



USAID
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USAID/HAITI HEALTH

FACT SHEET

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Credit: Ellie Van Houtte

BACKGROUND

In Haiti's health sector, there have been positive gains in some areas with stagnation in others. The 2017 Demographic Health Survey shows that during the last five years, period infant mortality decreased by 23 percent, and total fertility fell by 14 percent. The HIV prevalence among adults also declined slightly, from 2.2 percent in 2012 to 2.0 percent in 2017. In contrast, immunization coverage has deteriorated. The proportion of children who received the eight essential vaccines decreased from 45.2 percent in 2012 to 41.4 percent in 2017. In these same five years, maternal, neonatal and infant mortality rates have remained stagnant. These mixed results reflect a health sector that continues to face significant challenges. Weak governance and coordination, geographic and financial barriers to access health services, shortages of essential medicines, and the difficulty of attracting and retaining qualified health professionals, are all chronic struggles for the Ministry of Health (MOH).

KEY CHALLENGES

A weak health service delivery system: Roughly 40 percent of Haiti's population lacks access to essential health and nutrition services; roughly 60 percent of childbirths in Haiti occur outside of health facilities and without a skilled provider, and 22 percent of children under 5 years old are stunted.

Funding environment: The Government of Haiti (GOH) budget for health is low. Despite a recent GOH contribution to purchase routine vaccines, the country relies heavily on international funding and out of pocket expenditures to provide Haitians with access to health services.

Human resources for health: Attracting and retaining qualified health professionals is a chronic struggle, with as few as six health professionals per 10,000 people.

Health infrastructure: Haiti still suffers from the impact of the 2010 earthquake and from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. These natural disasters exacerbated an existing lack of adequate health infrastructure as well as access to electricity, clean water, and sanitation systems.

USAID STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is heavily invested in meeting the immediate health needs of Haitians today, while working with the Haitian government to build long-term solutions to the chronic health challenges affecting the nation. It does this by focusing on three critical areas: health service delivery; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and health systems strengthening (HSS).

Health service delivery: USAID implements U.S. President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) activities in Haiti to support HIV prevention, care and treatment programs. USAID's non-PEPFAR health investments focus on improving maternal child health and nutrition outcomes and expanding access to reproductive health services. USAID supports a network of 164 primary health centers nationwide, which offer an integrated package of primary health care, including vaccination.

Safe, sustainable WASH services: USAID WASH activities improve access to clean water and sanitation services, with a focus on preventing waterborne diseases such as cholera. Working closely with the Haitian Water and Sanitation Department, USAID seeks to sustainably improve water and sanitation infrastructure, particularly in cholera hotspots and Hurricane Matthew-affected areas.

Health systems strengthening: HSS investments focus on improving health financing and governance, health information systems, integrated supply chain, and human resources for health (HRH). Recent activities include support to the MOH to roll out its integrated health information system to more than 900 health facilities nationwide, improving the management of limited HRH through the development of a national HRH Strategy for the MOH, and technical assistance to the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism.

USAID has also focused on rebuilding public health infrastructure. Working alongside other international donors, USAID is supporting the reconstruction of the General University Hospital, Haiti's primary public tertiary and teaching hospital. USAID also helped construct a new pediatric ward at St. Justinien Hospital in Cap-Haitien and reconstructed the National Campus of Health Sciences. To improve accessibility for people with disabilities, USAID renovated nine schools and seven hospitals across the country.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

USAID's assistance has helped increase access to basic healthcare in 164 clinics across Haiti, including child nutrition and mortality, improved access to maternal healthcare, and contributed to the containment of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In 2019 alone:

- ▶ Approximately 375,000 children and 245,000 pregnant women received nutrition support from U.S. Government-supported (USG) nutrition programs,
- ▶ Over 140,000 vulnerable children were screened for malnutrition in 2019 and those with moderate and severe malnutrition were provided with food supplementation and vital care.
- ▶ Over 200,000 individuals were offered HIV prevention, testing and counselling services.
- ▶ Over 40,000 women accessed antenatal care, 24,500 births were attended by skilled providers and 73,000 children were fully vaccinated.
- ▶ USG interventions have helped maintain the HIV prevalence rate in Haiti at two percent for the past decade.
- ▶ Currently, PEPFAR supports more than 90,000 orphans and vulnerable children as well as their caregivers with a package of critical services that aims to lessen vulnerability to the HIV/AIDS disease and its socio-economic effects.
- ▶ USAID helped expand the health workforce by supporting approximately 1,400 community health workers (CHWs) and educators who provide health services and disseminate key health messages to rural communities in areas surrounding the 164 USAID supported health facilities.
- ▶ USAID is also supporting the MOH to update the profile and training materials for CHWs to allow them to provide additional services, an essential component to achieve the MOH's priority of universal health coverage.
- ▶ Through its integrated supply chain project, USAID provides access to the majority of family planning and antiretroviral pharmaceuticals.

