



TERRE DES JEUNES-HAITI

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Nutrition, Agriculture and Health for Orphans and Vulnerable

Children (OVC) in the region of Gonaives

Project duration: March 2016 to July 2017

Location: Regions Des Gonaives, Haiti

Areas of expertise: Food security and agricultural development

Partner sought: *****

Beneficiaries: 300 children alternating groups

Emergency demand Motivation: Drought, famine and child trafficking

February 25, 2016

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TERRE DES JEUNES is currently conducting a project targeting Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), the goal being **equal opportunities for all children**. At its start in 2008 after the floods in Gonaives, the project targeted a hundred children. It currently oversees more than 300 in various schools and orphanages. Given the program's success in fighting food insecurity and keeping kids in school, **Terre des Jeunes is seeking support to expand the project with its logistical network already in place.**

Context

In Haiti and especially in Gonaives, many villages are extremely vulnerable and chronically food insecure. This creates significant challenges for young people's access to quality education; several villages in rural areas do not even have schools nearby. Many families, therefore, cannot send their children to school, especially girls who help with domestic tasks.

On the other hand, Haitian agriculture is based mainly on rainfed crops. However, erratic rains and floods seriously impair the crops. Many communities are therefore seriously affected by drought and lack of food, especially children who are more vulnerable.

This ongoing drought has resulted in considerable losses of crops and reduced availability of local food markets, combined with soaring prices. Furthermore, significant water shortages have been reported in almost all departments. Agricultural losses amounted to more than 50% in general on Haiti (70% in the Artibonite Department and region of Gonaives) compared to normal on the spring campaign of 2015. Artibonite represents nearly 60% the annual agricultural output of the country.

According to CNSA (National Center for Food Safety), 3.6 million Haitians are currently food insecure, including 1.5 million severely food insecure and 200,000 (or 40,000 families) in a situation of extreme food emergency. With the persistence of El Niño, and if nothing is done by July 2016, food insecurity could affect about 5 million people (half of the Haitian population).

TERRE DES JEUNES OVC PROJECT will target children studying in primary and secondary schools.

The project's primary beneficiaries are Orphans and Vulnerable Children, abandoned by their families and victims of abuse, and the goal of the project is to give back children the joy of life and support them at school. These school years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, a total of 300 children are still waiting for supervision by the TERRE DES JEUNES OVC project. At primary school they number 218. They are 83 in high school. These children wait to receive medical and food assistance, TERRE DES JEUNES is the local association that links donor agencies and schoolchildren. The beneficiaries of this project are living with biological relatives (aunt, uncle, grandmother, a parent alive), in host families (foster families) and in shelters.

In time of drought and lack of food, TERRE DES JEUNES is looking for partners that can help it to provide food for children who are the primary beneficiaries.

The project will be led by a team of volunteers, including our Head of Orphans and Vulnerable Children project assisted by coordinating staff, all working on a volunteer basis. Another group is responsible for monitoring the children at school and in the family in cases of illness. In addition, four volunteer officers will work with the children to tend a vegetable garden, providing them with knowledge required to plant trees, understand what constitutes a healthier lifestyle in harmony with the environment. Specifically, the project will culminate in an annual Tree planting festival which is already organized yearly by Terre des Jeunes and partners.

Charities Desired collaboration between TERRE DES JEUNES and and partner

The TERRE DES JEUNES Coordination will prepare a plan and budget for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children project; and will seek other partners interested in supporting us in this program and in supporting children who already vulnerable and who must now go through a punishing drought to have opportunities similar to other children and reach their full potential, perhaps becoming great personalities in the country.

Since TERRE DES JEUNES has very few resources, and Haiti is currently facing the worst drought in over 35 years; many orphans flock to our network. TERRE DES JEUNES sought support for assistance which concerns only the field of education, appealing to people of good will for assistance with this project for orphans and other vulnerable children.

TERRE DES JEUNES attempts to provide food to more than 300 children attended in 5 disadvantaged schools from Monday to Friday.

With further support, Terre des jeunes has the logistical capacity to provide dry food distribution every Friday for children and young people involved in the project.

In the process of working with shelters and orphanages, TERRE DES JEUNES has made basic documentary videos about the environment and provided children and youth gathered to be offered a meal and learn to appreciate the documentary video process. Children and volunteers alike were keen to participate in this meeting intended to conduct an initiation of children to the environment in a fun way.

Children participating in other TERRE DES JEUNES programs, including children dealing with deafness, blindness and disabilities, were invited to a fraternal meal.

These children all came foster families, biological families and coaching centers.

Today, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children project in the Gonaives region works with more than 300 children, including 124 girls. Children supervised by the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project study in public schools and Church schools.

Objectives

- Fight against poverty by providing opportunities for children to learn
- Fight against juvenile delinquency and prostitution by directing the children on the right path of life: school - learning - training

- Fight against illiteracy
- Introducing children to life skills through practical support and advice
- Fight against child marriage, trafficking and exploitation of children in the Dominican Republic.
- Look for drop points or foster homes for abandoned and homeless children sleeping in the markets and in the streets.
- Promote education of children in low income families
- Monitor the target children for a period two to three years.

School canteens, combined with supplemental meals and dry food distribution in the region of Gonaives helps provide quality food in sufficient quantity to students malnourished during the school year.

