

## **APPENDIX B: Strategy for Supporting Post-Disaster and Post-COVID-19 Recovery**

### **Collaboration with the Government of Haiti on a Development Plan**

USAID's 2020-2022 Strategic Framework emphasizes a resilience-based approach and refocuses Haitian government engagement toward the local level. USAID's work seeks to build a Haiti more resilient to environmental, political, economic shocks and stresses through interventions that increase absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacity and risk reduction along three strategic axes: individuals, communities, and systems. USAID strives to advance more inclusive, locally driven economic growth and social development by promoting a more inclusive and productive workforce through improved workforce readiness; reducing barriers for women, youth, and vulnerable populations to join the workforce; and helping Haitians find stable, diversified, and sustainable livelihoods. USAID also aims to promote governance that better responds to citizens' needs to develop the capacities in people, households, communities, and systems that build inclusive prosperity and create local demand for improved governance. This work includes improving the capacity of transparent and accountable institutions in the Government of Haiti to provide quality and accessible services. In addition, USAID will ensure its activities do not displace local capacity or disrupt ongoing efforts of local actors, and do not promote donor dependency. Given the complex donor landscape in Haiti, USAID will continue to use its convening power to advocate for regular information-sharing and seek partnerships with other donors, as well as utilize the networks and political capital of other donor agencies that provide direct support to the Haitian government. USAID will engage with the interagency, Haitian government, and broader donor and stakeholder communities to encourage joint investment, planning, prioritization, and target-setting. For more information, see Appendix I of this report.

### **Capacity Building of Haitian-led Public, Nongovernmental, and Private Institutions Through Post-Earthquake and Post-Hurricane Recovery and Development Planning**

Capacity building has been a critical component of USAID programming across its portfolio of development activities and with its cadre of stakeholders in the public, private, and nongovernmental sectors, including in post-disaster recovery and development planning.

## Public Sector

USAID support for capacity building within the public sector has included close collaboration with the Haitian government entities at the ministerial, departmental, and municipal levels. To improve capacity for disaster response in Haiti, USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) has supported the General Directorate for Civil Protection (DGCP) to better mitigate and manage disasters and their impact. Activities have allowed DGCP to lead rapid response efforts through the expansion of ongoing stockpiling of non-food items and the enhancement of capacities to work at the communal, municipal, and national levels.

To strengthen domestic resources mobilization efforts, USAID's Project Supporting the Efficient Management of State Resources (GERE) facilitated coordination between targeted municipalities and local tax collection units by organizing joint training to increase the capacity of tax agents in both institutions.

To improve transparency and credibility in the justice sector, USAID assistance to the Superior Judiciary Council, the institution in charge of the management, oversight, and evaluation of members of the judiciary, has included field visits to assess the professional integrity of judges and prosecutors. In addition, USAID supported court inspections and vetting of judiciary members to reinforce accountability and enhance public trust in the judiciary and strengthen the Haitian government's effectiveness. Also, USAID expanded the computer-based judicial case management information system to 13 out of Haiti's 18 judicial jurisdictions to improve case processing time, court administration, judges' performance, and to help address pretrial detention.

USAID's assistance supported the improvement of the Ministry of Health comprehensive health information system. The implementation of the DHIS2 (SISNU) software allows the ministry to collect monthly data on more than 1,000 health institutions nationwide, thereby facilitating timely data driven decisions. The system collects data on all primary care services delivered by MSPP recognized institutions. This technology boosts capacity by helping to better manage and monitor the health sector, operationalizing the integrated national health supply chain, improving planning and oversight of the health workforce, and strengthening health care delivery in clinics.

In the energy sector, USAID assistance provides robust legal, technical, and financial transaction advisory support to the Government of Haiti's newly formed energy regulator, Autorité Nationale de Régulation du Secteur de l'Énergie (ANARSE). These capacity building activities are preparing ANARSE to grant

private sector-run, 20-year concessions to companies to manage and expand seven regional electricity grids.

