

A N N U A L
R E P O R T



Fondation Connaissance et Liberté 2017



Fondasyon konesans ak libète
Fondation connaissance et liberté

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Letter from the Executive Director

As the effects of climate change are felt more acutely, it is important for us to continue to challenge the common image of Haiti as a helpless humanitarian case. Our sense of human dignity as Haitians is rooted in a culture that was largely generated over time by people who are too often simplistically labeled as indigents and conveniently marginalized, whereas they embody the rich mosaic of our strengths and talents, as paradoxically fragile and resilient as our vibrant but poignantly exposed landscape. People and territories are who and where our work is anchored.

FOKAL actively and strategically supports local agricultural production through associations of smallholder farmers as well as other partnerships that can help communities regain a level of food security and eventually converge toward a national strategy for food sovereignty. In February 2017, FOKAL hosted a visit of OSF Global Board members in the company of then OSF Vice President Patrick Gaspard. We took our visitors to communities in Southern Haiti, one of the areas severely affected by the category 5 hurricane Matthew that had hit our coastline on October 4-5, 2016 and completely devastated several geographic departments. Two months before our visit, the scenery was one of scorched destruction but already budding shoots were appearing and farmers who had lost everything were feeling the promise of imminent harvests for quick growing crops. Very close by, rare but

precious veteran agronomists and technicians who have for decades assisted those populations were building back the hope, inch by inch, vigilant against the invasion of readymade aid programs and their train of passing intermediaries. We were proud and energized to support these networks of courageous and inventive resistance to destruction and comforted by our visitors' rapid understanding of the complex relationships at play.

All the while, our operational programs continued their work of interacting with artists, young debaters, journalists and urban communities who are engaged in social change. Similarly, we pursued our grant making support to Haitian civil society organizations struggling to defend painfully earned democratic conquests and to expand wherever possible. From the matrix of such patient and stubborn work, new and promising initiatives emerge and reinforce our faith in the work we do. We applauded exploratory collaborative work of Haitian and Dominican artists, academics and activists in revisiting the tragic events that lead to the October 1937 massacre of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent, announcing new ways of imagining our common future on this island. We also saluted the promising creation of a dynamic association of caregivers, professionals, friends, family members and people living with a mental illness, ISMA, who launched their awareness raising activities at

the Martissant Park through a well-attended town hall meeting with the community on October 10. The community's familiarity with the stigma of poverty resonated strongly with ISMA's presentation on the stigma of mental illness and demands for more group discussions were expressed, auguring opportunities for community driven activities in the field.

2017 closed on preparations for the visit in early 2018 of OSF's President Patrick Gaspard who was to lead a group of several OSF program directors and senior staff. The promise of exploring synergies within the network was bright in our minds.

Lorraine Mangonès

II. Fondation connaissance et liberté National regional foundation

Created in 1995, Fondation Connaissance et Liberté / Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libète (Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty), is a national foundation within the Open Society Foundations, OSF, a worldwide network of foundations and initiatives created by philanthropist George Soros for the promotion of the rule of law, human rights and democratic values. FOKAL also receives support from other funders, among which the European Union, the French cooperation and the American Red Cross. The Foundation offers to local communities throughout the country and to organizations of civil society a large spectrum of activities in the fields of education, civic engagement, arts and culture and development.

Since its creation, the foundation chose to support sectors in Haitian society that are likely to contribute to positive change for the country; by targeting issues involving children and youth, civil society associations and historically marginalized groups like women and peasants. Our actions and support revolve around four main themes: access to information, youth and civic engagement, art and education, human rights, reconstruction and environment. This last point includes the project on the creation,

management and civic outreach of the Martissant Park, which has been made possible with the support of the Haitian government, the Open Society Foundations, the French Agency for Development and the European Union.

Our mission

FOKAL aims to promote the implementation of structures necessary to the emergence of a just, democratic and inclusive society; to support individual and collective autonomy by encouraging critical thinking, creativity, responsibility and cooperation through education, training and communication and finally to reinforce organizational processes in order to increase the active implication of the Haitian people in their country's cultural, social and political life.

