

# MOMENTUM


Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity



November 2023

## HAITI

### Supporting COVID-19 Vaccination in Haiti

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity in Haiti		
	<b>Where we work</b> Departments: Artibonite, North, Northeast, Northwest, South Districts: 24 Communities: 81	<b>Population</b> Country: 11.6 million <sup>1</sup> Project-supported areas: 8 million

## BACKGROUND

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (the project) applies best practices and explores innovations to increase equitable immunization coverage in USAID-supported countries. The project is USAID's flagship technical assistance mechanism for immunization in 18 countries around the world. It builds countries' capacity to identify and overcome barriers to reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children and older populations with life-saving vaccines and other integrated health services, including rebuilding immunization systems adversely affected by the pandemic. It also supports COVID-19 vaccine rollout across countries with a wide range of circumstances and needs.

Haiti confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on March 19, 2020, but was one of the last countries in the Americas to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Haiti's COVID-19 vaccination coverage rate remains low, in part due to supply challenges, stockouts, and difficulties with distributing and storing vaccines that require ultra-cold storage. The humanitarian situation challenges access to vaccination, with gang violence impeding project efforts.

<sup>1</sup> Population Reference Bureau, 2022. <https://www.prb.org/international/indicator/population/map/country>

## AREAS OF SUPPORT

The project provides technical support on COVID-19 immunization service delivery strategies, social and behavior change (SBC) campaigns, community engagement, strategic partnerships, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The project supports the Ministry of Public Health and Population's (MSPP) National Immunization Program Coordination Unit to establish a strong central coordination mechanism and convene critical implementing partners to support vaccine rollout. The project also supports the day-to-day functioning of the departmental monitoring rooms, data management and analysis, and advises on service delivery strategies, supply chain and logistics, capacity building, and community engagement.

## NATIONAL SUPPORT

The project coordinates with various entities at the national-level, including the MSPP and USAID-funded implementing partners. The project collaborates on communications activities with partners such as PAHO/World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and Institut Panos and the Country Health Information Systems, and Data Use Project (CHISU) on data strengthening. The project also supports the MSPP to revise the national plan for integration of COVID-19 vaccination with RI and primary health care services, develop tools for integration, and coordinate with implementing partners to refine, test, and rollout integration approaches. M-RITE also collaborates with the Ministry of Education, the MSPP, and the WHO on the development of an online pre-service training platform on COVID-19 vaccination.

## DEPARTMENTAL DATA ACTIVITIES

The project established departmental monitoring rooms to improve data capture, back-entry, analysis, interpretation, and use for decision-making. The project assessed the organizational, infrastructural, and data management landscapes of the five intervention departments and continues to help stakeholders tailor vaccination implementation plans to their needs. The project identified common data management needs and activities in preparation for the monitoring rooms in the Artibonite, North, Northeast, Northwest, and South Departments. Activities included training data personnel to interpret and analyze COVID-19 vaccination data and providing stable Wi-Fi connections. The project coordinates departmental activities and supervises staff. The monitoring rooms convene departmental actors to review health data on a regular basis and use data for decision-making. The project also works with the MSPP and departmental directorates on supply chain management strategies and COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

## DEPARTMENTAL DEMAND GENERATION ACTIVITIES

The project carries out SBC, community engagement, and partnership activities to generate demand for COVID-19 vaccination. The project conducted a rapid assessment of SBC and community engagement to refine and tailor COVID-19 vaccination demand generation activities to the context of each department. The project partners with local community-based organizations (CBOs) to mobilize communities around COVID-19 vaccination, establishes and reinforces linkages for CBOs to partner with the UCNPV, builds the capacity of CBOs to engage communities on COVID-19 vaccination, and organizes outreach vaccination sessions at the community level. Lastly, the project builds capacity for health care residents on COVID-19 vaccination demand generation and uptake.