



Conference Proceedings

5th Haiti Funders Conference: Meeting This Moment June 12-14, 2023, Washington, D.C

Organized by:



The 5th Haiti Funders Conference: Meeting this Moment

Amid deepening crises and ballooning humanitarian need, the 5th Haiti Funders Conference brought investors, funders, donors, diaspora and nonprofit leaders and other Haiti stakeholders together to strategize about how to meet this moment and best support the Haitian people and Haitian-led forces for change. Recognizing that the unsustainable situation in Haiti today presents an opportunity, the conference embraced the theme that change must happen and philanthropy can play a pivotal role in Haiti's resurgence with strategic investments now.

180 attendees representing 123 organizations were able to participate in the event, which featured 57 speakers (70% of whom are Haitian) leading and facilitating 22 plenary and breakout sessions and several keynote addresses.

Our discussions were grounded in the difficulties of the current situation and informed by the experience and expertise of our speakers, but the focus of the program was not on how to adapt to or emerge from the current crisis. Rather, our focus was on how philanthropy and development assistance can better address the root causes of Haiti's crises and achieve better results than we have in the past. We focused on learning the lessons of what has not worked in the past and studying successful models of partners working with communities to outpace poverty.

These conference proceedings summarize the plenary sessions and breakout conversations. One speaker aptly summed up the feeling overall:

“Two words came out in every conversation here: collaboration and partnership. Because we have a duty to do better than in the past and our collective brain here is powerful. We can do better than what the world is doing now in Haiti.”

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The **Haiti Funders Conference** series aims to increase the amount and impact of philanthropy directed to supporting sustainable economic and social development in Haiti by supporting actors currently investing in Haiti and encouraging new ones to enter the field. This highly participatory Conference brings an engaged community of funders and experts together to:

- learn about success stories and consult with peers on challenges,
- hear from experts on the current political and economic situation and what it means for development efforts,
- build relationships for coordination and collaboration, and
- learn about significant initiatives where integrated investments can achieve systemic impact.

The Haiti Funders Conference is held bi-annually. Please follow haitidevelopmentforum.org for updates on the next Conference.

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JUNE 12, 2023 DAY 1 - WELCOME

EVENING RECEPTION WELCOME REMARKS

Pierre Noel, Executive Director of Haiti Development Institute (HDI), welcomed everyone on behalf of the conference organizers, HDI and Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL), and thanked the event's sponsors. He introduced HDI, whose mission is to build communities by empowering the local social community organizations that are breaking the cycle of poverty in Haitian communities by providing resources and accompaniment. HDI also creates spaces to bring people together to envision and build the communities they want to live in.

He noted that the funders and actors in the room have varied approaches, and many have achieved some successes, which we will examine in the coming days, but suggested we all must acknowledge that the system for providing development aid in Haiti writ large is broken. He believes the most impactful and sustainable role for philanthropy is to accompany communities for the long-term with integrated, holistic and mutually reinforcing supports.

Pierre introduced **Karen Keating Ansara**, Founder of the Ansara Family Fund at the Boston Foundation and the Network of Engaged International Donors, Board member of HDI Emerita and long-standing and devoted Haiti funder, to deliver a Welcome Address.

Our work is to support courageous and trailblazing leaders in their fight to support their communities, as we believe the ideas and thinking required to transform lives already exist in remote communities all over. When we connect the bright ideas of strong local leadership with appropriate resources, we can create profound social impact.

Karen said it is good to be with so many partners who are truly torchbearers of hope for Haiti. She explained that we started holding these conferences in 2013 because we realized that private funders could be so much more effective in Haiti if we put our heads together with other donors and with leaders from Haiti and the Haitian Diaspora. Over the years we have come to believe we also need to put our hearts together – because (as we all know) staying committed to Haiti is not for the faint of heart. She quoted: *“Hopelessness is an excuse for the privileged... We don't have the privilege of being hopeless. We must fight back.”* Being an ally to the Haitian people means hanging on to hope at all costs.

Our most important job as funders is to amplify [Haitians'] hope by showing up for them.

“Our job as supporters and allies is to come alongside Haitian activists fighting for democracy, come alongside Haitian farmers feeding their communities, and come alongside Haitian women giving birth to a new and innocent generation. After all, Haitian villagers are still forming coops. Nurses and doctors are still healing patients. Teachers are still training teachers and instilling hope in their tender students. For all these people who will not give up, our most important job as funders is

to amplify their hope by showing up for them.”

Danielle Legros Georges performed a moving reading of several poems, both her own and others', including this one:

Poem for the Poorest Country In the Western Hemisphere

O poorest country, this is not your name.
You should be called beacon and flame,

almond and bougainvillea, garden
and green mountain, villa and hut,

little girl with red ribbons in her hair,
books-under-arm, charmed by the light

of morning, charcoal seller in black skirt,
encircled by dead trees.

You, country, are the businessman
and the eager clerk, the grandfather

at the gate, at the crossroads
with the flashlight, with the light,

with the light.

Danielle Legros Georges

JUNE 13, 2023 DAY 2 - PLENARY SESSIONS

KEYNOTE - THE COUNTRY SITUATION: HOW CAN PHILANTHROPY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WAY FORWARD?

By The Honorable Michele Pierre-Louis, President, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL) and Prime Minister of Haiti from 2008-2009

Co-Master of Ceremonies **Yvens Rumbold** opened the session and shared a video from FOKAL on agriculture in rural communities. The video emphasized the importance of long-term investment in rural communities - learn from, listen to, and respect local producers and farmers.

HDI Board Chair **Delle Joseph** welcomed the participants to the Conference and affirmed the attendees' commitment to Haiti. He introduced the Honorable Michele Pierre-Louis, the President and Founder of FOKAL, as the keynote speaker.

The Honorable Michele Pierre-Louis noted that we all know the current situation on the ground in Haiti and the many challenges. Yet, she observed that there are great challenges in countries across the world, not just in Haiti. The fracture between the rich and the poor has increased and is straining the social fabric. At the same time, hard work, resistance, community engagement, and hope exist in Haiti. She encouraged the audience to learn about and celebrate Pockets of Hope – where communities have experienced success.

“We must build on mobilizing educated young people to create a new generation of women and men who can project their future in the country because they foresee a positive horizon rather than being tempted by humanitarian parole or another mirage. We are working with people; we are not working with numbers! We are working with people, and they have their intelligence and their experience. In many ways, they know much more than we do. There is another side of Haiti, in the peaceful moments of our work - resistance, solidarity, a world of care, learning, community engagement, and good causes - but also radical joy and hope.”

What about collaboration? This is probably the most difficult objective, but it is also a condition to achieving systemic change.

She encouraged attendees to think more about impact investing, environmental protection, and respecting local knowledge and experiences. She urged greater focus on the public sector and engaging municipal officials in the work. She observed that there is nothing wrong with attempting to measure impact, but when it is elevated to the most important thing, something fundamental is lost. She also urged practitioners and funders to take risks.

DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN HAITI HAVE CONSISTENTLY FAILED. HOW CAN WE SHIFT COURSE?

