



Mesie lives in the northeast of Haiti, a region where drought is common. Walk in her shoes, if only for a minute. At 13 years, Mesie is the one who fetches water for her family each day. The last four months have been plagued by drought. Her home is dusty and hot; the cisterns are running dry. Cistern keepers have been forced to limit the amount of water each family is allowed daily. Every day, Mesie must walk six hours to fetch one pail of water.

It does not matter when Mesie starts her six-hour journey to get water: she will not return in time to attend school. The heavy burden of fetching water and assisting the women in the field falls upon the girls of Haiti's rural villages. Forced to live in unsanitary conditions, with frequent food shortages, and little clean water, they live a life postponed.

Building additional cisterns in her community will allow Mesie's community to capture more rainwater. It will allow Mesie to attend school, to pursue her education, and to improve her odds for a better future. By Giving Water, we Give Life. This is why Lambi Fund of Haiti is working with the northwest region to make water available and accessible to 1,800 rural families – approximately 10,000 individuals – and the many, many Mesies who will benefit.

About the Lambi Fund of Haiti

The Lambi Fund of Haiti (www.lambifund.org) began in 1994 in an effort to strengthen Haitian democracy by supporting locally-identified, community-supported, sustainable economic development projects in rural Haiti. Since our founding, we have impacted the lives of more than two million Haitians, 20% of the country's population, and planted more than two million trees. In 2010, in response to the post-earthquake cholera epidemic and drought, we provided 14 cisterns across northern Haiti. Climate change-induced drought, however, has severely impacted northwestern Haiti; our community partners have asked for more cisterns. This year, in celebration of the 20 years since our founding, we are committed to building 20 cisterns in northwestern Haiti. Give Water. Give Life.