

HFG leaves a legacy of strengthened health systems management and oversight in Haiti

“HFG has greatly improved the capacity of key MSPP directorates to coordinate within their structure and with other directorates and ministries”

Dr. Ernst Jean-Baptiste, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Health



MSPP, USAID-Haiti and HFG staff after the debriefing meeting at MSPP on August 7, 2018

“HFG interventions have reinforced MSPP’s governance capability by streamlining organizational structures and strengthening accountability mechanisms”

Dr. Lourde Belotte, Technical Advisor to MSPP Directeur Général’s office and former Director of the Department of Human Resources (DRH)

On August 7, 2018 the Ministry of Public Health and Population (*Ministère de la Santé Publique et Population, MSPP*) of Haiti invited the HFG project to a debriefing session to discuss the project’s accomplishments and transition as HFG comes to a close. Dr. Ernst Jean-Baptiste, Chief of Staff to the Health Minister, presided over the meeting. Lisa Nichols, Haiti Country Manager, led the HFG delegation which included Chief of Party Dr. Desire Boko, and Dr. Ely Salnave, HFG Activity Manager, led the USAID delegation.

When HFG started in 2012, USAID Haiti requested HFG’s support to strengthen MSPP’s leadership and oversight of the health sector. USAID Haiti identified three areas in particular for HFG: human resources for health (HRH) management, health financing, and MSPP internal management and coordination capacity. At the project’s close six years later, the MSPP noted HFG’s many accomplishments achieved in partnership with the MSPP, and acknowledged the project’s support to lay the foundation for a better health system in Haiti.

MSPP staff praised HFG during the debriefing session for its participative approach and responsiveness. Highlights of the program’s achievements as stated by different MSPP staff included: the first known update of the country’s health workforce database since the 2010 earthquake to inform HRH policy and decision-making; the launch of an accreditation system, known as Reconnaissance, to publicly recognize high-quality private nursing training institutions; Improved capacity of key MSPP directorates to carry out their mandate and improve coordination with donors; Implementation of a performance evaluation system, known as *Système d’Evaluation de la Performance (SYSEP)*, in key MSPP directorates; Strengthening MSPP’s health financing capacity in strategic resource planning and tracking, health services costing, and business plan development; Improving the MSPP’s public financial management system through the installation of electronic cashiers at health facilities and updated financial standard operating procedures.

With HFG support, MSPP has taken on a more active role in regulating the health sector by implementing sound policies and procedures. For example, the MSPP is already building on HFG’s legacy by expanding Reconnaissance to medical and pharmacy schools using guidelines and documents that HFG helped produce. The MSPP has also been able to save more than 3.1 million USD over a ten month period by systematically eliminating ghost workers on its payroll through quarterly reviews for data quality control supported by HFG. Haiti now has now its first ever HRH strategy, which the MSPP recently presented to the donor community. The country also has better capacity and analyses to advance the development of the national health financing strategy.

Finally, MSPP staff appreciated the fact that HFG carried out its project mandate with a clear focus on gradual transition of implementation, tools, and processes to local counterparts in the MSPP to ensure better sustainability. Participants also shared HFG lessons learned and best practices and will use them for upcoming projects in the health sector.

As one MSPP participant stated: “After working with HFG we do more than administratively manage, we now *strategically* manage.”