Panelists:

The Honorable Michele Pierre-Louis, President, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL)

Lorraine Mangones, Executive Director, FOKAL

Dana François, Program Officer for Family Economic Security Haïti, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Andre Prosper Raymond, Country Director, DKH/LWF/NCA

What do we need to do to change philanthropy? Fundamentally, we need to focus on collaboration and inclusion - who gets to decide what impact is. Many of us want to collaborate, yet it is difficult to find time to meet and do effective collaboration. People have to be at the center of the project, and too often numbers are seen as more important than people. This is a problem. We should map who is doing what where, to try to reduce duplication.

Three key insights from the session:

1. The perception that so much money is wasted in Haiti with lack of results is unfair and harmful because it causes Haiti fatigue among donors. Studies demonstrate that aid policy for Haiti is different than for other low-income countries because it focuses more on humanitarian aid and less on development. There is too little money invested in the productive sector. Scale is an issue as well – there is too little money invested in the challenges at hand.
2. The diaspora is a complex network that supports individuals and families in Haiti. Remittances amount to over \$3 billion a year. A 2019 report demonstrated that remittances account for 32% of the GDP and represent ten times more than international aid. Over 70% of remittances come from the U.S. Remittances positively impact the lives of recipients, affect life expectancy, and allow people to respond to risks/challenges. Yet, remittances fund consumption of imported goods and services, not production. Not enough money is invested in production and economic development.
3. Inclusion, transparency, empowerment; sustainability, rule of law, democracy, racial equity – do we in philanthropy share the same understanding of these terms? We need to admit failures and learn lessons from them. In philanthropy, we are reliant on foreign dollars.

Coordination is the key to development and while we have a lot of small-scale coordination, we need to do more.

We need to invest in civil society organizations, but we need to invest in the public sector too.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Haiti is a net importer of the most necessary goods. Partnering with universities in Haiti and abroad can help develop adaptive technologies to create livelihoods and contribute to the economy.
2. Philanthropists need to remember that NGOs are working with people; they are not just numbers, and they know much more than we do.
3. Systemic change needs time, proximity (must be on the ground), and long-term investment.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

- Encourage greater collaboration among funders as well as practitioners.
- Local organizations need capacity building, not just projects.

UNDERSTANDING THE DONOR EXPERIENCE – FEEDBACK AND INSIGHTS FROM DONORS

Panelists:

Karen Ansara, Co-Founder/Fund Advisor, Ansara Family Fund at the Boston Foundation

Jennifer Oakley, Program Partner, Imago Dei Fund

Bennett Rathbun, Program Officer for International Philanthropy, Pilot House Philanthropy

Moderator: Pierre Imbert, Ayiti Community Trust

Institutions matter, people matter, and community driven development matters. Working in silos has not advanced us.

There are a multiplicity of funders with different missions, identities and approaches, and Haiti needs all of them. There are empathy-driven donors, social change donors, feminist donors, infrastructure donors, values-based donors, and trust-based donors. Trust-based donors understand the pressures on grantees – they streamline requirements and give multi-year grants. It is challenging for donors to invest in markets when gangs control roads and credit is limited. Social change and feminist funders are in it for the long term and to change the systems. Philanthropy is not a monolith.

The paradigm shift must start with donors. Donors can't expect impact if the pace doesn't work for the community.

Most donors cannot directly fund the public sector. However, donors can ask how our grantees work with the public sector – and that factor can affect funding decisions.

Three key insights from the session:

1. The paradigm shift needs to start with donors. Donors can't expect impact if the pace doesn't work for the community – it is up to us as donors to take this on.
2. More peer-to-peer learning occurred among grantees when Imago Dei transitioned to trust-based philanthropy, and they were able to foster a less competitive environment among practitioners. Unrestricted and three-year grants encouraged grantees to be more creative and it was a game-changer.
3. Funders should try to reduce the power dynamic in their day-to-day relationships with grantees. If the funder can create a safe space in the relationship for grantees, she or he can get to a place of more generative, productive learning.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Funders can play a greater role in promoting Haiti for investment. Funders need to take an asset-based approach with our peers.
2. We know it is challenging to bring donors to Haiti right now. Practitioners need to bring the country and community to donors through other means, such as videos.
3. Funders can learn a great deal from diaspora communities – help make those connections.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: The panel advised that an organization called Keep the Spark Alive provides funds to prevent burn-out and help great leaders continue their hard work.

DIVERSIFIED PHILANTHROPY: EXPLORING TOOLS AND HOW THEY CAN WORK IN HAITI – “IMPACT-FIRST” INVESTING, DIB, PRI, RECOVERABLE GRANTS

Panelists:

Jean-Emmanuel Desmornes, Discovery Officer, IDB Lab, Inter-American Development Bank
Jay Dunn, Executive Director, Dunn Family Charitable Foundation / DF Impact Capital
Dana François, Program Officer for Family Economic Security Haïti, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Amie Patel, Partner, Elevar Equity

Bennett Rathbun, Program Officer for International Philanthropy, Pilot House Philanthropy

Traditional philanthropy cannot fill all the gaps in Haiti. The panelists discussed additional types of financing tools. Blended finance means using development finance tools to bring in other sources of capital support that are less risk averse. Grants can be for technical assistance or provide accounting mechanisms for investors. Loans can be Program Related Investments (PRI) or IRIs; they can be lower-interest and/or longer-term. Donors don't have to be the IDB to do results-based investment.

The Soros Economic Development Fund was an active investor in post-conflict countries and looked to Haiti as a potential market and assessed different industries. The Association pour la Coopération avec la Micro Entreprise (ACME) has 50,000 borrowers in the country. They also looked at the garment industry in Port-au-Prince and in the North and tried to find entrepreneurs who needed capital that they could back. With equity – you are taking a risk and creating something new – what are your expectations as an investor? They tried with the fruit industry and it did not work. Lots of lessons learned.

With impact-first investing, there is less expectation of financial return and more tolerance for risk. At W.K. Kellogg Foundation, there is program grant making on one side of the house – the grants are investments, not charity, and there is an expectation that the intervention will yield successful results over time. There is also the program related investment (PRI) side of the house that can provide catalytic funding. There have been PRI investments in Haiti and in the U.S. (a \$300 million social impact bond to put more capital in communities in the U.S.) WKKF also gives out loans.

Impact-first starts with providing resources and skills for strong institutions. Without strong institutions, you won't have the needed results.

DF Impact Capital and WKKF have collaborated on projects. Acceso is promoting a business model to create market access in incredibly challenging contexts. Acceso agrees to buy high and sell low to create sustainability for the farmers. Grants can cover losses and take some risks off the table. In a blended finance initiative, DF Impact Capital provided a loan and WKKF provided a grant.

The IDB Lab was created to address gaps in the financing system, and has equity investments, a mix of grants and loans, and other diversified instruments. The IDB's mandate is to collaborate and leverage other partners to maximize the financing available. The IDB is launching pay for results contracts – it has been done in Latin America (Argentina, Uruguay, etc.) and is being adapted for Haiti. The IDB is very strategic about which sectors it invests in in the country.

