

# PROJECT + CASSE

## A Campaign to Bring Healthcare to Casse, Haiti

Summer 2009



### Project Goals:

- Improve access to healthcare for the 24,000 residents of Casse
- Reduce maternal mortality by 33% in 5 years
- Reduce child mortality by 33% in 5 years

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### Project Casse: An Overview

In the village of Casse, Haiti a bare bones dispensary sits on the edge of a field on top of a hill just outside the usually noisy and crowded village market. The dispensary was built years ago by the Haitian Ministry of Health to provide medical care to the 24,000 residents of Casse.

Unfortunately, the building has remained unused due to its obsolete equipment and floor plan. The closest available medical facility for the people of Casse is over a 6-hour walk away in Thomonde along dirt

roads which are often completely washed out during the rainy season.

Together with medical students from Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine, Project Medishare is transforming this dispensary into a fully functioning, permanent clinic with a maternity ward. Project Casse as it has been named is modeled after a similar effort in nearby Marmont, Haiti where past efforts have successfully rehabilitated a basic clinic, transforming it into a maternity ward for the area.

In addition to general health services, this improved clinic will target two of the major health concerns in Haiti: HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality. The clinic aims to reduce the overwhelmingly poor public health statistics in the area by radically improving access to care.

Fundraising for this project is ongoing. Continue reading to learn more about Project Casse and how you can be a part of this campaign to bring healthcare to the residents of Casse, Haiti.



*Medishare's Mobile Clinic Site in Marmont, Haiti.*

### Casse, Haiti

Haiti is only a 2 hour flight from the U.S., but as one lands at the Port-au-Prince airport, it is hard to reconcile this geographic proximity with what one sees.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Casse is in the poorest and most underserved area in all of Haiti. The severity of poverty in this region is most evident

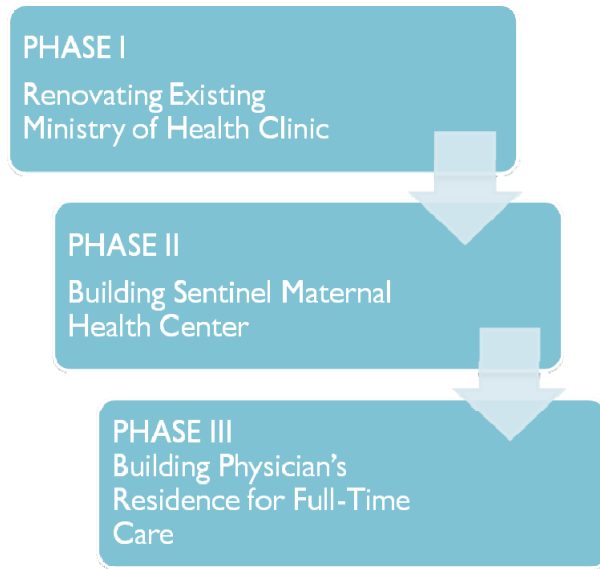
from its health statistics. While Haiti has the most dismal health statistics of the Western Hemisphere, the statistics for the region around Casse are even worse.

Poor health in Casse is largely due to limited access to healthcare. In Casse, the closest source of care is more than 6 hours away.

Project Medishare has prioritized its developments

in Casse for this very reason. In a systematic effort to expand access to healthcare in the most underserved region of Haiti, Medishare is establishing a healthcare network in the areas surrounding its headquarters.

Casse is strategically placed to serve this rural population as a critical piece of Medishare's overarching plan.



*Many of Casse's problems are directly linked to its lack of access to basic healthcare services.*

## Project Casse Timeline

Project Casse is a multiphase campaign that aims to expand the opportunities available to the Casse community over the next 3-5 years.

Phase I's primary goal is to renovate the existing government clinic on the development site the town of Casse has donated to Medishare. The building is sound, but facilities are inadequate for addressing the current primary care needs of the community. Phase I has been fully funded and renovation is expected to commence with the coming dry season.

Phase II is the first part of an expansion of the health service infrastructure available in Casse. A fully-staffed birthing center will provide pregnant mothers with locally-available prenatal care and will allow healthcare personnel to identify potentially difficult deliveries.

Phase III will help Medishare reduce its costs associated with housing its staff in Casse. Unfortunately, Casse is too remote to provide room and board at the NGO's headquarters in Thomonde.

