

The social solidarity economy in Haiti

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CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR

**Development
and Peace**



"In my neighborhood, I'm one of the few young people with a job. Given my experience with and knowledge of poultry farming, I'm highly respected by the villagers and I very often give them advice on how to raise their hens."

Grégory Célestin, farm worker, Agrisol

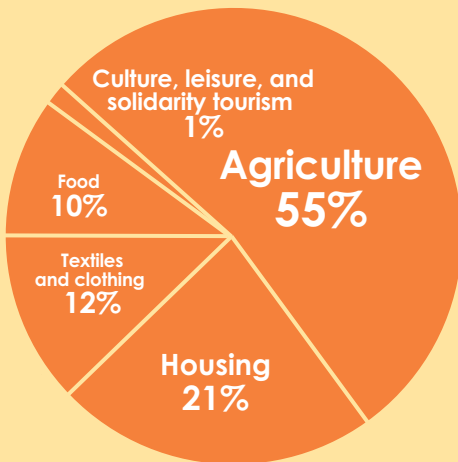


The social solidarity economy (SSE) program is the final phase of the reconstruction program led by Development and Peace in Haiti, following the violent earthquake that struck the island on January 12, 2010. It complements the organization's work with its local partners in the areas of economic and social development, as well as food sovereignty. Through its SSE program in Haiti, Development and Peace intends to contribute to community development, citizen participation, a more democratic economy, and the financial autonomy of local organizations.

Development and Peace is supporting its local partners in starting and managing social enterprises. As such, these organizations can transition from being recipients of funding to generating their own revenue. In addition, this economic model allows communities that have traditionally been excluded from credit programs to access financial resources and the necessary technical support for creating sustainable and dynamic enterprises.



BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC MODEL THAT IMPROVES THE LIVES OF COMMUNITIES



The social enterprises have been created in a variety of sectors, but are mostly related to agriculture.

\$3 million
budget

657 jobs created
(138 direct + 519 indirect)

81%
women



“The henhouse is very useful for all women in the community. Our Haitian chickens are cheaper than those from elsewhere, so merchants are able to make more profits, which enables them to send their children to school. And the women who buy the hens save money. It’s a win-win situation for everyone, and our spending power increases.”

Adonis Medjine, inspector, Bon Poul



Departments where
social and solidarity
enterprises have
been created
with the support of
Development and Peace



BUYING LOCAL FOOD SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE IN HAITI AND ENSURES QUALITY PRODUCTS

A dozen social enterprises, that have been recognized by the government, have been created as part of the SSE program being put in place by Development and Peace. The program's primary objective is to reduce dependency on imported food products and to develop permanent income for the most vulnerable. The profits generated by social enterprises are reinvested in the activities of local organizations and primarily benefit small-scale farmers, as well as female victims of violence.

In the **Artibonite, Centre, Ouest and Sud-Est** departments, the program has helped support and develop the local poultry industry by setting up henhouses

that supply eggs and broiler chickens to surrounding markets as well as to certain hotels in Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital.

In the departments of the Nord-Est, the program is supporting the creation of an agricultural park to help small-scale organic coffee growers sell their products locally, and on the international fair trade market. In the department of **Grand-Anse**, the program is supporting a social enterprise founded and managed by women that is processing manioc. In the Ouest and Sud-Est departments, two bakeries are being supported, as well as a fruit processing plant in **Les Nippes**.

THE SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMY: A LEVER THAT BREAKS THE CYCLE OF DEPENDENCY

The social solidarity economy is a real force of change that brings together organizations producing goods and services of great social value.

The SSE program has six objectives:

- ☛ Promoting the creation of permanent jobs with greater participation of young people and women;
- ☛ Supporting the development of local agricultural producers;
- ☛ Promoting food sovereignty, and supporting the development of national production and the marketing of products;
- ☛ Strengthening good governance and the effective use of management tools within social enterprises;
- ☛ Fostering the financial autonomy of local organizations; and
- ☛ Establishing a Haitian SSE network.



DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has been working in Haiti since 1972 and supports vulnerable populations in their efforts to become self-sufficient. Together, we can build a better world, founded on values of social justice, equity, responsibility and solidarity. Through this SSE program, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is helping to create better living conditions for the marginalized and to establish favourable conditions for human-centred socio-economic development.



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11882 9902 RR0001