Three key insights from the session:

1. There is an appetite to try new models because people know the status quo is not working. There is room for flexibility to adapt the financing instrument to the context, such as to Haiti, as well as the specific tool to the programmatic need.
2. Pay for results does add complexity and cost and can give practitioners pause. You have to have conversations early in the process about how you will define and measure results (impact).
3. An idea is great – but you need to have the right partners on the ground who understand the needs of the beneficiary to truly have an impact in Haiti. Think about how this helps a family's livelihood. Otherwise, the idea is just an idea and creative financing tools won't help.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. We all know the challenging context in Haiti. One of the key constraints to bringing innovative financing tools to Haiti is bringing the partners together for collaboration – partners have different timelines, agendas, etc. We must do more in terms of strengthening partnerships to fully leverage new financing tools.
2. Invest in people and learn from other people's experiences. If we can't upskill people, and empower them, we will not be successful. This is the biggest lesson – we must invest money in building people's capacity. You need to be highly knowledgeable and must have local partners if you are not operating on the ground. Creative financing tools have been used in many challenging contexts – do not re-invent the wheel.
3. Impact investing is not going to save us. We can't let the sexiness of impact investing cover the fact that local organizations, institutions, and people must be strong. You must provide the right resources at the scale needed so that local organizations can create strong and effective markets.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: We need to increase education with funders and investors so that they understand and can deploy impact investing and more creative financing tools.

UNPACKING HAITI NOW: INSIGHTS ON CURRENT EVENTS AND CONTEXT

Panelists:

Emmanuela Douyon, Founder, POLICITÉ

Louis-Henri Mars, Executive Director, Lakou Lapè

Kesner Pharel, Managing Owner, Group Croissance

Moderator, Régine Desulmé Polynice, Co-Founder, Caribbean Job Bank, HDI Board member

The session focused on dissecting Haiti's current situation and finding effective solutions. The panel identified key factors contributing to the country's struggles and discussed short and long-term solutions.

Three key insights from the session:

1. The rise of gangs in Haiti has led to a breakdown of traditional institutions, with gangs assuming control over the police and judiciary in certain neighborhoods. This highlights the urgent need to address the root causes of violence and insecurity to restore stability.

2. Haiti's current situation results from various factors, including rigged elections, corruption, and a lack of strong social structures. These issues have restrained progress and contributed to the economic and political challenges faced by the country. High inflation exacerbates an already struggling economy.
3. The international community has played a role in Haiti's situation, with a lack of genuine engagement and a failure to prioritize the needs and voices of the Haitian people. Building stronger relationships and understanding the diverse issues different social groups face within Haiti is crucial for adequate support and progress.

To move forward in Haiti now, a grassroots approach, trauma healing, and political compromise are essential. We must dismantle the system of structural violence so the country can move forward without repeating the same things, and we must be aware of and transform the trauma we have been accumulating from generation to generation.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Short-term solutions must address the issue of gangs without resorting to violence, focus on creating permanent jobs within communities, and ensure fair and transparent elections once armed groups have been disarmed. This approach will help foster stability, economic growth, and a more inclusive democratic process.
2. Long-term solutions require a comprehensive approach that dismantles the existing system, restores democracy, and fosters good governance and security. Economic and political reforms should go hand in hand, creating an enabling environment for sustainable development.
3. The Haitian people must be at the center of any solutions and initiatives. Trauma healing, grassroots engagement, and a culture of political compromise are vital for fostering unity, healing divisions, and rebuilding the social fabric of Haiti. The international community should prioritize genuine collaboration and understanding of the Haitian context to support the country's progress effectively.

We need to restore democracy, to have good governance. We need security. We cannot move forward without good governance.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

There is an urgent need for unity and understanding among different classes within Haitian society. Participants recognized the deep divide between the bourgeoisie and marginalized communities and its detrimental impact on progress. To address this, efforts must be made to foster empathy and create platforms for dialogue that allow individuals from different classes to share their perspectives and experiences.

JUNE 13, 2023 - DAY 2 - SALON SESSIONS

THINKING DIFFERENTLY: EXPLORING VIABLE OPPORTUNITIES WHERE INVESTMENT CAN BE TRANSFORMATIVE RIGHT NOW

Facilitators:

Patrick Dessources, Executive Director, Centre d'Appui et de Services aux Entreprises Locales et Internationales (CASELI)

Gaston Jean, Founder, Association Originnaire de Grand Plaine, Haiti

Three key insights from the session:

1. The session highlighted the failures of the existing system in supporting actors involved in Haiti's development. It emphasized the urgent need for institutional funding and a shift towards alternative forms of investment, such as debt financing, to overcome the restricted funding landscape. The current business environment is ill-suited for attracting investment. Foreign direct investment has consistently accounted for less than 2% of Haiti's GDP. We need a complete overhaul of investment approaches, encompassing the entire system, including local businesses and rural communities.
2. Collaboration with the government is vital to effecting meaningful change in Haiti's investment landscape. The session emphasized that bypassing the government has proven ineffective in the past, highlighting the need for active engagement and partnership between public and private sectors.
3. The session explored the possibilities of leveraging blended finance models to maximize impact and sustainability. This innovative approach can help attract more resources.

It is important to direct investment and support towards local businesses and rural communities and recognize their potential in driving economic growth and reducing inequality.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. It is urgent to move beyond traditional models and explore alternative funding sources, such as debt financing and blended finance to overcome the investment gap and promote sustainable development.
2. Recognizing the potential of grassroots initiatives, the session advocated for greater support to peasants and local enterprises.
3. The main takeaway from the session is leveraging blended finance models and combining public and private funds to maximize impact and attract additional resources.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Facilitators:

Johnny Celestin, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE), Chair of Konbit for Haiti

Louino Robillard, Program Director, Rasin Devlopman Ayiti

The session focused on what children and youth need to become thriving and engaged citizens. It also focused on donor practices that should evolve to better support organizations on the ground to provide more holistic and intentional support to youth prepare the new generation of citizens.

Three key insights from the session:

1. Education of children and youth does not just happen in schools, although schools are fundamental. To become engaged citizens, youth need role models, connectedness, and opportunities in their communities and organizations. Children who have visibility into civics grow up to be engaged youth. "You have to learn to become a citizen."
2. Youth is not only the future of Haiti, but also the current majority. Young people need holistic support – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual – as well as knowledge. They also need to be given real opportunities to influence change; this requires organizations and community actors to work in a way that is intersectional and in collaboration with one another. This in turn requires donors to fund collaboration.

3. Civic engagement does not just happen – it requires intentionality and funding. Youth need opportunities to develop and practice the skills they need to be engaged citizens.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Donors and partners in Haiti’s development need to change their narrative and approach to stop thinking of Haiti as an aid country, but rather a country and people with great capacity.
2. Donors need to agree that some of the intangibles are just as important as things that you can attach a metric to. How do you measure healing from trauma? It takes time, even generations. Funding needs to be devoted to some things that don’t have clear metrics.
3. Collaboration among organizations is critical and takes time and money. We must re-allocate limited resources to collaboration and other entities. We need to improve coordination. We need to decentralize out of Port-au-Prince too.

Civic engagement does not just happen – it requires intentionality and funding. Youth need opportunities to develop and practice the skills they need to be engaged citizens.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

It is crucial to advocate and educate to achieve policy changes and meaningful funding for work with youth. Right now, there are so many little initiatives. We need to take it from the community to the national level, because the crisis is coming up. How will you rebuild the country once so many people have left?

LOCALIZATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, SYSTEMS CHANGE: WHAT DO THESE LOOK LIKE AND HOW DO I INCORPORATE THEM IN MY WORK?

