

Jhpiego in Haiti

Quick Facts

Estimated total population:¹

11.1 million

Maternal mortality ratio:²

380 per 100,000 live births

Infant mortality rate:³

59 per 1,000 live births

Under-five mortality rate:³

88 per 1,000 live births

Total fertility rate:³

3.5

Contraceptive prevalence:³

31% (modern methods)

35% (all methods)

HIV prevalence:³

2.2%

Births with skilled provider:³

37%

Sources:

¹ Population Reference Bureau
2016 World Population Data
Sheet;

² Countdown to 2015: The 2014
Report: Haiti;

³ Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et
Utilisation des Services, Haïti,
2012.

Background

The second most densely populated country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has the highest rates of infant mortality, maternal mortality and HIV prevalence in the Americas. Access to health services is limited and there is a shortage of experienced midwives and maternity clinics to meet the needs of Haitian women.

Jhpiego has been active in Haiti since 1997, initially with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to work with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build the country's capacity to provide family planning (FP) services. From 1999 to 2007, under the USAID-funded ACCESS Program and its precursor, Jhpiego collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to establish postabortion care services and expand minilaparotomy, Norplant® and IUD services at 16 health facilities in Haiti. With support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), ACCESS also worked to strengthen services at health facilities for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). In addition, ACCESS-FP implemented a USAID-funded youth initiative to increase young women's use of FP and maternal and neonatal services through community-based initiatives.

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake, Jhpiego received a grant from UNFPA to help identify and assess trained midwives and nurses available to support reproductive health (RH) services for earthquake-affected populations. In close collaboration with the MOH, Jhpiego mobilized the Haitian Association of Midwives, the Association of Nurses and other relevant networks to identify unemployed RH personnel (midwives, nurses, obstetrician/gynecologists) who could be deployed in an emergency to support health facilities. From 2008 to 2013, Jhpiego also provided technical leadership (in FP, maternal and neonatal care, infection prevention, PMTCT and obstetric emergencies) under the USAID-funded Santé pour le Développement et la Stabilité d'Haïti (SDSH) Project, led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH). Under a grant from the MOH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Jhpiego also carried out a needs assessment of maternal and newborn care in the Cap Haïtien and Saint-Marc Development Corridors of Haiti to formulate recommendations to strengthen emergency obstetric and newborn care services.

More recently, Jhpiego served as a partner under the four-year, USAID-funded project, Eviter le VIH et sa Transmission (Avoid HIV and Its Transmission) Project, providing technical assistance for the development of HIV-related policies, strategies and guidelines, and ensuring compliance with these guidelines



at health facilities. Jhpiego also worked with the MOH to: 1) reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV by strengthening RH services and integrating PMTCT with services offered to women of reproductive age; and 2) improve infection prevention and waste management practices at 12 targeted hospitals. In addition, due in part to Jhpiego's advocacy with the MOH, a national strategy for cervical and uterine cancer was developed. Under this strategy, providers were trained to screen for cervical cancer using visual inspection of the cervix using acetic acid, cervical cancer services were launched at three facilities and clinical norms for cervical cancer prevention are being finalized. Most recently, Jhpiego also partnered with the MOH to strengthen the management of emergency obstetric and neonatal complications in the Saint-Marc and North corridors.

Jhpiego's current work in Haiti is described in more detail below.

Current Program Highlights

During fiscal year (FY) 2016, Jhpiego worked to improve outcomes for HIV/TB, nutrition, FP and maternal, newborn and child health in Haiti under the Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths (EPCMD) project and Services de Santé de Qualité pour Haiti Nord (SSQH-Nord) project, both of which were part of the Jhpiego-led, USAID-funded Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) in Haiti.

The following project year (FY17), these initiatives were merged under SSQH. In addition, Jhpiego inherited the SSQH Central South (SSQH-C/S) project from Pathfinder, thereby creating a national SSQH program that covers all 10 departments of Haiti in 164 health facilities and two fixed community rally posts, which include 66 nongovernmental organization sites (via subcontracts) and 100 public sites.

SSQH works in close collaboration with the MOH to improve the quality of services at the facility level and expand community-level outreach and mobilization activities to: improve service delivery for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH), HIV and TB; increase access to and uptake of services; increase access to comprehensive HIV care for those in need; increase awareness and health-seeking behavior; update RMNCH policies; operationalize model referral networks; support the launch of results-based financing; and establish National Training Centers for in-service education on high-impact RMNCH clinical interventions. Zika prevention and screening are integrated through antenatal care, FP services and water, sanitation and hygiene activities, as well as in the revision of national policies.

