

# Preventing Disease and Improving Healthcare in Haiti



The American Red Cross is improving the quality and availability of vital health services nationwide. Since the earthquake, the American Red Cross has spent or allocated \$98 million to improve access to care, fight cholera, and rebuild healthy communities in Haiti.

From investing in prevention and treatment of diseases such as cholera, malaria and measles, to supporting the construction and operation of hospitals, mobile clinics and treatment centers around the country, the American Red Cross is seeking to address Haiti's most important health challenges.

## Preventing disease

The American Red Cross has been working to prevent the spread of disease in Haiti since 2004. After the 2010 earthquake, these existing programs were expanded to better provide first aid training, reduce the incidence of HIV and launch hygiene education initiatives in camps and communities.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the densely populated camps of Port-au-Prince presented a serious public health challenge, particularly for children and other vulnerable residents. Red Cross volunteers and staff worked diligently within camps and crowded communities to promote hygiene, health and safety among thousands of at-risk residents. In addition, the American Red Cross coordinated the shipment of over 5,300 units of blood products to support hospitals.

The American Red Cross has reached more than 867,000 people through community-based health services such as distribution of mosquito nets, promotion of malaria awareness, first aid training and operation of mobile clinics. It is also supporting the efforts of the Ministry of Health to prevent mosquito-borne diseases such as chikungunya and dengue.

Since the beginning of the cholera outbreak that began at the end of 2010, the American Red Cross has spent more than \$25 million to stem the spread of this disease, including more than 70 percent of the funds needed to distribute the country's first-ever cholera vaccine to more than 90,000 Haitians. To date, more than 3.5 million people have benefitted from cholera prevention and outbreak response services.

Because cholera and other health threats are transmitted through dirty water and poor sanitation, the American Red Cross has spent more than \$47 million on projects that have improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities for more than 556,000 people. Hygiene promotion efforts have reached more than 4.2 million Haitians nationwide.

## Improving healthcare

The earthquake not only introduced a number of serious public health concerns such as cholera, but also strained the already inadequate health care system. The American Red Cross has dedicated significant resources to improving the quality and availability of essential health services nationwide through the funding of construction and operational costs of several medical facilities.

The American Red Cross has contributed \$10 million for the reconstruction of Saint Michel Hospital in Jacmel, the only hospital in the Southeast department of Haiti. This hospital is being built in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross and the Haitian Red Cross.

In 2012, the American Red Cross contributed \$5.5 million to help fund the construction of Mirebalais University Hospital, an energy-efficient hospital with more than 300 beds and roof-mounted solar panels, offering patients high quality care, while also training new health professionals who will be able to work throughout Haiti.

The earthquake wounded millions of Haitians and caused thousands of amputations. The American Red Cross partnered with the International Committee of the Red Cross to rebuild a prosthetics and physical rehabilitation center. Klinik Kay Kapab is

