



Jamaica Maternal Health Project report - 2017 / 2018

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### **Executive Summary:**

This project was created in alignment with one of HERhealthEQ's main pillars of service, Maternal Health. The objective was to deliver equipment that would assist in the reduction of mortality rate in Jamaica as seen in pregnant and delivering women. The highlights of this project include a growing utilization of the ultrasound not only at the home hospital, but at 20 additional external healthcare centers as well.

### **Introduction:**

Established in 2016, HERhealthEQ was born out of a need to reduce the equity gap in access to healthcare for women around the world. What began as a singular donation of a mammography machine to a Costa Rican hospital, has now grown into an international web of healthcare solutions. The HERhealthEQ team is driven by a desire to see fewer women face the choice between their own healthcare and putting food on the tables of their families.

Our Mission is to improve women's health in developing countries by providing access to medical devices & equipment, creating an equitable standard of care.

According to the World Health Organization, 810 women die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. According to Sonosite, 40% of pregnancy-related deaths are due to complications that can only be detected with an ultrasound and 99% of pregnancy-related deaths are in rural areas.

Through 2017 and 2018, HERHealthEQ partnered with Esaote North America to secure the donation of an ultrasound machine, which was sent to the Savanna-la-Mar Public General Hospital. This Jamaican hospital serves a population of over 150,000 patients annually. Despite serving a vast portion of Western Jamaica, including the 20 local primary care health centers that feed into the hospital, the hospital lacks many of the necessary resources to treat such a large population.

HERhealthEQ CEO Marissa Fayer, and then Executive Director Michelle Skaer traveled to Savanna-la-Mar to see firsthand the equipment in use. During their visit, they spoke with hospital staff and patients to gain a sense of how the equipment might improve services at the hospital.



As of 2019, the hospital is conducting an average of 2000 deliveries/year, with 105 OBGYN and 19 non OB ultrasounds conducted in 2019 alone. The Hospital is now assisting 20 external healthcare centers, assisting women planning to have home births with prenatal screening on the Ultrasound donated by HERhealthEQ.

### **Key Milestones:**

- 5036 women screened as of end of 2022
- Alignment of objectives with HERhealthEQ's commitment to delivering healthcare services to women in underserved communities.

### **Project details:**

In Westmoreland, Jamaica, the socio-economic status of women reflects a complex landscape of challenges and opportunities. While progress has been made in recent years, disparities persist. Many women are engaged in informal sectors, facing limited access to formal employment and higher education. Gender-based wage gaps and unequal distribution of resources remain concerns. However, empowered by community initiatives and local organizations, women are gradually breaking barriers. Through skill development programs and entrepreneurship support, these women are actively working towards improved economic independence, stronger representation, and a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

- Maternal Mortality rate in Jamaica is 98.9 deaths per 100,000
- Serving the Westmoreland region of Jamaica, female population of 72,959

This project's impact went beyond just the hospital, allowing for 20 external care centers to also have access to the technology, thus expanding our reach. The Ultrasound was delivered and put to use immediately, minimizing the lead time between securing the device and implementation into the healthcare system. The receptiveness of the on the ground health care teams led by Dr. Alfred Dawes allowed for faster training and immediate usage.



**Financial Summary:**

Value of deployed equipment:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Value of deployed equipment (USD)</b>
Ultrasound	\$10,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,600</b>

**Conclusion:**

Since deployment, the project has been sustained by the field healthcare teams at Savannah - la - Mar General Public Hospital. HERhealthEQ communication contracts between donor recipients and our organization state that metrics must be provided for the first 2 years of device usage. Due to this, we have not received any updated metrics directly from the hospital over the last year. It is our intent to reconnect with Dr. Dawes and resume data sharing for accuracy purposes.

HERhealthEQ is grateful to all the individual donations that helped make this project a reality, including our partners at Esaote for the equipment. Without our supporter's help, we would not be able to impact the lives of women around the world.