### Private Sector

USAID programs acknowledge the importance of the Haitian private sector in improving and sustaining development results. Since 2010, USAID has leveraged \$44 million in private sector funds, with a total of \$56.9 million committed by the private sector to support various local and international partnerships with the private sector. This translates to an average of \$1.66 in private sector funds leveraged for every \$1 in USAID funding.

Through Haiti INVEST, USAID partners with local Haitian business consultants, including a women-led auditing and accounting firm, to expand support services to small businesses. These consultants help businesses prepare their financial statements and then link them with a network of financial providers, which include local and international investors and the Haitian diaspora. To date, seven businesses have received over \$4 million in funding with an additional \$14 million in the final stages of closing.

USAID has sought to utilize financial transactions to facilitate market-based solutions for the Haitian economy. Since the 2010 earthquake, the legacy Development Credit Authority portfolio that now resides at the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has disbursed approximately \$47 million in loans, through 20 financial institutions to 12,500 Haitian clients. USAID collaborates with the DFC to increase future partnerships with Haitian financial institutions and businesses.

### Nongovernmental Sector

In the absence of strong government institutions, civil society organizations (CSO), faith-based organizations (FBO), and other nongovernmental entities serve as essential vehicles to drive development in Haiti, and thus, important partners for USAID activities. The USAID/Haiti Mission portfolio comprises 64 awards, including 19 awarded grants or contracts to local organizations as prime implementing partners, totaling \$56.8 million (approximately 11 percent of the total ceiling for USAID Haiti). Local organizations receive subawards and subcontracts. The Mission, along with its implementing partners, engages extensively with local Haitian actors in the communities in which they implement programs. Many of these current awards include mentoring and institutional capacity strengthening for their local Haitian sub-awardees and may include a planned transition of those local Haitian organizations from sub-recipient to prime awardees during the life of that program.

Broader USAID assistance builds the capacity of 142 Haitian civil society organizations through training, one-on-one assistance, and mentoring to increase their managerial and technical development capacity and enables them to play a leading role in Haiti's development.

USAID helped create a network of 40 local community organizations that manage, implement, and report on disaster response and now serve as the frontline responders working in coordination with the General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGCP) on all national disaster response efforts. Over the past decade, USAID also supported the development of community disaster risk mitigation plans through community vulnerability and capacity assessments around Haiti and the development of over 100 hazard maps.

In February 2022, USAID launched a co-creation process for a \$15 million civil society strengthening activity. USAID brought diverse stakeholders together to collectively design solutions to the challenges of building the capacity of Haitian CSOs, including FBOs and diaspora groups, to drive local, inclusive solutions to Haiti's development challenges, including the need for democratic and citizen-responsive governance from the Haitian government.

### **Impact of the International Community's Recovery Efforts Since January 2010**

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is currently undertaking an assessment of the impact of recovery efforts since the 2010 earthquake, which should be available soon. GAO previously published the *Haiti Reconstruction: USAID Has Achieved Mixed Results and Should Enhance Sustainability Planning* report on June 3, 2015.<sup>1</sup> The report examined: "1) USAID's allocations, obligations, and disbursements of reconstruction funding; 2) the USAID mission in Haiti's (USAID/Haiti) progress in implementing planned reconstruction activities; and 3) USAID/Haiti's efforts to ensure the sustainability of activities." The report's recommendations emphasized the need to integrate sustainability analyses into the planning of non-infrastructure projects and to ensure the sustainability of infrastructure projects in compliance with section 611(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

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<sup>1</sup>GAO, *Haiti Reconstruction: USAID Has Achieved Mixed Results and Should Enhance Sustainability Planning*. June 3, 2015 <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-15-517.pdf>

For non-infrastructure projects, in December 2014, USAID/Haiti began utilizing a sustainability analysis tool during the activity design phase. Each analysis opens with the sustainability objective: “fully sustainable” (all project results may be designed to be sustainable due to significant partner country buy-in, good social soundness, minimal recurrent costs within the fiscal capacities of the host partner, and other factors); “partially sustainable” (certain project results may be planned to be sustainable and others are not); and “not sustainable” (none of the project’s results are designed to be sustainable, which might apply, for example, to a cash-for-work project to temporarily inject cash into an area). The objective is followed by analyses of local ownership; local capacity; sustainable financing; host government systems; motivations and incentives for sustaining results; economic and policy considerations; institutions; social and cultural soundness; and political economy.

