The grant from FOKAL after the tropical storm Grace last year allowed us to support many women. Some of them could not continue their work or lost their businesses. We helped them get back on their feet. We don’t just offer cash assistance; we teach them skills to ensure that their businesses are economically viable and to be self-sustainable through solidarity funds and individual savings. Their success creates a ripple effect, expanding to their families because when you impact one person, you impact an entire family.

Nathalie Cadet
Administrator of Fanm Deside, a women’s rights organization based in Jacmel (Southeast, Haiti)

HIGHLIGHTS

$1,060,000
As of August 14, 2022, Ayiti Demen and FOKAL have raised $1,060,000, of which 15% are pledged donations.

35
Our approach is community-oriented. We have distributed 85% of the money raised to 35 local organizations in south Haiti to implement projects for their constituents. (20 in the South, 7 in the Nippes, 4 in the South East, and 4 in the Grand’Anse region)

23,500+
Our impact is both immediate and lasting. Over 23,500 families’ victims of the disaster—an estimated 100,000 people—received food, drinking water, medical supplies, building materials to repair roofs, and cash to purchase seeds, livestock, food, and school supplies.

We provide financial support to seven sustainable projects in the earthquake-affected region. Here are some examples: rice farming by women’s organizations, coffee production by farmers and a social enterprise

$30,000
We also make art & culture a priority, even in times of disaster. With a $30,000 grant from the William Talbott Hillman Foundation, we provide immediate and long-term support to ten individual artists and four artists’ associations through le Centre d’Art.

Our post-earthquake program is transitioning to rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. The focus is now on three specific areas: fostering a solidarity-based economy, supporting small social enterprises, and providing infrastructure services.

Following requests from members of the communities and organization leaders, we are preparing to launch a project to build six multi-purpose community centers that can be used for recreational activities, public meetings, social support, training program, or storage facilities. The community centers will be erected in 6 rural towns affected by the earthquake (See map below).

$600,000
Our fundraising goal this year is $600,000. This money will partly fund the construction of the community centers and support ten small social enterprises to improve economic productivity and job creation.

The FOKAL-Haiti Earthquake Relief program is transitioning to rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. As such, this is our last Situation Report on the relief work, but you can continue to receive updates on this next phase through our newsletter. Please sign up here to receive quarterly or semestrial updates and stories: Get Involved — AYTIDEMEN (ademen.org)

Previous Earthquake Relief reports are available on our website: Situation Report #3 — AYTIDEMEN (ademen.org)
One year after the earthquake of **August 14, 2021**, the situation in Haiti remains fragile. The Fund for Peace has ranked Haiti as the 11th most fragile country in the world in 2022. The communities visited still face multiple needs: access to drinking water, health care, housing, food, etc. Despite the difficulties of the field, insecurity being the most significant threat, the teams of the Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty (FOKAL) and Ayiti Demen have managed to support tens of thousands of families. They were also able to visit projects in areas that are difficult to access without a real government presence. This report presents our year of mobilization based on our Emergency Response Strategy and some of our interventions with local partners. The map above identifies the different cities of interventions.

**PHASE I: RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY**

During the first phase of our intervention, FOKAL’s local partners delivered a preliminary needs assessment in the earthquake-affected communities. The needs were enormous as the earthquake struck every sector of these communities: people lost family members and friends, houses and office spaces, goods, hundreds of hectares of crops, and heads of livestock. **2,220 deaths. 12,200 injured. 100,000 houses** were either destroyed or damaged. FOKAL was able to support **31 organizations** of smallholder farmers, women, and grassroots organizations. These organizations distributed cash to the victims of the earthquake or bought pieces of equipment for their farms. Funds went toward buying:
• medical supplies and hygiene kits for mobile clinics

• tarpaulins and tools for temporary reparations

• purchase of livestock and support to women-led small businesses
• and paying labor for removing rocks and dirt from important irrigation channels
Ayiti Demen received a grant from the Willman Tallbott Hillman Foundation to support Le Centre d’art’s network in the south of Haiti. Many artists have lost family members and seen their artistic spaces damaged by the earthquake. Historical and religious sites as well have been damaged or destroyed: 200 catholic churches were destroyed and 150 others were damaged, around 350 protestant churches were also destroyed. Private and public cultural properties are still at risk a year after the earthquake. This grant helped to provide immediate and long-term support to 10 artists and craftspeople and 4 artists’ associations and movements to resume their activities and repair their workshop in the area.

