



## **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ORGANIZATION**

### **Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program Project Implementation Report**

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Completion date: July-August 2022

Location: Jérémie, Grand 'Anse, Haiti

Number of participants: 20 participants

Report by : YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ORGANIZATION

Completion date: October 2022

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## **Project Summary**

The Haitian Youth Empowerment Exchange Program was held on the campus of Saint-Louis High School with twenty (20) young community leaders (high school students) from all over the country (about seven municipalities). During this two-week in-person program, they had the opportunity to receive different trainings on peacebuilding, respect for human rights, leadership and how to become social entrepreneurs from UN officials and a wide range of experts from around the world. The knowledge that was shared with the participants was also from a practical point of view, as they could visit the civil prison of Jérémie and the public hospital to know the living conditions of these people living in inhumane conditions and thus feed their reflection on human rights violence. One of the most important activities they carried out was the visit to the Office of Citizen Protection where they learned from the Director the actions they can take in case of human rights violations in their respective communities. As a national office working to make human rights a reality, they each presented the ups and downs of human rights from their community perspective and at the same time proposed actions to be taken to generate profound and radical change in their communities. In addition, debate is an important element in educating tolerance and respect for plurality of opinions in the search for community consensus. As a result, they learned the key elements of the debate and had simulation sessions in addition to the training sessions that were facilitated by discussions. At the end of the program, participants were divided into three groups where they had to work on advocacy on different topics. These documents are still being processed for sending to the Ministry of Human Rights in Haiti and to some NGOs working for peacebuilding in Haiti. These dedicated young people are the answer to the question of why this kind of project is being implemented in Haiti. Throughout the program, they showed maturity and respect for each other but also demonstrated a sense of integrity and honesty in the tasks entrusted to them.

## **Selection process**

The selection process was initiated by an awareness campaign on social networks. The organization has made sure to make the program accessible to all those who want to participate without financial

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worries so that everyone has an equal opportunity. Media outlets have also boosted the call for applications to cover the national public.

- Discover the Grand 'Anse:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0UZL2dAVNREetvpjfFpjGEeomfBSPqK7quZ1t6kV3f3sR27zjUnc8QSwAXkXdtKNMI&id=474024145965956](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0UZL2dAVNREetvpjfFpjGEeomfBSPqK7quZ1t6kV3f3sR27zjUnc8QSwAXkXdtKNMI&id=474024145965956)

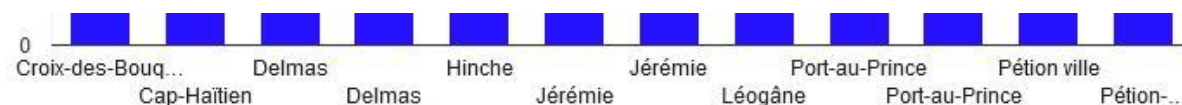
- Junot 7:

<https://www.facebook.com/133753136638383/posts/pfbid02sRFJMJBzUpzM7UvZyGieR6jsZU4UxirQ9MXVYh2Hj7eaME9dRm9Ca4Qi1W6Q56xLI/?d=n>

- The website of the organization through which the applications were received:

<https://youthempowerment-ht.org>

In addition, the organization has ambassadors who have circulated the call for applications in youth networks as well as in some schools in the south and Grand 'Anse.



This figure shows the coverage of different areas of the country that have applied to the Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program.

Of the 52 applications received, after an initial selection based on the youth leadership potentials, 30 were selected for group and individual interviews to evaluate participants based on both individual and group performance. To ensure impartiality in the choices, these interviews were conducted by a member of UWC Haiti, Jeunes Sans Frontières, Réseau Vert, Youth Ambassadors and Youth Empowerment Organisation. This judging and egalitarian process was able to select the twenty candidates who were able to obtain a full scholarship to participate in the Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange program.