Friends of FOKAL

FOKAL can receive donations in the United States through the public charity Friends of FOKAL (formerly a Tides project) based in New York. Friends of FOKAL has a 501c3 federal tax exemption status.



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III. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS

1.THEME : DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE

A. CONCEPT: FOKAL'S RESOURCE CENTER AS A HUB FOR INTERACTION AND DEBATE

At the heart of Port-au-Prince, FOKAL's resource center was inaugurated in 2003, on the eve of Haiti's bicentennial, in the midst of extreme political turmoil, as a statement of faith in the future. The center is a unique space for meeting, learning, reading, exhibit, debate and discovery.

Summary of progress to date:

FOKAL continues to initiate, produce, finance, broadcast or host artistic events related to civic themes in partnership with organizations, groups or individuals. In 2017, thousands of people took part in the various events organized as part of the resource center's cultural activities.

Art for human rights and learning:

- Abattoir (Slaughterhouse), written by Ketsia Vainadine Alphonse, Joanne Joseph and Lesly Maxi, is the result of a two months artist's residence granted by Fokal to director Miracson Saint Val for writing and staging a show on the issue of children recruited by armed gangs.

- The Gender Equity Cycle "Jeu et Regard de femmes – Elles ont dit non" a series of 5 shows on gender equity (dance, theater, singing, standup comedy) organized by Pyepoudre Cultural Center, in partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland in Haiti and FOKAL.

- Lafontaine after Sylvain - a show of music and texts intended for young audiences which takes

texts intended for young audiences which takes a critical look at society and examines injustice and inequalities: Creole version by Haitian author Georges Sylvain, La Fontaine's fables are adapted to the rural and societal context of Haiti at the beginning of the last century.

- Struggle for Humanity, Equality, Freedoms, Justice - a series of multidisciplinary and transversal events around human rights, organized as part of a special project on Civic Education conducted in partnership with Avocats sans Frontières Canada (Lawyers Without Borders): exhibits, conferences, debates, performance, slam: a mirror of the collective struggles to stimulate reflection, questioning, commitment as well as an awareness of the need for individual and collective involvement in the defense of human rights.

Overview of the 2017 programming:

- Theater - Kaselezo by Franketienne, For colored girls who considered suicide ... by Ntozake Shange, Talon Aiguilles(cycle gender equity); Jera ak Jeta by Makenzie Orcel; Reconstructions by Guy Régis Jr; Chemins de fer by Julien Mabilia Bissila; Omayra, the chorus of the abyss by Daphne Menard; La peste Monologue d'interdits by James Saint Felix.

- Standup comedy - #jesuisgaelle (gender equity cycle)

- Slam - The declaration of human rights by the Off-Game Collective (human rights cycle).

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- Dance – Parfum de Femmes (cycle on gender equity); company Jean-René Delsoin; Impact by choreographer Jean Aurel Maurice (cycle Human Rights).

- Music – Youth talent concert of the International Jazz Festival of Port-au-Prince; Beethova Obas; Amos Coulanges; «Three Women» concert of the Rencontres des musiques du monde Festival of Tamise association.

- Exhibits – Lutter pour l'humain, equalities, liberties, justice (cycle Human Rights).

- Festivals and workshops - Feminist Festival Nègès Mawon; Reading marathon; Kont anba tonèl; European Union Film Festival; Francophone Film Festival from The French Institute; Livres en folies; Nouvelles vues Film Festival of Haiti; Theater Festival En lisant the BITH; Quatre Chemins Theater Festival.

- Lectures, meetings, talks - Bernard Diederich; Anthony Phelps; talk about the 80th anniversary of the Perejil massacre; screenings-debate - film on pre-trial detention by the Haitian Office of Human Rights; cycle of projections « Lutter pour l'humain » ; I am not your negro by Raoul Peck ...

Challenges

- Support multidisciplinary creativity on civic themes with a small budget and in restricted space.
- Prioritize an artistic requirement and transversal dynamics with other FOKAL programs or with individual or associative partnerships.

