

HAITI CONTINUES TO REBUILD

Categories: Hygiene Assistance/Community Building

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Hygiene Assistance

Hygiene Assistance

Success Finds Itself in Isolated Community

The Goman, in the Commune of Grand Goave, is an isolated community off the main road. The first time JEN officers paid a visit to the community, the team found that in order to reach their destination, they had to complete their journey by foot for the car could not make it all the way.

Once they reached Goman, the JEN officers were welcomed by community members who then lead them into a small canyon where their only water source was located. The area was surrounded by broken pipes, and JEN officers observed groups of people washing clothes, bathing, and collecting water, all the while sharing the same water source with animals. The officers concluded that the broken pipes indicated previous attempts to create a form of water transport system.

After a formal assessment of Goman, it became apparent that it was an isolated region that desperately required aid, thus the officers concluded that it was a location JEN must place an enormous focus on.

Although it was not an easy task for the construction team to transport tools, iron, and cement to the water source, motorbikes, manpower, and even donkeys were used to ensure a successful passage.

In the end, the enthusiasm and the participation of the Goman community members made the project possible. A water kiosk was established, as well as a Water Management Team to ensure its sustainability.

JEN and DINEPA

JEN started its work in Haiti merely a few days after the January 2010 earthquake, distributing emergency shelter kits to some 4000 households in the Leogane district before establishing WASH programs in the area. In fact, this would not have been possible without the close support of the National Directorate for Potable Water and Sanitation (DINEPA), which was created earlier in 2009.

The first WASH programs primarily focused on renovating existing water pumps, drilling new boreholes in order to create more access to water, and promoting hygiene in some communities using UNICEF guidelines and material. JEN also introduced the concept of Water Management Committees (WMC) for the first time. As a matter of fact, most of JEN's activities were conducted in close collaboration with DINEPA, and sought to promote future self-reliance, trying to change the future within a country that had long depended on outside aid.



Above: T-shirts with the JEN and JPF logos

COUNTRY: HAITI

Further, JEN has provided DINEPA with equipment such as helmets and safety vests, and even security training using a film produced by the Ministry of Public Construction.

Although three years has passed, JEN is not yet officially registered with DINEPA but this should soon change, for the ties between the two groups are tighter than ever, perhaps even guaranteeing a bright future.

Hygiene Assistance

Housing Woes Continue

Although three years have already passed since the 2010 earthquake that tore apart Haiti, the housing situation among the population still remains a widely discussed topic. While the government of Haiti recently published a report claiming that 79% of the people who had been living in camps had returned to homes, foreign journalists continuously criticize the slow process of relocating the displaced earthquake victims. In fact, many had built camps in public squares, football fields, and even on golf courses.

The capital city of Port au Prince is already overcrowded with a population of over 2 million (which is expected to reach 6 million by 2030), and an option to ease the overpopulation was to relocate people to the northern edge of the capital city. However, most refused, for the northern area offered no water, public transport, and most importantly, work.

In Haiti, 90% of the land is owned by less than 10% of the total population, so internally displaced persons cannot benefit from temporary shelters, for the land owners would charge impossibly high prices. With a fast growing population, the future of housing situations in Haiti seems bleak, unless a solution can be found.

Community Building

JEN Offices in Haiti Consolidated

While JEN's original officers were located in Port au Prince and Grand Goave, we have decided to consolidate both offices into a single

office in Leogane in order to guarantee greater efficiency. Prior to this, the staff teams used to spend between three and five hours trying to reach their destinations, for traffic in Haiti was not necessarily ideal.

However, from JEN's new office location, 17 of out 18 sites are not located within five kilometers, and with no more debris on the road and with major improvements in renovating the national road, traveling is expected to become more efficient.

Most importantly, with a single office, all JEN staff members will be working alongside one another, making it easier to communicate and to visit sites more often. Ultimately, JEN's new office in Leogane will be cost-efficient and effective in the long-run.



The 7 EN's of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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