Ayiti Demen and FOKAL visited the region three months later to assess the initial impact of the emergency grants. The exchanges with the different organizations reinforced our willingness to commit to long-term support because the needs were and still are numerous.

You can read the story about the Canal d’Avezac and our efforts to operationalize this important agricultural infrastructure that serves over 4,000 families in the South: Bringing water back to farmer’s communities – AYITIDEMEN (ademen.org)
A MORE SUSTAINED APPROACH TO RECOVERY

7 Agricultural and Livestock Projects in Seven Cities

Four months later, while our fundraising efforts were still ongoing, FOKAL initiated the second phase of its strategy: a longer-term investment in the affected communities in food production (intervening in the value chain of certain promising agricultural sectors), the development of other sectors (such as livestock and storage), water management, mutual aid networks, and the reconstruction of community centers. The following projects were approved in December 2021, March, and July 2022 to benefit 6,000 families:

- In Vieux Bourg d’Aquin (South), with the German Embassy, FOKAL supported a local organization to repair the villages drinking water reserve, following authorization from the Aquin City Council and the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The project includes the replacement of pipes in the sections damaged by the earthquake, the construction of protective structures, training, and awareness raising. The system serves 10 localities in the commune of Aquin with more than 4,000 inhabitants.

- In Jacmel (Southeast), a small partnership business with local farmers received financial support to re-launch the coffee crop hit hard by Cyclone Grace in the Southeast. Through this project, small coffee growers from 5 associations in the region will receive support for the sale of their production. Also, their damaged storage spaces will be repaired.
• In Chardonnières (South, Haiti), a grant was allotted to a local sustainable development organization to contribute to the recovery of the organization which lost its training and storage center, and its arbors to sustain the grapes, and its vineyard irrigation system. This project is ongoing.

• A project to strengthen the agricultural activities in Jeremie and Corail (Grand’Anse, Haiti) including the distribution of seed kits, agricultural tools (machetes and pickaxes), the distribution of sheep, the purchase of a rice mill, the installation of a solar pump to supply water to a school and the repair of the organization’s hydraulic system.

• In Cavaillon, FOKAL supports a local organization through a project of recapitalization of farmers. The organization will distribute pea and maize seeds, sheep, cabrils, and oxen to more than a hundred farmers and train more than fifty on suitable breeding methods and seed storage. This project is ongoing.
BUILDING MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTERS TO STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONS CAPACITY AND BETTER COMMUNITY LIFE

Following requests from communities and local organizations, FOKAL is preparing to build several community centers in rural areas. FOKAL hopes to complete about 10 centers in total. Thanks to a special grant from the Open Society Foundations, six community centers will be erected in rural towns affected by the earthquake (See map). Another one in Desarmes will be built with a special grant from the Soka Gakkai Foundation in Italy. The communities are offering the land they own to construct these facilities. These centers will serve as workspaces for the member organizations of the FOKAL network, meeting rooms for cultural activities of the community’s youth and meetings of other organizations upon request, and storage space for seeds. Each Community Center will also have a dormitory to receive visitors.

The design of the community centers includes an innovative and sustainable approach based on information gathered from associations and the community, as well as research on vernacular architecture in rural Haiti. Ayiti Demen will continue its fundraising efforts to support FOKAL in building the 10 community centers.
FOCUS: ON THE FIELD

Haitian farmers have sold their coffee at the wrong price. A local company is changing that.

With funding support from FOKAL and Ayiti Demen in 2021, Café-Lux, a social enterprise, can offer thousands of Haitian farmers better prices for their coffee beans and training in farming techniques to grow quality products.

Beniton Maglore, a farmer in his sixties, has been immersed in coffee for as long as he can remember. Not only is it the drink that kicks off his day every morning, but coffee growing has also been his family’s main subsistence activity. "As a kid, I would go to the farm with my mom every June, and she taught me everything about coffee."