For infrastructure projects, to ensure compliance with section 611(e) and the 2015 GAO report’s recommendations, USAID/Haiti’s Office of Infrastructure, Engineering, and Energy and its partners conduct a sustainability analysis as part of the feasibility study for each project. The purpose of these analyses is to (1) gather information and understand the current resources and adjustments required to ensure proper operations and maintenance of the infrastructure and (2) work with the beneficiaries and/or partners (other USAID offices, donors, etc.) to implement an appropriate sustainability and/or business plan aimed at filling the gaps identified during the planning stage. As part of a general plan, USAID/Haiti ensures partner ownership through their direct involvement at different stages of the infrastructure life cycle. For example, USAID rebuilt the National Campus of Health Sciences (NCHS), a modern medical teaching facility for doctors, nurses, lab technicians, and pharmacists, to replace facilities destroyed in the earthquake. NCHS leadership established a business plan that includes support from NCHS alumni working abroad as well as partnerships with other universities. The campus began operations in January 2017 and was handed over to the Government of Haiti in August 2017.

### **Supporting Disaster Resilience and Reconstruction Efforts**

Strengthening Haiti against the adverse impacts of natural and manmade disasters has meant rehabilitating and improving damaged infrastructure while building the resilience of natural resources and national institutions against future shocks.

Haiti's degraded natural environment and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change worsen the impacts of natural shocks. To begin to improve Haiti's disaster resilience, over the past decade, USAID planted over seven million trees on degraded land, supported farmers to establish woodlots and agroforestry systems, and worked with local community conservation groups to restore mangrove habitats. As a result of USAID programs, Haitian municipalities designated over 5,000 hectares of land to establish municipal forests through formalized municipal decrees. In addition, USAID assisted mayors in drafting municipal decrees to formalize these commitments. In the past two years, USAID also supported the treatment of over three kilometers of gullies and the cleaning of over six kilometers of canals in northern Haiti to help limit erosion and flooding.

Since the 2010 earthquake, USAID has strengthened Haiti's vulnerable energy sector. USAID funded the rehabilitation of five electrical substations in Port-au-Prince, at a cost of approximately \$15.5 million, and supported the construction of three micro-grids for isolated communities in southern Haiti, providing electricity to approximately 20,000 people. USAID has also invested \$60 million to-date to provide reliable electricity to the Caracol Industrial Park and its surrounding communities. This has included building a new 10-megawatt power plant and contracting a private firm to operate the utility. An additional \$6.5 million grant will contribute to a \$23 million Inter-American Development Bank-led project to build a 12-megawatt solar power plant at Caracol, setting the standard for reliable and renewable energy generation in Haiti.

USAID also invested in Haiti's health, water, and sanitation infrastructure systems to build their overall capacity and better weather the impacts of adverse shocks. In the wake of the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew, USAID supported the reconstruction of the National Campus for Health Sciences (NCHS), and the reconstruction of L'Hôpital Universitaire d'Etat d'Haiti (HUEH), scheduled for completion by December 2022. These are Haiti's premiere medical facilities, and their full and continuous operation significantly contributes to public health in Haiti and the ability of the health care system to withstand shocks. USAID also undertook the construction of a pediatric ward at the Justinien University Hospital (JUH), as well as the renovation of numerous clinics and public facilities to improve access for disabled persons.

Following Hurricane Matthew, USAID/Haiti transferred \$3.7 million in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) funds to the Global Health UNICEF Umbrella Grant to return water supply systems back to operational status. These funds increased the capacity of municipal plumbers and provided materials to make

timely repairs to water systems destroyed during the hurricane. The fund also supported efforts to prevent pollution and mitigate cholera and other waterborne diseases in the affected areas by protecting water sources. These funds contributed to wastewater treatment plant repairs at two cholera intake hospitals (St. Luc and the Albert Schweitzer Hospitals).

