



# A new chapter

In April, we announced the end of our Haiti hospital partnership and our plan to pursue our mission in Haiti in new ways. It was an incredibly difficult decision, but we were overwhelmed by the positive and supportive response from our HHA community.

As our new chapter started, our short term aim was to ensure **continuity of care** for the most vulnerable individuals we've served for over 17 years; those who would otherwise risk not receiving any support. We focused on three key groups: **adults with disabilities** (especially those with spinal cord injuries, for whom access to care is incredibly limited); **children with disabilities**; and **premature newborns**.

We were committed to not leaving these groups behind - some of the most marginalised amongst a population that was already experiencing extreme poverty, hunger and resource shortages as a result of the instability that

continues to devastate Haiti. We also knew that we needed to act fast to make sure that we were **bridging service gaps** and providing **continuity of care** as soon as possible. This was a daunting task, and in all honesty, without the funds we received through Matched May, and many answered prayers along the way, it would have been near-impossible. But thanks to the incredible support of our community, we are delighted to share that, six months on, we have active programmes supporting all three of those key groups.



## SIX MONTHS AT A GLANCE



3752
wheelchairs
provided



specialist incubators shipped





## GRACE REHABILITATION CENTRE

In July, we opened GRC, which now provides services to people with spinal cord injuries, strokes, and other neurological disabilities. This includes inpatient and outpatient care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, emotional support through our psychologist, and spiritual support through our chaplain. We set up and opened this facility in under four months - finding a location, hiring and training a full team (pictured top left), renovating and equipping the centre - a testament to our amazing team on the ground and the support of our wonderful partners, in particular the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation and Haiti Rehab Schweiz.

**Benito** was one of the first inpatients at Grace Rehabilitation Centre. He was spinal cord injured after falling out of a tree two years ago, and though he received some physiotherapy immediately after his accident, he couldn't afford to continue, so had been living without rehabilitation services for over a year.

Since he arrived at our centre, Benito has received daily physiotherapy and vocational therapy - and his progress in the short time he's been with us has been incredible. He can now transfer from lying to sitting independently, dress himself, and says he feels happier and more comfortable. His next goal is to stand up - and he hopes to eventually go back to school to learn to be a mechanic!



#### **MAISON DE GRACE**

Many of our supporters have a special place in their heart for the kids that we have been supporting for many years through our **respite home for children** with disabilities. We are delighted to share that this work is continuing at a new location, Maison de Grace, where we will carry on offering specialised care and education, as well as support and advice for carers. The kids moved into their new home in October and we are so happy to see them settling in well!



**Kate** was abandoned by her parents when she was born with complex disabilities. For the first year of her life, she lived in a hospital, without a home or consistent carer.

When HHA first met Kate and enrolled her at the Maison, she was one year old. Having received no specialised rehabilitation, she was significantly delayed—unable to sit or even hold up her head. But with dedicated therapy and care, and a loving foster family, she has made incredible progress. She can now sit, crawl, stand, and has even taken her first steps!



For Kate, and many of the children at the Maison, continuity of care is essential. Having started life with such instability, unwanted and isolated, it is so important that she continues to receive the support and love that this programme offers. That's why we opened Maison de Grace so quickly, and remain committed to providing the care that enables these children to thrive.

#### STRENGTHENING NEONATAL CARE

In May, we visited Justinien University Hospital (JUH), the largest government hospital in the north of Haiti, and were shocked to find that there wasn't a **single working incubator** in their neonatal care unit (NCU). The department was extremely stretched, and struggling with a dire lack of resources and staff.

In response, alongside our long-term partner Konbit Sante, we have launched a programme to **strengthen JUH's NCU**, purchasing and shipping 'mOm' incubators (technology specifically designed for low-resource settings), as well as developing plans to support with care and management of the department. While we consider longer term projects to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in the region, this capacity-building programme aims to get the NCU fully operational and providing life-saving care to over 500 babies a year.



JUH is a key referral hospital for this region - many newborns are received here, particularly premature babies. HHA's support will help us to provide care to these babies at a crucial developmental stage."

Doctor Touissant, HHA Haiti Medical Director



Bringing hope to life

independence for refugees with disabilities.

us that he had a big goal: to teach

them activities that they could do

of regular exercises, the amazing

worked with the pair, showing

his son to walk. Our physiotherapist

together at home. After a few months

happened - and Moses can now walk!

When we launched our Matched May campaign, we did so with the aim of 'bringing hope to life' for people with disabilities across the world. Over the

last six months, that hope has been needed more than ever in our East Africa project locations. **Food insecurity** continues to present major challenges in the

settlements in Uganda, and a growing number of refugees are returning to

Kajo-Keji, South Sudan, putting pressure on already stretched resources. The

funds raised in May have been an incredible blessing, enabling us to expand

our projects and launch new initiatives to provide dignity, opportunities and

3 195
wheelchairs
provided

2,08 physiotherapy sessions given

prosthetics & orthotics fitted



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#### **EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

Earlier this year, we launched our **Special Education Programme** at Amazing Grace, a school for refugee children that we have supported since 2017. This has enabled ten children with disabilities to go to school, where they learn and play alongside other children. For many of them, it is the first time they have ever been able to access education – a transformational step for them and their families, as well as the school and local community.



Before this child moved to school, this child could not know. But these days he can read, he can count up to ten, he can write, he can play... These days I just feel comfortable, because when he's here I know he's being taken care of.

Kiden, mother of Aziki, one of the children on our Special Education Programme

### **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Through our new Vocational Training Programme at New Hope Bidibidi, beneficiaries learn **income generation skills**, like donut making, IT, and soap creation. This contributes to our holistic approach to disability care: combining physical mobility with empowerment opportunities to sustainably improve outcomes.



#### EAST AFRICA

#### **NEW HOPE KAJO-KEJI**

When we opened New Hope Kejo-Keji Health & Rehabilitation Centre in South Sudan in September last year, we took a **leap of faith**. We knew there was an immense need for our work, and we had seed-funding from the UNHCR and a successful Spring Appeal, but there was no guarantee that we'd be able to source enough funding to stay open – let alone to expand our work. But last month, thanks to God's faithfulness and the stability and momentum provided by Matched May, we celebrated a **whole year of providing health and disability care** in this vulnerable community. What's more, we're now working on projects to establish a stronger, longer term local presence, particularly for our disability services – including plans to set up a wheelchair distribution centre next year!

# **Samuel** is an amputee, and received a custom-made prosthetic leg from HHA through a disability clinic we ran at New Hope Kajo-Keji. His new leg means he can ride a bike for the first time – which is an enormous help for his business of selling chickens, enabling him to travel further and faster!

#### **AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS**

In July, we enrolled 220 new vulnerable households in our agriculture project, providing them with seeds, tools, and access to land to enable them to plant their own crops. Perhaps most excitingly, households also received training - teaching them not only how to plant, farm and harvest, but also how to turn their crops into a sustainable source of income, by selling excess produce, buying livestock, collaborating to set up savings associations, or even investing income to set up a business. This means that the impact of this project will extend far beyond their initial harvests this year, helping households to be self-sufficient for years to come.







