BACKGROUND

Inadequate and insufficient healthcare facilities have been a significant roadblock to improving poor healthcare services in Haiti for generations. According to the Ministry of Health, even before the earthquake, Haiti’s health care system was not capable to respond to the population’s need for basic healthcare services. The 2010 earthquake worsened the situation, destroying 50 healthcare centers as well as the Ministry of Health building and further limiting access to healthcare for Haitians. The earthquake also destroyed part of Haiti’s primary teaching hospital, disrupting the education of future healthcare professionals. The challenges resulting from this deficit are compounded by other serious infrastructure shortfalls such as the poor conditions of remaining structures and the lack of clean water and adequate sanitation.

USAID STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the international donor community, supports work to rebuild key institutions in Haiti’s health infrastructure by providing funding for engineering, design, quality assurance, and construction management services as well as for the actual construction and repairs. Key activities include:

Reconstruction of the General University Hospital: The largest tertiary and teaching hospital in the country, the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH), suffered severe damages and collapsed buildings during the January 2010 earthquake. The Government of Haiti (GOH) requested the help of the American and French governments in the reconstruction effort and asked to keep the location at the current site to ensure continuity of medical services in downtown Port-au-Prince. Since 2011, USAID and Agence Française de Development have been engaged as co-donors, contributing $25 million each, and the GOH has contributed $33.3 million to support the reconstruction effort. The work for the 700 bed facility is complex and involves a number of parties with the GOH’s Unite Technique d’Execution in charge of managing the construction at HUEH.

While the full reconstruction project is moving forward, USAID renovated temporary facilities (emergency and maternity wards) of HUEH so the hospital could continue to operate while under construction. Reconstruction of the main hospital campus is progressing, with activities such as demolition, earthwork, and foundation works already completed. General underground utilities and erection of steel structures are underway.
**Reconstruction of National Campus of Health Sciences:** The National Campus of Health Sciences will be a modern medical teaching facility in Port-au-Prince that will replace and combine the former Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, School of Nursing, and Lab Technician School, which were all destroyed in the January 2010 earthquake. The new facility will consist of approximately 5,850 square meters of new space and will be the only public medical teaching facility to collaborate with the adjacent HUEH to carry out clinical training. The former School of Nursing site will be developed into student dormitories for students who live outside Port-au-Prince and are accepted into the program. Reconstruction activities completed so far include the temporary swing space for the School of Nursing, which will be converted into a permanent dormitory hall upon completion of the main project site. Significant progress has been made on the main campus and project completion is expected in 2016.

**Reconstruction and Expansion of Justinien Hospital:** Pediatric Services at Justinien University Hospital (JUH) currently occupy approximately 484 square meters of space in a single story building situated between the existing maternity ward, the residences for hospital personnel, and the morgue on the JUH campus. The facility is significantly overcrowded and badly deteriorated with multiple roof leaks and cracks in walls and floors. The new facility will consist of approximately 2,070 square meters of new space including a neonatal ward, infant ward, children's and adolescent wards, two isolation rooms, exam rooms, and a triage area. Preconstruction activities including site survey, design, and planning are underway. Project completion is expected in 2017.

**Renovation and Upgrading of Medical and School Facilities:** USAID initiated a series of small renovation projects to help rebuild smaller scale health care infrastructure and improve accessibility for people with disabilities in schools. The projects will involve up to 12 health care centers and schools in the North, Northeast, West, and Artibonite Departments and will be completed in 2016. So far, six schools have been retrofitted; preconstruction and construction activities are ongoing at additional sites.