



SANTÉ NAN LEKOL, SE SIKSÈ TIMOUN YO:

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS ACROSS HAITI

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Santé nan lekol, se siksè timoun yo, also known as the *Healthy Schools, Successful Children* Project (2015-2019), is funded by Episcopal Relief & Development and implemented by IMA World Health in 60 schools (national and Episcopal) in Haiti's South, Southeast and Grand'Anse departments. The project's primary goal was to reduce intestinal infections by:

- improving WASH infrastructure in approximately 60 schools (national and Episcopal);
- improving WASH behavior among students, teachers and communities; and
- instituting frameworks for sustaining WASH interventions among schools and other local stakeholders.

Six key factors leading to lasting impact in the delivery of WASH services to students were:

1. Open communication among stakeholders;
2. Alignment with existing national policies;
3. Combination of education, infrastructure improvement and stakeholders engagement;
4. Building on previous experiences;
5. Development and implementation of maintenance, operation & sustainability plans; and
6. Religious leaders' engagement to promote related behavior change through the development and rollout of a sermon guide.

Involving faith-based leaders in the community was vital to the success of the project. IMA developed a WASH sermon guide and trained religious leaders on the guide to raise congregants' awareness of WASH issues and to mobilize community support for WASH behaviors. In addition to relationships with religious leaders IMA also engaged teachers, students, and the Ministry of Education to increase the community's commitment to sustaining the project after completion.

PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

- **60 schools** have sustainable access to water and user-friendly latrines
- **487 teachers** were trained on WASH-related topics
- Over **21,360 students** exhibiting improved WASH behaviors
- **29 schools** certified as "hygiene-friendly schools" by the Ministry of Education
- **39 religious leaders** trained on and implemented WASH sermon guide
- **2,250 sermon guides** (available in French and Creole) were distributed to religious leaders to share with other churches
- Handwashing improved from 28% to **82%** in schools in one year