Next steps to achieve this objective:

Continue substantive and long-term work on specific themes (women, human rights in general, activities for young audiences etc.), preferring quality over quantity.

Statistics: 9 Reading festivals, storytelling, film, theater, music etc. took place in 2017, each bringing together around a thousand people.



B. THEME: DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE ART AND CULTURE

Field: Democratic Practice

The power and diversity of artistic expression in Haiti (and in the Haitian diaspora) is the most radical response to the country's constant portrayal as a humanitarian case. The arts and culture sector in Haiti is generally civic but also a vector of conquest and defense of freedoms. It is the voice of inclusion and the place of transcendence, away from prejudice, division and mediocrity.

Summary of achievements in 2017

- Funding of new documentary films and publications in line with FOKAL's values
- Quality training of artists through partnerships
- 8 institutions and 5 festivals receive institutional support from FOKAL to support their organizations in the work of framing and promoting Haitian art and culture at the service of the community.
- 15 beneficiaries selected in the context of calls for proposals for the production of high quality cultural products have received grants up to a maximum of USD 10,000. Smaller grants were awarded to more than forty individuals or grassroots associations.



Challenges

Despite the call for proposals, it is necessary to reserve an amount for small grants used for artists traveling abroad and smaller initiatives.

- The call for proposals is now more widely known and submissions are increasing.
- Support for cultural institutions is becoming increasingly scarce and more and more organizations in the sector are turning to FOKAL for a grant.

Next steps to achieve this objective

Continue to seek funding and technical partnerships.

C. SUB-THEME: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE YOUTH INITIATIVE

Field: Democratic Practice

This program aims at training youth on questions related to democracy building, citizen engagement, migrations and cross borders issues. The debate camp in Jacmel in July 2017 has shown the need for a change and for new initiatives to improve the debate program: renew the club coaches, develop a new system to evaluate debater speeches, introduce the World School Debating Championship (WSDC) format, more tournaments organized by clubs, improve communication in our network, deepen our partnership with the foundation's Civic Education Program.

Summary of progress to date

- A 3-days meeting with the 28 regular coaches of our 14 debate clubs to define the new objectives & priorities in the program
- We organized 2 regional debate competitions, now a necessary step for the final phase of the national tournament
- 4 inter-school debate tournaments realized by our clubs in their community (6-8 schools per tournament)
- We created a Facebook page to promote the activities, debate events and realizations in the program

Challenges

- In 2017, we aimed to encourage more girls to participate in the program and integrate our clubs
- We seek to expand debate in several secondary schools across Haiti, separately from our debate clubs network,

Next steps for this objective

- Organize 14 inter-school debate tournaments
- Renew the coaches of our debate clubs
- Increase the number of volunteers in the program
- Improve the system for evaluating debaters' speeches
- Develop a database on the actors & initiatives in the program
- Implement the World School Debating Championship through training and tournaments

2. THEME: EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION – TIPA TIPA

FIELD: Early Childhood and Education

The Tipa Tipa Foundation was planning in 2017 to train pre-school and primary teachers in 12 schools across the country, to organize advocacy for access to better education for disadvantaged children and their families and to make training for staff of the Ministry of Education.

Summary of progress to date

• Tipa Tipa Foundation has worked with national and international partners on the well-being and positive parenting of children. Preliminary meetings to prepare advocacy for access to better education for disadvantaged children and their families have taken place. We can also mention as realization:

- Training of Ministry of Education staff,
- Tipa tipa conducted a study for the ministry on parent education in Haiti.
- Links to the UNICEF Office for Parental Education.
- Development of an online training platform



Challenges

Difficulty for institutions to engage effectively in advocacy, drastic reduction of funds as well as social and political instability

Next steps for this objective

Tipa tipa Foundation commits to continue working on advocacy for children with interested local institutions and other public and private partners.

3. THEME: ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND ADVANCEMENT

A. SUBTHEME: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

FIELD: Civic Engagement and Inclusive Participation in Democratic Governance

Since its creation in 1995, one of the main target groups for FOKAL has been peasant organizations, a historically marginalized population who has played a fundamental role in the construction of our country's economy and culture while receiving no assistance from the Haitian State.