So, it did not take Beniton long to figure out that he would become a coffee farmer. At only eighteen, he was already raising his crops. "Coffee is really what allowed me to get into business," he says. He now harvests some 250 pounds of coffee beans a year on his own piece of land in Jacmel, one of the most forested parts of Haiti.

Coffee farming has historically played a vital role in the Haitian economy. In the mid-20th century, Haiti was the world's third largest exporter of coffee, and thousands of Haitian families rely on it as their primary source of income. The mountainous configuration of the land offers ideal environmental conditions to grow arabica, the world’s best coffee quality, in Haiti.

However, despite their hard labor, small farmers like Beniton have long struggled to enjoy the full benefit of the coffee trade. When Haiti was forced to pay $560 million for the “independence debt” to France between 1825 and 1947, these funds largely came from charges imposed on coffee farmers. In addition, speculators often underprice their products and resell them at substantially higher prices in the international market. Baffled by this unfair practice—among other challenges, many farmers decide to replace coffee with vegetable crops, hoping to improve their economic opportunities.

Remy Telfils, an agricultural engineer who also grew up in a coffee-growing family, thought he would change that. So, fresh out of college, he started in 2013 Café-Lux, a social enterprise that specializes in the production and marketing of roast coffee.

"I wanted to create new opportunities for these farmers by purchasing their coffee beans at a better price so they can find decent revenues to provide education to their children and feed their families," says Remy. So far, we are on the right path."

Café-Lux operates with a network of more than 10,000 coffee growers; Beniton has been a member for four years. The farmers receive an advance payment to sustain their needs during the production cycle, which can last up to five years.
But weather hazards are such a threat to coffee production in Haiti. When the tropical storm Grace hit the southeast of Haiti last year, Remy was a front-line witness to the devastation. "Many farms were destroyed, equipment was lost, and sites of farmers’ associations collapsed," he recounts. But we are building back now."

With the money raised as part of their relief campaign last year, FOKAL and Ayiti Demen offered a grant to Café-Lux so the company and the farmers could resume their activities. That funding, Remy thinks, makes a world of difference. "We bought a giant coffee grinder, coffee packages, and equipment to produce seedlings for coffee farmers," he says.

Last year, Café-Lux produced about 10,000 pounds of coffee, most of which was sold as ground coffee or beans to different stores in Port-a-Prince, according to the CEO. The company has made its debut on the international market with some distribution in Canada and the United States and an exhibition sale in Germany.

But much more remains to be done. Remy says Café-Lux wants to repair the storage site and purchase an electronic coffee bean sorter to increase production capacity. "If coffee was used to pay the independence debt, that means it has a lot of value. Coffee can really bring money to the farmers and boost the country’s economy, but we need to give them resources so they can expand their production."

It is thanks to coffee that Beniton can raise a family of six children, some of whom are now college graduates. But more than just an economic activity, coffee growing, as he sees it, is also a tool to foster dialogue and social cohesion. "When we work together as farmers, we develop friendships, share ideas, and much more."
**FUNDRAISING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

FOKAL and Ayiti Demen acknowledge the efforts of Haitians in Haiti and abroad who led a campaign of information and awareness about the need to support local and grassroots organizations in times of crisis. This approach has been reinforced by international organizations, large and small businesses, and individuals who promoted our work and contributed to our fundraising efforts. To date, FOKAL and Ayiti Demen have raised over **$1,061,000** from individual donors, foundations, and enterprises all over the world. **15%** of this amount is pledged and has not yet been obtained. FOKAL and Ayiti Demen express their gratitude to:

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Improving lives in Haiti by empowering local communities

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Make a Paypal transfer to info@ademen.org

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Double your donation on our website, find your employer!

[www.ademen.org/donate/](http://www.ademen.org/donate/)

DONATE

Moving forward, we are hoping to raise $600,000 this year to build five (3) community centers which will be available for local communities and organizations and provide funding to 10 small social enterprises so they could expand their production capacity.

Here are a few ways you can donate:

Make a donation online here : [ademen.org/donate](http://ademen.org/donate)

Call us at: 1 347 506 1158 or +1 347 352 1955.

Text ReBuildHT to 44321 (if you are in the United States).
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