



UPDATE ON PRIOR EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

The Committee is receiving 2018 Empowerment Grant reports and the organizations are appreciative of the funding and WIL's support and thrilled with the results of their projects. More than the organizations which reported on their successful projects, the girls and women who participated and benefited from the 2018 Empowerment Grants have been vocal in their appreciation and thanks as recounted below!

Al Sudaniya Mentoring reported on a mentoring event to connect girls to over 100 potential mentors.

The Don Bosco Children's Library in the Arcash region of Peru introduced over 50 girls to strong women in English language stories through an informal after school education program supported by the mothers and the school staff.

ENventure's entrepreneurship Boot Camp in Uganda targeted women and the pilot project was so successful that the organization raised more money to expand the model.

Hispañola Health Partners was a recipient of the Empowerment Grant last year. WIL received a detailed six-month interim report of HHP's program to prevent female cancers in southeast Haiti. Ede Tèt Nou (ETN) is a project that helps detect female cancers in a region of rural SE Haiti using a network of village health workers and Haitian medical personnel. Hispañola Health Partners (HHP) administers this program through its health clinic and cervical cancer center in the region. HHP has provided cervical screening and treatment to more than 2,100 women in the zone since 2013.

In the current project, Ede Tèt Nou, *Helping Ourselves*, is comparing self-swab HPV tests to traditional VIA (visual inspection with acetic acid) while also teaching self-breast exams for early detection of cervical and breast cancer in remote, rural Haiti. With the first half of the project completed, it was determined that the predominance of potentially precancerous HPV infection is much higher in this region using HPV self-test compared to the more subjective VIA method used up until now. Instead of a prior rate of 6% positivity, it was found that 30% of the women test positive, far exceeding other regions of Haiti. ETN has exceeded expectation in bringing women back for follow-up and treatment; so far, we have treated 75% of the positive patients for precancerous cervical changes, a number that continues to expand. Overwhelmingly, rural women are eager to be tested and return for follow-up; two thirds of them paid 100 gouds, an

average daily wage in the countryside, for the privilege. Women who cannot pay are not withheld from the program.

WIL's grants over past years have provided resources to help bring cervical cancer screening and treatment to the women of a forgotten corner of Haiti. Funds have been used to support staff traveling long distances to reach women in remote places, help to pay for incentives and supplies, trainings to certify nurses and doctors instructed in visual inspection of the cervix with acetic acid and treatment with cryotherapy.

"The remarkable findings of ETN will contribute significant epidemiological data concerning cervical cancer in Haiti. Again, my deepest thanks for WIL's support of this work. I was sorry I could not attend your retreat last December. Please remember me at the next one! Congratulations for building such an impressive resource for women's projects around the globe."

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