Summary of progress to date

FOKAL has selected reliable initiatives in the field and supports them with grants, training and technical assistance. These initiatives mainly concern sustainable development (livestock farming and small dairy farms, cocoa production and small social enterprises, etc.). 25 organizations and small businesses received grants from FOKAL.

Challenges

Natural disasters are more violent and wreak havoc in our dependent and vulnerable economy. In 2017, estimates of the Haitian demographic distribution show that the percentage of urban dwellers in Haiti is now higher than that of the rural population, a consequence of an increased rural exodus of the population, living in appalling conditions in overcrowded and unequipped cities. Farmers must now hire manual workers in a system of subsistence farming, increasing the already difficult conditions of production.

Next steps for this objective

Fokal will continue to work with accredited field organizations and support them through grants, cash flow, seed money and bridge money.

- FOKAL submitted a substantial grant proposal to the Reserve fund and the application was approved for 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the reserve fund was used to invest in the recapitalization of local grassroots organizations to recreate jobs and markets; to support smallholder farmers' coalitions and advocacy for access to justice and to public services.
- Assist grassroots organizations in their advocacy efforts to defend their rights.
- Link grassroots organizations to scientific research on resistant crops in line with food security and climate change issues.

B. ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND ADVANCEMENT – MARTISSANT PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Sub theme: Urban Space Development for Civic Engagement

Concept: Preservation of Martissant Park

Martissant Park is a unique urban forest of 45 acres in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, located in Martissant, a neighborhood stigmatized as gang and poverty ridden. The wooded area constituting the Martissant Park was declared of public utility and national interest by the Haitian government, which in turn delegated the management to FOKAL. The Martissant project focuses on a “ZAC” (zone d’aménagement concerté), a delineated area surrounding the park, for urban community management and exploratory transformative community projects, within an area of approximately 2 square miles and a population of approximately 50,000 inhabitants.

Summary of progress to date

- Following a presidential decree published in the *Moniteur* (Haitian official state publication) in April 2017, the Parc de Martissant is officially a national urban park, PNU-MAR, whose management by FOKAL is established and recognized.
- Design and construction of social infrastructure in the park: a large covered area was set up in the memorial garden for community meetings; a nursery sells local plants, compost and seeds. More than 1000 school children participate in community gardens. Playgrounds and community buildings are under construction.

- Improve the quality of life of neighborhoods in collaboration with public services: FOKAL is the interface between the communities of Martissant and the public utilities of electricity, education, water, health and waste management. Among the actions carried out, we can mention: the installation of 203 solar systems (Solar Powerpack 10.0) and 24 solar street lights, 90 family cisterns built in the localities of Morne l’Hôpital, the rehabilitation works of the ravine Takwèt launched in community project management with the associations and the inhabitants of the district, the construction of a playground in Decayette. 175 students from neighborhood schools with a good academic level, receive scholarships. FOKAL has also contributed to the installation of computer rooms in these schools.

- The Health and Rights Initiative, supported by OSF’s Public Health Program, works with local residents and a team of volunteers to raise awareness about sanitation, hygiene and health issues. A survey on Martissant’s health offer was conducted. All institutions and individuals providing health services have been identified and mapped. Drug and alcohol awareness campaigns were organized for young people in the neighborhood. Awareness campaigns on family and collective sanitation were organized for neighborhood households. 241 people attended conferences or workshops on specific health commemorations such as World Water Day, International Day of Dental Health, etc.

- The park’s budget is largely funded by the Open Society Institute, the European Union, and the French Development Agency. This funding

covers the implementation of the development plan for the neighborhood of Martissant whose main achievements are the construction of model gardens, rainwater recovery tanks, the preparation of gardens, the installation of impluviums, construction restraint thresholds and the management of a breeding nursery for forest and fruit species. The Haitian government is responsible for the operational costs of managing the Park.

