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HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

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COUNTRY CONTEXT

Haiti's health indicators reveal weaknesses in the country's health system. While the 2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), known in Haiti as the Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services, suggests that trends in mortality and morbidity have improved. Nonetheless, poor health outcomes and low utilization of services persist, with nearly 40 percent of Haitians without access to basic primary health care. Haiti's health sector is deeply affected by the chronic challenges the country faces as well as the number of shocks and crises over the past several years. Vulnerability to natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes, gang violence increasingly targeting health care workers, socio-political instability, economic recession and hyperinflation, fuel shortages, and growing food insecurity collectively strain the delivery of health services in Haiti.

GROWING INSECURITY: The widespread insecurity in the country greatly affects the availability and quality of health services provided as the ongoing risk to health care workers deters their ability to commute to health facilities. Insecurity is also affecting Haitians in need of healthcare as they must weigh their need for health services over the risk of being kidnapped on the way to the health facility.

WEAK GOVERNANCE AND HIGH DONOR DEPENDENCY: Weak governance of the central Ministry of Public Health and Population, and high donor-dependence for basic health care services hinder sustainable institutional strengthening and transitioning the ownership of healthcare provision to the Government of Haiti.

ELLIE VAN HOUTTE / USAID

USAID STRATEGY

USAID's health service delivery activities improve patient outcomes for maternal, neonatal, and child health, nutrition, and routine immunization, and increase equitable access to comprehensive voluntary family planning services. USAID works to increase utilization of quality, essential health services at the community level by establishing a reliable quality of service culture within health care facilities and among health care providers, that reinforces local decision making, accountability, and strengthens local consumer, community, and health provider engagement. With the ultimate goals of developing local capacity and ownership in the health service delivery sector, USAID works with local partners and the Ministry of Public Health and Population to strengthen existing systems to ensure equitable access to high quality health services and improve health outcomes.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

USAID'S TWO INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITIES, Integrated Health Resilience and Partnership for Equity in Health, aim to increase access to comprehensive, integrated healthcare in local communities and at healthcare facilities. These two flagship activities emphasize high quality and patient-centric primary health care services to ensure a continuum of care and efficient use of resources including technologies, best practices, and innovation to support sustainable health services delivery. The activities support 165 health facilities and their catchment area communities, across all 10 departments. Integrated services include maternal, neonatal, and child health; family planning and reproductive health; nutrition; COVID-19; and HIV care and treatment.

THE RANFOSE ACTIVITY addresses micronutrient deficiencies in Haiti by increasing the availability of high-quality fortified foods throughout the country. About 65 percent of children under five and about 50 percent of women of reproductive age are anemic. Additionally, vitamin A and iodine deficiencies are common in Haiti. The RANFOSE activity addresses these micronutrient deficiencies by expanding the production and availability of fortified food and supports the only high quality controlled laboratory in Haiti. Fortified foods include wheat flour (fortified with folic acid, B vitamins), cooking oil (fortified with vitamin A), and salt (fortified with iodine).

THE GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN-PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY operates throughout Haiti's 10 departments to support USAID's two Integrated Health Service Delivery activities and ensure the constant availability and accessibility of contraceptive, HIV/AIDS, and maternal and child health-focused commodities at USAID supported health institutions.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

USAID ADVANCED EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES, promoted healthy behaviors, and strengthened community-level health interventions and linkages to health services. Across the 165 USAID supported Health care facilities:

- Over 82,000 patients received HIV commodities ensuring that people living with HIV have access to antiretroviral therapy and are virally suppressed to prevent further transmission and advance epidemic control in Haiti.

- Nearly 360,300 women chose a modern method of contraception, decreasing unwanted pregnancy and allowing for healthy spacing in between pregnancies, thereby supporting reduced maternal mortality reduction goals.
- Over 71,400 infants under 12 months were fully vaccinated, giving young children a healthy start to life, and reducing morbidity and mortality for children under five.
- Almost 21,900 pregnant women visited a skilled health care provider at least once during their pregnancy, which contributed to improved outcomes in maternal health.
- More than 36,000 pregnant women had four or more antenatal care visits, advancing maternal mortality reduction goals.

USAID also donated two oxygen generating plants and two electrical power generators to Hôpital Notre Dame de La Paix de Jean Rabel and Centre de Bienfaisance Pignon located in the Northwest and North departments respectively. The oxygen generating plants will increase the hospitals' capacity to receive patients and serve a population of over 750,000 people through distribution networks for oxygen cylinder refills.

80 PERCENT OF THE VEGETABLE OIL CONSUMED IN HAITI IS NOW FORTIFIED WITH VITAMIN A to reduce micronutrient deficiencies thanks to the RANFOSE projects' efforts to improve the use of food fortification in Haiti. The RANFOSE project spearheaded the introduction of Vitamin A fortified oil for the first time in Haiti and continues to advance efforts to reduce micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition.

Since 2010, the American people have committed over \$4 billion to help the Haitian people to develop a more resilient, democratic future. To find out more about USAID's work in Haiti, please see <https://www.usaid.gov/haiti>, and follow @USAID/Haiti on Twitter and Facebook.