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CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

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Education is the foundation of a strong and resilient population.

BACKGROUND

The 2023-2024 academic year was profoundly affected by socio-political instability, insecurity, and fuel shortages that delayed the academic year, limited staff mobility, escalated operating costs, and decreased productivity. Violence targeting schools escalated, severely undermining the country's education system. In response, USAID pivoted to radio to provide learning opportunities while schools were closed, including resources for social and emotional learning (SEL) for pre-primary learners, interactive literacy activities for first and second grade students, and strategies for parents to support children's learning at home. USAID ensures continuity of learning through distance and classroom learning, and strengthens schools, local education, and community structures such as parent teacher associations and local governing structures.

OBJECTIVE

The Continuity of Learning (COL) activity supports the development of a more resilient education system that delivers uninterrupted access to a safe, quality education for students in first through fourth grade,

despite shocks and stresses that may arise. When the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training announced the Liv Inik An Kreyòl curriculum for the 2023-24 school year, USAID's COL activity pivoted to a wrap-around literacy package. COL now emphasizes supplemental reading materials while continuing joint literacy and SEL training, supporting teachers to improve instructional practices and the classroom environment. For field testing and implementation this academic year, COL developed decodable readers, classroom library materials, and SEL curricula for grades 3 and 4.

The COL program aims to strengthen the capacity of students, teachers, schools, and communities by:

- Promoting SEL
- Improving students' foundational skills in literacy
- Fostering a safe learning environment for students, teachers, and school administrators
- Coordinating with key stakeholders at the national and local levels
- Developing and employing distance and remedial learning programs

COL is led by USAID's partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Consortium Partners: University of Notre Dame (UND) and Haitian partner, Commission for Catholic Education (CEEC), who can help sustain gains made through the program.

COL is working with 8,750 learners, 120 teachers, 60 school directors, and 60 parent teacher associations in grades 1 and 2 in 60 schools located in four departments—the West, South, North, and Northeast. During Phase 2, COL will continue in these departments and expand into Grand'Anse, working with learners and teachers in grades 1 through 4.

KEY OR ANTICIPATED RESULTS

Two ALiK (Ayiti Li Kreyòl) assessments were conducted during the 2022- 2023 school year. A baseline was done with 4,012 learners in March 2023 and endline data was collected for 4,589 learners at the end of the school year. Results showed a 13% increase in student reading at word level.

By the end of the project, COL hopes to reach 25,500 students, in 170 schools across five departments in Haiti. COL also plans to strengthen the capacity of more than 1,500 teachers and school directors to deliver high quality educational services to students, and to strengthen the capacity of 170 Parent Teacher Associations to support and advocate for improved learning environments for their children.

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