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SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

HAITI



Ricie Barthelemy, making a home visit in Marchasse, Mapou.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Charstar Laloy, Field Officer

NAME AND ROLE

Ricie Barthelemy, community health worker

LOCATION

Sud Est, Belle Anse, Mapou

SUMMARY

Ricie Barthelemy shares how SCOPE has helped facilitate regular medical follow-up for women and children in Mapou, helping to support healthier and well-fed families.

[WORLDRELIEF.ORG/SCOPE](https://www.worldrelief.org/scope)

SCOPE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN MAPOU

With only two public health centers still in operation, the situation of pregnant women and mothers has always been precarious in Belle Anse. According to testimonies from the community, maternal and infant mortality have always been a problem due to the many obstacles for mothers and young children to access quality health care. Because of this, SCOPE is taking concrete actions to help reduce maternal and infant mortality. SCOPE has been building the capacity of several community health workers who are responsible for making regular home visits and organizing gathering stations.

TESTIMONY OF THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY WORLD RELIEF

Barthelemy Ricie is a community health worker – called Agent de Santé Communautaire Polyvalents (or ASCPs) in Haiti – in Mapou who has seen firsthand the difference that SCOPE has made in her community. Barthelemy has lived in Mapou since she was a child. She witnessed and was a victim of the flood that ravaged Mapou in 2004, which had a lasting impact on the social and health situation in the community. This flood killed over 400 people in Mapou and destroyed much of the infrastructure at that time, including the local health centers. Even years later, the community is still recovering: access to drinking water remains difficult, and the promised central planning has not occurred.

As a mother, the situation of mothers and young children is always at the front of her mind, and an opportunity arose for Barthelemy to participate in the selection process of the SCOPE health workers. Barthelemy immediately got involved and began working in September 2021. Since

then, she has been active as a community health worker in Marchasse and Saint-Michel, two localities in Mapou. In her role, Barthelemy is responsible for visiting the households in these locations, which allows her to strengthen her relationships with mothers in her community. Barthelemy shared, "I feel valued because nursing mothers, mothers with young children and even young girls often come to me for advice, and they put [the advice] into practice." She went on to share that "there is a saying in the community that children are considered the wealth of the poor. Girls and women are encouraged to have many children without being prepared. It is a mentality that has existed for generations and is the cause of the poverty level of the communal section. It is, therefore, very difficult to bring about a change in the behavior of girls and women. However, at the assembly points, home visits, and even outside of my work as a health worker, I am constantly educating the women in my community about the dangers of unplanned pregnancies and birth planning. When the woman does not have too many children, she will be free to work and contribute to household expenses. Today, women and girls are the first to ask me for family planning methods when I organize visits and gathering stations. We also encourage them to use a condom to protect against sexually transmitted infections."

Barthelemy also helps to address underweight children in her community. As a health worker, she does regular weigh-ins to assess the children's weight, give them

vitamins, and advise the mothers on how to feed them. Barthelemy shared, "We explain to them that the main thing is not to give a lot of food to the children but rather to give them a sufficient and balanced meal, that is to say, a meal which contains the three food groups."

These trainings on nutrition have produced incredible results in Mapou: now almost all the children have a normal weight. In addition, the children in the community are all vaccinated, and thereby limiting the number of sick children. Mothers now also know how to monitor child hygiene by washing their hands more often and keeping the toilet clean.

"The SCOPE project targets pregnant women and children but reaches not only this part of society but the whole society"

- Ricie Barthelemy

A WHOLE HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Though SCOPE targets pregnant women and children, its effects reverberate throughout the family. Mothers teach what they have learned from community meetings to all of their family, and thus transforming all. By the end of 2024, eight auxiliaries and 61 ASCPs in Haiti will be trained on reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health.

This story is written by Jeanet Néhémie FILS, Assistant M&E and revised by Mackendy Pierre, Field Coordinator