

Newsletter, July 2010



Above: View of Seguin village from the clinic compound at the top of the mountain.



Above: Inside the clinic.

Below: Seguin clinic building.



## **PROJECT**

- Humanity First USA in partnership with a Haitian organization called Haitian Christian Outreach (HCO) is operating a permanent clinic in Seguin, near the Jacmel area. The clinic became fully functional and Humanity First started managing operations on June 2, 2010.
- Seguin is located at coordinates +18° 18' 53.15", -72° 13' 38.18" at an altitude of over 5 thousand feet in the South East of Haiti.
- The clinic is 2-3 hours drive in the mountains from Jacmel, which has the only hospital in the region.

## **PLAN**

- Humanity First will continue to provide basic family care to the local population.
- Our volunteers will serve 17,000 Haitians living in the Seguin area and from 15 to 20 thousand residents of the surrounding areas.
- We will build the capacity of local doctors, nurses and community health service providers to create a sustainable impact.
- We are working with partners in the region to identify opportunities in rebuilding the health infrastructure in the hospitals.

#### **TEAM**

- Humanity First volunteer physician, *Dr. Clayton Bell* from the US is based in Haiti for one year, living at the clinic compound.
- We have hired a Haitian physician and Anesthesiologist, Dr.
   Cherisca Frantzner and a Haitian nurse, Ms. Margaret, who are receiving on job training in modern medical practices by working next to Dr. Bell and other short term medical missions.
- Kyle Martin is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical student who is taking a year off to work on his master's in public health while in Seguin, Haiti. His focal studies concern Haitian patients with coronary artery disease, strokes and other chronic ailments.
- **Qasim Semexant**, a local Haitian serves as Humanity First's staff translator and manages other sub-projects at the clinic.
- Additional medical teams are being sent during the launching phase of the clinic to accommodate sudden influx of patients.
   More medical teams will go on short term missions.





Above: Jameson's mother passed away four months ago and is now raised by his grandmother. Humanity First staff is helping Jameson and his family with their basic needs.

# Highlights of the Month of June

- The first team of Humanity First volunteers for Seguin clinic arrived in Haiti on June 1, 2010.
- The clinic was operational after one day.
- Every patient is given an ID card to keep track of their treatment.
   So far, more than one thousand ID cards have been issued.
- In general, most of the cases are routine medical care. But, every couple of days our staff comes across patients who require emergency care. After providing immediate care, if needed, the patient is transported to St. Michelle Hospital in Jacmel.
- During the second week, local elders called a community meeting with Dr. Bell. In the meeting they requested that if Humanity First charges a nominal fee it will give them a sense of ownership and pride in the clinic. After discussion, the community decided that everyone will pay \$1.25 (50 gouds) for the first visit and 62 cents (25 gouds) for a follow up visit. Infants, pregnant women, elderly and anyone who states that they cannot afford the fee, will not have to pay.
- Many orphans under the age of one are raised by extended families who themselves are very poor. Our staff is identifying such families and we will support them with their medical and basic non medical needs. Humanity First staff will visit the families each month and provide in house medical care to the orphans. We have identified four orphans in the first few weeks of the clinic and many more cases are under review.
- On average, our staff serves eighty patients each day.
- Since June 1, 2010, TEN medical and THREE non medical volunteers from the USA have served at the clinic.



Above: In a short time, Humanity First volunteers like Dr. Clayton Bell have become an integral part of the community.

# From Dr. Clayton Bell's Diary; June 08, 2010

"The first week back in Haiti and Seguin Team 1 was a great success. We have the Cloud Forest Clinic in Seguin successfully up and running. Patients walk from as far as 8 hours away and begin lining up by 6 a.m. We have seen many patients for preventative health treatments including GERD and HTN. But even more importantly, we have already treated several patients who in my medical opinion might very possibly not be alive right now without our presence this past week.

Case 1: Young woman is helped to clinic by her mother. Without assistance she is so weak she is unable to stand on her own. Patient has high fever and neck so stiff she cannot bend it. To make matters worse she is severely dehydrated and potentially showing early signs of shock (tachycardia & hypotension). We immediately start IV fluids and medication. She spends most of the day in the clinic and feels well enough to leave that afternoon. Humanity first staff provided the patient and her mother money for motorbike transportation back home, and suggested to return the next day for follow up. She does return riding a donkey this time and looks significantly better. We dose her again and start her on oral antibiotics."