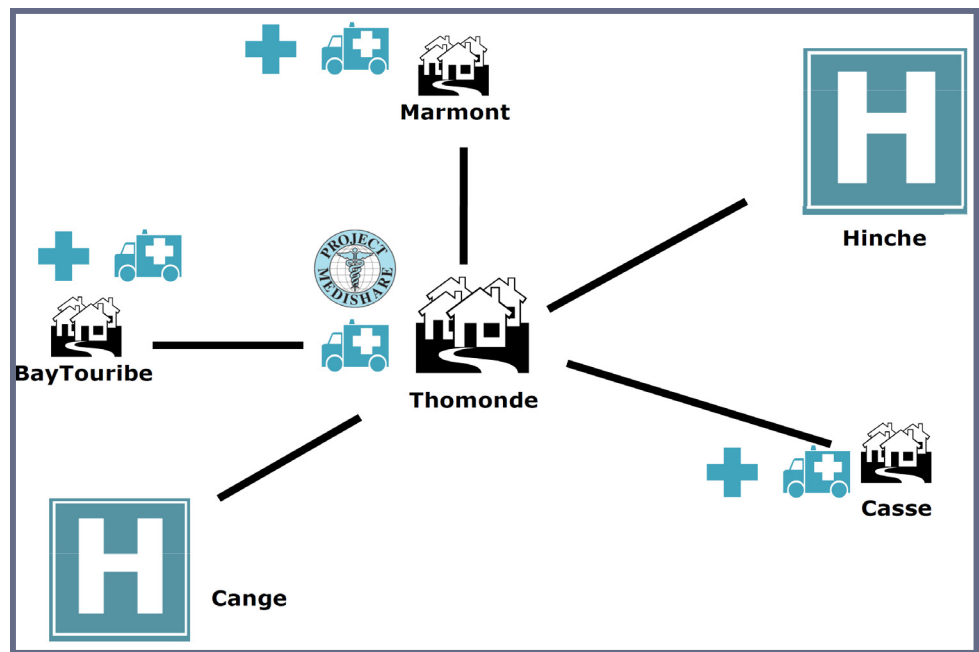
## Medishare Master Plan

Project Medishare's master plan is founded on the belief that any long-term healthcare solution for rural Haiti requires a pervasive, sustainable presence accessible by the local population.

Medishare regularly reviews the healthcare needs of its catchment area with local and federal officials from Haiti's Ministry of Health.

Since 2006, Medishare has set out to shift its services from transient monthly medical clinics and population health epidemiology to a comprehensive medical system that is able to deploy a primary care network that can effectively treat most diseases and identify more serious illnesses that require a higher degree of health resources.

The current long-term plan includes a series of sentinel primary care clinics and birthing centers to



*A long-term solution to rural Haiti's healthcare needs*

achieve this goal of local, full-time healthcare coverage.

With Medishare's Thomonde headquarters as a center of operations, these gateway clinics will ensure

that all members of the local population are provided with the appropriate level of care.

In addition to improving facilities, a major component of the plan is to pro-

vide appropriate vehicles and personnel to ensure this referral system works effectively.

## Proposed Budget

	Funding Needed	Current Status
<b>PHASE I – Renovating Existing Clinic</b>		
USAID/PEPFAR Casse Clinic Renovation	<b>FULLY FUNDED</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>
<b>PHASE II – Maternity Ward Construction</b>		
Design and Construction Costs (inc. labor)	\$79,395	<b>FUNDING PHASE</b>
<b>PHASE III – Physician’s Residence Construction</b>		
Design and Construction Costs (inc. labor)	\$48,268	<b>FUNDING PHASE</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$172,663</b>	

## Current and Future Partnerships

*“Men anpil chay pa lou.”*  
*“Many hands make*  
*the load lighter.”*  
*- Haitian Proverb*

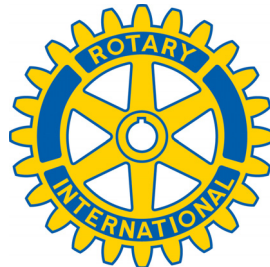
From its inception, Project Medishare has sought collaborative models of health service development in rural Haiti. Currently, Project Medishare’s greater partnership has been the systematic sharing of healthcare provision between itself and Partners in Health in the Central Plateau region.

In addition, Project Medishare has historical funding relationships with Rotary International and Fonkoze, a Haitian microcredit agency.

For Project Casse, a number of new partnerships are in development and currently include the Pat Tillman Foundation, Clinton Global Initiative, and Kiwanis Club.

More help is still needed to achieve our long term goals. We are currently seeking additional groups of supporters willing to join together to fund Phases II and III of the Project Casse plan.

We encourage any interested organization to contact us to learn more.



**Fonkoze**



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## What is Project Medishare for Haiti, Inc.?

Project Medishare is the national parent organization for Atlanta Medishare and its current campaign, Project Casse. Project Medishare is a registered U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit as well as a registered humanitarian organization in Haiti. It has been operating in Haiti since 1995 and has maintained a permanent presence in the Central Plateau since 2001.

Project Medishare is the fiduciary agent for Project Casse and ensures direct supervision of all funds collected and disbursed via Project Casse.

More information can be found about our parent organization at [www.projectmedishare.org](http://www.projectmedishare.org).

## What is Atlanta Medishare?



Atlanta Medishare is the Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine partnership that has spearheaded the Project Casse campaign. In addition to its Casse-related programs, Atlanta Medishare is an academic service organization whose mission is to contribute to the overall mission of Project Medishare for Haiti, Inc. Activities include short-term medical and surgical trips, community health worker education, and clinical research on global healthcare delivery and nutritional supplementation.

To learn more, visit [www.emorymedishare.org](http://www.emorymedishare.org).

## Casse, Haiti: By the numbers

Population: ~24,000

Average household size: 8 – 10

### Maternal Mortality Rate

Casse: 630 / 100,000 births  
U.S.: 9 / 100,000 births

### Infant Mortality Rate

Haiti: 60 / 1,000 births  
United States: 7 / 1,000 births

### Life Expectancy at Birth

Haiti: 60 years  
United States: 78 years

- 28% of children suffer from clinically retarded growth
- 82% of children suffer from malnutrition
- 21% of pregnant women exhibit chronic protein deficiency
- Over 100 patients/day are seen at Medishare mobile clinics in Casse, Marmont, and Thomonde
- 80+ locally-trained community health workers ensure proper health monitoring and disease surveillance throughout the catchment area

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