## Activities

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Due to the irregularity of flights from Port-au-Prince to Jérémie with Sunrise (a change that was made after the United Nations could not support the trip due to insecurity.), the participants arrived in Jeremiah over two days. They were received by Pouchenie Blanc (Executive Director of the organization) at the Guy Malary terminal for their flight. It should be noted that 13 participants arrived by air and those from Grand'Anse and Sud by land.



The participants were first accommodated at the Guess House of Nounie Home décor before being all full to enter under the campus of Saint Louis de Jérémie College.



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The following day, a visit was organized to the civil prison of Jeremiah and the Saint Anthony Hospital, joined by the organization Thrive Ansanm, they were able to distribute kits to these people living in inhumane conditions. In the afternoon preceding this activity, they had a workshop to discuss community services and its benefits. Always with a view to making the knowledge acquired practical. (Workshop led by Love-Kendy Jourdan , Organization Coordinator).



In addition, they had another discussion workshop on spatial planning and the place of young people in these social movements. As a result of this activity they had a morning of physical and sports exercises which was followed by a visit to the beach of Anse d'Azur which they cleaned before enjoying its beauty and freshness. Another opportunity to link the knowledge acquired on spatial planning with practice.

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Have you ever wondered what life was like under the campus of Saint Louis de Jérémie College? Let's look at some clichés together: in their spare time, our ChangeMakers have had conversations with each other to strengthen their bonds and practice tolerance towards each other. They had fun playing chess following the refresher sessions organized by the 3rd national player Berlensky Leger (Vice-coordinator of the organization). They help each other and blend into networking and exchange sessions.



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*Unite young people from different backgrounds to think about the process of building peace and implementing non-violent strategies to promote Haiti's development.*

The Youth Empowerment Organization's exchange program encourages young people to become agents of change who are involved in their communities and who work through their initiatives for the well-being of their respective communities. In this sense, our youth empowerment program received Rev. Father Luxo Louis, pedagogical director of Saint Louis College, Lawyer, Accountant and holder of an MBA from Puerto Rico. His intervention on project assembly and management techniques has strengthened the capacities of our young leaders who are already showing the desire to get socially involved in their communities! These hours of training not only broadened the horizons of our young people but also fostered awareness of community issues and reflection on how to solve them in order to offer a better future to future generations.



Generating changemakers requires education focused on the key issues facing societies and thus guide discussions on how to solve them. In this sense, as part of the Youth Empowerment Organization program, we received Mr. Wilkerson Sévère, former Project Manager of the United Nations Development Program, holder of a master's degree in International

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Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, sociologist and current consultant of a World Bank project. His presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals offered a wide range of avenues for the systematic resolution of certain community issues. We are impressed by the quality of the work of these young people who now represent the hope of Haiti, of the world.



Human rights play an important role in any initiative aimed at the search for lasting peace. In this sense, as part of the Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program, we welcomed Nicolson Jourdan, former United Nations official, member of the Jérémie Bar and fierce defender of human rights. This professional, student of the first promotion of the law school of Jérémie and several prestigious French universities including the Catholic University of Lyon initiated our ChangeMakers in the field of Human Rights by this extraordinary session. He concludes his presentation with workshop work that allowed our ChangeMakers to set themselves up as human rights defenders to better understand certain situations and better guide their actions with regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other tools that prioritize respect for human dignity and the inherent rights of all people.