Challenges

- The funding schedule of other donors does not always correspond to FOKAL’s, which penalizes the implementation of certain actions and causes delays in the completion of the work.
- Government officials change frequently and new staff is generally unaware of the contractual responsibilities between the Government of Haiti and FOKAL with respect to the park (budget delays, etc.).
- Political and social instability sometimes limits access to the Park and neighborhood as well as the continuity of actions in the neighborhood

Next steps for this objective

- Finalize the governance model so that FOKAL has an exit strategy in the next ten years that does not jeopardize all the work and investments of previous years.
- Finalize the works for the public park and open them to the public
- Renew discussions to create a scientific council with local and foreign universities.



C. ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND ADVANCEMENT GINGERBREAD AND HERITAGE

Sub theme: Urban Space Development for Civic Engagement

Concept: Preservation of Martissant Park

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4. THEME: HIGHER EDUCATION UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

FOKAL has always worked with the higher education sector, in Haiti and abroad, to help create a critical mass of educated citizens able to meet the scientific, economic, environmental, cultural, social and political challenges of Haiti. This already struggling sector is challenged to recover from the effects of recent natural disasters and unresolved internal governance issues. In agreement with OSF, FOKAL created a “University Partnership” (UP) program which aims to respond to some of those challenges.

Summary of progress to date

- Organizations such as the Gros-Morne Network of Green Schools fund teacher training sessions and the production of local materials.
- The FOKAL Fellowship Program helped 101 students with academic excellence records to continue their studies at accredited local universities, or provided them with small grants as co-funding for studies or seminars abroad.
- For the second year, the grant process is fully online, via the FOKAL website. This allowed for easier access, a simplified process and more guiding opportunities for potential beneficiaries.
- FOKAL gives grants to the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine for its program of decentralized trainees, at the Ecole Normale Supérieure for a few innovative programs and at the LADIREP research laboratory in support of its priority areas.

Challenges

- The public higher education sector in Haiti is often paralyzed by lack of funding and sometimes by violent student protests.
- The reconstruction of this sector is still ongoing
- A growing number of young Haitian professionals and young graduates are migrating to the region and to North and South America, Europe and elsewhere in search of job opportunities and better living conditions.

Next steps for this objective

- FOKAL will continue to help talented Haitian students study in their home country and also strive to focus on entrepreneurial skills and opportunities.
- A beneficiary database should help identify career paths and create opportunities for partnership and volunteering.
- FOKAL will seek support from OSF’s Higher Education Support Program (HESP) to better meet the expectations of the higher education sector that deserve to be encouraged.

5. THEME: HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS & INSTITUTIONS

Field: Human Rights movements & institutions Human Rights and Civil Society

Civil society is an important element of democratic construction. One of the effects of the post-dictatorship era was the emergence of many organizations and associations that carried previously repressed expressions of freedom: speech, circulation, association. These organizations played a key role during the democratic transition and were supported by the foundation in their struggle for the defense of civil and fundamental rights and for advancing justice system reform.

A new collaboration (2017-2022) for civic education with the Canadian NGO Lawyers Without Borders Canada will fund FOKAL was launched in June 2017, with an emphasis on gender issues and young people, building on our expertise in arts and culture for social change as well as our history of collaboration with civil society and academics to promote human rights values.

Summary of progress to date

Fokal gave 30 grants in this area focused on:

- Support the local judicial struggle against impunity through technical assistance and funding
- Support academic research in areas related to democracy / the rule of law

- Funding for publishing, film, conferences, events, etc. on those issues
- Funding technical assistance, advocacy, networks and training, strengthening civil society organizations to achieve their goals as key actors in the democratic process.
- The FOKAL resource center has hosted debates, exhibitions, conferences, raising citizens' interest in human rights issues and democratic practices.
- FOKAL also supported the publication of reports and research on human rights, the organization of conferences and participation to international conferences and meetings.

Challenges

- Civil society weakens due to many internal and external trends
- Iconic human rights organizations are closing due to lack of funds or scarce human resources.
- Generation-to-generation transmission is lacking and younger generations are less involved or less interested in human rights issues.