Facilitators:

Pierre Noel, Executive Director, Haiti Development Institute

Rebecca Obounou, Network Engagement Officer, Network of Engaged International Donors

Localization has become a buzzword. Participants had varied definitions of localization: leadership, local privilege, empowerment, community identity, adaptation and flexibility, locally-led, community-driven, community-based organizations, opportunity, shared experience, diversity, reduced dependency, local initiative, local ownership, engagement of local resources and knowledge, on the ground, in the community, existing relationships, decolonization, capacity sharing and strengthening. As organizations, we need to come together with a clear definition and framework.

We must do more to correct the misconception that Haiti does not have capacity. Donors need to trust Haitians for localization to work.

The group felt that for localization to work, it is necessary for researchers to work hand in hand with government and local partners. We need to advocate for a shift from project-based to strategy-based funding. Also, funders need to develop tools to work with different organizations. For instance, grant money should not be given only to organizations with 501(c)3 status.

Three key insights from the session:

1. It is important to have a commonly accepted definition of localization grounded in a theory framework.
2. Development practitioners need to adopt a specific set of indicators to track impact.

3. Localization does not mean employing local people in an organization.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. More needs to be done to correct the misconception that Haiti does not have capacity. Donors need to trust Haitians for localization to work.
2. For localization to work, it is important to create an enabling environment. Strategic collaboration is paramount.
3. Donors need to acknowledge and accept quality over quantity.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: Development practitioners, academia, and government need to convene together and define a framework for localization.

PROPELLING HIGHER EDUCATION IN HAITI

Facilitators:

Conor Bohan, Founder, HELP

Gael Pressoir, Doyen de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Agriculture et de l'Environnement, Université Quisqueya

Moderator: Lorraine Mangones, Executive Director, FOKAL

Haiti must modernize its agriculture. Countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia, Korea did not start with information technology. They focused on agriculture first. It usually takes 15-20 years to double, triple agriculture production, which creates the capital for the other sectors. In Haiti, farmers are not producing for the large distributors, they are producing for *madan sara*. To develop agroindustry, we need to increase production. To do this, we must support farmers. Agriculture and agrifood business in the Dominican Republic is 16 billion USD and they are very protective of their market. Haiti can easily reach 4 billion USD in agrifood business.

Higher education has a crucial role to play in Haiti's economic development by performing research to support development of the agricultural sector.

Higher education has a crucial role to play in Haiti's economic development by performing research to support development of the agricultural sector and responsible agribusinesses. For example, Quisqueya University conducts research to bring solutions to farmers' problems, such as small scale mechanization, new crop varieties (based on farmers feedback, the team is improving sorghum), improved crop management, and new transformed products (e.g., couscous – a faster cooking food because gas and charcoal are expensive). A team of 16 researchers, 16 research assistants and over 100 people working at research facilities are promoting North-South and South-South collaborations, participatory research with growers and private companies and applied research.

In addition to academic offerings, Haitian universities need to support services. Students need dorms, counselling, career services, work experience and other services to have a meaningful learning experience. Students sometimes are left on their own. We need to engage students in their community, giving them the skills they need to run their businesses and in the long term their country.

PRIORITIZING EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PRACTICES & INITIATIVES IN HAITI

Facilitators:

Emie Michaud Weinstock, Board Member, Haiti Development Institute

Regine Desulme Polynice, Co-Founder, Caribbean Job Bank

Many people who live in Haiti are experiencing constant trauma due to relentless violence and disparities. There is a large gap in addressing mental health issues in Haiti. Haiti has a culturally rich heritage, rooted in joy and celebration. There is a lack of awareness in prioritizing and addressing the repeated traumas to mental health. There is a shortage of trained professionals to meet the needs of community members. Haiti has the highest rate of suicide in the region. There are issues with over-prescription of medications. Alcohol use and smoking have increased as well.

More needs to be done to address the mental health and trauma needs of community members. Unfortunately, the health budget in Haiti is small and the Ministry has little funding for mental health. While schools do not have curricula on mental health, there is a pilot program being implemented now. What's being done for mental health in Haiti needs to be communicated so we can build a stronger network and avoid duplication. How can we amplify successful practices and create new ones?

In Haiti, people are experiencing simultaneous economic and natural disasters, and political uncertainty, and yet, there is a shortage of trained professionals to meet mental health needs.

We need to start conversations about the secondary trauma that nonprofit staff are experiencing – do they have the resources and support they need? Practitioners also need to take care of their mental health.

Three key insights from the session:

1. We need to address mental health needs in rural communities, not just cities.
2. Hypertension is a real issue in Haiti that needs to be addressed, affecting both physical/mental health.
3. Mental health strategies need to consider Haitian culture and be adapted to be more relevant.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. We can't wait for the mental health structure 'to be built,' we need to start using konbit, radio stations, etc. to act. Think about single mothers in survival mode.
2. Mental health practitioners need to work with religious institutions and traditional healers. Enlist faith leaders to help us recognize issues and support community members.
3. We need to better understand generational trauma in Haiti and develop relevant strategies.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

- Share resources. Zanmi Lasante has developed curricula for trauma, depression, epilepsy, and post-partum depression. They have resources that they can share for community health workers and teachers.
- Map out who is funding mental health efforts. The Dalton Foundation's Haiti Health Network has mapped out some of the existing services.
- Start a Community of Practice and advocate for funding for research studies.

EDUCATION

Facilitator: Linda Thelemaque, Chief Program Officer, Hope for Haiti

This session focused on the pressing need for educational reform in Haiti, highlighting the need for increased awareness and proper funding to support the transition to Creole as the primary language of instruction. Participants discussed the crucial role that teachers play in the education system. Collaborative funding emerged as a key theme throughout the session. Participants delved into the complexities funders face and explored avenues for fostering greater collaboration. Funders also shared their perspectives, challenges, and successes in contributing to educational initiatives in Haiti. Through open dialogue, the participants discussed innovative solutions to overcome funding obstacles and maximize impact.

Three key insights from the session:

1. Limited resources and lack of professional development opportunities hinder teachers' ability to deliver quality education. Low salaries and limited career advancement opportunities contribute to teacher dissatisfaction and high turnover rates.
2. Transitioning to Creole as the primary language of instruction in the Haitian education system improves student engagement, enhances learning outcomes, strengthens parental involvement and facilitates teacher-student relationships. By using Creole, students can better understand and connect with the content, leading to improved academic performance and critical thinking skills.
3. It is important to gather data to effectively measure educational initiatives' impact though funding for data collection and evaluation is lacking. Innovative approaches should be developed that balance the need for reliable data with available resources.

Teachers have a critical role in the education system and there is a need for increased support and resources for them.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Empowering teachers through proper training, resources, and recognition is essential for improving Haiti's education quality.
2. Funders must work together, share knowledge, and pool resources to maximize the impact of their contributions to educational initiatives in Haiti.
3. Embracing collaboration as a catalyst for change in the Haitian education sector entails recognizing the power of metrics, sharing knowledge, and working together to address funding challenges.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: Ongoing collaboration, advocacy for the transition to Creole as the primary language of instruction, partnership seeking with international organizations and new funders, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms implementation.

