

“Konba Pou Kominote” Fight 4 Haiti’s Communities



In March 2020, Covid-19 brought the world to its knees. In Haiti, where public health systems are grossly inadequate and water is only accessible to a minority, fear spread like a wildfire. Soon thereafter, ESPWA and the Haiti Community Foundation led a community mobilization and health education campaign that reached over 60,000 community residents in rural communities in the Grand’Anse in Haiti (key for food security and the environment) by providing critical information, masks, soap, disinfectants and helping to control fear and mitigating the impact on people suspected to carry the virus.

Fortunately, the coronavirus was not as devastating as most had feared. **Unfortunately**, its impact on the economy of the country and its local communities was staggering, as a vast majority of workers depending on daily wages had to curtail their activities. In a country whose economy was already weakened by political instability and the resulting divestment, Covid’s economic impact outweighed its infection rate’s impact. Extreme hunger, adult and children’s malnutrition were the debilitating results.

OUR FOCUS AND PLAN

Fight for community WITH community to support farmers and community residents regain their footing and continue to reach self-sufficiency.

OUR ACTIONS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- **Invest in agriculture** by providing seeds, training related to climate change and land/crop management to small farmers
- **Invest in economic growth** by supporting Local *Mutuelles Solidarités* that are community cooperative financing platforms providing both participants ownership and affordable interest rates (with interest rates of 36% a year or thereabout, most microloan programs are prohibitive to farmers and micro-business owners).
- **Develop with women’s organizations a soap making small business initiative and a community store** that can support income generation, promote good hygiene practices and create long-term sustainable revenues for community members and their families.
- **Work with local universities such as L’Université de Jérémie to involve college students** in our community work and develop their leadership potential.

As is our practice, we will put a special emphasis on the most vulnerable members of our communities (single mothers, pregnant women, the disabled and the elderly). We will also favor collaborations with women groups that are well anchored in their “*sections communales*”/villages and communities.

Our goal for 2020-2021 is to raise \$50,000 from local and international friends and supporters. Every dollar we raise will provide a match to a grant from the Inter-American Foundation to the Haiti Community Foundation.

What is at stake? A fight to go beyond hunger, beyond survival, beyond resilience. Our commitment: to support community families’ modest dreams of food security and hopes for self-sufficiency and a better future to their children.

JOIN US!

Donate Now: <https://www.espwa-haiti.org/donate/>