Next steps for this objective

- Continue to search for rewarding partnerships and donors who share our values and approach.

6. THEME: INFORMATION AND DIGITAL RIGHTS - LIBRARY

Field: Information and digital rights

The promotion of books and reading has been one of FOKAL's first commitments as an open society foundation in the Haitian context, where education is highly valued by rural and urban poor people and access to learning and reading is still a privilege. In 2017, there are 19 community libraries in the network supported by Fokal and the process of reducing the number of libraries (to concentrate on strengthening quality) has started.

Summary of progress to date

- At the end of 2017, the project of computerization of the libraries touched the cultural center Pyepoudre and the cultural and research center for youth (CECREJ) of the metropolitan area.

- Given the importance of reading in early childhood, the library program has emphasized the place of children in libraries by insisting on the development of a space dedicated to them with appropriate programming.

- The library program also set up common programming for all the libraries in the network, integrating suggestions from other Fokal programs to cover key civic and cultural themes. It covers December 2017 to December 2018.

- Fokal is a member of several major library associations around the world: the Association of University, Research and Institutional Libraries of the Caribbean (ACURIL), the American

Library Association (ALA) and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

Challenges

- Reading remains a privilege and access to quality documentation is difficult
- Internet penetration is limited and makes it difficult to computerize all libraries
- Due to lack of leadership, it was necessary to close some formerly successful libraries

Next steps for this objective

- Continuing evaluation of the libraries in the network and removing the less efficient from the network.
- Computerization of 2 new libraries
- The application of common programming for the benefit of libraries and users.
- FOKAL will continue the process with a local university to offer its distance learning program within an academic institution.

7. THEME: JOURNALISM - MEDIA

Field : Journalism

This program is divided into two broad categories: direct grants and operational support.

Summary of progress to date

Grants

Media support

Community radios

We mainly support the community radios through a Haitian network SAKS that organizes trainings, repairs and replaces equipments and works on community radio core values in a time where many radios are shifting to more typical private, commercial or religious radio model, even if they try to keep some progressive editorial line. We are trying to analyze and accompany these changes.

Call for proposal

Early 2017, we launched a call for proposal in order to structure our grant making and reach a more diverse audience by disseminating it throughout the medias and the country. We were able to support the production of stories and programs for TV, Radio and print regarding issues such as the memory of the dictatorship, child protection, environmental issues, education, Creole culture, public health issues. We were also able to support other groups in training journalists in basics skills as in multimedia journalism in the rural sector.

Other grants

Throughout the year, we also supported a film Festival in Jacmel, an academic research on the media in Haïti, the launching of an investigative journalism online platform.

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International Mobility

In 2017, we supported travel expenses for reporting in the DR, for young documentary films directors who had their work selected in Festivals (RIDM – Montréal/ États Généraux du documentaire de Lussas / Docmonde Workshops), for photojournalists who had their work selected in festivals (Visa Pour l'image, France), for editors (Revue DO KRE I S) and journalists (Festival du journalisme vivant/France)

OPERATIONAL

Access to information: Screening, debates and lectures

Creating meeting venues for journalists, civil society and the public. In 2017 we introduced Mardi.doc (Tuesday.doc), weekly screenings and debates organized under monthly themes: political power, feminism, Creole culture, women artists, poetry and translation, the cinema of the people, childhood, and other rounds on cinematographers and their methods. Created in 2015, the library section on photojournalism and journalism is reinforced every year with different books and catalogues from international and national exhibits.

Supporting the emergence of a new generation of young professionals working in the information field (journalists, videographers, photojournalism, directors, graphic designers, coders, etc.) through training, workshops, internships, networking.

In 2017, we launched the magazine of a collective of photographers we have been training for the past years and a workshop where they worked on the second issue's theme: environmental problems, which we also produced. In 2017, we organized a workshop with a photo editor and photo agent. In the field of photography, we launched an Emergent photographer fund late December. In the documentary films field, we supported the production of two films developed during the year 2016 and mentored during 2017. We had the two quarter of a three round workshops happening in 2017 with 6 projects from young directors accompanied by a trainer and supported with small grants. Two of these 6 projects have been selected by a Caribbean film producer's conference to be further developed and supported. We also invited an Iraqi filmmaker to do a documentary master class.

