

Maternal and Child Health

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Antenatal Care
- Labor & Delivery
- After-Birth Care
- Family Planning
- Cancer Screening and Treatment
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Services

IMPACT

Over **22,00** facility-based deliveries between July 2019 and June 2020

More than **4,000** C-sections performed each year

Nearly **70,000** prenatal visits conducted each year

In the last year, **more than 10,000** women returned for a postpartum visit



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Haiti has the highest maternal mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere, with an estimated 529 deaths per 100,000 births. An estimated 36% of women give birth in health facilities, making their risk of dying during or after child birth very high. Recognizing this injustice, ZL has prioritized the provision of quality maternal health care for expectant mothers arriving at our clinics and hospitals since ZL's inception. In 1998, ZL launched the first women's health division targeting women's health in Haiti's Central Plateau.

PROGRAM HISTORY

ZL strives to achieve zero maternal deaths during childbirth and zero transmission of HIV from mother to child by focusing on the following objectives:

- 1 Ensure trained healthcare providers are present during childbirth; births requiring emergency obstetric care are moved to a reference center
- 2 Access to family planning services for men and women of reproductive age
- 3 Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV or other sexually transmitted infections.

The Women's Health (Sante Fanm) program provides comprehensive services to ensure all mothers are well-informed and supported throughout their pregnancy. An integral part of the comprehensive health care model throughout all ZL sites, Sante Fanm provides care in maternal and child health, in addition to family planning and GBV services.

JOURNEY TO 9 PLUS (J9 PLUS)

The Journey to 9 Plus (J9 Plus) program is an innovative group-based model of comprehensive care for pregnant women and their newborns. The program is designed to improve uptake of maternal and pediatric services through group antenatal and postnatal care, and home visits from community health workers. Within the J9 Plus program, antenatal groups have a 98% attendance rate and 100% of enrolled women have received at least one ultrasound. These are key contributors to why 95% of women enrolled in the J9 Plus program deliver at a health facility. It's estimated that 36% of births country-wide are attended by a health professional.



FAMILY PLANNING

ZL's Sante Fanm program provides family planning, which is the most effective way of improving maternal and child health. All of ZL's sites offer contraceptive methods including condoms, and provide reproductive health counseling and educational resources. To address the needs at the community level, we have special community health workers known as ajans fanm, who travel throughout communities, teaching people about STIs and contraceptive methods, distributing condoms, and referring pregnant women and others to clinics. Sante Fanm provides family planning services to more than 4,000 patients throughout ZL's facilities.



KAY MANMITO

Women travel from all over the country to receive care at Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais. Many of the women traveling from afar remain on hospital grounds until delivery. In February 2017, a new maternal waiting home, Kay Manmito—"mother's house" in Haitian Creole—was built to accommodate women in such situations. Kay Manmito can host 12 expecting mothers, 18 NICU mothers, and 14 mothers participating in kangaroo care. There are 2- and 4-bed rooms with foot lockers for secure storage, eight bathrooms, including two handicap accessible toilets with showers and wash basins, a laundry space, as well as dining, cooking, and educational areas. A nurse auxiliary is always on-duty to answer questions, take vitals, and provide support. Women participate in sessions on breastfeeding, nutrition, and infant care. Other sessions include yoga and relaxation techniques throughout the week.

MOBILE CLINICS EXPANDING FAMILY PLANNING

Zanmi Lasante continues to expand access to family planning through a community-based approach. The ZL Sante Fanm team works with Community Health Workers (CHWs) in mobile clinics for outreach in more remote locations, including underserved areas. Day of, clinicians register patients, provide check-ups including pregnancy tests, and mental health and HIV screening. Clinicians also prescribe medication and refer patients for follow-up treatment at a ZL-supported facility. The collection of patient health information is vital during mobile clinics as this assists in referral process to ZL-supported sites for follow-up of care. Family planning services are available at all ZL-supported sites. In 2019, these efforts allowed ZL to support more than 10,000 women who started a new family planning method.