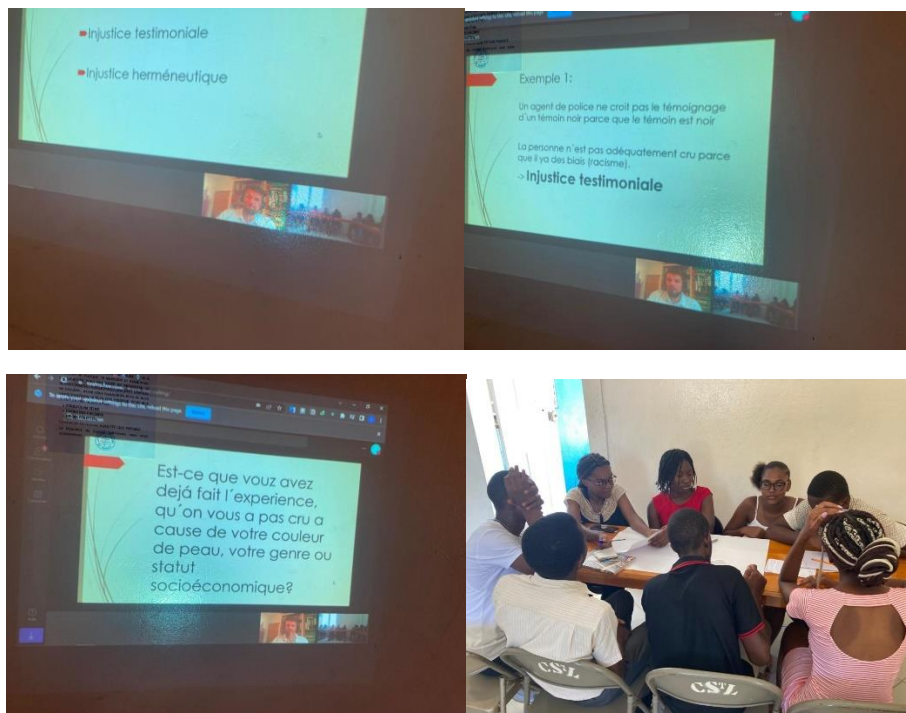


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Violence has different origins in Haiti and it is extremely important to understand its source in order to denounce it. Therefore, understanding their interconnectedness with human rights can offer a broad view of how to tackle them. In this sense, we had the illustrious opportunity to receive Stefan Wohlfarth from Germany for a training on epicene violence and human rights. Stefan Wohlfarth studied economics and politics at the prestigious universities "University of Freiburg, Germany" and the University of Manchester. He is Professor of Economics and Theory of Knowledge at Robert Bosch College. His presentation was completely a source of empowerment for our changemakers who are now equipped enough to make a difference. He concludes his presentation with workshop work.



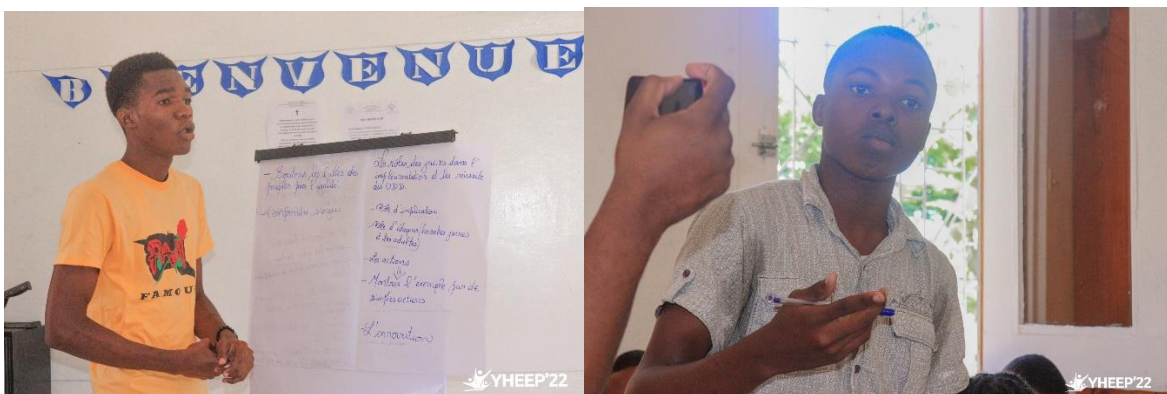
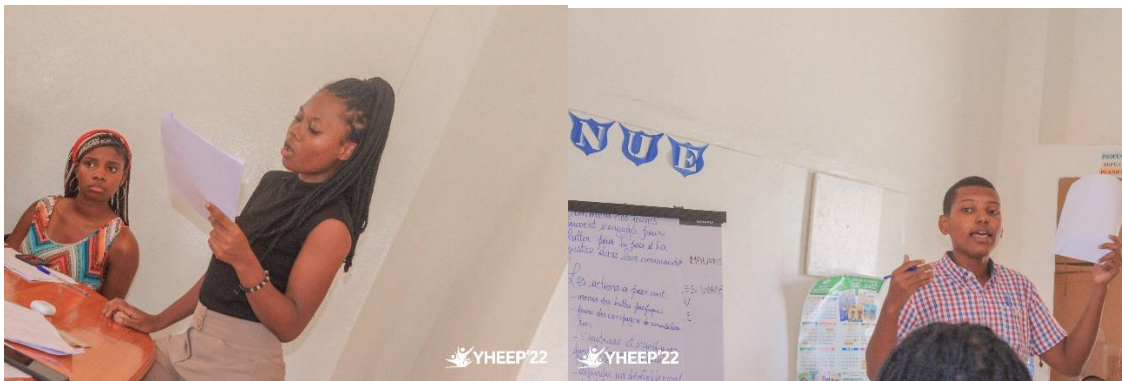
Any transformative experience requires understanding the past, making a comparison with the present to better shape the future. In this sense, as part of the Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program, an intergenerational debate was moderated by the Dean of the city of Jérémie, Mr. Maurice Léonce in the gardens of the Inn Inn. Recent Dean of Livre en folie 2022 who published poem of the Grand 'Anse at his 100 years, Mr. Maurice Léonce was happy to animate the debates on the responsibilities of youth in creating a better future in Haiti. Before concluding, in a nostalgic voice, he recited a poem written the same day for our ChangeMakers that talks about the old days in Haiti, after which he adds: "I lived happy times." What an honour to have had a man of such great culture to enhance the brilliance of our program.