Post-disaster reconstruction also involves identifying and advancing opportunities for economic expansion. Following the 2010 earthquake, USAID invested \$25 million in assessments and studies to improve economic opportunities in northeast Haiti through marine trade and transportation. Building on this work, the \$20 million rehabilitation of the Cap-Haitien port is set to begin shortly, expanding opportunities for investment in the region.

### **Addressing the Underlying Causes of Poverty and Inequality**

Addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality requires comprehensive and long-term investments across a myriad of sectors. The Government of Haiti suffers from a shortage of public funds, which reverberates throughout Haiti's government agencies. The Haitian National Police (HNP) remains underfunded and limited in capacity to reduce violence in Port-au-Prince. Municipal governments countrywide are unable to deliver the most basic of public services. As a result of the insecurity and limited public services, Haitians are unable to earn consistent livelihoods and businesses are unable to grow and provide stable jobs.

USAID will take a multifaceted approach to solving these underlying causes of poverty and inequality, which will focus on 1) Democracy and Governance, 2) Education, 3) Economic Security, and 4) Infrastructure.

#### **Democracy and Governance**

With few checks on the executive branch, a nonfunctional parliament, and a judiciary under attack, Haiti's current situation drives even more people into poverty and enables the perpetrators of insecurity. Elite capture of the executive and serious skills-gaps results in underfunding of government services.

Decentralization has stagnated such that subnational entities are essentially bankrupt and under tight control from Port-au-Prince. Leveraging the Global Fragility Act (GFA) architecture and the associated Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability (SPCPS) permits the interagency to address the drivers of instability and conflict in the country via a comprehensive and long-term coordinated strategy.

Sequenced Democracy and Governance programming will start with a focus on improving citizen security in targeted neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince, complementing ongoing State Department programming with the HNP. The citizen security work will help enable an environment conducive to elections. USAID will support elections, when conditions permit, along with justice sector support and anti-corruption programming to facilitate a smooth transfer of power and strengthen institutions.

### Education

Although access to education has significantly improved over the past two decades from 40 percent to 85 percent, Haiti's enrollment rate remains the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. With multiple drop out waves throughout primary and secondary education, students are not staying in school. Only 2 percent of high school graduates continue their academic journey to the university level. The education system's inability to provide continued high-quality learning for students, including at-risk and out-of-school youth, and struggle to improve educational quality contribute to underlying causes of Haiti's poverty and inequality. Learners who leave the system have not mastered language fluency in either French or Kreyol and other foundational basic skills, impeding further development. Students who graduate from the system lack the financial support and guidance to enroll in university.

Across USAID's education portfolio and cross-sectoral programming within the agency and with U.S. government counterparts, we are invested in improving learners' foundational skills, securing continued education despite shocks and stressors for all learners, and building youth resilience through positive youth development for at-risk and out-of-school youth. These efforts will contribute to improving school community resilience for continued learning, and community resilience and social cohesion among local actors to strengthen their ability to create and maintain a safe environment for learners, families, and community members.

### Economic Security

The long-term trend in outward Haitian migration offers one indication of a dysfunctional economic system in Haiti. That system failure is due in part to the Haitian government's failure to decentralize and empower its departments and municipalities to invest in their own communities, and the private sector's failure to expand and grow outside of Port-au-Prince. USAID will focus on improving economic security by addressing both of these failures.



USAID will develop a Domestic Resource Mobilization activity that will partner with multiple Haitian cities. This long-term programming will support increased municipal investments in public services such as solid waste management and other basic infrastructure. This programming will seek to improve municipal government relations with the Haitian citizenry and strengthen their advocacy for increased decentralization vis-a-vis the federal government.

USAID will invest heavily in rural agricultural programming to improve livelihoods; reduce the increased rural/urban migration within Haiti; and counterbalance the centralization of state power and resources in Port-au-Prince. These efforts seek to address market failures within existing agricultural and livestock systems. USAID will partner with local private sector actors to facilitate private sector solutions to these problems, rather than attempt to solve these market failures daily.

