

# Strengthening integrated reproductive health and emergency obstetric services for women in 8 departments in Haiti



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Haiti

**Duration:** May 2001 to April 2003

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNFPA

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Health; USAID; John Hopkins University

**Budget:** \$303,040.40

**Key Words:** Access to health care; women

## BACKGROUND

In 2001, the state of women's reproductive health in Haiti was dire. Natural disasters, violence, lack of access to basic social services and poverty presented the population with many difficulties, among which women were the most vulnerable. According to UNFPA, the rate of maternal mortality was exceptionally high at 523 per 100,000 live births. In

addition, the percentage of women who had unintended pregnancies or unwanted child births was estimated at 53.4 per cent. Due to the absence of legal procedures to perform abortions, unsafe abortions were common and most Haitian women had little or no access to reproductive health (RH) services and obstetric care.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to improve the overall capacity of Haiti's health care system. Specifically, the project implemented a series of activities aimed to (i) improve the quality of integrated RH services; (ii) strengthen

the management of obstetric emergencies; and (iii) enhance access to family planning and RH services for the most vulnerable.

### BENEFICIARIES

Direct beneficiaries of the project were health care professionals working in hospitals who received skills training on RH services, post abortion care and

counselling. In addition, women benefitted from increasing their knowledge of good family planning practices.