HEALTH CARE

Facilitators:

Jocelyn Bresnahan, President and CEO, Saint Rock Haiti Foundation

Gerard Georges, Director of Architecture, Build Health International

The facilitators focused on how we can continue to progress toward the goal that health care is provided as a human right and at the highest level of quality in Haiti amid the myriad serious challenges facing practitioners on the ground. Kidnappings have been particularly challenging, and health care facilities are losing trained health care practitioners at an alarming rate. Due to insecurity, clients are afraid to travel to clinics or hospitals for services. Insecurity and its impact on staff retention is a huge challenge. And as some health care providers close, there are fewer services available and more pressure on the remaining health care providers. How can we mitigate the security issue? How do we fill in the gaps? It is a security issue – we cannot ask these staff to stay.

The group also discussed the issue of health care financing. It is a fee for service model across the country, and most patients cannot afford health care. Doctors are self-employed contractors who charge for their services to make a living. Maintenance of equipment is another serious challenge.

Three key insights from the session:

1. Technology has both advanced progress and has its limits. One provider is using a new CommCare system and tablets are working in seven clinics. One institution has been using StarLink to deliver tele-health to keep operating, when they need a type of doctor that is not in the area. Some said their staff is severely challenged and they have concerns about introducing new technologies right now.
2. There might be an opportunity to give young people, who are eager for livelihoods, training that could help address the health care staffing gap. One organization has been offering one-year training. Another has a program training Quisqueya students in health care. Zanmi Lasante has local residency programs, but graduates often then leave to work in other countries.
3. Are there opportunities for health care providers and organizations at this conference to join together to build a health care network that provides the volume of patients to enable low costs?

There are myriad serious challenges facing practitioners on the ground. Kidnappings have been particularly challenging, and health care facilities are losing trained health care practitioners at an alarming rate. Clients are afraid to travel to clinics or hospitals for services. Insecurity is a huge challenge.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. We need to implement a decentralized health care model given the current security, economic, and political context in Haiti.
2. With the new visa programs in the U.S. and Canada, it will take decades to rebuild staffing within the health sector.
3. Organizations are investing in localization of their staff. Some successes include – how some organizations are collaborating to swap urgent supplies. We need to work together to overcome supply chain issues or get supplies around the country.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

- Solutions – continued creativity, focusing on our assets.
- Accelerated partnering and sharing of resources.
- More localization of staff; tele-health, CommCare, investing in the young.
- Barbara Campbell of the Dalton Foundation will share a link to relevant resources. There is a need to band together to strengthen advocacy.

AGRICULTURE AND AGROECOLOGY

Facilitators:

Reginald Cean, Executive Director, Association Zanmi Agrikòl

Steve Brescia, Executive Director, Groundswell International

The session highlighted key challenges to growth in the sector. Participants underscored the need for professional development for farmers, emphasizing the potential for innovation and market accessibility to enhance agriculture. The critical role of funders in supporting infrastructure and patient investment was noted.

Three key insights from the session:

1. Successful work supporting agriculture in Haiti includes support for:
 - Grassroots groups that organize farmers to gather over time, pool resources, learn together, then connect with other groups.
 - Farmer experimentation – farmers test new things on a part of their plot. Find out what works, scale-up across plot and to other farmers. Farmers need to see something working locally (model farmers) to believe in a new approach.
 - Diversified farming systems, which increase food security and carbon sequestration. They improve lives and also benefit the climate.
2. Insufficient public policy is not the core issue - governance is. Improved governance could drive the formulation and implementation of public policies that support farmers, foster innovation, and enhance infrastructure.
3. Interestingly, the charcoal industry was mentioned as both a success and a potential environmental concern. While its growth demonstrates Haiti's capacity to meet a market's demand, the environmental toll underlines the need for sustainable alternatives.

Haiti can be a shining light, an example of the transformation possible to different kinds of systems.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. A multi-faceted approach to agricultural development in Haiti is needed. Myriad issues contributing to the stagnation of agricultural development in Haiti must be addressed: limited resources and knowledge base of farmers, insufficient government support, lack of strong public institutions, logistical challenges post-harvest, and a need for innovation in the sector.
2. Inadequate infrastructure is a critical impediment. From road and market access to water conservation, the lack of robust infrastructure significantly hampers the country's agricultural productivity.
3. The role of youth and innovation: It is urgent for the sector to appeal to younger generations. By promoting innovation and providing support for youth's agroecological endeavors, the agriculture sector in Haiti may see revitalization and sustainability.

Insufficient public policy is not the core issue – governance is.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: The session concluded with calls for a new, profitable business model that would attract young people, more data on the sector, local cooperation, and improved governance.

WATER AND SANITATION

Facilitators:

Olivier David, Haiti Country Director, Helvetas Haiti

Christian Steiner, CEO, Helvetas USA

The session addressed how to remove the bottlenecks in the decentralization process of water and sanitation services and how we can finance the water and sanitation sector in Haiti to accelerate infrastructure development. There is often a misconception that systems change cannot occur in humanitarian settings. In fact, it is important to introduce systems change theories as early in project development as possible to provide the best possible chance of longer-term sustainability.

Three key insights from the session:

1. A systems-change approach is essential to remove bottlenecks to providing sustainable water and sanitation services. Communities, government, private sector actors and civil society organizations are all needed to address complex, multi-dimensional water and sanitation programs. To arrive at sustainability, it is important to have better governance and transparency.
2. Even in humanitarian disaster response settings, systems change approaches can be used successfully.
3. Financing the WASH sector requires paying for services by local communities even if it's just 1 cent at the beginning to build ownership within communities. Over time communities will begin to value services and pay for them. People are willing to pay for private connections. More investments are needed for connections in households.

Both short term and long-term goals need to be considered at the same time. Funding for infrastructure in the short term should be paired with long term governance and capacity building objectives.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Projects require long-term commitments (minimum 3 years). Realistically, it may take 4-5 years for changes to happen.
2. Programs need to start with behavior change and receive buy-in from communities before progressing. Building trust from the beginning allows for longer-term buy-in. At least 5-10% of population buy-in should be secured. Hiring local people is key to buy-in and overall program sustainability.
3. Planning from the beginning should include an exit strategy. Both short term and long-term goals need to be considered at the same time. Funding for infrastructure in the short term should be paired with long term governance and capacity building objectives, ensuring enough time to train local service providers and for long term financing to be established with local governments.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARTS

Facilitators:

Veronika Chatelain, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Foundations

Charles Jean Pierre, Artist

Culture is our heart and Haitians have a lot of heart - this is what makes us unique in the world, you see it in our entire existence. We are experiencing the disappearance of certain music, parts of

the culture, the loss of Mapou trees and all the culture that is embedded in them. Haitians are losing their identity in the Caribbean. In the US, art is part of the curriculum for elementary schools. In Haiti, art isn't part of schools; we try to encourage it, but it's an import into schools and it's up to the schools to agree. This session addressed how to preserve and nurture culture and identity amid rapidly changing societies and across generations.

