



HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

SEPTEMBER 2022

USAID is building the capacity of key Haitian organizations and the Government of Haiti to strengthen Haiti's health systems through locally-led solutions.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Haiti's health systems continue to face complex challenges, including the lack of governance and sector coordination; financial and geographical barriers to accessing health services; and shortages of healthcare workers and essential medicines. Despite some areas of progress, past marginal gains have been undone by the recent succession of crises, including country lock down “peyi lok”, COVID-19 pandemic, the assassination of the President Jovenel Moïse, and natural shocks, such as the August 2021 earthquake. Consequently, Haiti's health systems are working in the fray of protracted crises. Political unrest, social instability, gang violence, and recurrent fuel shortages have tested the ability of health systems in Haiti to adapt and find new ways to continue providing essential services, such as virtual platforms to complete follow up visits and data collection.

SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS: Qualified healthcare professionals are leaving the country due to rising insecurity and those who remain in Haiti are deterred from joining the workforce by the poor working conditions and low salaries offered by the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The growing risk of kidnapping and ongoing fuel shortages are preventing employed health care professionals from coming to work and delivering essential health services to patients.

USAID STRATEGY

USAID's health systems strengthening activities in Haiti holistically address the six building blocks of strong health systems: service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, access to essential medicines, health systems financing, and leadership and governance. Through this systems approach USAID emphasizes the important role of communities, civil society, and the private sector as well as the public sector. Engaging these key stakeholders in identifying problems, developing solutions, and implementing programs is essential to ensuring the sustainability of impacts and developing local ownership. Through its activities, USAID leverages relationships among the health systems building blocks and stakeholders to advance equity, transparency, and resource optimization to ultimately achieve improved measurable health outcomes.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

USAID'S HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT supports the Government of Haiti's efforts to build a health system that is accessible, accountable, affordable, and reliable by strengthening the financial and human resources systems to improve health services for the population. The Health Leadership Project works through the following two activities.

- **THE HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH ACTIVITY** implemented by Centre de Formation d'Entraînement Technique, a local, women-led consulting organization specializing in human resource management, is working to improve the Haitian government's planning and oversight of the health workforce.
- **THE HEALTH FINANCING ACTIVITY** implemented by Groupe Croissance, a Haitian consulting firm, specializing in health finance and budget transparency, is building the Haitian government's capacity to lead and finance the health sector.

THE COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION AND SYSTEM USE (CHISU) ACTIVITY works with Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population to build a comprehensive and sustainable health information system by improving the management and oversight of data assets to ensure accessibility for evidence-based decision making.

THE GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN-PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY reinforces the supply chain system in Haiti to build capacity, resilience, and ultimately support an optimized, integrated national supply chain led by the Ministry of Public Health and Population and managed through a public-private partnership.

USAID'S HEALTH PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS DATA VERIFICATION ACTIVITY (in French, Verification des Résultats pour la Santé) works with a local implementing partner, LOGIK, to provide external data verification for the 165 USAID-supported health service delivery sites. As a result of these data verification sessions and community surveys, health service providers are more motivated and subsequently hold the sites more accountable in providing quality service to clients, particularly when they receive financial incentives.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

REINFORCED GOVERNANCE CAPACITY OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION

- **DEVELOPED THE HEALTH MASTER PLAN 2021 - 2031** (in French, Plan Directeur 2021-2031) to guide and strengthen the Health Sector in Haiti, with a first Triennial Plan 2022-2024 to set priorities and interventions for the next three years to be executed in each department. USAID helped fund the development of the Health Master Plan in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population as well as key local stakeholders.
- **IMPROVED HOSPITAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** by installing 36 electronic cash registers with all their supporting accessories in 14 hospital to improve the management of internal revenues in support of the Health Master Plan. The cash registers increased the internal revenue collection from eight to 77 percent in certain institutions.
- **EXPANDED THE REPORTING DATABASE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION:** The Ministry of Public Health and Population's comprehensive reporting database, implemented by USAID, captures key indicators from the basic package of services and enables the government to make data driven decisions. All health facilities recognized by the Ministry of Public Health and Population are required to report into the system.
- **IMPLEMENTED RESULT-BASED FINANCING INCENTIVES** to improve the utilization and quality of health services offered to the population. USAID works in partnership with the World Bank to use results-based financing to drive sustainable performance improvements in the health sector. By providing financial resources at the level of healthcare institutions USAID enables health partners to execute their business plans and innovative strategies to improve outcomes and health system management.

BUILT THE LEADERSHIP CAPACITY OF TWO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

As one component of the Health Leadership Project, USAID tasked Management Sciences for Health to partner with two local organizations, Centre de Formation et d'Encadrement Technique and Group Croissance, and strengthen their capacity to lead and finance the health sector and to improve the planning and oversight of the health workforce. As a result of this work, the two local organizations are now equipped to fully assume the responsibility of implementing USAID activities. Each of these local organizations is now a direct recipient of USAID funding, responsible and accountable for achieving the results and objectives. This model for building local capacity aligns with USAID's vision for sustainable development where local partners are valued as engines of development and opportunity.

STRENGTHENED THE MEDICAL OXYGEN ECOSYSTEM

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID has worked to improve healthcare institutions' access to medical oxygen for clinical case management of COVID-19 patients. USAID donated 50 concentrators and 250 oxygen cylinders, and distributed them to 20 Ministry of Public Health and Population-designated COVID-19 treatment facilities located throughout Haiti. In July, 2022, USAID

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 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.

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.