## Health Achievements At a Glance



**4.2 million** people benefiting from hygiene promotion activities



**14,362** people hospitalized by facilities funded by the American Red Cross



**19,062** mosquito nets distributed



**90,000** cholera vaccines provided



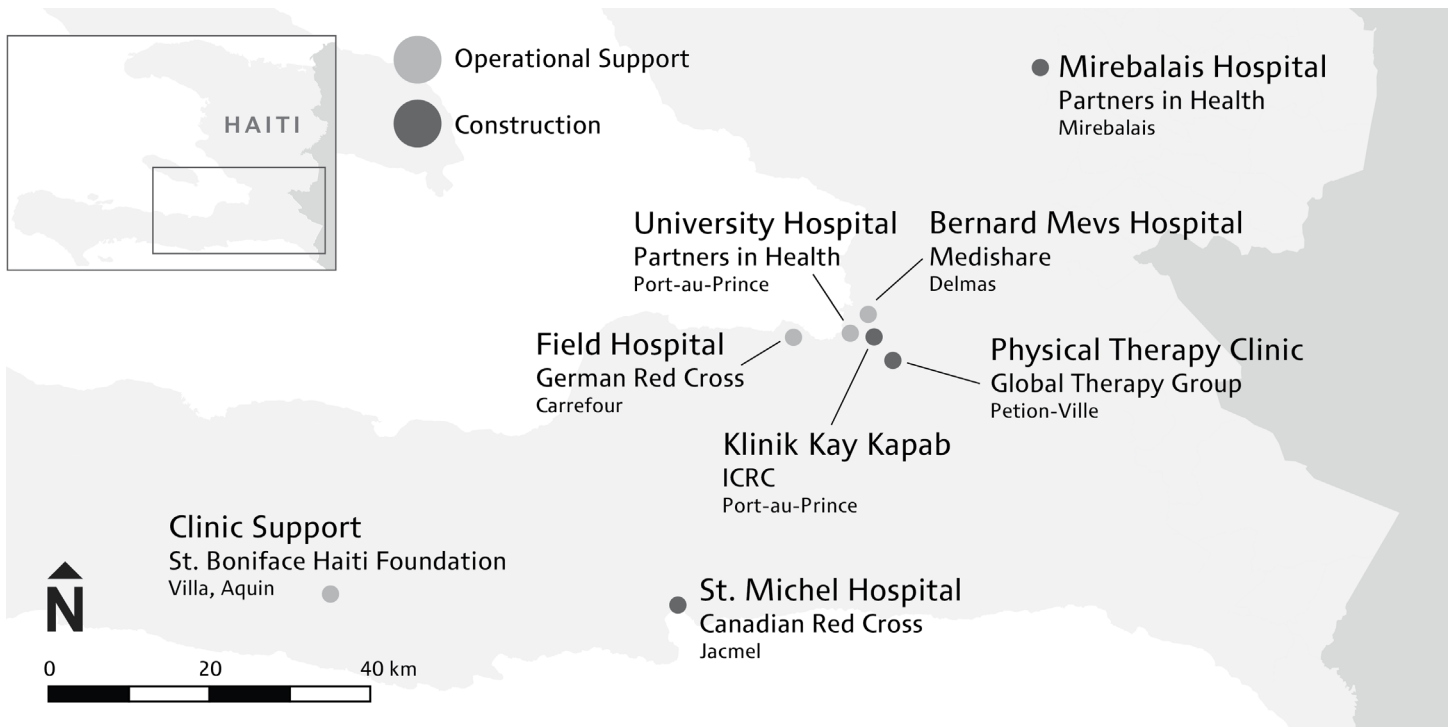
**5,302** new water points constructed



**3,665** new sanitation facilities constructed



**451,353** people reached with HIV prevention messaging



The American Red Cross has provided support to eight medical facilities since the earthquake, including University Hospital in Port-au-Prince—the largest public hospital in Haiti—and Bernard Mevs Hospital, which has one of the country's only intensive care units.

now providing services to some of the thousands of people who were injured by the earthquake. Most recently, the American Red Cross funded the construction of a physical rehabilitation clinic in Port-au-Prince, run by Global Therapy Group, which provides free physiotherapy services.

### Expanding Community Health

At the request of the Ministry of Health, the American Red Cross and the Haitian Red Cross will be promoting community health in rural areas, where access to primary healthcare services is limited.

For the next three years, the American Red Cross will support a network of community health officers and volunteers as they promote health education, manage cases, follow up, and refer patients to appropriate healthcare. These officers and volunteers will also gather health data and survey possible outbreaks. This program will leverage the wide reach of the Haitian Red Cross volunteer network to offer health services in remote areas and extend the reach of the Ministry of Health services to the most vulnerable communities.

### Increasing Access to Water and Sanitation

Preventing disease and improving healthcare in Haiti requires improvements to water quality and wider access to proper san-

itation facilities. To date, the American Red Cross has reached more than 556,000 people with increased access to water and sanitation infrastructure.

Together with its partners, the American Red Cross has improved access to safe drinking water for thousands of households by building more than 5,300 water points benefiting more than 246,000 people.

The American Red Cross considers sanitation to be a fundamental aspect of any shelter solution, both in and out of camps. In the many camps that formed when more than 1.5 million people were displaced by the earthquake, a lack of proper infrastructure and overcrowding led to unmanaged waste and the spread of diseases such as cholera. The American Red Cross has made sanitation a fundamental aspect of efforts in improving the health of camp residents through the funding of solid and liquid waste removal from latrines. Improved sanitation is a focal point of the American Red Cross shelter strategy as well. In support of the Government of Haiti efforts to rehabilitate neighborhoods around Port-au-Prince, the American Red Cross has funded the sanitation component of UNOPS constructed houses.

To date, the American Red Cross has funded the construction of more than 3,600 sanitation facilities benefitting more than 177,000 people.