Three key insights from the session:

1. It is essential to recognize the beauty and importance of Haitian culture and art.
2. We must use technology to preserve Haitian art and culture and make it accessible. It is especially key to create platforms for the older generation - the keepers of the culture - to share it with the next generation.
3. It is important to include the diaspora in this effort. Haitian art and culture can be preserved and nurtured to continue to develop in many places, inside and outside of Haiti.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Philanthropy can support artists directly, providing the tools and spaces to work, even income support (FOKAL did this during the pandemic). It can help preserve Haiti's physical, national cultural infrastructure, to protect it against loss like the fire at Sacre Coeur. It can support exchanges for Haitian artists and throughout the world.
2. We need an industry - the culture in the US came from Hollywood. An industry that is well funded teaches everyone about prom culture for example. Look at how Korea created K-Pop - it's a machine and it's supported. There are so many new genres of music in Haiti, like *raboday*. We must consider how we can take the examples and put money behind Haitian art without undermining the true art.
3. What can we use in the absence of public institutions to reclaim the dignity of people? In the current political context, there are opportunities to use cultural activities to reconstruct the social fabric and create civic campaigns to address advocacy.

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JUNE 14, 2023 DAY 3 - PLENARY SESSIONS

LEVERAGING COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPACT

Panelists:

Amy Bracken, Communications Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Rob Johnson, CEO, Acceso

Carolyn Mellin, Managing Director, Summits Education

Pierre Andre Noel, Executive Director, Haiti Development Institute

Moderator: Dana François, Program Officer for Family Economic Security Haïti, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Partnership and collaboration are often prescribed to magnify impact or achieve systemic change that cannot be achieved by one initiative or organization alone. But what do these look like? This panel addressed how to put these concepts into action in development initiatives in Haiti and how a

funder can intentionally support them, through three examples that have been seed funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Haiti Food Systems Alliance (HFSA) is an alliance of international and national organizations working across the spectrum of food security work, from farmers' groups and organizations that support capacity building, entrepreneurship and agricultural market development to health care and education providers who operate feeding programs. The HFSA has established a platform for greater collaboration to boost local production.

Kolektif Arcadins is a collective impact initiative of ten local and international partners to support a place-based, integrated strategy to promote development in the Arcadins region. The effort is anchored on 40 acres of land held by HDI that will serve as a civic hub, major community asset and site for economic development facilities such as an Agrifood Entrepreneurship Center as well as spaces for civic engagement, vocational, continuing and higher education, and the arts. The key here is creation of a mechanism to engage and coordinate the efforts of actors with diverse expertise toward agreed, mutually reinforcing interventions in a relationship of long-term accompaniment and partnership with community leaders including the public sector.

Two words that came out in every conversation here: collaboration and partnership. Because we have a duty to do better than the past and our collective brain here is powerful; we can do better than what the world is doing now in Haiti.

The Model School Network (MSN) is another example of robust partnership promoting long-term, systemic change. The MSN is an umbrella network of three school networks in the Central Plateau totaling 200 schools. The structure enables the dissemination and scale up of innovations piloted and tested with support of partners. The MSN creates model approaches for quality teaching, learning and governance that can be replicated anywhere in Haiti. Through close partnership with the Ministry of Education, improved practices can be incorporated into standards and programs throughout Haiti.

Three key insights from the session:

1. Establishing the structures to support long term collaboration and partnership takes time, resources and intentional effort. It often seems less efficient up front than individual organizations going ahead with what they do. But collaboration and partnership play a critical role in driving sustainable and systemic change in Haitian communities. By working together, organizations can leverage their collective resources and networks to tackle complex challenges more effectively. The upfront investment needed must be appreciated and supported by funders.
2. Initiatives like Kolektif Arcadins showcase how to emphasize community-centric approaches and local solutions and work in partnership with a broad range of local stakeholders in shaping their own development.
3. The speakers highlighted the need to invest in developing stable, adaptable, and resilient institutions.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Establishing open lines of communication, creating spaces for dialogue, and actively involving all parties will help foster a culture of trust and collaboration. Building trust among funders, communities, and stakeholders is critical, as is creating spaces for open conversations to occur without speaking on behalf of others.

2. By bringing together the strengths and resources of the private and public sectors, it becomes possible to address the complex and multifaceted challenges facing Haitian communities more effectively.
3. The "Pockets of Hope" campaign aims to raise awareness of successful local initiatives that often go unnoticed. Encouraging funders to support and amplify these initiatives can lead to more impact and support narrative change on what is possible in Haiti.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: A call to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new collaborations, both within the private and public sectors, to ensure sustained support and resources for community development initiatives.

DISASTER MITIGATION & RESPONSE: BETTER PREPAREDNESS, BETTER RESPONSE

Panelists:

Etzer Emile, CEO, Haiti Efficace

Jessica Hsu, Anthropologist/Researcher & Solidarity Activist, Independent Haiti-based

Louino Robillard, Program Director, Rasin Devlopman

Moderator: Alex Gray, Head of International Funds, Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP)

The session presented an overview of disaster response in Haiti and recommendations for improvement.

According to CDP and Candid's 2021 Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy Report, worldwide, 51% of philanthropic funding for disasters went towards response and relief activities. Only 17% was spent on preparedness, 6% on recovery, and 4% on resilience, risk reduction and mitigation, even though studies suggest that every \$1 invested in disaster risk reduction can save \$20 in post-disaster recovery costs. Data demonstrates that aid policy in Haiti has had more of a humanitarian component than a development component compared to that of other less-developed countries. Consistent with this, disaster assistance in Haiti is even more skewed toward humanitarian aid/immediate response than those global statistics.

When donors give to support disaster victims, they want to believe that their assistance helps victims not just in the immediate aftermath of the disaster but one year on to recover what they lost and reduce their vulnerability. But in practice, relief and response activities do not do this. Development donors often wait for crises to be over or countries to be less fragile before investing. So, much assistance is substituting for development gaps rather than addressing them. Effective disaster response needs to look at the root causes of vulnerabilities and structural inequities, and that often looks like taking a development approach.

Haiti has lost about 2% of GDP annually due to natural hazards for decades. In 2010, it was 120% of GDP. Losses from Hurricane Matthew totaled 32% of GDP and the August 2021 earthquake in the south resulted in losses equivalent to 10.9%. The frequency of natural hazards is increasing as well as the impacts on the economy.

Effective disaster response needs to look at the root causes of vulnerabilities and structural inequities, and that often looks like taking a development approach.

Three key insights from the session:

1. Disasters in Haiti not only harm individuals but have large macroeconomic impacts. Reduced domestic production capacity increases Haiti's economic dependence. We must direct more resources to recovery, and specifically to interventions that help restore livelihoods and productive capacity.
2. Initial disaster responses are always community-led, but these actions are largely invisibilized. Outside humanitarian actions must support the existing collective community actions. Many distributions continue to create divisions, break down the social fabric of communities and Haitian society in general and create dependency. In areas where there are armed groups, distributions are reinforcing their power and diminishing the space for social leaders.
3. We need to move from funding that is based on donor agendas to funding community-led agendas, promoting traditions of collective action and community agency which have been systematically broken down. This will strengthen civil society in general.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Everyone can be a disaster funder: If you do health, education, livelihoods - think about how you can incorporate building preparedness, mitigation and resilience into your work.
2. While there have been improvements in the formal coordination mechanism led by UNOCHA in support of Haiti's Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) since 2010's earthquake when the state and all Haitian actors were completely sidelined, it still does not function well. DGPC is trusted, but it needs more support, especially for decentralization. Most impacted communities continue to be left out of planning, implementation and funding of response in what remains a top-down approach.
3. There are no experts on Haiti but Haitians when it comes to their own lives. Someone from Port-au-Prince is not even an expert when it comes to the lives of people who live in rural regions. Listen more to Haitians. "Support local actors, support local resources, support local human resources."