With our program Passerelles (bridges) aiming to link young professional and the labor market, we supported 4 internships in graphic design, videography and sound recording. In the field of investigative journalism: Following the support to different programs over the years that followed the earthquake, with some relatively short-lived success for some, we launched in 2017 some new training activities. A workshop was held in December with great attendance of young talented journalists from various media. We partnered, as every year now, with the Young journalist Award launched by the OIF (International organization for Francophone countries).



Challenges

In the field of investigative journalism: The training was useful, but the follow-up that involves the practice of investigative work has yet to find support locally. Young journalists' demonstrated will to work does not seem sufficient at this stage. For photojournalists, the main challenge is for them to work in the long term and to stay focused on quality in an environment that tends to encourage expediency.

Next steps for this objective

- Continue training, information and debate activities.
- Diversify calls for proposals to reach new audiences

8. UNALLOCATED AND RESERVE FUNDS

These funds were mainly used during the posthurricane crisis Matthew to alleviate the dire situation of beneficiaries of FOKAL: community radios, libraries, farmers, social enterprises, women's organizations and agricultural initiatives.

In October 2016, a huge part of Haiti's territory was severely damaged by Hurricane Matthew, with long-term consequences for homes, agriculture, crops, crafts, health, the environment, schools, businesses, etc. Some towns were partially destroyed, the rural populations isolated. The richest agricultural ecosystems and surviving ecosystems (forests, rare and unique birds, reptiles, mangroves, fruit crops, etc.) have been seriously affected. In November 2016, FOKAL requested reserve funds. In 2016, 40% was disbursed. This first phase supported 13 grassroots and small business organizations to assist their members (approximately 5,000 families) in a state of total destitution (shelter construction and planting of fast-growing crops) in the form of cash transfer. 97% of the reserve funds for the 2016 financial year were spent as planned.

Summary of progress to date

In 2017, the second disbursement of 50% was to invest in the recapitalization of local grassroots organizations to recreate jobs and markets. 19 organizations have benefited from grants towards small solidarity enterprises, the reconstruction of libraries or cultural centers, assistance to a city council for the construction of infrastructures.

Challenges

FOKAL's action cannot solve the problem, but can intelligently indicate a method of intervention respectful of people's dignity, include grassroots watchfulness on post-disaster corruption, and give hope to social actors who tend to be forgotten.

Next steps for this objective

Third parallel phase: start immediately, support advocacy efforts for water treatment (there are small yet recurrent outbreaks of the cholera epidemic); consolidate local voices for farmers' rights; and help local human rights organizations to focus on rights related to reconstruction.



9. ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY IN HAITI – CIVIC EDUCATION

In April 2017, Lawyers Without Borders Canada launched the project “Access to Justice and the Fight against Impunity in Haiti” (AJULIH in French), funded by Global Affairs Canada and of which FOKAL is a partner. The project focuses on three areas: improving access to justice; contribute to the fight against impunity and corruption; contribute to promoting citizen participation in democratic processes. FOKAL is particularly involved in this last aspect, through the civic education program.

Summary of progress to date

A general reflection on the thematic contents of the tools to be produced, including various experts, made it possible to draw the main orientations, for the production of contents for awareness of human rights.

The exhibit “Struggle for Humanity, Equality, Freedoms, Justice” was presented in FOKAL’s atrium in November 2017. At least 800 people visited the exhibit, which focused on past and present emblematic struggles and strategies for the defense of human rights.

Young people were particularly targeted by the activities. FOKAL’s 14 youth initiative clubs have been sensitized to human rights issues and encouraged to raise awareness on human rights violations in their communities. Three clubs were accompanied in the realization of their actions: Fonds-Parisien on the right to identity, Gros-Morne on the right to a healthy environment, and Les Cayes on the right to leisure.

