



Haiti

Project HOPE has worked to support the people of Haiti since the 1980s, including programs in maternal and child health as well as responses to natural disasters and health emergencies. Today, widespread insecurity and increases in violence continue to exacerbate the ongoing complex humanitarian crisis in Haiti, impacting the health and wellbeing of people across the country.

Project HOPE is responding to urgent health, protection, and WASH needs at the health facility and community levels in the Grand Sud region. Our programs focus on increasing access to primary health care and protection services, addressing sexual and reproductive health needs, building the capacity of frontline health care workers through training; the provision of pharmaceuticals and medical commodities, and responding to natural disasters and health crises as they arise.

Increasing access to Primary Health, WASH, and Protection Services

With support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), Project HOPE is implementing a multi-sectoral, integrated health and humanitarian program in response to the needs of populations and communities in the Sud, Nippes, and Grand'Anse departments in the south of Haiti. The program builds on Project HOPE's experience in the country, particularly since the 2021 earthquake when Project HOPE responded to support the restoration of primary health services with complementary activities in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Project HOPE's activities in the Health, WASH, and Protection sectors continue to evolve in response to the shifting context in Haiti and have expanded to include an increased focus on the prevention and response to Gender-based Violence (GBV); improving access to clean water at the community level; and coordinating with UN agencies and implementing partners to strengthen and support the continuity of humanitarian coordination mechanisms. Activities per sector are described below:



Project HOPE's Impact

2,100+ individuals receiving hygiene kits

14,500 Individuals reached treatment and health education

8 Cholera Treatment Centers Supported

24 WHO Cholera Kits distributed to Cholera Treatment Centers

Health

Project HOPE aims to increase access to primary health care services through targeted support to four (4) health facilities in Sud and Grand'Anse as well as the deployment of a mobile medical unit (MMU) in the Nippes department. Through medical surge staffing support, provision of pharmaceuticals and medical commodities, and healthcare worker training to ensure adherence to primary healthcare protocols, Project HOPE is supporting the scale-up, continuity, and provision of essential health services including Sexual and Reproductive Health including GBV case management and Clinical Management of Rape, Communicable Diseases, Noncommunicable Diseases, Injury and First Aid and clinical Mental Health through WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). The program also includes community outreach to health facilities and MMU catchment areas led by a cadre of trained Community Health Agents (CHAs) who provide health and hygiene education, raise awareness of GBV, and make referrals to program activities and other available services as appropriate.

WASH

Project HOPE is providing critical support to health facilities to ensure functioning WASH facilities, such as handwashing stations and latrines, and capacity for proper medical waste management through rehabilitation, repairs, and installation. The program also includes community-based hygiene promotion activities focusing on preventing transmission of infectious diseases such as cholera as well as good hygiene and safe storage practices. Project HOPE is also working to increase access to clean water at both the health facility and community levels and is distributing essential WASH supplies and hygiene non-food item kits.

Protection

Project HOPE is responding to the heightened need for MHPSS and GBV prevention and treatment in the current context through increasing access to clinical mental health and GBV case management as well as community-based psychosocial support (PSS) and psychoeducation. Our protection activities are led by social workers, medical doctors, nurses, CHAs, and program staff who are trained in PSS, psychological first aid, confidential case management, survivor-centered approaches, and providing inclusive services in line with Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) MHPSS and GBV Guiding Principles. Project HOPE has been implementing best practice interventions in MHPSS including mhGAP with medical practitioners supported health facilities and Problem Management Plus for both individuals and groups at the community level since 2021. During the current program, Project HOPE has further expanded psychoeducation activities, community messaging on GBV, and the establishment of Safe Spaces for Women and Girls.

Humanitarian Coordination, Information, and Management

Project HOPE is coordinating with UN agencies and key stakeholders in Haiti to improve support revitalization of coordination mechanisms and sectoral clusters in the south of Haiti in order to strengthen humanitarian coordination. In addition to regular

participation and support to the national and departmental clusters and working groups, Project HOPE is working in coordination with PAHO to reestablish the Health Cluster in Grand Sud which is expected to launch in 2024.

Responding to Natural Disasters and Health Emergencies

Haiti remains one of the most climate-vulnerable countries globally and remains at high risk for natural disasters and extreme weather events such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding. These events also increase the risk of surges in infectious diseases such as cholera which is endemic in Haiti. Project HOPE's emergency response experience in Haiti has included responding to the 2010 earthquake, implementing a multi-year medical rehabilitation program, and establishing the country's first free rehab and prosthetics facility; assisting the MSPP in developing a cholera prevention and treatment strategy following the 2011 outbreak; responding to Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and establishing a Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in the Nippes department. Project HOPE continues to respond to natural disasters and health crises as they arise, leveraging experience and longstanding relationships with institutional and health partners established over the years.

2022 Cholera Outbreak

In late 2022, cholera cases were reported in Port-au-Prince followed by a rapid increase in reported cases as cholera spread across the country. Project HOPE immediately responded, providing supplies for a CTC in Jeremie, and then quickly expanded support in the Grand Sud region. With support from USAID/BHA, Project HOPE implemented a multi-sectoral, one-year program in partnership with Health Equity International (HEI) in response to the cholera epidemic while integrating MHPSS and GBV activities to further support communities in the Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes departments. Project HOPE and HEI supported eight CTCs to increase capacity for providing cholera care and treatment and to strengthen infection, prevention, and control protocols through staffing, healthcare worker training, and WASH repairs and rehabilitation. With support from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Project HOPE procured and distributed WHO Cholera kits, PPE, and hygiene kits to further support the prevention and treatment of cholera.

2021 Earthquake

When the 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck on August 14, Project HOPE deployed a team of first responders to provide medical relief to hard-hit areas around Les Cayes. Following our initial response, Project HOPE implemented a nine-month program supported by USAID/BHA, "Restoring Basic Primary Health Services in Post-Earthquake Haiti". In coordination with MSPP, Project HOPE, and HEI reestablished and increased access to primary health care services, strengthened WASH capacity at health facilities, conducted hygiene promotion and community health education, and provided MHPSS services through mhGAP and PM+ to earthquake-affected communities across the Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes departments.