

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FACT SHEET

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FREDERICK ALEXIS

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 2010 earthquake, Haiti's healthcare system was not able to respond to the needs for basic healthcare services. The earthquake worsened the situation, destroying 50 healthcare centers as well as the Ministry of Health building. This further limited access to healthcare for Haitians. The earthquake also destroyed part of Haiti's primary teaching hospital, disrupting the education of future healthcare professionals.

KEY CHALLENGES

The challenges resulting from these natural disasters and lack of adequate access to healthcare are compounded by other serious infrastructure shortfalls such as the poor conditions of remaining structures and the lack of clean water, electricity, 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, construction management services, construction and repairs. Key activities include:

Reconstruction of National Campus of Health Sciences: The National Campus of Health Sciences is a modern medical teaching facility in Port-au-Prince that replaced and combined the former Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, School of Nursing, and Lab Technician School. These three facilities were all destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. The new facility consists of approximately 5,850 square meters of space and is the only public medical teaching facility to collaborate with the adjacent General University Hospital (HUEH) to carry out clinical training. USAID also supported the development of the former School of Nursing site to serve as dormitories for students who live outside Port-au-Prince.

Reconstruction and Expansion of Justinien Hospital: Pediatric Services at Justinien University Hospital currently occupy approximately 484 square meters of space on the hospital's campus. The facility is significantly overcrowded and badly deteriorated with multiple roof leaks as well as cracks in walls and floors. Thus, USAID has supported the development of a new facility that consists of approximately 2,070 square meters of space and includes a neonatal ward, infant ward, children's and adolescent wards, two isolation rooms, exam rooms, and a triage area.

Renovation and Upgrading of Medical and School Facilities: USAID initiated a series of small renovation projects to help rebuild healthcare infrastructure and improve accessibility for people with disabilities in schools. This project retrofitted a total of nine schools and seven hospitals.

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Grants: USAID ASHA grants support the construction and purchase of equipment for medical institutions in Haiti. In February 2016, USAID announced two ASHA grants for Haiti: (1) St. Boniface Haiti Foundation for \$650,000 to construct and equip a residence facility with a training room and medical library at the St. Boniface Hospital; and (2) Catholic Relief Services for \$470,000 to procure and install an oxygen concentrator, elevator, and telemedicine equipment to improve medical care at Hospital St. Francois de Sales. The previous year, USAID awarded \$500,000 each to the St. Luke Foundation for Haiti and the St. Boniface Haiti Foundation to construct and equip a new medical educational center and a surgical-emergency medical center, respectively. Additional recipients of ASHA grants since 2010 also included the Albert Schweitzer Hospital and the International Child Care's training center and inpatient child care unit. Since 1979, ASHA grants have provided over \$21 million in support to projects in Haiti.

Reconstruction of the General University Hospital: The January 2010 earthquake caused severe damage including collapsed buildings in HUEH, Haiti's primary public tertiary and teaching hospital located in downtown Port-au-Prince. The Government of Haiti requested assistance from the American and French governments to reconstruct HUEH. In 2011, a partnership was formed with USAID and the French Agency for Development contributing \$25 million each, while the Government of Haiti provided \$33.3 million. Reconstruction of the main hospital campus is progressing; the demolition, foundation, and steel framework are already completed. In order to ensure that certain functions at the hospital could continue to operate while under construction, USAID also renovated temporary facilities such as emergency and maternity wards in HUEH.

Powering Health Facilities: Under the Improving Health Facility Infrastructure project, USAID works to provide high quality backup power for critical and sensitive loads in the hospitals, such as laboratory and IT equipment. For example, three sites supported by this project include the Soda Matheux Medical Center, St. Michel de l'Attalaye Hospital, and Les Cayes Immaculate Conception Hospital.