



Fonkoze USA
fondasyon kole zepòl

March 2010

"My credit agent came to see me a couple of days after the quake, I knew he had lost his home as well, but he was there reassuring me that we will make it."

– Roselene Pierre-Louis, Fonkoze client

Dear Friends of Chicago Microfinance:

Fonkoze USA is grateful for your participation in raising awareness and support for our work. Fonkoze USA is a tax-exempt, non-profit, organization that raises funds to make grants to Fonkoze, Haiti's Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor. Currently, we are of course most concentrated on raising funds to assist Fonkoze with post-earthquake recovery.

In 35-seconds, the earthquake brought devastation to Haiti and Fonkoze, Haiti's Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor founded by Father Joseph Philippe, CSSp. Some officials have characterized this as the largest natural disaster in history.

Five Fonkoze staff members perished, and we are devastated by their loss. 112 clients are dead or their family cannot locate them, 470 staff members are homeless, and like almost everyone in Haiti, most lost someone very close to them. Ten offices including the Central Office need to be replaced, and six offices need major repairs.

Fonkoze once again solidified its reputation as *"the bank on which the poor of Haiti can rely."* **The first priority was to locate staff and help them get their life in order so they could then serve Fonkoze's clients.**

In total, 470 were homeless, and these employees received financial support as a result of generous donations. Psychological support by Haitian psychologists has been offered and continues, and tents were secured for many of the staff – although not all. With employees located and initial care provided, attention quickly turned to clients...



Serving clients in the courtyard of the Port-au-Prince branch soon after the earthquake

Fonkoze USA

50 F Street, NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20001 • 202.628.9033 (phone) • 202.628.9035 (fax) • fonkozeusa@fonkoze.org

www.fonkoze.org



This is what is left of the home of Roselene Pierre-Louis, Fonkoze client, after the earthquake of January 12th.

At 56, anyone would understand why this woman could just give up. Roselene worked all her life to accumulate a few, very critical, assets, only to see them destroyed in less than one minute.

“I was proud of my small home, and it was well covered.” Referring to the hurricanes of 2008, Roselene said, **“When 2009 came and went with no big storms, that was a big relief.”**

Roselene was one of the Fonkoze clients who had her business, garden, and livestock destroyed in the 2008 hurricanes, and greatly benefitted from Fonkoze’s *Kredi Siklon* (Hurricane Credit) program **“After the hurricanes, I worked harder than ever, and it felt good, Fonkoze helped me so much at the time to regain my confidence and start over again.”**

Significant infrastructure challenges remain at Fonkoze offices. Of the branches that could not be used, skeleton branch operations were set up on the grounds outside of the buildings, and an innovative mobile van office is operational in Leogane. Temporary headquarters were located and brought “on-line.”

The **third phase of recovery** addresses the needs of Fonkoze clients. Credit agents and branch directors worked to contact clients and determine their status. The final numbers look like this: 112 of 44,674 died, 3,456 lost their business only, 1,675 lost their home only, and 1,055 lost both.

Fonkoze is currently working out a client recovery plan, similar to the one Fonkoze instituted after the hurricanes, to enable clients to receive an outright grant, take out a new loan, and receive forgiveness for their old loan.

Looking to the future, Fonkoze is needed more than ever as thousands migrate to the countryside. The institution will be expanding *Ti Kredi* (or small credit loans), scaling up the program for the ultra poor (*Chemen Lavi Miyò* Program or CLM), and restarting much-needed education programs in rural areas.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Fonkoze USA and Fonkoze in Haiti, I thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

Leigh Carter, Executive Director