

The ripple effects of your support two years later...

HIV Prevention in the Dominican Republic: A local campaign with a worldwide impact on global health

In 2016, the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) in the Dominican Republic didn't have any dedicated research labs. Today, they are leading the Caribbean's first clinical trial for an HIV preventative known as PrEP.

This transformation would not have been possible without you!

Your generosity allowed Seeding Labs to send more than 2 tons of scientific equipment to UNIBE. And this support gave Dr. Robert Paulino-Ramirez the foundation he needed to

establish the Institute for Tropical Medicine and Global Health in 2017, UNIBE's **first research lab in their 35-year history.**

Thanks to your start-up support, the Institute has been making their mark at home and abroad ever since...

Stopping the Spread of HIV

It's estimated that 80% of HIV cases in the Caribbean are in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, two countries that share one island. But Dr. Paulino-Ramirez and his colleagues see

Continued...

HIV Prevention in the Dominican Republic...continued

a huge opportunity to make a difference. Through the Institute, **they are leveraging your investment to reduce transmission of this once-deadly virus.**

In partnership with the CDC and the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Health, they are leading the region's **first-ever clinical trial for PrEP**. As you may know, PrEP is a daily pill that's been proven to reduce the risk of HIV infection by 99 percent.

During the trial, the Institute will be processing and storing samples from patients across the country—something that **would not have been possible before your support** through Seeding Labs.

Dr. Paulino-Ramirez's goal is to make PrEP available across the Dominican Republic by the end of 2019.

Improving Global Health

The Institute for Tropical Medicine and Global Health is one example of the worldwide impact of your support for Seeding Labs. You helped provide the initial equipment that's catapulted Dr. Paulino-Ramirez's work into the limelight... attracting more funding and new partnerships.

In addition to their efforts to prevent the spread of HIV, the Institute's new Entomology Lab is collaborating on a USAID-funded project with Tulane University focused on reducing diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.

And they were also recently **invited to join the Global Infectious Diseases Research Network** with representation from Mexico, Colombia, Peru, the University of Texas at Galveston, and now the Dominican Republic.

As Dr. Paulino-Ramirez explains, "The conversation has changed to be about how we can collaborate.... Now we can be part of a global

research network in a more inclusive way because of the infrastructure we have." **And that wouldn't have happened without you – thank you!** 🌍



It would be impossible to have done so many things without the initial equipment.

—Dr. Robert Paulino-Ramirez
(pictured above), Institute for Tropical
Medicine and Global Health

Cover image: Dr. Robert Paulino-Ramirez, director of the Institute for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, working in the Molecular Biology and Virology lab with junior researcher Dr. Leandro Tapia.

Thanks to you, they received more than 4,000 pounds of lab equipment from Seeding Labs, including the biosafety hood seen here, which they are using to process and analyze samples from the first clinical trial in the Caribbean for the HIV preventative called PrEP.

Your investment is paying dividends in Jamaica and beyond...

Infusion of Lab Equipment Sparks Advancements in Global Health Research, New Funding, and International Partnerships

It's been less than a year since **you transformed the labs at the University of the West Indies (UWI)** in Jamaica. And their Natural Products Institute, led by Dr. Rupika Delgoda, has been bustling with research since...

Fighting Pesticide Resistance in Mosquitoes

Your support enabled the launch of an innovative project developing new methods to control mosquitoes. With traditional pesticides failing and no vaccines for mosquito-borne viruses, there's an urgent need for new solutions.

Thanks to you, Dr. Delgoda and Dr. Sheena Francis have the tools to understand pesticide resistance in local mosquitoes and **discover new insecticides**. They are combing through Jamaica's rich ecosystem to isolate chemical compounds that could combat insecticide resistance and control the mosquito population.


With millions worldwide getting sick each year from Zika, chikungunya, and dengue, their **discoveries would have a global impact on health**.

New Funding & Global Health Partnerships

Before you stepped in, Dr. Francis was traveling to the US and England to advance her research. Today, because of your generosity, UWI has joined forces with the Jamaican Ministry of Health and other government groups to **form the Mosquito Control and Research Unit**.

Our productivity and capacity have drastically increased.... It's happened right in front of our eyes in the last few months with the arrival of equipment.

—Dr. Rupika Delgoda (pictured below right), University of the West Indies

You also provided the foundation for new funding to Dr. Delgoda's team, including a research grant from Jamaica and South Africa to support collaboration between the two countries. And the Institute has been **welcoming local scientists to use their equipment, sparking continuous potential for new partnerships.** 



Dr. Sheena Francis, left, and Dr. Rupika Delgoda, right, study mosquito larvae as part of their research to tackle insecticide resistance. The chilled incubator, shown in the photo, was one of many pieces of equipment you helped send to the University of the West Indies in a shipment that would cost a half-million dollars to replace.

You gave women in science a boost!

Six Leading Female Researchers Around the World Benefit from Your Generosity



Dr. Aina Adeogun, a leading environmental toxicologist, works in her lab at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Thanks to you, those benches and shelves will soon be stocked with lab equipment to accelerate her global health research protecting food and water supplies.

Thanks to your support, six female scientists at the top of their fields are going to have **fully-equipped labs to accelerate their global health research.** Two of them are Dr. Muvuri Tjiurutue at the University of Namibia and Dr. Aina Adeogun at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria.

You might remember reading about them in a letter we sent earlier this year... Dr. Tjiurutue aims to stop an invasive plant species that destroys countless acres of crops each year. This devastates the livelihood of farmers and leaves people hungry. Meanwhile, Dr. Adeogun is focused on environmental pollution in nearby coastal waters to safeguard Nigeria's food and water supply.

Your generous response to our request for help means they are both **getting the equipment**

and supplies they need to boost their research and teaching. Earlier this fall, they made their selections from Seeding Labs' vast inventory. And once everything is packed and shipped, the 3-month journey from port to port will begin.

Because of you, the need for women to travel abroad to find the modern equipment required for their education and research will soon be a thing of the past! 🌱

You can make more life-saving research possible with a donation today!
Give online at:
seedinglabs.org/donate