



## FACT SHEET

### Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities

**USAID provides security for those with disabilities in Haiti.**

USAID's support will strengthen the overall medical care and support of persons with disabilities in Haiti. Anticipated results include:

- Strengthening of community-level healthcare facilities capable of providing physical therapy, psychosocial support, and referral to appropriate levels of care.
- Availability of community-based care including psychosocial care and follow-up services in all communities in the project area.
- Ready availability of mobility aids and devices, including artificial limbs, splints/braces, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and adaptive equipment, distributed through healthcare facilities.

#### Overview

The devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, caused approximately 300,000 injuries, 10,000 of which were left permanently disabled. The most common disabilities resulting from the earthquake include loss of limbs from gangrene and crushing injuries, spinal cord injuries, peripheral nerve damage, head injuries, and mental trauma. The aftermath of the earthquake gave way to an unprecedented need for medical care and simultaneously destroyed many of the outlets that provided such care. As a result, the injured received inadequate medical attention or none at all. Amputations conducted in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake were generally of poor quality, and many patients were discharged without counseling and provision for follow up care. Physical therapy and social rehabilitation were not available in most cases. As a result, secondary complications have led to additional disabilities.

USAID has partnered with Project HOPE to develop a comprehensive system strengthening program that will provide a full range of quality services for disabled persons. The services extend from in-home supportive care and therapy, to advanced surgical interventions. In pursuit of this goal, USAID and Project HOPE will renovate and equip four to six surgical facilities, as well as provide training for healthcare providers. USAID and Project HOPE will also provide community-based services that will include: case finding and referrals, case monitoring, basic psychosocial support, and instruction/coaching for caregivers and clients to increase self-sufficiency and independence of patients.

#### Objectives

USAID's program will develop an effective medical care system that provides a full range of services for persons with disabilities, including: corrective surgery, mobility devices (including prosthetics/orthotics and wheelchairs), physical/occupational therapy, and psychosocial support.

#### Activities

1. **Medical care:** A person requiring corrective surgery or who has suffered an injury will be referred to a hospital, operated on by qualified surgeons, and able to recover in clean environment.
2. **Follow up:** Caseworkers will make regular home visits and monitor the patient's needs and progress.
3. **Prevention:** Multiple community-level activities will reduce the chances of further injury and exposure to disease. These activities include immunizations and education of proper hygiene techniques.
4. **Psychosocial support:** We will ensure that individuals have meaningful roles within society, their community, and their families.
5. **Financial security:** We will assist persons with disabilities in enrolling in classes to teach marketable/technical skills that will enable them to participate in the economy.