

FALL 2016



productive cooperatives HAITI



*What to do
when disaster happens?*



The Foundation for International Development Assistance
Fondation pour le soutien du développement international



WHEN DISASTER HAPPENS

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FIDA/pCH has been active in Haiti since 1984. While we are not in the business of relief, we have had considerable experience over the last few decades as to what is required of us to respond appropriately and effectively to ensure fair and equitable distribution without creating violence. As aid, once again descends on Haiti, we have prayed that past mistakes are not repeated and that respectable and appropriate strategies have developed from lessons learned. Haitians have a general mistrust of aid agencies. It is important to consider not *what* is given but *how* it is being given.

Our 10-member team assessed 3,012 households (14,828 people) in the Duchity area. 1776 are children under the age of five who are at great risk of malnutrition and disease. The situation is heartbreaking. The people who suffered from the hurricane have lost absolutely everything. They have no place to sleep, no water to drink or to bathe or wash what clothes they have left. Their crops are lost. They have no food. They have no schools, nor church, no place to gather to heal themselves. Our team reports that many have lost their memory or are psychologically traumatized. We are their only source of help. While we are grateful to have received short term funding from our partners, so much more is needed to restore their lives and livelihoods.

While many organizations are advocating the need for long term food relief, discussions with the cooperative leaders and pCH staff reflected the unanimous view that at this time assistance should not be planned for longer than three months. They expressed the opinion that, while food assistance is desperately needed, the recipients should not become dependent on it and efforts need to be maintained towards developing proactive methods for the villagers to increase their food security situation.

Prior to the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, Duchity was a thriving agricultural community where FIDA/pCH established three cooperatives comprising over 3000 members. With your help, it can be so again...



We continue to see and experience disorganized and chaotic distribution as aid trucks arrive with no plan and planes are guarded by gun-toting security. This approach has already ended in death in some communities. It doesn't have to be so.

Here is the FIDA/pcH strategy in responding to disaster:

1. Show up
2. Listen
3. Plan with the (cooperative) leaders (who know the needs of their community)
4. Assess the needs (for appropriate distribution) and document accordingly
5. Deliver on the plan with order, respect and efficiency

We invest exclusively in developing local leadership through the business model of cooperative. All of these cooperatives are engaged in agricultural activity. Because of the relationship of trust and respect that has been established with these cooperatives, we are expected to be the “first responders” delivering aid, hygiene, food kits and tarps followed by support in restoring homes and gardens.

The distribution can be completed in a fair and equitable manner because of the values and principles that cooperatives are trained in such as: democracy, participation, gender equity, accountability and transparency. We are proud of the leadership these cooperatives provide in their communities and appreciative of our donors and partners whose investment continues to be affirmed.

They are exemplary in honoring the Seventh Principle of Cooperative: Concern for Community.

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World Renew and Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) partner with pcH in response to Hurricane Matthew



Each kit contains:

- 6 pounds of beans
- 11 pounds of rice
- 1.5 L of cooking oil
- 1 K canned salmon
- 5 packages of spaghetti



On the morning of Tuesday, October 4, Hurricane Matthew struck the southwest coast of Haiti. Matthew is the third strongest hurricane ever recorded in Haiti and the worst Category 4 to hit the country in the past 52 years. Winds up to 240 km/hour barreled into southern coastal towns causing major damage to homes, schools and other public buildings. Between 50 and 100 centimetres of rain were recorded across the southern Peninsula, which combined with the storm surge, caused major flooding across the entire region.

World Renew, a recently active partner with FIDA/pcH immediately provided funding allowing our team to deliver food kits for 450 families of cooperatives.

"In our response to Hurricane Matthew, it quickly became clear that a partnership with pcH was the way to go. Why? pcH/FIDA had excellent relationships with three agriculture cooperatives in the one of the hardest hit areas, (Duchity, Grande Anse), and this existing relationship is critical for success in a disaster response project."

*- Ken Little, Senior Project Manager
International Disaster Response, World Renew*



"I believe, for over 30 years, pCH has been working hard to cultivate trusting relationships in the communities using the most efficient cooperative model. Cooperatives allow people to fully participate in the transformation process of their community." - Troy Sanon, Country Director, World Renew

In the weeks following several site visits were made to the target area and discussions were held with leaders of the three agricultural cooperatives in Duchity as well as the Mayor of the Commune of Pestel and the local Kaseks (elected neighborhood representatives). These discussions led to specific recommendations to help the community restore as quickly as possible such as: seed sufficient to plant approximately one acre of corn and thirteen-100 foot rows of beans.

