



MOMENTUM PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Regional Reference Brief



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MOMENTUM works alongside governments, local and international private and civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to accelerate improvements in maternal, newborn, and child health. Building on existing evidence and experience implementing global health projects and interventions, we help foster new ideas, partnerships, and approaches and strengthen the resiliency of health systems.

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ACRONYMS LIST

BF-APEA	Behaviorally focused applied political economy analysis
CHWs	Community health workers
CRMA	Caribbean Regional Midwives Association
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DHMTs	District health management teams
EPMM	Ending preventable maternal mortality
FBOs	Faith-based organizations
FLHWs	Frontline health workers
FP	Voluntary family planning
FP/RH	Voluntary family planning/reproductive health
GBV	Gender-based violence
HMIS	Health management information system
IPC	Infection prevention and control
ITOCA	Integrated technical organizational capacity assessment
IUD	Intrauterine device
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC	Long-acting reversible contraceptives
MNCHN	Maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition
MNCH/FP/RH	Maternal, newborn, and child health/voluntary family planning/reproductive health
MNCHN/FP/RH	Maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition/voluntary family planning/reproductive health
MIP	Malaria in pregnancy
MOH	Ministry of Health
MPDSR	Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
PHE	Population, health, and environment
PNC	Postnatal care
PPFP	Postpartum family planning

QI	Quality improvement
RED/REC	Reaching every district/reaching every child
RH	Reproductive health
RMC	Respectful maternity care
SBCC	Social and behavior change communication
SNET	Social norms exploration tool
SSNB	Small and sick newborn
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

MOMENTUM is a dynamic suite of six distinct yet related awards working with institutions in USAID partner countries to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child death and disability. The suite supports countries in their efforts to strengthen the capacity and resilience of community and health systems to introduce, deliver, scale up, and sustain the use of evidence-based, high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition, voluntary family planning, and reproductive health (MNCHN/FP/RH) services and care.

This reference brief provides an overview of MOMENTUM projects and their completed or ongoing activities in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. As of June 2023, MOMENTUM partner countries in this region include Haiti.









The six global awards working collectively to support partner country goals to improve MNCHN/FP/RH service delivery, access, and quality across diverse focus areas and settings are described below:











FIGURE 1. THE MOMENTUM SUITE OF AWARDS










MOMENTUM TOPICS, AREAS, AND THEMES, BY COUNTRY

The MOMENTUM suite supports partner countries to address a wide range of issues, tailoring project activities to each of their unique contexts and needs. The table below lists where each topic, focus area, or theme is being addressed with MOMENTUM support in the Latin America & Caribbean Region.

	TOPIC / FOCUS AREA / THEME	COUNTRIES
HEALTH TOPICS	 CHILD HEALTH	Not applicable
	 COVID-19	Haiti
	 IMMUNIZATION	Haiti
	 MATERNAL HEALTH	Not applicable
	 NEWBORN HEALTH	Not applicable
	 NUTRITION	Not applicable
	 VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING / REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	Not applicable
	 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE/ INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL	Not applicable

	TOPIC / FOCUS AREA / THEME	COUNTRIES
FOCUS AREAS	 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING	Haiti
	 COLLABORATING, LEARNING, AND ADAPTING	Haiti
	 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP	Not applicable
	 HEALTH RESILIENCE	Not applicable
	 HEALTH SERVICES	Haiti
	 LOCAL ENGAGEMENT	Haiti
	 MEASUREMENT	Haiti
	 PARTNERSHIPS	Haiti
	 QUALITY OF CARE	Not applicable
	 SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE	Haiti

	FOCUS AREA / THEME	COUNTRIES
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES	 DIGITAL HEALTH	Not applicable
	 FRAGILE SETTINGS	Haiti
	 GENDER	Not applicable
	 POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT	Not applicable
	 URBAN HEALTH	Not applicable
	 MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS	Not applicable
	 YOUTH	Not applicable



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

The MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership project collaborates with global, regional, and country-level partners in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region to help advance the region’s maternal and newborn health (MNH) and family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) agendas (including adolescent sexual and reproductive health). MOMENTUM provides strategic and technical support to regional partners to scale up evidence-based practices to strengthen sustainable and equitable access to essential, respectful, and high-quality MNH services and FP/RH care in the region.



Advancing the Regional MNH/FP/RH Agenda in the LAC Region

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Engaging with regional MNH/FP/RH partners and technical working groups in the LAC region to promote equitable coverage of high-impact interventions, including:
 - Providing leadership and ongoing technical support and engagement, and serving as a member of the steering committee for the Regional Maternal Mortality Reduction Task Force (*Grupo de Trabajo Regional para la Reducción de la Mortalidad Materna [GTR]*¹), a regional mechanism that combines the efforts of United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral organizations, professional networks, and civil society organizations to promote programs and policies to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality.
 - Representing the GTR in USAID’s Every Woman Every Child LAC committee, serving as a non-voting member of the executive management committee and as a voting member of the Policies, Strategies, and Interventions sub-Working Group.
- Facilitating knowledge-sharing across the region and with global audiences to ensure evidence generated from the region is elevated and to promote best practices and strategies for delivering equitable MNH/FP/RH care.