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: Think of how you can move away from funding simply traditional relief activities. While increasing amounts of humanitarian funding are being directed toward tackling root causes of vulnerability, we need to do more of this.

INSPIRING AND ORGANIZING MORE EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY FROM THE DIASPORA

Panelists:

Tamara Beliard, CFO/Principal, Fatima Group

Ariel Dominique, Executive Director, Haitian American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD)

Vanessa Joseph, City of North Miami City Clerk, City of North Miami

Regine Rene Labrousse, Founder & CEO, Replenish 509

The panelists discussed the traditional forms of engagement of the Haitian diaspora with Haiti, how funders can leverage partnerships with the diaspora and local organizations on the ground for more impactful philanthropy in Haiti, and the gaps that the Ayiti Diaspora Collaborative can fill with their recent nationwide survey to better understand Haitian-American communities.

Three key insights from the session:

1. The Haitian diaspora is always involved whenever disasters strike Haiti, Its disaster philanthropy is focused on humanitarian aid; people meet to pack and send goods. Although this is much-needed help, it is not sustainable in the long term. The Haitian diaspora community is the biggest donor in Haiti, but giving is mostly family targeted. When it comes to tapping into the \$3.2 billion in remittances sent from the Haitian diaspora worldwide, we need to think about how to do both: send money to families and invest in public private partnerships.
2. Two elements are missing in diaspora philanthropic engagement with Haiti: sustainability and a consistent effort to gather information and keep it current. It is necessary to have a structure, an institution working on these full-time versus only operating in moments of crisis.
3. As more people are coming to the US from the humanitarian parole program, the Diaspora needs to look at how to capitalize on that and ensure that there are connections built between young Haitian Americans and the newcomers. That connection is important because as this generation becomes wealthier, it will have more to give. They will need to know where to give and how to make it impactful.

The Haitian diaspora community is the biggest donor in Haiti. When it comes to tapping into the \$3.2 billion in remittances sent from the Haitian diaspora worldwide, we need to think about how to both send money to families and invest in public private partnerships.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Funders can support more sustainable work (not just funding a project) by building connections, getting to know people and communities, understanding the needs of the community and how to respect its ethics and values, to see how to build more with it.
2. In corporate philanthropy, investing and partnering with organizations in Haiti can work. It is crucial for funders to lean on these organizations and listen to them because these organizations have footprints and buy-in from the community.
3. Funders can support opportunities for the diaspora to get together, build collective power and be able to influence policies & governance in Haiti. It is important to build power politically, build think-tanks, help people remember their culture and who they are.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

- There is a need to look at how to effectively coordinate the resources of the diaspora. One idea is to create a Diaspora Investment Fund with match funding from donors.

KEYNOTE: HOW PHILANTHROPY CAN SERVE TO DELIVER SYSTEMIC IMPACT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN HAITI

By Dr. Harry Dumay, President, College of Our Lady of the Elms

Dr. Dumay credited his education with helping him to reach his current position as the President of Elms College. He provided an overview of the higher education system in Haiti.

The higher education system in Haiti comprises public and private universities and some institutions attached to various ministries. There are 59 recognized private universities, but many more – about 200 – are not recognized or regulated. The Ministry of Education has oversight of

higher education in Haiti yet lacks resources. Put together, these institutions do not meet the demand. A lot of Haitian young people are seeking higher education in the Dominican Republic.

Higher education is recognized as both a private and public good. A vibrant, strong higher education sector is essential for Haiti, needed to prepare the teachers, train the agronomists, build safe housing. Good education creates an informed citizenry that can participate in democracy and fuel economic development. You cannot do this without a healthy, effective higher education system.

With some exceptions, philanthropy has not been an important factor in higher education in Haiti. The budget provided to the State University of Haiti, the largest public university in Haiti, only pays salaries of the staff and faculty. Dr. Dumay made a call for stronger philanthropic support to the sector; without it, the vision for higher education will not be realized.

Philanthropy has not been an important factor in higher education in Haiti. Without philanthropic support, the vision for higher education as an engine of an informed citizenry that can participate in democracy and fuel economic development will remain elusive.

Strategic philanthropy in higher education can build capacity, increase quality, and build sustainable institutions. Elms College is involved in a successful example strengthening the training of nurses in Haiti. We should focus on educating the educators, which multiplies the impact (not just training students). When we implement a pilot initiative or program in higher education, we must prepare and train local partners to take over the training system to increase ownership and make it sustainable.

Finally, Dr. Dumay called on us to remain relentlessly optimistic. Philanthropy can play a crucial role in bringing about systemic change in Haiti.

JUNE 14, 2023 – DAY 3 – SALON SESSIONS

IMPACT INVESTING

Facilitators:

Jamie McInerney, Principal, CrossBoundary

Laurent Dalencour, Senior Investment Manager, Fonds de Développement Industriel (OGEF/FDI)

Three key insights from the session:

1. CrossBoundary Group has been in Haiti since 2015 and they are optimistic about economic growth. They work with private businesses and connect them with international investors. They work with traditional businesses as well as social enterprises. OGEF is a fund that invests in sustainable off-grid electricity companies operating from renewable energy sources.
2. There is opportunity for investment in Haiti for energy production, import, export, agriculture, and fintech.
3. Scale is fundamental for impact investment.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Capacity building is needed because the ecosystem of institutions to support impact investments is underdeveloped in Haiti.
2. Being first mover is not an advantage in frontier markets and specifically in Haiti.
3. Despite its importance, impact investment is not widely known in Haiti. It is important to promote impact investment and attract more organizations to embrace it. Blended with traditional philanthropy, impact investment can become a lever for systemic change.

Despite its importance, impact investment is not widely known in Haiti. Blended with traditional philanthropy, impact investment can become a lever for systemic change.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: HDI should continue to facilitate more information sessions on impact investment in Haiti and support through its Capacity Building Program the development of institutions that can play needed roles in successful investments.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: ARE THEY POSSIBLE NOW?

Facilitators:

Kesner Pharel, Managing Owner, Group Croissance
Enemy Germain, CEO, ProEco Haiti

The session explored the viability and potential expansion of public private partnerships (PPPs) in Haiti. Despite political instability, several successful partnerships demonstrate they are possible and illustrate the critical role of local government. However, issues such as lack of continuity, lack of investor knowledge and lack of a robust state structure persist. Further challenges include an unfavorable national tax structure, disorganized Haitian diaspora, a deficit in education, and a weak civil society. Nevertheless, optimism remains.

Three key insights from the session:

1. The economy of Haiti is not viable. A country is an enterprise; we should have the cream of the crop to manage it. "We could have a lot of Labadees" (a PPP with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines). We need a business plan for the country. Nonprofit and private sector leaders are hesitant to engage with local and national government out of fear that officials will ask "what's in it for us?" There needs to be some clarity and mechanism for groups to have conversations with the government, to develop a shared plan to develop the economy.
2. The discussion distinguished between the state (the hardware) and the government (the software). There has been inadequate development of strong state infrastructure which impedes the creation of effective PPPs. Private sector actors and funders need to pressure the government to build up and strengthen the State.
3. There also needs to be capacity in civil society to promote community buy-in and the development of robust institutions that will facilitate PPPs.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. The factors contributing to successful PPPs successes need to be identified and replicated to foster more such partnerships.
2. The Haitian diaspora, if engaged and organized, possibly through impact investment initiatives, can potentially provide much-needed funds and support for these partnerships.
3. There is a need for tax reform to promote local partnerships effectively. The current national tax structure hinders local PPPs' benefits, leaving local municipalities with little tax revenue.

