



HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti

SUMMER



HBS SARS COVID-19 Update

The SARS 2 COVID-19 pandemic has swept the world and mid-March a first case of the Covid-19 virus was confirmed in Port au Prince. Haiti closed its borders with the Dominican Republic along with both international airports in Port au Prince and Cap Haitian to all commercial flights on 16 March 2020. To limit the spread of the virus, schools, universities, vocational centers, and factories were also closed until further notice. A nighttime curfew was initiated countrywide.



Unfortunately due to Covid-19 all volunteers scheduled to travel to HBS were forced to cancel their trips including quite a few surgery and work teams. The cancellations led to much disappointment and sadness amongst the volunteers, patients and HBS staff alike.

Our last surgery team, scheduled the end of February, was able to come and perform the always much needed surgeries. Due to all the unfortunate cancellations many surgery patients have been re-scheduled for other teams, hopefully arriving later this year starting in the winter and beginning of next year.

To date the virus has not spread as was initially predicted and Haiti is in the stages of reopening with the airports in Port au Prince and Cap Haitian and the Dominican border open since July 01. As of August 01, Haiti has reported 7,424 cases.

At HBS we have seen as number of cases of Covid-19 with relatively mild symptoms and appear to have been spared the brunt of the virus in Limbé thus far.

The staff and kids have held up fairly well during this period of uncertainty. We are praying that the situation does not worsen and that schools will be able reopen on schedule this fall.

We pray and hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy, safe, and well during this difficult time!

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New roof for Shop/Generator Building



Over the last 10 years most of the roofing at HBS has been replaced. A few buildings and walkways are remaining.

This year it was time to replace the roof of the carpenter shop which is the same building where our generators are housed.

The rafters for the carpenter shop were put together by a work team from Oregon in May 2019. They were ready and waiting for the volunteers in February, who came for a week to strip the existing roof and put them up.

Once the roof was stripped and the walls cleaned the new rafters were hoisted up on top of the wall by hand. As each rafter weighs over 150 lbs. they require lots of manpower. They lay upside down until they are ready to be straightened and positioned one after another and then fixed one to the other.

Once the horizontal purlins are placed across the rafters the metal roofing sheets are nailed down completing the work.

New generator for HBS!

HBS has 4 generators normally available though only 2 are currently operational. Every 12 hours a different one operates to allow for cooling down and servicing the other unit. They furnish HBS electricity 24 hours a day and power the 4 water pumps that provide the town of Limbé with over 400,000 gallons of potable water every day.

As seen on the photo, the generators are housed in two metal shipping containers under the second story. The diesel fuel they use is stored in the big red tank to the right. HBS can store 1200 gallons of fuel in that tank, which allows almost a month of operation.



Once a month, the HBS staff services and clean the generators unless a part goes bad requiring attention sooner. All service parts are purchased and shipped from the States as they are not available in Haiti which sometimes causing a longer wait time before getting it back operational.

The generators that are still functioning are getting old. The oldest one has been operating for 18 years since it was shipped from the US late 2002.

We have been truly blessed this year as long time HBS friends from South Dakota were able to raise the funds to replace one of the two non-functioning generators. We were able to purchase the generator in Haiti and take delivery on July 14th where it was immediately placed in service.