It is agreed that assistance will be provided for a period of three months, at which time it is anticipated that farmers will be in a position to harvest the corn and beans that are distributed and planted at the start of this project. The three cooperatives of Fon Batis which participated in a drought resistant bean seed pilot in 2015 and had an unprecedented harvest this past June tendered a bid to provide seed to the three cooperatives in Duchity. These cooperatives were able to provide eight tonnes (8000 Kg) of Lore 249 bean seed. What a great testament of cooperatives supporting other cooperatives in this country!

World Renew through Canada Food Grains Bank is undertaking this particular relief/recovery initiative. Together, we believe that, in time, the 3000 members and families of the Duchity cooperatives and their communities will be restored to health and agricultural productivity.



To ensure safe arrival of the kits:

A bus was chosen so that the kits would not be visible and that it would appear that we might be transporting people. The bus and the driver were familiar in the area and so not viewed as “foreign aid” coming in which Haitians mistrust and then mob and loot.



**HOPE International
Development Agency**

Facilitated by Hope International Development Agency (HIDA), FIDA/pcH received a relief grant from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation to support the most vulnerable families to meet their basic needs in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

Additional contributions from World Accord, Crossroads Christian Communications, Rotary Clubs and other significant donors will be invested in water centers in areas that have no access to water.

SUPPORT

AFTER

HURRICANE

MATTHEW





Cooperative Membership Leaps as Literacy Program is Launched

When FIDA/pcH introduced literacy to the members of cooperatives in Duchity following the 2010 earthquake, we anticipated about 500 of the estimated 750 members would participate. What evolved exceeded all expectations. Over 3000 men and women joined cooperative and nearly 1400 graduated from the literacy program three years later.

LITERACY

PROGRAM

LAUNCHED

This past August, we announced that a literacy program would begin in the area of Zoranger where FIDA/pcH had recently established three new cooperatives. Upon receiving this news, the membership of one cooperative went from 50 members to 287 shareholding members (a 500 % increase!). We have already exceeded our plan for only 300 participants with about 580 men and women signed up and eager for this previously unimagined opportunity to learn. We must open 10 more centers immediately!



Please consider helping us to meet this challenge for these highly motivated members of Zornager...



Patrick Bentrott, Executive Director FIDA, US
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The first images out of Haiti after Hurricane Matthew told the story: the southwest tip of the country was basically destroyed. Those on the ground, including FIDA/pch staff, quickly confirmed that the damage from the storm was devastating. The majority of homes, crops and livestock in the area were lost. Many Haitians living in the southwest peninsula were left with the reality of having to rebuild their lives from scratch.

Having lived through the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, it was especially painful to see the pictures of destroyed homes and to know that Haitians were suffering yet again.

I tried to convey to my friends, family and supporters of FIDA what I was seeing and hearing from our staff and others who were on the ground post-hurricane. It seemed both robotic and callous to post pictures on Facebook of homes destroyed by the hurricane. But that is what I did. I showed the destruction. I told stories about what our staff was seeing on the ground in Duchity, and what FIDA's plan was for assisting farmers in this community that were left with nothing. I put it all out there and the response was profound. People with no connection to Haiti, or even to me personally, donated to FIDA to help with our relief efforts. Friends, family and mere acquaintances reached out wanting to know more about what the situation was in Haiti and how they could get involved. One individual that I had never met donated an original painting worth \$800 for our silent auction in hopes of making a difference in the lives of Haitians. Another person sent me a note just to say she was thinking of the people of Haiti and praying for FIDA's presence there in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. I was overwhelmed by the generosity, concern and sense of connectedness that I saw from so many people. As I think about this experience I am reminded of a favorite quote from Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield, *"Always remember to put your trust in compassion."* I am fortunate to know countless people who embody this truth!

Thank you to all those who have connected with the Haitian people and the work of FIDA in 2016! Your support is appreciated not only during times of disaster, but always!

Peace, love and a heartfelt "thank you" to you all!



Now you can register your debit card on Changelt, and whenever you shop, your debit card purchases will be rounded up and automatically directed to FIDA. You can place limits on how much you donate each month. Changelt passes 100% of your donation to FIDA and issues you a tax receipt annually. Go to www.changeitcanada.com to sign up and start donating!



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