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After the training workshops on the debate led by Fokal Debaters: Love-Kendy Jourdan, Berlensky Léger, Silas Bellevue (Partner of the organization) and Hérard Gervéson (Friend of the organization.) The young people were able to sharpen their reflections via the Karl poper format on topics related to human rights and the construction of peaceful society.



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As published by the Office for the Protection of the Citizen (OPC) on their social networks as a follow-up to our joint activity:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0vEjdsuvdqcV3fncYhXiZxq24iH8s6DQhFbnXeNmKbu7w6qA4XNnV3b66LqrMHTDnl&id=217050851679230](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0vEjdsuvdqcV3fncYhXiZxq24iH8s6DQhFbnXeNmKbu7w6qA4XNnV3b66LqrMHTDnl&id=217050851679230)

Youth Haitian Empowerment Exchange Program, is an initiative of the United Nations Ambassador of Peace in Haiti and the Ambassador of Human Rights of the Office of the Protection of the Citizen, Mr. Love-Kendy Jourdan. Indeed, the young national winner of the 2020 Human Rights Text and Reporting Competition aims to empower young Haitians with education focused on peace, respect for human rights and non-violent actions. Alongside Berlensky Leger and Pouchenie Blanc, the coordinator of the Youth Empowerment Organization gives his heart and soul to contribute to an improvement of living environments in Haiti. As part of this activity, participants from all over the country were able to visit the OPC office in Jérémie where the program was held for a simulation of advocacy and non-violent demands regarding respect for human rights in areas of no rights in Haiti. Participants set themselves up as consuls of human rights and public safety to serve as a voice for the vulnerable. Another initiative that is part of a search for positive peace and also to train young people to hope for a better future. (Our young people were received by Mr. Arold Nicolas, Departmental Director of the OPC, who took the opportunity to report to them on the progress of Human Rights and the range of existing ways to continue their advocacy.)



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*"The generation of changemakers we're talking about...!"*

The city of Jérémie greeted the presence of our ChangeMakers with a socio-cultural activity that they were able to enjoy at the gardens of the French alliance of Jérémie animated by crescendo.

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As a concrete achievement of the program, participants were divided into three groups to work on advocacy on gender and gender equality, peace and public security, and on the respect of human rights and law enforcement in Haiti. In addition to the working hours allocated during the two weeks, a full day was planned for the finalization of these documents. So they spent a day drafting the advocacies and they toasted this great success before celebrating the end of the program.



