

Haiti

TWO YEARS LATER

JANUARY 2012

Two years after the devastating earthquake, the people of Haiti are rebuilding. This report offers you highlights of the progress they're making – thanks to your generous support.



Helping small business owners succeed and overcome setbacks

Small businesses are vital to Haiti's economy. In every town, on every street, shopkeepers, traders and craftsmen are working hard to provide their communities with the essential goods and services of daily life – and, in so doing, to lift their families from poverty. These are the “working poor” whose enterprises are helping Haiti recover and rebuild after the terrible earthquake two years ago.

Yet these small business owners live day-to-day, with little cushion against unexpected shocks like natural disasters or a family member's illness. When they're knocked down by bad fortune, they often lack the resources to get up again. Haiti is especially vulnerable to catastrophes that can erase, in a moment, the years of labor a person has already invested in building a more secure life.

Mercy Corps has a number of projects to improve the economic stability of Haiti's vulnerable business owners, including small loans, mentoring and financial training. When we saw how working people risk losing everything to the next disaster, we seized another opportunity to help.

Thanks to your support, we co-founded a new microinsurance entity that offers affordable insurance to low-income entrepreneurs. These innovative policies provide a critical safety net so that, when disaster strikes, business owners can quickly recover and keep working to grow their enterprises.

We have already seen this exciting concept make a big difference to women entrepreneurs, the first customers to take advantage of it. Last June, heavy rains damaged many small businesses and their merchandise. But this time, instead of going under, nearly 4,000 female business owners got help. Their outstanding loans were forgiven, they received automatic payments of \$125 – and they are pre-approved for new loans to restart their businesses.

It's your generosity that is allowing us to help the hardworking entrepreneurs of Haiti get back on their feet. Most importantly, your support allows them to succeed in the face of future crises, so they can continue to work, prosper and contribute to the economic recovery of their entire country.

To date in Haiti, Mercy Corps has:

- Improved the lives of 1.1 million people
- Created 234,000 temporary jobs
- Helped 90,000 children heal from trauma
- Provided 429,000 people with access to clean drinking water
- Reached 500,000 people with lifesaving information about cholera
- Supported 30,000 families who are sheltering survivors
- Introduced Haiti's first mobile wallet and used it to help 8,700 families

Photo: Fabiola Coupet/Mercy Corps

FROM FARM



TO MARKET

HOW MERCY CORPS HELPS FARMERS

EARN MORE FROM THEIR MANGOES

Growing more food is crucial to growing Haiti's economy – and feeding its people. Mercy Corps believes small-scale farmers hold the key. With the right assistance they can become much more productive. Now, thanks to your generous support, Mercy Corps is helping them reap greater rewards for their labor.



START



BUILD A FOUNDATION

PROBLEM:

Farmers lack business skills and effective agricultural techniques, so farms aren't well-managed and mango harvests and sales are low.

SOLUTION:

Help farmers manage their businesses – invest in basic equipment, access credit, plan cash flow – so they earn more and better overcome setbacks.

SOLUTION :
Help farmers stagger harvests based on ripeness to earn more on local and export markets.

PROBLEM:

Farmers pick all the mangoes – including under-ripe and over-ripe fruit – at once, so they earn less for their crops.

TIME THE HARVEST



HANDLE WITH CARE

PROBLEM:

Farmers lose up to 40% of their crops due to poor harvest, packing and transport methods.

SOLUTION:
Help farmers protect mangoes

during

picking, wash and grade them to meet export standards, and prepare mangoes for transport.

PROBLEM:

Farmers get low prices for their mangoes and miss export opportunities.

TO MARKET



SOLUTION

Teach marketing skills; boost capacity of

farmers' associations to extend credit and represent members to exporters; help farmers meet export requirements.



We are working with mango farmers to manage their farms more effectively, connect with new market opportunities and earn higher incomes – a project that benefits 3,000 people.

For stories, blogs and videos from the field visit mercycorps.org/haitiupdate