Under this award, Jhpiego is providing technical assistance to: 1) increase utilization of the MOH's essential package of services at the primary care and community levels; 2) improve the functionality of the U.S. Government-supported health referral networks; 3) facilitate sustainable delivery of high-quality health services through the institutionalization of key management practices at both the facility and community levels; 4) strengthen departmental health authorities' capacity to manage and monitor service delivery; and 5) provide technical assistance to the MOH to create an enabling national policy and coordination environment for improved RMNCH in Haiti.

Key Accomplishments

Under the current programs:

- Water and sanitation conditions have been improved through the Clean Clinic Approach at 69 sites.
- Access to HIV services has increased and the number of patients lost to follow-up has decreased by equipping facilities and training health care providers and community health workers. A total of 12,162 people are currently enrolled on antiretroviral therapy across 42 sites.
- 851 health care providers were trained on RMNCH topics through the National Training Centers.
- Results-based financing has been introduced at 33 sites and has already shown an improvement in performance.
- A 33% increase has been achieved in the institutional birth rate in sites over a one-year period from April 2016 to March 2017.
- A full range of FP methods is provided at all 166 program sites and community health workers each offer three short-term methods (oral contraceptives, condoms, injectables) at the community level.
- A total of 197,335 couple years of protection were provided at program sites between October 2016 and March 2017 through various FP methods and by counseling and referring clients for long-acting, reversible contraceptives and permanent methods.

Under past programs:

- RH and PMTCT service integration has been strengthened by:
 - Updating protocols and developing job aids;
 - Reorganizing services to improve client access and privacy;
 - Training more than 100 providers in maternal and newborn health/PMTCT;
 - Training more than 100 providers in FP, including long-acting methods such as IUDs and implants;
 - Training and supporting 110 case managers who help pregnant and postpartum women navigate health services; and
 - Reinforcing data recording and management using the national electronic health information system.
- Jhpiego's interventions under the SDSH Project contributed to more than 225,000 pregnant women receiving HIV counseling and testing for PMTCT and receiving their test results, as well as more than 2,600 HIV-positive women receiving antiretrovirals for PMTCT.
- Minilaparotomy and Norplant implant services were established and continue to be available at 16 sites.
- PMTCT services have been strengthened at 16 sites, and PMTCT-Plus services are available at nine additional sites.
- Postabortion care services were established at 16 sites, and continue to be provided at 10 sites.



- Under the youth initiative, a participatory, client-oriented model of care was developed that is suited to the unique circumstances and needs of Haitian youth. As a result, the proportion of young users of services (aged 15–24) increased in health facilities and targeted communities.
- The Young Mothers/Young Girls project successfully changed norms for young girls, young mothers, parents and communities around use of RH services and FP methods. Use of a modern method of contraception by young mothers increased measurably in the target area.
- Clinical standards and guidelines for maternal health and FP have been developed and adopted for use nationally.

Partners and Donors

- Donors that have supported Jhpiego's work in Haiti include: USAID, UNICEF, UNFPA, CDC and the MOH.
- Jhpiego collaborates closely with local partners: MOH, the Haitian Association of Midwives, Association of Nurses, INHSAC, the Haitian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and l'Association des Oeuvres Privées de Santé, as well as with many U.S. organizations such as MSH and the Caris Foundation.

References

Cayemittes M, Placide MF, Mariko S, Barrère B, Sévère B, Alexandre C. 2007. *Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services, Haïti, 2012*. Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population, Institut Haïtien de l'Enfance and ICF International: Calverton, Maryland, USA.

Countdown to 2015. The 2014 Report: Haiti.

http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2014Report/Haiti_Country_Profile_2014.pdf

Jhpiego. *Haiti Young Mothers Young Girls Project: Final Documentation Report (Draft)*. July 2009. *SDHS Project. SDHS Progress Report (Jhpiego contribution)*. October 2009.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). *The Haiti Crisis: Health Risks*. www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/HaitiHealthImpact.htm

Population Reference Bureau. *2016 World Population Data Sheet*. Washington, D.C.