

IMPACT REPORT

Your solidarity and generosity are creating real change and hope in Haiti – even in difficult times.



1000+ Families are Escaping Extreme Poverty through Village Savings and Loans

Since 2016, Beyond Borders has helped organize 119 Village Savings and Loans in rural communities.

Luciane (photo) is forging a path to stability for her family even in the midst of Haiti's political and economic crises. The 41-year-old mother of twins felt like she had nothing before joining Beyond Borders' Family Graduation Program.

Now, as she nears her summer graduation date, Luciane is saving for her daughters' education and investing in the small business she is building.

Even the poorest families can save money and borrow affordably now.



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The Growing Movement to End Child Servitude

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600+ Families Escape Extreme Poverty

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Preventing VAWG Begins at Home

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Thank you for your acts of kindness and solidarity!

OVERCOMING POVERTY

Families Escape Extreme Poverty

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A key component of Luciane's plan is membership in a Village Savings and Loan – a requirement of every family before they can graduate. For many rural families like Luciane's, this is the first time they've ever had access to affordable credit.

These associations – many of which are the only source of formal banking in rural communities – are able to continue functioning even in times of political upheaval.

Each Village Savings and Loan also has an emergency fund that members can draw from in times of crisis.

Family Graduation Program participants like Luciane aren't the only people making gains through Village Savings and Loans. Child Protection Brigades and Adult Survivors of Child Slavery Chapters have also launched Village Savings and Loans with help from Beyond Borders.

On Lagonav Island alone, these local sources of economic power serve approximately 1,000 members – more than half of whom are women.

"When it's time to collect my share of the interest, I'll use the money for school fees," Luciane said.

As her savings grows, she will also have opportunities to open multiple accounts and even become a member of multiple associations.

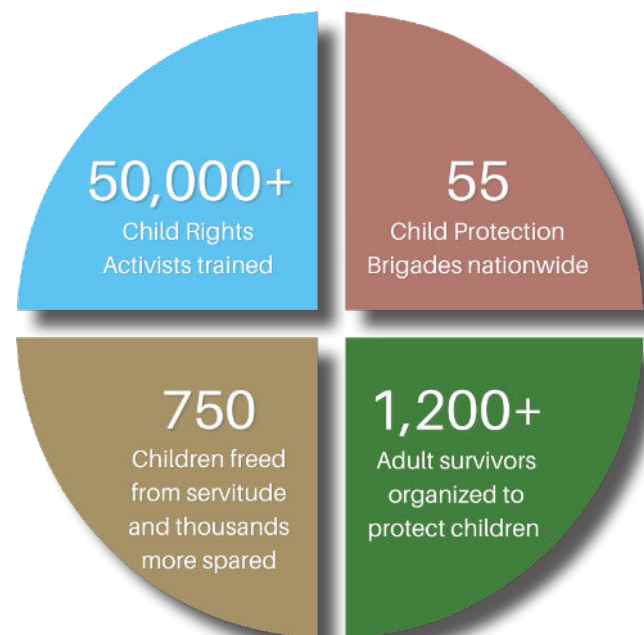
"What I want supporters to know," said David Diggs, Beyond Borders' Executive Director, "is that now rural families in Haiti have a way both to save money as an investment and to borrow affordably. That is a huge change from what was possible before. Thank you for making this possible with your support!"



Village Savings and Loan members gather for a monthly meeting.



Building a Movement to Protect Children



"I couldn't imagine being capable of all that."

Nearly 600 families find the strength to escape extreme poverty.

Ariane was only eight when she realized that if she wanted shoes, she had to buy them herself. She sold some oranges and bought her first pair. It's a lesson that she remembered years later when her husband died and she had no income.

Around that time, staff from Beyond Borders' Family Graduation Program came and explained how the program could support her. And in order to graduate, they explained, she would need to begin earning a living, open a savings account, repay the program one animal, repair her house, and send all her children to school.

"I couldn't imagine being capable of all that," Ariane said. "Then I remembered how I bought my first pair of shoes, and I knew I could do it. I'm strong. I'm capable."

