



# ZIKA PROGRAM

## HAITI

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In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared that clusters of Zika-associated microcephaly and other neurological disorders detected in Brazil constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. USAID has been responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean since June 2016. Program implementation in Haiti ended in September 2019.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in Zika prevention, control and innovation USAID helped strengthen Haiti's capacity to respond to the recent epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus was to protect individuals, particularly pregnant women, from Zika by:

- Controlling mosquitoes that spread the virus;
- Increasing awareness of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection;
- Supporting health services for potentially affected women and children; and
- Working with USG counterparts to support disease detection and surveillance.

### VECTOR MANAGEMENT

Through the Zika AIRS Project (ZAP), USAID actively reduced populations of the mosquito that carries Zika by building national and regional capacity to conduct vector control and surveillance for Zika and future mosquito-borne outbreaks. ZAP worked in four communes in the north as well as one in the west and trained 539 field technicians and health professionals in vector control, entomology and insecticide resistance testing. This work was complemented by USAID's partnerships with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which supported the Ministry of Health in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which provided entomological surveillance tools and training.

### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

USAID integrated high quality, evidence-based Zika services and guidelines into existing family planning, antenatal, obstetric and newborn care systems. From the start of the Zika program through December 2017, the Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP), through its local Services de Sante de Qualite Pour Haiti (SSQH) Project, worked with the Ministry of Health and 164 health care facilities nationwide to help providers integrate Zika prevention, diagnosis, and care for affected families into routine health services. Beginning in June 2018, the Caris Foundation continued this work in facilities through Project Sante. Service delivery efforts in Haiti received

additional support from guidelines and reference materials developed by MCSP's headquarters and from the procurement and delivery of personal mosquito repellent and condoms to prevent sexual transmission of Zika to pregnant women through the Global Health Supply Chain Program.

### **SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION**

As new evidence on Zika emerged, USAID worked at the national, regional and local levels to inform people of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection. In 2016, the Sustaining Health Outcomes through Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus Project launched a multi-channel mass media campaign and disseminated educational materials aimed at reaching pregnant women and women of reproductive age and their partners with information about Zika and key prevention practices. These materials were integrated into service delivery and community engagement activities through 2017.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

USAID leveraged community partners and leadership to disseminate key Zika information and battle *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Through the Caribbean Zika Project, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) partnered with the Haitian Red Cross to educate community leaders, schools and families about Zika and engage them in clean-up campaigns to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and prevent the spread of Zika infection.

### **INNOVATIONS**

In 2016, USAID launched *Combating Zika and Future Threats: A Grand Challenge for Development*, which provided funding to 26 potentially game changing solutions to Zika and future threats. In Haiti, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine tested an affordable, low-technology emanator that could repel mosquitoes for up to six months. With funding from USAID, the CDC monitored children affected by Zika, and strengthened laboratory, diagnostics, epidemiological, and emergency response capacities.



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