SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

HAITI

Manouchca Jean Baptiste with her two-year-old child, in their home in Marchasse I, Mapou.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Jeanet Néhémie Fils, Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant

NAME AND ROLE

Manouchca Jean Baptiste, mother

LOCATION

Sud Est, Belle Anse, Mapou

SUMMARY

SCOPE is working with health workers to engage mothers in hard-to-reach communities to care for their children.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS CHANGE LIVES FOR RURAL FAMILIES

Belle Anse, or "beautiful cove" in English, is a coastal city in southeast Haiti. Despite its natural beauty, basic social infrastructure is lacking, so the population's fundamental needs are often unmet. In remote areas, access to care is often very difficult. Sometimes communities will have a health center, but doctors are not available, and other times, the health center is located too far away from the community. Because of these barriers to access, people in remote areas sometimes don't seek care until there is a life-threatening emergency. This situation is even more fragile for pregnant women and children under five years.

Through the SCOPE Project, community health workers are helping mothers and their children by identifying and treating common challenges in their communities. Through this work, health workers are reducing preventable maternal and child mortality in their communities. Manouchca Jean Baptiste is one mother whose daughter's life was saved through the work of health workers in her community.

HELPING YOUNG FAMILIES PLAN FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH FAMILY PLANNING

Manouchca Jean Baptiste is a mother from Mapou with a two-year-old daughter. Her husband lives in the Dominican Republic and visits regularly. SCOPE has engaged her since she was pregnant. SCOPE-supported health workers advised her on how to prepare for the birth of her child and discussed common myths and misconceptions related to pregnancy. With the help of these health workers, Manouchca developed good practices to stay healthy before, during and after childbirth.

She also learned about family planning. Previously she thought there was a stigma around using family planning, but Manouchca learned from the health workers that family

planning was a way that enabled her and her husband to manage their economic life better.

Given their economic situation, having another baby would be a financial challenge.

IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES AS CHILDREN GROW

SCOPE-supported health workers have also helped Manouchca identify health concerns as her daughter grows. When Manouchca's daughter was one, she was diagnosed with moderate malnutrition. Manouchca said, "I was afraid this disease would worsen. At this time, we were going through a very difficult time financially. So, I could not feed her properly." Thanks to the home visits and the muster stations (monthly community meetings organized by health workers), Manouchca received advice about feeding her daughter using cheap but nutritious ingredients available locally. During muster meetings, children in the community are vaccinated and weighed to screen for malnutrition, while mothers are trained to care for and feed their children.

Manouchca used to think she needed a lot of money to feed her child, but through the advice of health workers, Manouchca learned about the locally available foods with vitamins and nutrients needed to help her daughter grow.

Manouchca shared, "Now, my daughter is relieved, and I will do my best to keep her healthy. Meanwhile, I will continue with the family planning. So I can start a small business and make money before conceiving another child. Then I can feed them well, keep them healthy, and educate them well."

In Mapou District, SCOPE supports 11 community health workers who work in areas farthest from the health center. These community health workers, called Agents de Santé Communautaire Polyvalent, regularly reach an average of 550 households and 800 children monthly.

This story is written by Jeanet Néhémie FILS, SCOPE Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant.Assistant.