This can encourage families to send their children to school, in addition to ensuring their health and make them more attentive in class. **With portions of the TERRE DES JEUNES OVC project already implemented, the attendance rate of each of the five schools varies from 95% to 98%.**

Once in the OVC project, children or young people also practice gardening and environmental activities.

1. Why gardening and environmental with the kids?

The main interest for children lies in learning the tools to handle vegetables and learn how to work the land: land preparation, sowing, weeding frequently, watering, harvesting ...

The other interest is the discovery of nature. Learning outcomes are then observation of living in all its forms (animal and plant), arts education (linked to the development of the imagination) and citizenship (environmental).

The objectives of an educational garden

The objectives are educational, ecological and environmental for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).

- Gardening is the source of a multitude of projects.

It actually opens many other doors to the world and our society, as in gardening, it is possible to address food issues, nutrition and agriculture, pollution and, of the protection of nature and management of the environment, the sensitive and scientific knowledge of nature, the beauty of the landscape....

- By understanding gardening, natural phenomena, the cycle of seasons, cycle of plants.

- Through the acquisition of gardening techniques, children learn to use their hands for a useful purpose. Through practice, through gesture, the child understands and learns

more. A little child will find his or her place in a garden and will be valued in the eyes of others.

- Gardening can be a good complement young people's skillset in other manual occupations related to these businesses, such as craft trades, trades the environment.
- Gardening promotes social ties: the garden is a friendly place promoting exchanges between gardeners, intergenerational meetings. Fresh air, laughter and exercise can all be found in the garden.
- By understanding environmental problems, many young people will become what we call **eco-citizens** who understand the impact of their gestures on the environment and on the world of tomorrow.

Seeds of life

The Seeds of Life component encourages each child and young person and those around him to **keep, wash, dry, select and store seeds and cores of fruits and plants they eat in order to replant them**, more or less quickly depending on the species and needs.

Immediate results

- The seeds of life program promotes food security as a community issue instead of an individual problem.
- More than 500 host families have been identified by village committees to participate in the program.
- More than 500 OVC children receive tutoring in the seeds of life program. And a network of community members is trained to keep the program going in the community.

Children are equipped with a small vegetable garden that is well maintained thanks to assistance from the Seeds of life network.

Terre des Jeunes believes that both emergency actions such as providing hot meals to children in need must be combined with more long-term actions such as agricultural training and the Seeds of Life program.

Currently, TERRE DES JEUNES involvement in the scope of this project is slated to continue until the end of 2017.

In addition to the primary beneficiaries of the program, TERRE DES JEUNES provides food for school-age children who are not enrolled in school or who have not yet returned to school. The focus is particularly on rural areas where school infrastructure is poor.

For TERRE DES JEUNES, food distribution has a twofold objective. This is first to encourage poor children to go to school. "When we distribute food in schools, and actually opens many other doors to the world and our society, in the practice of gardening and respect for the environment, it is possible to address issues of Food, nutrition and agriculture"

16. Timeline

	Activity	Number of beneficiary activity	Month											
			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Objective 1	Provide food for children through school canteens	Total 300 children												
Objective 2	Hot dishes with practical gardening activities and environmental	Total 50 children per workshop	①		①			①				①		①
Objective 3	Ensuring security in the family food and malnutrition	25 children every Friday alternately in total 300 children beneficiaries, divided into 12 groups	④	④	④	④	④	④				④	④	④
Etc														

 School meals or school lunches meet two requirements: maintain the nutritional quality of meals and equal opportunities for all children during the school year. This is done with the children five days out of 7



❶ We try to provide hot meals to practice gardening and environmental activities with children; this activity is done on a frequency every 2 months at a school or a reserved plot of land.



④ On weekends we help vulnerable children to return home with a bit of relief food to ensure food security in the family and malnutrition, this is done every Friday



Beneficiary institutions	Address	Director named	Number of male recipient	Number of female recipient
École classique de Jésus christ <i>Classical school of Jesus Christ</i>	Rue Lamatinere, Gonaives	Directeur : Christson Myrtil	49	25
Institut Victor Hugo de l'église chrétienne de pont Gaudin <i>Victor Hugo Institute Gaudin bridge of the Christian Church</i>	25, Rue Pierrr Noel-Pont Gaudin Gonaives	Directeur :Charles Charles-Henry	45	43
École Gaspar Weldon de l'église Sainteté à l'Eternel <i>Gaspar Weldon School of the church Holiness to the Lord</i>		Directeur :Gaspar Weldon Saint-Hilien	20	22
École Nationale de Dociné <i>National School of Dociné</i>	3 ^e section des Gonaives	Directeur : Saintilus Fortilus	25	30
École Rama de l'église évangélique de louange <i>Rama School of the Evangelical Church of Praise</i>	Bienac 5 Gonaives	Jeannot Fleurentin	25	16

Important concluding note

Generosity is achieving something good, voluntarily; it is being free to decide how to distribute goodwill.

Thus, TERRE DES JEUNES will accept any form of support and any amount of money or seeds for the garden or food, from donors, individuals and organizations traditionally who wish to help further this cause by giving according to their ability.

Augustin Dieuseul

For Terre des Jeunes-Haïti

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