Despite political turmoil in Haiti, there are examples of successful public private partnerships. The factors contributing to these successes need to be identified and replicated to foster more such partnerships.

Next steps discussed/any follow-up:

- A well-organized and coordinated diaspora could put pressure on both the government and the private sector.

WOMEN AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

Facilitator: Carine Jocelyn, Founder/Managing Director, The Haitian Women's Collective

The session asked participants to reimagine successful women and girls in Haiti. Their vision was women and girls, including queer women (lesbian, gay, transgender), enjoying life, being safe from violence, being healthy, having access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning and safe birthing, being able to make their own decisions, completing high school, having and controlling their own money, never doubting their own worth, and being valued for what they bring to Haitian society.

We want Haitian women to...
Be safe from violence.
Be healthy.
Be able to make their own decisions.
Never doubt their worth.
Be happy, enjoy life.

Participants brainstormed how to make philanthropy more effective in supporting women and girls. Prescriptions included consciously challenging the status quo, addressing gender norms as an approach to equity, and supporting outside the box approaches (taking risks).

Three key insights from the session:

1. Funders should invest in women leaders. To build a pipeline of women leaders, funders should support women and girls' professional and leadership development to prepare them for leadership opportunities.
2. Funders can encourage local partners to ensure women serve on boards of directors and other governance structures.
3. Funders must fund and build networks of women and girls' rights organizations and feminist organizations (including funding with unrestricted, general operating support).

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Funders should use a gender lens in all portfolios.
2. Additional ways to support women and girls include funding advocacy and research and data collection. Funders can also bring more visibility to women and girls' initiatives.
3. Funders can buy from women owned businesses in Haiti.

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Facilitators:

Job Joseph, Director of Mobilization, Haiti Response Coalition

Daniel Tillias, Co-Founder, SAKALA

Francois Pierre-Louis, Haiti Consultant, Faith In Action

Philanthropy has the potential to help or undermine local efforts in fostering community engagement. It was acknowledged that some NGOs inadvertently discourage genuine community engagement. Although funds are essential for community development, NGOs must engage respectfully and take care to avoid causing harm. NGOs have contributed to a mindset of expecting payment for every involvement in community projects. It requires long-term engagement and understanding of real community needs. The session explored alternative forms of support, such as gratitude and encouragement, to foster genuine community engagement.

Three key insights from the session:

1. The session emphasizes the need for external actors to go beyond superficial involvement and understand the real needs of communities, as community engagement is a continuous process that requires time, effort, and deep understanding.
2. NGOs that fail to engage meaningfully with communities do more harm than good. When external actors leave without fostering unity or addressing the root causes of issues, they can leave behind divided communities that are worse off than before.
3. Changing the mindset of expecting payment for every form of community engagement is essential. Fostering genuine engagement requires recognizing the significance of community-driven efforts and supporting non-monetary rewards.

Philanthropists should partner with organizations with proven records in community development, treating community engagement as a distinct and formal sector.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. External actors should seek permission, collaborate with local organizations, and respect the knowledge and traditions of the communities they aim to support. Engaging with the community as equal partners can lead to more sustainable and impactful outcomes.
2. Philanthropic efforts should treat community engagement as a formal sector rather than a mere aspect of other programs. This recognition can lead to more focused, effective, and dedicated efforts in supporting community development.
3. To make a meaningful and lasting impact, stakeholders must invest in the before, during, and after phases of community engagement initiatives. Beyond financial incentives, sustained support is essential for nurturing a sense of belonging, empowerment, and shared responsibility within communities.

EFFECTIVE FUNDING OF ADVOCACY

Facilitators:

Brian Concannon, Executive Director, Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Gilbert Saint Jean, Interdisciplinary Research Development Consultant

The session dealt with why advocacy is important, what is being funded or not, what is working and what is not and how donors/investors can more effectively fund advocacy. Participants considered how Haitians can implement creative advocacy initiatives in a “captured state”.

Key challenges noted were that there are not enough funders who invest in advocacy and some organizations are not able to fund advocacy related to US policy; and that while a culture of advocacy is emerging in Haiti, there is lack of elected representatives to speak to and a state generally that is uninterested in solving problems. We need to amplify the voices of the community on the ground through our advocacy efforts.

At the same time, there have been significant successes (Policite, sanctions on oligarchs around arms sales, etc.). Nou Pap Domi, a Haitian organization that raised awareness of the grand corruption around the PetroCaribe scandal, did a lot with very few resources through social media, and this led to some of the largest protests in Haitian history. Nou Pap Domi collaborated with other partners to get the message across and its leaders were present despite the risks. A church leader in the U.S. crafted a compelling message and 100,000 people signed a petition to call for the sanctions bill to be passed. Haitians are around 2% of the U.S. immigrant population yet have had a disproportionate impact on U.S. policy.

How do Haitians implement creative advocacy in a ‘captured state’?

Three key insights from the session:

1. Haitian organizations need capacity building to better leverage existing marketing tools to create more compelling messaging and graphic design for their materials.
2. Social media strategies require little up-front funding for advocacy efforts in Haiti and then organizations can leverage other partners to advocate for the cause in the U.S. or in the Diaspora.
3. Coalition building can be challenging yet is essential to success. Competition for scarce philanthropic resources can hurt collaboration.

Three key takeaways from the session:

1. Advocacy requires a clear message to be successful. Relevant, concrete examples should link to broader themes.
2. Successful advocacy efforts need either money or large numbers of people behind them – ideally, you have both. We need to explore how to better motivate Haitians in the U.S. to participate in advocacy campaigns. For example, we see a great response to GoFundMe outreach focused on the Haitian arts.
3. Advocacy issues can be divisive in the diaspora community – it may be important to emphasize that citizens in Haiti have called for specific actions (e.g., sanctions on oligarchs).

Next steps discussed/any follow-up: WKKF has seriously studied what the Foundation can do relative to advocacy – greater outreach is needed to help other funders understand what is legal and possible in the advocacy sector.

CLOSING – FORWARD TOGETHER

Johnny Celestin asked participants to reflect on what they learned and what they will do differently after this conference. He asked everyone “Are you committed to the full human being in your work

in Haiti and what might have to change to show that?” Participants learned a lot about what others are doing and felt a lot of hope, determination, optimism and good vibes in the rooms that made them believe we will keep this work going.

Participants’ take-aways included:

- All Haiti actors must consider how to collaborate better and how to invest.
- We should use a mirror. Am I doing what I am asking my partners/grantees to do?
- We must support collaboration at the grassroots level to build the people’s bargaining power and capacity to express their own needs and leverage their collective power.
- We must center Haitian communities in all work. Every problem in Haiti will be solved by Haitian people, as they have come together in their communities. Philanthropy’s role is to come alongside them to support their efforts.
- The new Haiti we dream of will be based on a foundation of institutions; supporting their development is paramount.

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Lisa Clark and David Haas