Visits from program staff provided Ariane with close accompaniment, and a Beyond Borders donor made a gift of \$100/month to sponsor Ariane throughout the 18-month program. Three years after graduating, Ariane has savings accounts at multiple Village Savings and Loans, a safe and sturdy home for her family, and all of her children are in school.

Ariane is one of nearly 600 families who've permanently escaped extreme poverty through the Family Graduation Program. This summer the fifth cohort of 110 families will graduate and a sixth cohort will launch in the fall.

Thanks to each and every family sponsor who has made it possible for a rural family like Ariane's to escape the generational cycle of extreme poverty.



Ariane caresses her donkey, Patience.



ENDING ABUSE

843 Enrolled in Training

Even in hard times in Haiti, we are expanding work to protect more children from forced servitude, exploitation, and abuse.

Your generosity is making it possible to launch Child Rights Training groups in 21 new communities on Lagonav Island and 32 new communities in the Artibonite Valley – a region new to Beyond Borders.

Beyond Borders' Child Protection Team just launched the Artibonite groups thanks to a new partnership with the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary in Gros Morne. A generous grant from Conrad N. Hilton Foundation is also supporting this expansion.

As of today, nationwide, 843 women and men are registered for Beyond Borders' six-month Child Rights Training.

Thank you again for making this kind of growth possible. More girls and boys are growing up free, safe, and at home with their families, in communities that are organized, trained, and committed to protecting them – thanks to supporters like you.



A Child Rights Training taking place in Haiti's North, a new area for Beyond Borders.

“I considered her a workhorse – like a slave.”

Rethinking Power Program challenges long-held social norms that are the root cause of violence.



Gibson and Dana stand proudly together in her shop.

By all accounts, 39-year-old Gibson Galant – husband, father, school teacher, volunteer with the Haitian Red Cross – has been long-admired in his community.

Neighbors in the village of Masikren – where Gibson was born, raised, married his wife Dana in 2014, and where they are now raising their daughter and two sons – have always looked up to him.

And yet, just a few years ago – before Beyond Borders’ work to prevent violence against women and girls came to Masikren – this is how Gibson thought of his wife: “I considered her like a workhorse – like a slave.”

You might think this was at odds with Gibson’s public persona, but it wasn’t.

In fact, this seeming contradiction is the crux of the problem in Haiti and communities around the world: widely accepted, deeply rooted social norms that say women are unequal to men and that men can use violence to control them.

Violence against women and girls includes any threat or act (physical, emotional, sexual, or economic) directed at a woman or girl that causes harm and is meant to keep her under the control of others.

In Haiti and around the world, one in three girls has already experienced some kind of violence by age 18.

Beyond Borders’ Rethinking Power program is built around the idea that when women and men learn to balance their power in relationships, and when communities stand up against violence, women and girls are safer and the entire community benefits.

Just-released results from a multi-year research study conducted by the Global Women’s Institute at The George Washington University prove it: violence against women was cut by more than half in communities where Beyond Borders is working.

The United Nations has asked Beyond Borders to share the research findings with global partners too.

Much remains to be done, but the study proves that even amid the escalating violence in Haiti, we can achieve positive results.

Gibson and Dana are proof of that. The couple took part in Rethinking Power training on balancing power between women and men and described it as a new beginning for their relationship and their household.

Today, Dana has her own small business and Gibson shares fully in household responsibilities like cooking, cleaning, and caring for their children.

Both are now Rethinking Power activists, spreading the message that families that balance power are happier, healthier, and more economically secure.

“I tell people that both parents can work outside and inside the home,” Gibson said. “I will do anything for my family. If that means sweeping, I’ll do it. Washing, sure. I’m proud of the example I set for my son and daughter.”

Gibson sweeping at their home.

They’ve seen the change in their community too.

“This program is a blessing,” Gibson said. “It’s changed the lives of so many people in this community. I can only imagine how much more harmony and prosperity we could have if everyone knew that things are actually better for guys too when men and women have equal power.”



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