



Investing in People

Overview

USAID/Haiti's Investing in People Objective aims to: improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable Haitians, particularly women and children; help the Haitian Government provide visible, high-value services to the poor; and improve Haiti's low social indicators. With 70% of deliveries occurring at home, roughly 600 women die in childbirth annually. Under-five and infant mortality rates are 31 and 57 per 1,000 children, life expectancy is 49.5 years. The country has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region (currently estimated at 2.2% of adult Haitians). With an adult literacy rate of 52% and a primary school enrollment rate of less than 65%, education is also a key obstacle to social and economic progress in Haiti. Education, nutrition and health care expenditures account for more than 50% of poor households' income.



Pregnant mother receiving maternal health care services

The goals of USAID's Investing in People Objective are:

- rapid improvement in accessing quality health care and primary education by Haiti's disenfranchised populations;
- strengthened government capacity for leadership in planning, coordination, and quality assurance of education and health care systems;
- augmentation of local and national government institutions' capacity to deliver quality services on a sustained basis; and
- increased citizen involvement in health care priorities at the Department and Commune level.

USAID-funded health service activities provide access to basic health care to 47% of the Haitian population resulting in increased contraceptive use, reduction of chronic child malnutrition, improved child and maternal health, increased immunization rates and treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. USAID supports the government's decentralization efforts in providing critical health services. Primary education activities under this Objective aim to improve the quality of instruction, promote parental involvement in education, and strengthen Haitian non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) education activities. Other United States Government agencies also support the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. For FY 2009 the USG is providing over \$142.7 million, of which USAID manages over \$93.6 million.



Children receiving Interactive Radio Instruction lessons in Maissade

Activities

Maternal and Child Health: Provide treatment for the prevention of major causes of infant and child mortality, such as diarrhea, fever, respiratory infections, measles, and malnutrition. Assist the Ministry of Health (MOH) to improve its management capacity and to provide immunization services nation-wide. Provide nutritionally adequate and safe foods through direct distribution of food to 127,635 people, provide micro-nutrients to: 29,965 pregnant/lactating women, 33,170 children under 5, 1,000 TB patients and 3,000 Haitians living with HIV/AIDS.

Reproductive Health: Establish a more effective commodity distribution structure to ensure improved access and supply of contraceptives and other essential supplies, particularly to outlying clinics, through collaboration with the MOH and other donors. Improve pre-natal and post-natal care and management of complications during pregnancy.

Infectious Disease: Haiti is a focus country in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). USAID works with the MOH and a broad spectrum of NGOs to support comprehensive prevention and treatment initiatives to combat HIV/AIDS and to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Projects to detect and treat TB and sexually transmitted diseases, and to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS are ongoing. In addition, the integration of HIV/AIDS activities

with PEPFAR funds into basic education, vocational training for youth, PL480 Title II food security, microfinance for small and medium enterprise and civic education will work to achieve cross-program results within the USG's strategy.



**Support to school program
in the South department**

Basic Education: A school cluster program delivers a package of support services to over 400 primary schools designed to achieve higher access and promotion rates. Support includes interactive radio instruction, strengthened Parent Teachers' Associations, accelerated academic programs structured for out-of-school youth, and school-based teacher and principal training. USAID also provides a scholarship program for children at risk of dropping out of school or who have already dropped out. These scholarships benefit Haiti's neediest families and include school fees and supplies to help students return to and/or remain in school. USAID also assists the Ministry of Education to strengthen its capacity to effectively license and regulate the large number of private schools in Haiti. The PL480 Title II school feeding program will ensure the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods through the distribution of hot meals to students.

Social Assistance: The PL480 Title II food security program supports people living in over 100 Safety Net Institutions: orphans, the institutionalized elderly and disabled, and people affected by HIV/AIDS or TB. The program increases access of the most vulnerable Haitian citizens to health services, provides for their immediate critical food needs, improves water and sanitation facilities and strengthens management of these institutions.

FY 2008 Results

USAID achieved the following results in 2008:

- Strengthened health service delivery in clinics operating in hard-to-reach and chronically underserved areas of the country covering almost half the population.
- Vulnerable HIV/AIDS groups received supplemental feeding to stabilize incomes, and improve household nutrition. More than 52,000 children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS received support in the form of food, health care, immunization, legal and social support and school scholarships.
- Increased Government of Haiti capacity to deliver Interactive Radio Instruction, a sustainable cost-effective delivery system for teaching key subjects and reaching large segments of the youth population.
- Provided 30,000 scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Under programs targeting marginalized youth with little or no education, USAID opened 96 new training centers for 4800 youth, of which 1735 have completed the 12-month basic employability training, 1127 youth transitioned to further workforce training and 848 youth secured a job, paid internship or started a small business.