

**Report to the Partners in Progress (PIP) Board of Directors**  
**January 4-7, 2007**  
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In general, the socio-economic and political situation in Haiti has not improved. During these last couple months, the climate of insecurity has gotten worse with the kidnapping of school children in Port-au-Prince. During the last two weeks of December, however, the police have taken a few effective measures to lower the insecurity in the streets.

December 3, 2006 saw the elections of city council members, advisory councils in communal sections, and communal assemblies<sup>1</sup>. Election turnout was weak, and there were a few towns that contested the results. In Fondwa, things were calm with no problems on voting day, with no results contested.

APF activities are continuing to progress, despite the many financial difficulties in covering even our minimal expenses. Paying the salaries and some regular expenses of the APF Sekretarya have been extremely difficult, as it has been for the school and the university. We are not quite sure how we are going to pay our employees and covering our expenses in all these activities for the month of January 2007.

Our main challenge is that our activities are expanding but our means for sustaining them are weak, which makes the activities very fragile. The problem is national-- money is not circulating, less tourists are visiting the country, and less foreign interest in the country. In that sense, the majority of our economic activities are at a standstill. Take L'ecole St. Antoine for example: in the last few years, we have added more classes each year, which means more professors, and increasing expenses. Furthermore, the school used to operate nine months out of the year, and now it runs the full 12 months. The longer we operate during the academic year, the higher our

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<sup>1</sup> These are direct translations. I'm not familiar enough with the local governance structures in Haiti to translate these terms into their equivalent U.S. local government terms.

expenses, and there are some expenses that cannot be left unpaid.

The same problems hold for the APF Sekretarya, which plays a critical and dynamic role in the management of APF's activities. The Sekretarya is the "poto mitan"—the pillar of APF's activities. If there are problems in Fondwa, it is the Sekretarya which handles the solutions. If the generator is out, the plumbing has been damaged, there's a need for transportation, or a report that needs to be written, or a computer that needs to be repaired, or materials that need to be purchased, or engineers that need to be contacted, it is the Sekretarya that handles these issues. The list is long.

In that sense, we hope Partners in Progress understands the important function that the APF Sekretarya serves. We would like PIP to help us find the means to reinforce the work of the Sekretarya, which includes trainings for our employees, purchase of equipment, and funding. Right now, we are working with our fingernails, as the Haitian proverb says. Our needs are great, and everything seems like a priority. However, the solid operation of the APF Sekretarya is one of APF's highest priorities.

The rest of the report will provide more detailed information on APF's activities:

**L'ecole St. Antoine:** in December 2006, the 2006-07 academic year second semester evaluations went well, and the positive results allowed the start of classes in January 2007. The only problem we had was paying the professors' salaries for the months of November and December. This worried many of the professors, and morale was especially low, during the holiday season. We want to extend our gratitude to Rich and Kathy as they helped resolve this problem very quickly.

**The school cafeteria:** it's operating well, unfortunately, I did not have enough time to gather all the details on the cafeteria before this meeting. I'll try to send you the information as soon as I can. I can tell you that the school hosted a very successful end-of-the-year party and a reception with food for all the participants. We also had 2 Family Health Ministries friends, David and Elizabeth, who took photos of the occasion.

**L'ecole St. Antoine water project:** During these past months, the engineer stopped working on the water project because there were several things he wanted to do at the same time as purchasing the water pump—installing the pump while pouring the concrete on the reservoir and putting the water in the cistern immediately, as a cistern will break if it does not have water in it. There were problems transporting the materials as APF did not have the means to transport the materials. Since the beginning of October, however, APF has had access to a camion truck which has solved the transport problem. The engineer started work on the school water system in December. The work is now almost finished.

**Construction of the Children's Home:** Work on the roof and walls has been finished since the middle of December. Plumbing and electricity is almost completed. What remains is the flooring, toilet, and shower installation. When the work is all completed, especially with the last tranche of funding we received, we'll prepare a detailed report. All the children continue to attend school—pre-K, primary, secondary, and University. I would like you to witness their development, from when they were very young and how they've all grown. But also, with their development, comes increased expenses, as the costs rise in taking care of them.

**The clinic:** AIDS training went well. Training was given to the peasant groups, youth and women's groups, and two other groups from other communities outside of Fondwa, in conjunction with the University of Fondwa for December 1 World AIDS Day.

**Sisters' House:** For the last few months, the Sisters have made strong efforts at securing the four rooms of their house, as some in the area were using the rooms for their own purposes. Construction of the septic tank began, but there wasn't enough money to complete the work. The Sisters have a lot of financial debt in the construction. Work on it had stopped for a while, but the grant from the Sisters of Kansas will help advance the construction of the four rooms and the septic tank.

**Makaya water project:** The work is continuing slowly, due to the many difficulties the engineer had in transporting the materials. We

hope the reservoir will be completed in January and some pipes will be installed. The generator has already been purchased, and it's on its way to Haiti. We think it will arrive in Fondwa in February. If things continue as planned, the project should be completed by Easter 2007.

**CEIPAL Project and Micro-Realization Program (PMR):** We're done with the first phase, where we've captured two water sources, put in place a dozen model forests, and organized several trainings for the animators, members of the peasants groups, and the APF Director's Committee. These projects allow us to strengthen our APF animation team, which has four new animators/supervisors and a group of 12 intern animators (six month internships). Right now, we are in the second phase of this project. The PMR project should be completed in March. In the phase we're in now, we've captured three new water sources (Denav, Ka Bove, and Kapen) and preparing one source that has already been captured in the villages of Ka Anri I and II. We've produced and planted 25,000 trees, prepared a radio announcement, and organized trainings for the students in the school. This project is extremely interesting because it allows us to improve the environment in Fondwa and protect the peasants soil, which represents their principal source of revenue. Most of this soil has already deteriorated (metaphor "entered into the sea"). This project allows us to create employment opportunities for the peasants in the area as well. We want to intensity and multiply the quality of these projects in 2007.

**Economic Activities:** The situation has not changed very much, because we have not found the financial means to make these activities profitable. In our last evaluation of these activities, we determined that they could be made profitable, but the level of investment in them was too weak. We need to augment our stock levels so that profits can be made. Basically, we need to invest more funds into these activities.

**APF Sekretarya:** As we already stated, the Sekretarya is the principal organ which manages APF's activities, and we are facing many difficulties in its solid operation. There's a Haitian proverb which says, "if the head is sick, the entire body is sick." Thus, if the

Sekretarya lacks the means to do its work, it will be very difficult to achieve our objectives in Fondwa. For this reason, we are working to reinforce the Sekretarya, hire qualified individuals, and purchase the equipment we need to be able to do the work and do it effectively. We're also working to develop a strategy whereby a part of the Sekretarya budget would come from APF project funds. However, this amount is not sufficient for now, because of the many economic difficulties in the country. In that sense, we need the participation and help of everyone who understands the importance of the work of the APF Sekretarya and its need for a budget that allows it to function effectively.

**APF's prospectus for 2007:**

- 1) Reinforce the capacity of the APF Sekretarya.
- 2) Continue to advance all of APF's projects.
- 3) Locate funding for a soil protection project and basin which will provide work opportunities for peasant group members in Fondwa.
- 4) A water project which has a cistern and water tank for peasants' homes, as well as latrines and showers, which is a way to improve the environment and help peasants improve the conditions of their lives.
- 5) A project in which peasants can host students and tourists in their homes whenever there is this possibility.
- 6) Organize and develop a 10-year strategic plan for APF (2008-2018).