



**Pan American
Health
Organization**

Regional Office of the
World Health Organization



Free obstetric care in Haiti

Haiti's Free Obstetric Care (SOG) program is a ground-breaking effort to reduce maternal mortality by offering all pregnant women free access to quality health services. The program pays for antenatal care, delivery and neonatal care services delivered by some 63 participating public and private health facilities. The program also covers emergency obstetric care, prevention of vertical transmission of HIV, and prevention and care of gender-based violence. Thanks to SOG, some 137,000 women and their newborns in Haiti had access to skilled care between 2008 and 2012.

Key facts

- Before SOG, Haiti's maternal mortality ratio was about 630 per 100,000 live births; the highest in the hemisphere
- 1,700 Haitian women died each year from perinatal causes
- Infant mortality was 87 per 1,000 live births
- 72% of babies were delivered at home
- An initial evaluation of the SOG project showed a reduction in maternal mortality from 630 to 135 per 100,000 births and a six-fold increase in prenatal visits

Key actions

1. *SOG was developed by PAHO and Haiti's Ministry of Public Health in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the European Commission.*
2. *PAHO has helped mobilized US\$9 million for the implementation of SOG, including funds from CIDA, the World Bank, and the European Union. In September 2010, an additional US\$20 million were pledged to help integrate SOG with Haiti's Free Child Care (SIG) project over the next two years.*

