

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- **Hygiene Promotion (HP) activities** in schools, health centers and communities
- **WASH activities** focused on awareness-raising and education at the household level
- **Community education** on good hygiene practices

IMPACT

50,000+ people targeted by WASH activities each year

3,600+ household toilets constructed in communities since 2018

100,000+ people received Haiti's first oral cholera vaccine in 2012 and 2016

16,901 patients received cholera treatments since 2015

According to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 4.2 billion people lack safe sanitation globally. And in the time of a pandemic, 3 billion people around the world lack basic hand washing facilities at home. Haiti's susceptibility to extreme weather, including earthquakes, along with political and economic insecurity, has led to inadequate access to drinking water and improved sanitation. According to the World Bank, less than 50% of Haitians living in rural areas have access to treated water and only 24% have access to a toilet.

PROGRAM HISTORY

A complete WASH program ensures individuals have access to treated water for consumption as well as access to water, for bathing, washing clothes, and good hygiene. Health care facilities should exist in an environment that supports individuals' recovery from illness. Health care professionals cannot control the spread of infection without treated water to wash their hands and clean surfaces or without toilets for proper disposal of human waste. Moreover, when health facilities do exist in the absence of good WASH, patients and health care workers suffer. In 2014, ZL formed a WASH team to ensure that basic water and sanitation needs are met at the community-level, that all staff and patients have access to safe water at all health care facilities, and that infectious diseases transmission is prevented. ZL aims to ensure that communities' needs are met and their future resilience and preparedness to waterborne diseases, including cholera and COVID-19, are reinforced. After all, without WASH we do not have health.



A WASH PROJECT

From 2017-2019, ZL completed a WASH project in the communes of Mirebalais and Lascahobas, where they rehabilitated or provided advice to households on the construction of 228 toilets, 19 water points, and 77 handwashing stations across the two sites. In total, 1,013 people (549 females and 464 males) received training on water management. The WASH team also conducted hygiene promotion in schools and health facilities, where 6,350 students were educated on good hygiene practices, and 195 school administrators and teachers received hygiene promotion training. There were 1,350 latrines constructed in those regions.

KAY LIZ

In November 2016, Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM), constructed a 4,000-square-foot sanitation block named "Kay Liz." It contains bathrooms, showers, safe drinking water, and laundry facilities, accessible to all hospital outpatients and their families. This was key considering the high number of patients arriving with family members or friends, who often travel from far away to stay and accompany their loved ones through care, ensuring that they remain healthy throughout their stay. Kay Liz also includes an ADA-certified unisex handicap accessible toilet and shower area. Kay Liz is a sanitation block for all patients and their family members to reduce open defecation and prevent the spread of infectious diseases. At peak utilization, Kay Liz serves up to 500 people per day.

CHOLERA

Cholera arrived in Haiti in October 2010, brought by UN soldiers illegally dumping fecal waste in rivers. The lack of water and sanitation services contributed to the severity and rapid spread of the disease throughout Haiti. ZL established 12 cholera treatment centers (CTCs) to screen and treat individuals impacted by the disease. Staff also disinfected homes, distributed hygiene kits, including soap and water purification tablets, and made patient referrals to local cholera treatment centers. About 3,300 CHWs and teachers were trained on how to identify symptoms and triage suspected cases, and how to communicate and encourage improved hygiene. ZL also led the construction or rehabilitation of dozens of public water sources. In 2012,

in partnership with the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) and the nonprofit organization GHESKIO, ZL successfully pioneered Haiti's first oral cholera vaccine.

ZL treated more than 145,000 individuals for cholera in the past seven years and has a case fatality ratio of less than 1%, with a current average of .005%. ZL has since expanded its WASH program in order to support improved outcomes such as the impact on diarrheal disease reduction and how this affects existing health programs and to ensure that localities' needs are met and their future resilience and preparedness to outbreaks are reinforced.

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