

REUNION SPORTIVE D'HAITI

www.rshaiti.org

2022 ANNUAL REPORT: Early Childhood Education Project & Summer Youth Activities

Last year, we built this Kindergarten in Roche-Jabouin, a fishing village in the southern part of Haiti, to replace a school destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. In the face of incredible challenges—a deadly earthquake that ravaged the area, political unrest and gang violence—the school successfully completed its first year.

But the children are malnourished, have no access to healthcare, no playground, no electricity, and limited educational materials. To accommodate additional children and ensure they have not only a school to attend but services to support their health and well-being, Reunion Sportive has embarked on the Second Phase of this early childhood education project.

We are grateful to our funders and individual donors who make these programs possible, and who share our vision that every child deserves the best start in life, which includes a healthy birth, quality and inclusive early childhood education, and proper nutrition. No matter where they live, their social background, their gender, they all deserve the right to go to school and it's our responsibility to make it happen.



Second Phase: Construction of Cafeteria and Infirmary

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, our teachers repeatedly reported that most of the children were coming to school hungry and were having trouble learning and focusing on their activities. These children were chronically malnourished to the point of affecting their brain development and cognitive abilities. Also, many of the children in the areas haven't received their required vaccines.

In June 2022, we began the construction but haven't completed this new building, which is divided into two compartments. One part will house the cafeteria, which is a large eating room where 150 children can easily sit-down for their meals. The cafeteria will also be used as a cultural center to host parent meetings and student cultural activities (i.e., dance, theater, and music classes) to further equip them to succeed. On weekends, we plan to host cultural events to bring numerous volunteer opportunities for the parents and other children in the village to improve quality of life and bring this community closer together.



The second part of the building will house the Infirmary, which has a resting area, two treatment rooms, one full bathroom, one office for the nurses, and a small pharmacy that will be equipped with first aid equipment, medications, and vaccines.

The infirmary will be headed by a registered nurse. Given the village has no health clinic and the nearest hospital is two hours away, this Infirmary will have an enormous impact on the children's quality of education and health. It would also serve all the children in the entire village because all of them will get access to vaccinations and basic healthcare. Even adults who are injured can receive first aide assistance or get regular check-ups to control their diabetes, hypertension, or other chronic diseases.

We also plan to build the kitchen and food storage room separately. This construction hasn't started yet.

It is important to note that the country's conditions has affected the completion of the construction of the Second Phase. Haiti is facing a humanitarian crisis that is causing catastrophic hunger and misery, and inflation has reached over 50% in the past months. According to a recent Washington Post article, "[a]lready the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is on the brink of social collapse. At least 40% of the country's 11.5 million people are suffering from acute hunger."

Gang warfare and rolling anti-government protests have blocked the distribution of food, fuel, and water. A cholera outbreak has killed dozens and sickened many. In many cities, a gallon of gas costs over \$50 USD, forcing most Hospitals, banks, and small businesses to either shut their doors or curtail their operations because they cannot power their diesel generators. Due to the lack of fuel, roadblocks, daily protests, and hyperinflation, causing the price of construction materials and labor to escalate uncontrollably. These major problems have slowed down the construction of our Cafeteria and Infirmary and increase the cost by over 30%.



School Meals Program

In October, we opened the 2022-2023 school year. Unfortunately, the parents kept their children at home because they could not afford their kids' lunches, and that forced us to change our plan of action. Our initial plan was to complete the construction of the cafeteria before starting the feeding program.

However, given the level of hunger and human suffering in the village, we could not wait to complete the construction of the cafeteria and kitchen to begin the school meal program. Instead, we started the feeding program in late October and have been feeding the children. We have hired two cooks, bought some of the kitchen materials and food to feed the children. We are pleased to report all the 75 children have now attended classes and are receiving two hot meals a day. For most of these children, this is their only hot meal for the entire day. We also give many kids uncooked food to take home, so that their parents and siblings could have a hot meal.

Furnishing Library and Providing School Supplies

Given our limited financial resources, we have purchased some books for the children, school supplies, and uniforms.. As you can see from the bookshelves below, we still need more books and school supplies. We are also looking for tablets and computers for the teachers and children to encourage reading and introducing the children to new technology.



Solar-Powered Electricity

We have purchased a few solar panels and other equipment for the installation of the solar-powered electricity system to provide electricity in the school. But we still need to purchase 36 additional panels, 2 lithium batteries of 10kw, and a 15kw inverter so that we can have sufficient electricity for the school operations, to keep medicine and vaccines refrigerated at the Infirmary and food for the school meal program.



In other words, the solar system will provide reliable access to electricity in the school, provide the children and the teachers' access to computers and the internet, as well as to enable the children in the village to read at night.



Security Wall

We have begun the construction of the Security Wall to keep the children safe. The safety and security of the children is of the highest priority, and having the Security Wall will protect the children by lessening the chances of outsiders or animals from entering the school and thus help us maintain a distraction-free environment for learning. We are currently looking for funding to complete the construction of the remaining portion of the Security Wall.



YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS:

This year, we completed our 12th Annual Summer Sports, Reading, Civic Education, Nutrition, and Community Service Camps (“Summer Camp”) for 880 vulnerable children and at-risk youths, ages 8-25 years old. These participants came from 36 cities and towns in the South Department.

Our *Summer Camp* was designed as a preventive measure for at-risk youth, helping them turn their lives around through skills-building activities. The phenomenon of youth street gangs and kidnapping are spreading in Haiti like a wildfire, compromising the life of most citizens, endangering the economic development of the country, rendering many communities inaccessible, and undermining the future of a generation of youth. Through our *Summer Camp*, we have sought to mobilize, educate, empower, and connect troubled youths from various communities to prevent juvenile delinquency and youth violence by keeping them meaningfully engaged during the summer months.



Through our *Summer Camp*, we provided these young people with free sport equipment, daily meals, transportation, educational materials, and access to mentors. At the *Summer Camp*, they played sports, learned arts and crafts, practiced folkloric dances, learned effective communication skills, enhanced their education through reading, worked within a team, participated in community service, and developed their social and leadership skills. They also attended seminars on youth leadership, civic education, conflicts resolution, protection of the environment, and human rights. We integrated girls and boys from different communities in the same sporting and social activities for them to learn about gender equality and mutual respect for each other.

Our summer program also had a positive economic impact in the communities, especially communities that are recently affected by the earthquake and hurricane. Several hundreds of local merchants (99% women) attended the soccer games to sell their local products and to support their families. Thousands of people came to support their local teams and socialized among themselves and with their families. Hundreds of moto taxi drivers earned a living by transporting people to and from the soccer games.