Haiti must also address the lack of job opportunities in the cities. Drivers of poverty and inequality include the lack of jobs and possibilities to earn money and create a livelihood. To this end, USAID will continue to reduce friction in the Haitian financial markets by training small and growing businesses to gain better access to capital from local commercial banks and international capital providers. USAID plans to continue to provide business development services to poorer Haitians in need of basic business training and skills development. To complement USAID's work on citizen security, the Mission will develop a long-term approach to workforce development. USAID will continue to invest in improving data collection to enhance decision making. For example, USAID supports the International Organization for Migration's development of increased knowledge of push factors for outward Haitian migration, and USAID seeks to support data analyses to help the Government of Haiti and the private sector better understand its comparative advantages relative to other countries.

### Infrastructure

Poorly managed infrastructure and service delivery in the water and sanitation sector undermines USAID's ambitions for climate resilience, food security, economic growth, health, and education outcomes. Poor access to safe water for domestic uses, along with the concern of increasing climate variability affecting the availability of adequate water for agricultural and commercial productivity, impacts health and economic outcomes. USAID aims to build the governance, financial and water resource management capability of Haitian institutions in the water security and sanitation sector at the national, regional, and local levels to

help Haiti better plan, finance, and increase equitable access to sustainable water and sanitation services.

USAID will continue to address operational and managerial weaknesses in infrastructure maintenance and service provision at the communal level, while building the policy planning and monitoring capability at the regional and national levels of the National Directorate for Potable Water and Sanitation (DINEPA). USAID efforts will ensure appropriate monitoring, metering, and pricing of water extractions from aquifers, and minimization of non-revenue water. Unplanned urbanization driving the growth of informal settlements, along with unabated solid human and livestock waste pollution place additional stress on water resources. USAID support will help communities employ both natural and manmade infrastructure solutions to protect surface water and groundwater resources from overdrafts, as well as from human, livestock, and agricultural pollution. USAID will complement this effort by strengthening the resilience of WASH sector institutions and water resources to natural disasters and climate change.

USAID also works to replace fossil fuel-fed systems with solar-powered systems to extract water. Energy constitutes one of the most expensive budget items for water utilities in Haiti. Costly replacement, maintenance, and constant refueling of generators deplete incoming revenues, decreasing services to households and businesses to just a few hours per week. USAID installed 160 photovoltaic panels and two hybrid solar/generator-powered pumps at the Charpentier Wellfield in Les Cayes, providing water for over 40,000 people in the region. USAID will increase efforts to scale up solar-fueled water installations to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase long-term revenue reserves that may be used toward infrastructure maintenance and improvements and service expansions to underserved communities.

Opportunities exist to integrate water and sanitation businesses into communities, universities, schools, and healthcare facilities that provide services to wider audiences, to establish a revenue base to maintain infrastructure and sustain these services. To this end, USAID water and sanitation programming will include financing opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises within communities and educational and healthcare facilities to provide infrastructure and services that increase the safety, adequacy and resilience of the water and sanitation sector. USAID will continue to support the State University Roi Christophe campus in northern Haiti, at the now established Water Testing Laboratory. USAID will implement efforts to increase its capacity to support municipalities and private sector clients in ensuring the safety of potable water and

generation of revenue to sustain operations. In addition, training will also support municipalities and private sector clients to ensure potable water.

## **Improving Access to Health Resources, Public Health Technical Assistance, and Clean Water, Food, and Shelter**

### **Health Resources**

The U.S. government has supported post-disaster recovery and development in Haiti's health care systems through the provision of critical and timely health resources to reach some of the most vulnerable segments of the population. USAID represents 25 percent of total health spending in Haiti. These investments benefit the entire health system by ensuring the availability of quality health services, with a focus on children, mothers, and other vulnerable populations, while strengthening the capacity of the Haitian government to manage the public health care system.

### **Maternal, Child, and Reproductive Health**

To build the resilience of Haitians and alleviate long-term stress on the health care system, in 2021, USAID supported the vaccination of 76,607 children, ensured 23,238 births were attended by skilled health care providers, provided antenatal care to 36,991 women, and provided postnatal checks to nearly 69,341 mothers and newborns. Taken together, since 2010, under-five mortality in Haiti has decreased from 31 to 24 deaths per 1000 live births, and since February 2019, no laboratory-confirmed cases of cholera have been reported in Haiti.

