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## All Hands on Deck in Duchity, Pestel, a Badly Hit Area of Haiti

*Food distribution in Duchity*

After Hurricane Matthew, World Renew Haiti began to partner with World Renew's International Disaster Response (IDR) by supporting and managing all components of a disaster response food assistance project in Duchity, a completely destroyed community in the commune of Pestel, in the Grand'Anse Department of Haiti. In December 2015, World Renew Haiti started a research and development project with FIDA/productive cooperatives Haiti (pCH), promoting agriculture and grain storage in Duchity. Duchity is situated 252 km southwest of Port-au-Prince at the southern edge of the department of Grand'Anse. It is the economic center for 27 surrounding localities. The region enjoys a subtropical climate, making it an excellent agricultural zone and a great area for cultivating a variety of crops.

On the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 4, Hurricane Matthew struck the southwestern coast of Haiti. Matthew was the third strongest hurricane ever recorded in Haiti and the worst category 4 storm 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 centimeters of rain were recorded across the southern peninsula, which, combined with the storm surge, caused major flooding across the entire region. In the wake of the hurricane's passage over Haiti, the government of Haiti issued a red alert (highest alert) for the entire country, and the National Emergency Operations Center (COUN) was activated.

Hurricane Matthew has resulted in the country's largest humanitarian emergency since the 2010 earthquake. It caused extensive flooding and mudslides, damage to road infrastructure and buildings, and electricity and water outages. As of October 21, the latest figures from the governmental Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) of Haiti have confirmed 546 deaths, 132 missing persons, and 460 injured as a result of the hurricane.

As reported in the latest UN OCHA Situation Report dated October 21, "Though access con-



tinues to be gained to more affected areas, the poor conditions and lack of infrastructure – especially in the rural areas – continue to impede progress to the more remote parts of the country. Humanitarian needs are said to include access to a sufficient supply of quality water, education, shelter, child protection, health, and nutrition. The people in urgent food insecurity are located in areas where over 75 percent of the population was affected by the hurricane. These include places where livelihood activities related to agriculture, livestock, and fishing have been almost completely destroyed, such as crops, farming equipment, stocks, and trade. Of the 1.4 million people who need humanitarian assistance, more than 40 percent are children who are mainly in the Grand'Anse and Sud Departments. Another estimated 40 percent – approximately 546,000 people – are women of reproductive age."

World Renew and pCH are helping the community through provision of food assistance and seed. The area is currently in the rainy season, and planting will provide a harvest three months later. We will provide food assistance for a period of three months to bridge the gap from now till the harvest of corn and beans. Food will be provided in kind rather than other forms of assistance such as cash or vouchers, due to the absence of food in readily accessible local markets within several hours from the area.

# Deportees to be Reintegrated through Agriculture

## A Story of Transformation

On the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 4, Hurricane Matthew struck the southwestern coast of Haiti, the only agriculturally prosperous part of the country. Prior to the hurricane, according to the National Center for Food Security (CNSA), poor households' access to the market was reduced, while food stocks at the household level were exhausted. The deportation of Haitian Dominican and non-Haitian migrants from the Dominican Republic has worsened an already fragile economic situation, as Haiti was already facing a food insecurity crisis due to climate change and diverse structural problems. As such, the total agricultural production of the year was below normal with significant declines in the most drought-affected areas.

Since the summer of 2015, with World Renew's support, PWOFOOD (the Training Program for the Organization of Diocese) has been successfully serving returnees from the Dominican Republic to Haiti. The project helps existing farmers through training and grain storage services and allows returnees to be reintegrated through the provision of new farming skills. The goal is to increase professional, residential, and agricultural potentials and to encourage deportees who have agricultural background, increasing their knowledge in how to do agriculture in Haiti.

PWOFOOD trains the farmers and returnees in pest management and storage techniques. The project promotes the use of



*Grains storage silo made with a container*

environmentally sound agricultural practices (such as composting) and the use of organic pest management practices. It allows farmers and returnees to sell grains to PWOFOOD, and to buy grains from PWOFOOD at a reduced price when they need it for planting and the price is high. Dual-purpose storage involves storage facility and training in order to control both external market opportunities and local lean-season shortages; this helps to increase local farmers' income and to benefit the local economy in the long term.

## A Successful Conference to Launch Christian Worldview Training Manual

From October 18 to 20, with the technical support of Timothy Leadership Training Institute (TLTI), World Renew and World Missions organized a conference to launch a worldview training manual named "Se Conformer ou Etre Transformé" ("Conform, or Be Transformed"). It was a successful gathering of many leaders to launch a Christian worldview manual. The participatory approach used by facilitators was greatly appreciated by all of the participants. The facilitators were acknowledged by the participants for allowing people to interact in the discussions.

Several missions and organizations participated in the conference, which took place at Christian Development Ministry's conference room in Port-au-Prince. The conference met participants' expectations, according to the evaluation forms participants filled out. Several aspects of the training were also appreciated by the participants. Suggestions showed that the facilitators should have allowed more time for discussions, but the manual was nonetheless appreciated for its accessibility and practicality.

The manual will be branded by World Renew and used as a guide for different trainings currently being developed by World Renew and World Missions. Two of our partner organizations, PWOFOOD and MDK, have been involved in training leaders who have had responsibilities in local churches, schools, and communities for several years. All of our partner organizations seek to empower local churches, schools, and communities by discussing relevant topics and practical ministries and by bringing local leaders together to address important community development issues.

TLTI develops Christian training materials in many languages and in more than 50 countries around the world. The TLT system contains materials in Haitian Kreyòl on "Taking Care of God's People," "Managing God's Resources," "Preaching," "Teaching the Christian Faith," "Restraining Violence in the Family," "Worship and Life," and "Sustainable Development." There is also new material, titled "Choosing Good Leaders," which is aimed at helping Haitians choose wisely in political elections. TLT training for leaders happens twice annually in Port-au-Prince. There is also a special facilitator training in December.



*Conference participants reflecting together*