsewhere on a larger scale. Zanmi Agrikol complements other PIH initiatives in Haiti, such as our school lunch program, food assistance for HIV and TB patients, and other social support and job creation programs, all of which are part of PIH's comprehensive approach to improving health care and alleviating poverty by serving the most poor and vulnerable persons.

The difference Zanmi Agrikol will make in FY11 is tri-fold. First, roughly 7,500 malnourished or at risk children will directly benefit from food and clinical therapy that treats malnutrition, reduces risk of death, and prevents reoccurrence. Second, 1,240 farming families whose children have experienced malnutrition will benefit from tools, training, and ongoing support that will increase their agricultural production and improve their food security. Finally, more than 300 local farmers will benefit from employment or stable, viable income for their products, which stimulates the local economy and encourages entrepreneurship while also demonstrating the value of local resources in supporting community health. By taking a grassroots approach that empowers local farmers, Zanmi Agrikol is a sustainable solution that helps address the roots causes of food insecurity in Haiti. We are very grateful for the generous support of the Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation, without which this impact would not have been possible.