### **Nutrition**

Humanitarian disasters in Haiti immediately aggravate the risk of malnutrition. As part of the post-disaster response, USAID has provided nutritional support for vulnerable children under five years old and pregnant/lactating women. In 2021, USAID provided nutritional support to 511,137 children under five; 240,108 children under two; and 243,537 pregnant/lactating women. As long-term nutritional support, U.S. government assistance has helped improve child health outcomes by fortifying staple foods with iron, folic acid, zinc, vitamin A, and iodine, as well as opening access for Haitian consumers to obtain vitamin A-fortified oil.

### **HIV/AIDS**

The U.S. government, through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), has also been instrumental in advancing HIV/AIDS epidemic control in Haiti, supporting prevention, care, and treatment programs. U.S.

government interventions have helped reduce the HIV prevalence rate in Haiti to under 2 percent over the past decade.

USAID provides antiretroviral drugs and lab commodities to support life-saving treatment to approximately 80 percent (121,444) of people in Haiti living with HIV. As of March 2021, 90 percent of these clients receive their medication through multi-month dispensing and community drug distribution, limiting unnecessary COVID-19 risk exposure and improving retention on treatment. In the early stages of the COVID pandemic in Haiti, most PEPFAR-supported clinics also remained open, and service providers received access to and training in the use of personal protective equipment. USAID has utilized HIV service delivery partners to also distribute COVID vaccines to the immunocompromised and at-risk populations they serve.

In FY21, PEPFAR supported more than 138,000 orphans and vulnerable children throughout Haiti by paying school fees, organizing adolescent and youth clubs for psychosocial support, establishing savings groups for vulnerable households, and augmenting kitchen gardens with nutritious vegetables. Beyond building general household resilience, these activities help improve health outcomes, support the continuity of antiretroviral treatment, and help combat stigma and discrimination in Haiti. Activities also offer HIV prevention and economic strengthening for adolescent girls and young women.

#### Public Health Technical Assistance

Beyond the provision of physical resources, U.S. government assistance also helped bolster the technical capacity of the Haitian public health care system. Since the first identified cases of COVID-19 in Haiti, U.S. assistance through USAID contributed to the implementation of the national COVID-19 response plan. USAID activities support risk communication and community engagement and help implement contact tracing systems. These systems now track other infectious diseases, including monkeypox. U.S. government assistance supported laboratory services, including COVID testing, data collection and analysis; and implemented infection prevention and control measures, including WASH in facilities and communities. For confirmed cases, USAID assistance provided for case management, as well as coordination and logistics services.

Building the long-term capacity of the health care system, USAID also constructed a modern teaching facility for doctors and nurses housing the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, School of Nursing, and Lab Technician School, which now provides training to more than 1,000 medical professionals each year.

### Clean Water, Food and Shelter

USAID interventions improved access to and the sustainability and resilience of clean water resources in Haiti. USAID is implementing a capacity building effort to strengthen, modernize, and streamline the operations and management capacity of water and sanitation utilities, private operators, and micro-enterprise service providers in underserved regions of Haiti. This effort enabled these local utilities to increase water service access to over 240,000 people since December 2018.

USAID supports the National Water and Sanitation Authority (DINEPA) to improve planning, monitoring, and performance tracking to better target resources and investments. USAID also helps DINEPA to streamline the collection of data to strengthen the capacity of the quasi-private utilities known as Centres Technique d'Exploitation (CTE). Using the information that CTEs have reported, DINEPA can track the progress and identify CTE needs. CTEs that have successfully adopted management techniques provided by USAID have shown notable improvements in their service delivery and revenues.

USAID is working with Haitian water utilities to implement site improvements to prevent runoff and pollution from entering fresh water sources, significantly reducing blockages caused by solid waste and the risk of water contamination for over 20,000 people.

