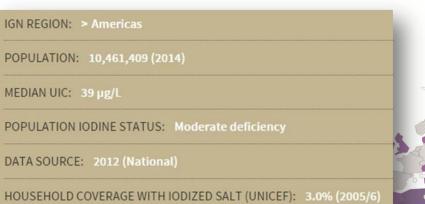
# HAITI



### What is the iodine status in Haiti?

- Haiti is the only country in the Western hemisphere classified as being iodine deficient, which means that people are at risk of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD).
- IDD puts infants and young children at risk of impaired brain **development**, which may prevent them from reaching their full educational potential.
- IDD has a negative impact on entire communities and national prosperity.
- For these reasons the Iodine Global Network recognizes Haiti as a priority country for IDD control.

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## What have we achieved in 2015?

- The IGN's Regional Coordinator for Americas, Dr. Elizabeth Pearce, worked with Boston Children's Hospital to complete a survey of urinary iodine concentrations and thyroid function.
- The aim was to determine the iodine status of Haitian infants and pre-school children from 3 different geographical regions of Haiti.
- The IGN funded the laboratory measurements, which showed that iodine nutrition has improved remarkably in the space of just a few years!

Iodine nutrition among Haitian children has improved dramatically in just a few years.

#### What are the next steps?

• In 2016 we will try to better

understand the sources of dietary iodine in Haiti to ensure that the improvements in iodine nutrition can be sustained.

- We will also assess other population groups (school-age children, pregnant women), to see if they are at risk of IDD.
- An **advocacy meeting** with the Haitian Ministry of Health is planned for February 2016, to be attended by the IGN and our partners (UNICEF and USAID). The meeting will seek commitment from the Government of Haiti to a sustainable IDD prevention program.

The lodine Global Network is a charitable organization under Canadian law (Reg. Charity No.: 893540419RR0001)