The call for proposals entitled “Human Rights

Told to Children” addressed to storytellers (or storytelling specialists in all disciplines), offering human rights outreach to children and youth audiences, supported four human rights promotion arts projects and supported them through human rights training and storytelling workshops.

Challenges

- As no significant materials are available in Haiti, quality adaptation of materials and activities for our context is challenging;
- Participation of women and girls requires new strategies
- There is a need for support to project leaders - individuals or CSOs – in a deeper understanding of human rights through training courses or discussion workshops.

Next steps for this objective

The creation of human rights outreach materials and other cultural and training activities will be part of this major information and human rights education campaign.



Florida

Ocean

Cuba

Jamaica

Haiti

Dominican Republic

Puerto Rico

CARIBBEAN SEA

Panama

Colombia

Venezuela

IV. MEMBERS OF FOKAL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Maxime D. Charles
President

Former CEO of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Haiti. His legal and finance career includes teaching international law from 1985 to 1991 at the Public University of Haiti, and fulfilling international assignments in Canada and the Caribbean for the bank of Nova Scotia from 1992 to 1996. Charles is active in a number of professional and civil society organizations, serving as a board member for the Arbitrage Tribunal of the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti and as president of the Anti-money Laundering Committee and of the Association of Professional Bankers. He has used his position on the money laundering committee and the banker's association to bring these groups together and pursue legal reform. Charles has LL.M. degrees from the Public University in Haiti and from the Faculty of Law at the University of Provence in France.



Daniele Magloire
Vice-President

Sociologist, management consultant, human rights activist and a founding member of the feminist organization Kay Fanm, which operates a shelter in Port-au-Prince for gender violence survivors and works to promote women's rights and economic development. She has worked to develop national policies and responses against gender violence and is coordinator for the Collective against Impunity, a leading group in the effort to bring former president Jean-Claude Duvalier and his associates to justice in Haiti. Magloire was a prominent member of the government's advisory council during the post-Aristide transitional government from 2004 to 2006. Following her service to the government, Magloire became the executive director of the Haitian office of the Canadian NGO Droits et Démocratie, where she directed human rights advocacy training until 2012 when the Harper government closed Rights and Democracy in Canada.



Norma Powell
Secretary

Former General Director of the Center for Facilitation of Investments (CFI), Haiti's national investment promotion agency. Founding member of the Haitian Liberal Party and of the Haitian Association for the Fight against Poverty. Powell's engagement with philanthropy includes working to establish the Association for the Management of Risks and Continuity of Activities, a private sector initiative that works with local authorities to help prevent and respond to disasters. She is also a board member of Haven, a housing and community development NGO based in Ireland that is working with Haitians to build or repair thousands of homes and restore public hygiene and sanitation in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake.



Jean- Joseph Exumé
Member

He is a very reputable lawyer specializing in civil and commercial law. He was Minister of Justice and Public Security twice, notably during the government of Michèle D. Pierre-Louis (2008-2009). He is a pro-bono advocate of the group of victims against Duvalier, the Collective against impunity. He was a member of the presidential commission set up in January 2012 for the Revision of the 180-year-old Haitian penal code and a draft revision of the Penal Code was submitted in March 2015



Elisabeth Colimon Wooley
Member

Elisabeth Colimon Wooley is a partner at Dantes P. Colimon and a member of the Bar Association of Port-au-Prince since 1978. She received her degree in Legal Sciences from the Faculty of Law and Economics in 1980. She is also a member of Board of Directors of the Arch of Haiti and the Haiti Fund for Women's Aid; member of the GHESKIO Centers Ethics Committee and the Soroptimist International Club of Port-au-Prince. She is also interested in micro-credit, ethics and personal development (motivation and self-knowledge).

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Elizabeth Pierre-Louis Augustin,
Program Director from contributions by the
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director.

Photos:
Josué Azor, Valerie Baeriswyl, Karl Foster
Candio, Jeho-Nephtey Abraham, Pierre Michel
Jean, Yves Osner Dorvil, Moise Pierre, Thierry
Cherizard.

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FOKAL
143 Avenue Christophe
Port-au-Prince Haiti
www.fokal.org