### **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Post-Disaster Recovery Efforts and the Need for U.S. Support to Respond to the Pandemic in Haiti**

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been over 31,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 837 deaths. COVID-19 incidence remains low in Haiti, but it has severely affected all Haitians, particularly the most vulnerable, who often resort to negative coping strategies such as borrowing, sale of productive assets, and production of charcoal. The Government of Haiti indicated that the pandemic led to decreased income for more than 85 percent of households.

Even with relatively low COVID-19 incidence, Haiti's health system lacked the resources to properly assist the volume of patients that experienced respiratory distress due to COVID-19 infection. The U.S. government provided 37 ventilators to the Ministry of Health to distribute across seven hospitals in four departments. The U.S. government also provided 50 oxygen concentrators and 250 empty cylinders, increasing the capacity of seven hospitals to provide oxygen to patients.

In the early months of the pandemic, implementing partners were forced to adapt activities to protect staff and program participants – procuring personal protective equipment, limiting travel, and reducing participant numbers for certain activities to accommodate social distancing. Initially, this constrained activities, such as those addressing food insecurity and malnutrition. Gradually, however, partners could resume full-scale implementation of activities, even as they maintained necessary adaptations to protect staff and participants against COVID-19.

U.S. government support remains critical to combating the pandemic in Haiti. The U.S. government provides nearly all the COVID-19 vaccines available in Haiti through donations via COVAX. CDC and USAID are working to administer vaccines in Haiti. USAID utilizes a network of partners, including many local ones, to ensure vaccines reach the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.

### **Supporting U.S. Provision of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses to Haiti**

The U.S. government has invested \$45 million in Haiti to respond to and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and provided approximately 600,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses directly donated through COVAX. Out of this total investment, USAID has dedicated more than \$25 million to COVID-19 prevention, treatment, response, and vaccine scale-up. USAID's assistance has supported nearly all areas of the national response, including development of COVID-19 mitigation policies; training health workers to treat COVID-19; logistics and supply chain strengthening; demand generation for vaccines and scaled up vaccine access; and expanded respiratory therapy through ventilators and support for a national oxygen ecosystem.

As of June 24, 2022, 241,044 persons have received a first dose and 101,339 persons have received a second dose, which means less than 2 percent of the Haitian population is fully vaccinated. Challenges to expanding COVID-19 vaccination efforts include a) slow vaccination site expansion, b) limited human resources for health, c) weak laboratory and health systems infrastructure, d) limited transport, e) limited medical supplies and medicines, and f) vaccine hesitancy among the Haitian population. With the U.S. government's Initiative for Global Vaccine Access (Global VAX) funding, USAID is poised to address these barriers, raise awareness and demand for vaccines, expand vaccine access for vulnerable populations, and establish strengthened and expanded vaccination distribution mechanisms.

Recognizing the unique capabilities of local partners in the COVID-19 response, USAID/Haiti leverages its local partner base to deliver Global VAX assistance as much as possible. USAID utilizes SEROvie and Institut pour la Sante, la Population, et la Development, two local partners currently serving key HIV populations and mobile populations to reach immunocompromised individuals and vulnerable groups for vaccines. USAID also works with another local partner, Panos, to combat vaccine hesitancy, drawing upon Haitian-led communication strategies. Recognizing the vulnerability incarcerated persons face, USAID partners with Health through Walls to expand COVID-19 treatment and vaccine availability for Haitian prisoners.

Local organizations, led and staffed by Haitians, implement a significant portion of USAID's COVID-19 funding. USAID's programming responds to Haitian government priorities and aims to help the government reach its goal of steadily increasing vaccine coverage. Recent mass vaccination campaigns in the northern departments demonstrated that focused efforts could result in increased vaccine uptake and reductions in vaccine hesitation.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is primarily responsible for the safe storage and transport of COVID-19 vaccines, and CDC has provided key logistical support to their efforts. USAID leverages its supply chain and logistics expertise to establish an emergency operations center for COVID-19 vaccines. The Emergency Operations Center will assist the Ministry of Public Health and Population in deploying COVID-19 vaccines nationally, and help Haiti increase vaccination coverage.