



2015 HAITI YOUTH SUMMER SOCCER CAMP

# Reunion Sportive d'Haiti, Inc.



## December 2015 Newsletter

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual (2015) Haiti Youth Summer Soccer Camp

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The 2015 summer soccer camp, sponsored by Digicel-Haiti and the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, and supported by MINUSTAH and others, was a huge success and captured the attention of the whole nation. The Camp was covered by journal Le Nouvelliste and several radio stations. The theme was "Ann chwazi lape, Vyolans ap detwi lavi nou" (let's choose peace, violence is destroying our life.).

At the Camp, a group of 880 boys and girls, from 30 towns and villages, received sport equipment and a daily meal. The Camp was the only social activity in the area. So, these kids felt like they were world champions and were reminded once again that, despite their economic and social circumstances, they were surrounded by friends who care.

More than 700 local merchants (99% of them women) also benefited by attending the camp, to sell their merchandises as a means of supporting their families.



all, over 100,000 people attended the games, during its 50-day duration, throughout the summer, to socialize with friends and families.



RS Haiti shipped several hundred of sports equipment (i.e. shoes, shunguards, and balls). We distributed 2,500 plates of hot meals; 5,000 bottles of water, Malta H, and Pepsi/Coke. Most of the drinks were donated by BRANA. We also distributed 1,000 notebooks donated by MINUSTAH. The food was donated by Food for the Poor.



To help the Haitian economy, we purchased all the uniforms locally. We had 40 teams, for a total of 880 boys and girls, men and women, aged 10 through 25. They came from 30 villages and towns, including Salino in Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes, Torbec, Gauvais, Arniquet, Saint Jean du Sud, Port-Salut, and many other surrounding cities. We hired 55 locals to manage the camp for 50 days, people who would have been otherwise unemployed.



Through its summer camp and other projects, RS Haiti is working to prevent juvenile delinquency and teen pregnancy, and to promote youth leadership empowerment and local economic development.

Investing in the youth is investing in the future of Haiti, because more than 70% of the population is below the age of 30. Many are living in extreme poverty, without access to clean water, adequate sanitation, electricity, or a decent education. They are having a hard time getting even a daily meal. Many do not go to school. Ninety-five percent are unemployed, and are living a life of idleness or delinquency. The rate of teen pregnancy is very high. Therefore, a new Haiti is not possible without investing in its newest generation.

In partnership with MINUSTAH, we organized seminars on prevention of violence. The seminars were attended by hundreds of people. We addressed the issues of peaceful resolution of conflicts and the electoral process. We also distributed umbrellas and brochures with the slogan "ann chwazi lape." Digicel also provided a sound truck that went throughout the South department to spread this message of peace.



Digicel, a major telephone company in Haiti, has sponsored this Camp for the past 4 years. This year, we were fortunate to receive the sponsorship of the U.S. Embassy in Haiti and the support of MINUSTAH and BRANA. These sponsors take their social responsibility seriously and invest enormously in the youth of Haiti, so that these kids can become better citizens.



According to Mr. Yardley, Digicel's Manager in Les Cayes, this Camp has "major social and economic impacts on Haiti's youth." "Digicel is proud to accompany and help the youth as they are the future of Haiti. The camp's success explains why Digicel hired several local dance groups and DJs from Les Cayes to entertain participants, showcasing the youth's artistic talents.



### **B. Solar Lamp Project**

We have distributed 1,200 lamps to school children. These children live in rural communities with no electricity, making it very difficult to do school work when the sun goes down. These children are extremely poor and their parents cannot afford to purchase solar-powered lamps. By providing these lamps, we have furthered their education and improved their quality of life.

Yes, these children's courage and perseverance in the face of adversity exemplify the best of Haiti and the resilience of a generation of children who are facing their challenges with dignity and grace.

**In 2016, we would like to distribute 5,000 lamps to school children, so that they can stop using the lamp below to study.**



### C. Sanitation Project

With funding from Foundation Digicel, we have built 20 toilets in a village where 90% of the population didn't have access to adequate sanitation facilities. This project protects the environment and improves the quality of life in the community. It benefits 80 out of 184 households that lacked access to toilets. Each household has an average of 7 people, so there are approximately 560 direct beneficiaries.

In that village, more than 83% of the population of around 2,900 people was defecating in open fields and by the ocean, with disastrous impacts on their health. This open defecation practice made the children very vulnerable to parasitic infections. Poor sanitation conditions have led to a high prevalence of fecal-borne illnesses, including diarrhea. This problem was exacerbated by inadequate hygiene and lack of a medical clinic in the community. These conditions were ideal for the propagation of the deadly cholera epidemic, which has infected several hundred people in the community.

This project has enormous impacts on the community. Now, this project, nearly 40% of the population has access to toilets. Consequently, the rates of open defecation and number of children with diarrhea or parasitic infection will be decreased. Many women and young girls can now relieve themselves in complete privacy and in dignity. The environment will be healthier in the community. Additionally, because the project was done by the locals, the money has stayed in the community, helping the local economy.

We have also designed a mechanism to engage the community and get their involvement. We have created a Sanitation Committee composed of citizens in the community to supervise this project. This Committee has trained the beneficiaries on proper use of these toilets and on good hygiene behaviors.

Still, open defecation has not been totally eliminated in the community mainly because there are 100 households that are still without toilets. It is necessary to build additional toilets for these 100 households for this project to have its desired effects.



Our 2015 achievements would not have been possible without the generous support of Digicel, U.S. Embassy in Haiti, Digicel Foundation, MINUSTAH, The Order of the Daughters of the King, BRANA, Food for the Poor, Pat n To's Ice Cream, Monomi Entertainment, CEEPCO Contracting, and Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti. We also received the support from many individuals that are too many to list. With their supports, we were able to make a difference in the lives of Haiti's youth and poor families in Haiti.

Reunion Sportive is a 501 (c)(3) organization and accepts tax-deductible donations online at [www.RSHaiti.org](http://www.RSHaiti.org).

Checks can be mailed to: 903 Kennebec Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.







