

Health and Haiti: What can be done?

Thursday, June 26, 2003

U.S. Capitol Building, Room HC-5

3:00pm -5:00pm

Refreshments will be provided

In many countries in the developing world the HIV/AIDS epidemic has swept around the globe, infecting more than 60 million people, and directly or indirectly impacting millions of additional lives. The Caribbean has the second-highest HIV/AIDS infection rate in the world. According to UNAIDS, an estimated 420,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

The bulk of those cases are in Haiti, where political turmoil has led to the suspension of international foreign assistance to the country, exacerbating extreme poverty and the collapse of the public health system allowing the disease to spread. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. Sixty-five percent of its population lives in the rural area and live below the poverty line. The country has a highest infant, child and maternal mortality and also the lowest life expectancy rates in the Western hemisphere. In Haiti there were an estimated 250,000 adults and children living with HIV at the end of 2001. Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are the number one causes of death amongst the adult (15-49) population. HIV/AIDS continues to be a severe problem in Haiti, as there is rapid growth in the number of cases and infection rates. However, there is hope, there are successful programs and interventions that are working to mitigate the effects of the disease.

Please join us to hear about the Zanmi Lasante-Partners in Health, a state-of-the-art socio-medical complex in Haiti's Central Plateau which uses a human rights-based approach to provide a comprehensive continuum of care to Haitians in need, including ongoing antiretroviral therapies for people living with AIDS.

The panel will include:

- Paul Farmer, MD, Co-director, Program in Infectious Disease and Social Change, Harvard Medical School, and Co-director, Zanmi Lasante, Cange, Haiti
- Hector Izurieta, MD, MPH, Acting Director, Vaccine Program, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Webcast by kaisernetwork.org, a free service of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The archived webcast will be available after 12:00 p.m. ET, Friday, June 27, at <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/ghc/26jun03>.

Along with the webcast, a transcript and related resources will also be available.

Please RSVP by June 25, 2003 to

savethedate@globalhealth.org or at 202-833-5900 ext. 3204