

# Press Release

## HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

### PRESS RELEASE

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## Health Policy Project Awarded Program to Improve Human Rights in Haiti

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti –Over the last decade in Haiti, children, women, and sexual minorities have become increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation, child labor, domestic violence, and recruitment into crime or violence. According to a 2012 survey (MEASURE DHS, 2012) about a third of women in Haiti aged 15-49 had experienced physical violence.

To improve child protection services and decrease the incidence of human rights abuses that affect women, children, and sexual minorities, the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded a program to the Health Policy Project (HPP) designed to improve both policies and services.

The program, HPP AKSE (for Aksyon Kolektif pou Sekirite kont Eksplwatasyon, which means “collective action for security against exploitation” in Creole), is an expansion of a previous program. It will support an 18-month multisectoral effort to improve the policy environment to strengthen human rights protections and expand access to services for vulnerable groups. The program will work with civil society networks and key government institutions for child protection, strengthening sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention, response, and treatment services, as well as policies and the capacity to reduce discrimination and monitor implementation of human rights in multisectoral services.

“This effort is an exciting expansion of HPP’s work on health policy and the reduction of stigma and discrimination,” said Dr. Suneeta Sharma, project director for the Health Policy Project in Washington, DC. “We have worked in Haiti for 30 years, and are honored to be helping rebuild the country after the devastating earthquake. We look forward with working with local partners to make an important contribution in the broader human rights and social protection arena.”

HPP AKSE will be based in Port-au-Prince and will work with communal leadership, local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and social service, legal aid, and health providers inside and outside government. The program will provide training in financial, administrative and operational management to groups providing basic services to victims of violence. It will also build multisectoral capacity to respect human rights principles in the day-to-day delivery of services for those in society most affected by or at risk of violence.

## About the Health Policy Project

The Health Policy Project (HPP) aims to strengthen policy, advocacy, governance and finance for strategic, equitable, and sustainable health programming in developing countries. Led by Futures Group, HPP AKSE builds on Futures Group’s 30 years of working in Haiti, and is a continuation of the earlier AKSE project led by CARE International. HPP is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The Health Policy Project is implemented by Futures Group in collaboration with Plan International USA, the Futures Institute, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), RTI International, and the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA).

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