OVERVIEW

The Reparation Pou Amelyore Ekipesk Medikal (REPARE) project partners USAID, St. Boniface Haiti - Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, and the GE Foundation in an alliance to create a viable and cost-effective solution to repair and service biomedical equipment in Haiti, for example anesthesia machines or incubators for newborns.

Often in Haiti, idle, non-functioning healthcare equipment presents significant challenges to healthcare professionals and results in devastating consequences for patients in need of life-saving health services. A 2010 study revealed that 70 percent of medical equipment evaluated in Haiti did not work, even though 80 percent of this broken equipment could have been repaired if skilled technicians and cost-effective repair services were available.

The REPARE project establishes a training program and fully equipped workshop at St. Boniface Hospital for Haitian technicians and a financially sustainable solution by generating income from fees for repairing and servicing equipment for additional health facilities in Haiti. The GE Foundation provides medical equipment, parts, and maintenance kits, Kellogg Foundation provides training, and USAID provides funding to St. Boniface. A full-time Biomedical Equipment Technician from Massachusetts General Hospital teaches Haitian technicians how to install, maintain, and repair medical equipment. The trained technicians, based at the St. Boniface Hospital and selected Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante sites, will also conduct repairs, maintenance, and training at other healthcare facilities in Haiti.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure high functioning medical equipment is available to aid clinicians in providing care to patients
- Train Biomedical Engineering Technicians to achieve standards set by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and strengthen resources available in Haiti
- Work with the Ministry of Health and healthcare administrators, clinicians, and technicians in Haiti to develop a viable system for biomedical equipment repair and maintenance

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 12 new Haitian technicians certified to service and repair biomedical equipment; enhanced skills for 44 more technicians.
- One fully-functional biomedical equipment workshop space at St. Boniface Hospital and one mobile biomedical equipment workshop van.
- A 20% decrease in out-of-service medical equipment within the first year.
- A proven model for a sustainable, long-term medical equipment management system in Haiti.