

Strong women - strong children

Project: Self-help groups in Haiti

Locations: 3 villages in the north of the capital Port-au-Prince

Objective: to combat poverty through the establishment of networks, know-how transfer, promotion of independence and entrepreneurship

Partner: ASFABRE

Support: for 190 mothers and their children

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Kindernothilfe Luxembourg

The situation in Haiti

Even before the earthquake in January 2010 Haiti was one of the poorest countries in the world. The situation was further worsened especially for children, who make up over half the population by the catastrophe in 2010. 1,2 million people lost their homes. Many of them still live in camps, without energy, running water or sanitary facilities. More than two-thirds of the men and women have no steady job.

Today many non-profit organisations are active in Haiti which aim to combat poverty. However the permanent presence of these organisations led to a strong dependence. The Many Haitians find themselves in the role of passive recipients – a fatal circumstance for sustainable development. Through the self-aid groups, the participants learn to take charge of their own lives again. The very poor can become active members of their community and cease to be passive recipients of handouts.

All for one - the self-help approach

In contrast to other approaches, the group members receive no material help but training and support. Participants learn how to increase yields in agriculture, how to save money, how to set up a business plan and basic book-keeping. Training

subjects also include conflict solving, good nutrition, health protection (HIV prevention) and family planning.

At first, the very poor in the local community are identified and then invited by our local partner ASFABRE to become members of a self-help group. The first phase consists of setting up the groups consisting of up to 20 members (mostly women) from the same socio-economic background. The members then decide how often they will meet and how much money they will save per week. They set-up a collective capital stock.

One after the other receives a microcredit from the joint capital for example to buy a goat or products for further sale. The credit has to be paid back as soon as possible so the next women can develop her business idea.

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The self help approach is a successful method for combating poverty in a sustainable way. It strengthens the very poor, with the majority being women in rural surroundings economically, politically and socially. They learn to make their own decisions and to stand on their own feet.

Everything the women learn in the groups has a direct positive effect on their children. They can go to school, receive better nutrition, are healthier and live in peaceful environments.

Hëllef mat!

Sustainable help
for Haiti

29 €

help to finance the **training materials** for one self-help group for one year

125 €

help to establish and maintain **one self-help group** for one month

30 € per month

help to support our project on an ongoing basis by a project sponsorship

Bank Account: IBAN LU50 0030 4812 1330 0000 • BIC BGLLLULL • Reference: Self-help Haiti

Your donations to the Kindernothilfe Luxembourg asbl as a state recognised non-governmental organisation (ONGD) are tax deductible under Article 109 and 112 L.I.R. You will automatically receive a tax certificate at the beginning of the year.