

THE CHALLENGE: HAITI AND BEYOND



Healthcare is in a global crisis, with approximately one third of the world’s population lacking access to quality services. Even prior to the current failed state and escalated violence, Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, came nowhere near the capacity needed to offer adequate access or affordable care for children, youth and families. According to the World Health Organization, Haiti has the worst health indicators in the Americas with the highest rates of infant and maternal mortality, malnutrition, and extreme exposure to waterborne illnesses and tropical disease. Additionally, stigma and superstition surrounding medical conditions and disabilities decrease a family’s ability to seek care and increase vulnerability of children and youth.

Reuters News has just reported that the system stretched to the brink is very close to collapse now with shortages of beds, equipment, doctors, medicine and blood. Many hospitals and clinics have closed and others are home to refugees, the sick, and those fearful of leaving.

HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY BASED CARE

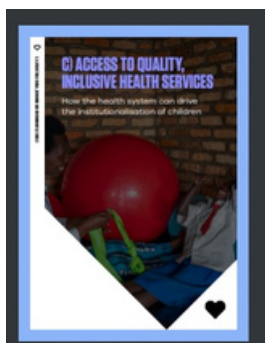
Healthcare is a critically important piece of the family based care “puzzle.” Lack of access or affordability of healthcare plus the stigma associated with disease, disability, and differences are tremendous “push” factors for a family separation. For example, it is not uncommon for babies to be abandoned at hospitals after birth due to lack of maternal care/education, fear of cost of healthcare, or birth differences.

The perception that an orphanage can offer better healthcare to a child than what the family can offer or what is available in the home community is one of the “pull” factors that make orphanages seem like an appealing long-term solution.

When a family lacks access to services for a child or cannot afford hospital fees or medication, the potential for family separation increases (not just in Haiti, globally as well) and when services like vaccinations, malnutrition care, injury care, medication and rehabilitation are available and affordable children are more likely to remain in families.

On the next two pages we will highlight examples of healthcare programming and family based care programming working hand in hand.

ONLINE TOOLS, RESOURCES AND ARTICLES



[Access to Quality, Inclusive Health Care Services: How the Healthcare System Can Drive the Institutionalization of Children](#)

A short module produced by Hope and Homes for Children which outlines the risks to family care when health systems are not adequate and the role that health systems can and should play in supporting, strengthening and preserving families. It also offers key recommendations for inclusive health care services that are designed for use by governments and decision makers but readers may find useful in their own organizational context.

UPCOMING EVENT Tuesday August 27, 2024 1:00-2:00pm eastern

[Haiti's Healthcare Crisis: Supporting Families and Preventing Separation in the Healthcare Crisis](#)

Online English- Speaking Community Conversation hosted by the Haiti Family Care Network with support from UNICEF Haiti

[Haiti WHO 2024 Emergency Health Appeal](#)

A relevant and timely report of the current state of healthcare in Haiti and the World Health Organization's response.

[Haiti Health Network's Educational Resources](#)

The Haiti Health Network provides connection and collaboration for healthcare in Haiti. Visit their resource section for webinars on a wide range of health related topics including medication management, women's health and equipment procurement.

[Humanitarian Health Quality of Care Toolkit](#)

This toolkit aims to assist humanitarian health field staff in measuring quality of care in humanitarian health programs to inform quality improvement activities and includes operational guidance for each tool. It can be used in all areas of essential health care.

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE:

INTERSECTION OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY CARE



[Mobile health care changes lives \(for families\) in Haiti - from Pathfinder International](#)



[Treating malnutrition while preserving and strengthening families.](#)

[Heartline Ministries - from orphanage to family preservation through healthcare services.](#)