1 [UNFPA América Latina y el Caribe | Reducción de la Mortalidad Materna](#)



Strengthening Regional and Country Capacity to Operationalize Respectful Maternity Care in the LAC Region

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Supporting and enhancing ongoing LAC regional efforts to improve evidence-based quality respectful maternity care (RMC) implementation, including:
 - Partnering with the Caribbean Regional Midwives Association (CRMA) and the University of West Indies St. Augustine Campus to use the global [RMC Operational Guidance](#) to conduct a situational analysis to explore women's and health worker experience and perceptions of childbirth care in Trinidad & Tobago.
 - Supporting local stakeholders in Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica to implement and routinely monitor co-created RMC interventions based on findings from the situational analysis. The project will support partners to document implementation learning to inform global RMC programs and potential scale-up efforts in the region.

Strengthening Midwifery Capacity to Improve Access to Quality, Equitable MNH Care

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Collaborating with regional partner CRMA to engage a broad range of local stakeholders to support them to embark on a systematic, results-based policy dialogue process to strengthen the midwifery workforce and improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health outcomes in the Caribbean region.
 - Engaging a wide range of stakeholders to come together and examine how current policies are working; discuss needed adaptations to legislation, guidelines, strategies, and plans; and implement action plans to better meet the needs of midwives, and, ultimately, the people they serve.
 - Facilitating an ongoing participatory policy dialogue process with regional stakeholders to determine policy and program priorities to address workforce issues affecting midwifery practice in the Caribbean region, which are summarized in the "[State of the](#)

[World’s Midwifery: Caribbean Response](#)” report co-authored by MOMENTUM, CRMA and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The report provides an overview of the status of core midwife workforce issues in the Caribbean region and includes recommendations for the continued development of midwifery.

- Supporting CRMA to strengthen its technical and organizational capacity by using the [Integrated Technical and Organizational Capacity Assessment](#) and the [Organizational Performance Index assessment](#) tools to identify capacity gaps and develop a Change Action Plan. MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership-supported activities include:
 - Developing CRMA’s first organizational strategic plan and code of conduct policy.
 - Developing a database of midwives in the region, which will feed into UNFPA-supported efforts.
 - Strengthening research and data use capacity.
 - Developing procurement guidelines by country.
 - Strengthening the network of member organizations through a facilitated Organizational Network Analysis and development of a Network Strengthening Plan.
- Increasing the technical rigor and capacity of CRMA in the implementation of high impact FP interventions in the Caribbean region with high standards for voluntarism and informed method choice.
 - Strengthening FP care and subject-matter expertise among members through delivery of RH-related webinars on cervical cancer prevention and FP counseling and service provision.
 - Implementing a blended learning approach for midwives on provision of long-acting reversible contraception in collaboration

with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Pan American Health Organization.



Accelerating Progress Toward Adolescent—Responsive Contraceptive Services

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Using the MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership-developed [Adolescent and Gender Responsive Health Systems tool](#), the project is supporting the El Salvador Ministry of Health and a youth-led network, Red Coincidir, to assess whether the health system is responsive to the unique needs of adolescents, particularly their sexual and reproductive health needs and rights. The results of the assessment will be used to create an action plan to strengthen the system’s responsiveness and improve the quality and availability of contraceptive services for adolescents—in line with the [Adolescent-Responsive Contraceptive Services High Impact Practice Enhancement](#).
- Strengthening the capacity of Red Coincidir to partner with the Ministry of Health to support learning and accountability as a follow-up to the action plans developed on adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems.
- Sharing learning about the responsive systems approach, facilitating regional dialogues with partners, and contributing evidence to global learning efforts on adolescent responsive health systems.

COUNTRY PROJECT

HAITI

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity provides technical support in Haiti to five departments to manage and generate demand for COVID-19 vaccinations. At the national level, the project is providing support to the Ministry of Public Health and Population (*Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population [MSPP]*) for COVID-19 vaccine rollout, data quality and use for decision-making, and efforts to integrate COVID-19 vaccination into routine immunization and primary health care. At the departmental level, MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity is working to help reduce and address data entry backlogs across the country and analyze data management needs to improve data use for decision-making, including for the management of the COVID-19 vaccination supply chain. The project is also partnering with local and international entities to tailor demand-generation activities for COVID-19 vaccination.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Supporting the MSPP with the establishment of national level and departmental level COVID-19 vaccination emergency operations centers to improve data analysis, interpretation, and use for decision-making.
- Providing technical assistance to the MSPP National Immunization Program Coordination

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Max Mondestin, Country Team Lead
(max_mondestin@ht.jsi.com)

USAID MISSION CONTACT

Arold Simpreux, Health Program Advisor
(asimpreux@usaid.gov)

IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Ministry of Public Health and Population (including National Coordination Unit for Immunization Programs and Unit of Evaluation and Planning); Institut Panos; and Institut pour la Santé, la Population et le Développement

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

March 2022 – February 2024

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Artibonite, Nord, Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, and Sud departments

Unit (UCNPV) on service delivery strategies, supply chain coordination and planning, risk communication, community engagement, data management and analysis, and learning.

- Engaging communities, supporting the establishment of innovative partnerships, and strengthening institutional and provider capacity to promote acceptance and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination and generate demand for services.

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



- Facilitating coordination with implementing partners, such as Institut Panos and Institut pour la Santé, la Population et le Développement (IPSD) on COVID-19 vaccination demand generation across project-supported areas.
- Providing technical support to the UCNPV for COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.
- Supporting the MSPP to explore, co-design, implement, document, and share promising approaches for the integration of COVID-19 vaccination into primary health care (PHC).
- Strengthening human resource capacity at the subnational level for COVID-19 vaccination demand generation, uptake, and data management and on the integration of COVID-19 vaccination into routine immunization and PHC.
- Provide technical support at the subnational level on the management of the COVID-19 vaccination supply chain.





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