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*"And good food is a source of motivation... »*

After two weeks of arduous work and strengthening ties, the program ends with an emotional closing evening. Participants praised the work done with a strong and moving speech that fuels the energy of the organization to continue this work. In the presence of some of Jeremiah's public figures, the program ended.

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*Love-Kendy Jourdan and Berlensky Léger being proud of having led this huge project..*

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*"The smile of a victory for Haiti."*

### Implementation Strategy

The implementation of such a programme requires active and efficient logistics. The organization has therefore joined forces with "Les Jeunes Sans Frontières" of Jérémie (about 12 young people) to ensure the different aspects that the program should cover. This logistics team led by Love-Kendy Jourdan (Organization Coordinator) was divided into three parts:

- 1- The team responsible for life under campus led by René Ernst Lindor whose mission is to ensure the preparation of the training rooms, the campus space, and everything that the participants would like to be procured.
- 2- The administrative team led by Berlensky Léger whose mission is to manage everything related to the administration of the program in financial terms (e.g. purchase of water each time necessary, training materials, coordination of daily dishes, and all other expenses related to the program.
- 3- The team in charge of off-campus activities led by Silas Bellevue who was in charge of preparing all off-campus activities and ensuring that transportation and all other essential points were covered for these trips.

### Unforeseen

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The project was designed with fine preparation that kept the unexpected to a minimum. Despite the meticulous preparations of several months, the realization of the project experienced some unforeseen events that forced the organization to reallocate its resources.

The first unforeseen events concern the partnership between Les Amis d'Haïti, UNHS (UN agency) and Youth Empowerment Organization. Indeed, one week before the program, the UNHS found itself in a situation that does not favor air travel (being non-paying travel) the organization had no alternatives to the minute to condemn this. As a result, to ensure the implementation of the program, the coordination postponed the start of the program by one week in order to reassess the budget and make the impossible possible. The right budget cannot cover costs without reallocating resources and new support. The 13 participants of the program who required this type of transport which costs 125 us per trip so 250 us per person were able to continue the adventure thanks to the generous support of Lory Market of 1000.00 us, the support of the Fokal of 2000.00 us and donations received from friends of the organization. Despite the possibility of being able to pay for tickets, the scarcity of flights to Jérémie from Port-au-Prince forced the organization to find a route to the cays (Round trip) and in two stages the participants were received from the cays and transported to Jérémie by land (Given the Jérémie-P-au-P trips instantly closed because of insecurity) a type of private transport was continued in order to make the program effective. However more expensive for the organization's limited purse.

In addition, two of the participants had discomforts that required medical consultations. Their condition was not a concern, but to be sure, the organization paid the costs that should be covered for consultations and medical prescriptions.

Finally, the rise and scarcity of fuel prices in Jérémie was a damage to supply the campus with energy and during the trips planned as part of the program. All this has contributed to additional costs for the organization and has made the fields of action limited.

- **Partnerships**

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In the implementation of this program , various partnerships have been established:

- Financial Fokal\_\_\_\_\_Partenariat
- Financial GOMAD\_\_\_\_\_Partenariat
- Haitian Connection\_\_\_\_\_Partenariat Financier
- Ministry of Education (MENFP) Support in frame and coverage
- Youth Without Borders (JSF) Logistical support
- Comparet support in human resources.

### Financial aspect of the program

#### Funds availablefor the programme

Fokal \_\_\_\_\_

GOMAD\_\_\_\_\_1000.00 US

Haitian Connection\_\_\_\_\_1000.00 US (930.00 received afterdeduction of fees)

Lory Market\_\_\_\_\_1000.00 US

Donations to organisation\_\_\_\_\_1,125.00 US

Total \_\_\_\_\_**6055.00 US**

#### Table of expenditures

Air transport	3250.00 us
Food	2000.00 us
Internal transport, fuel cost, transport from Cayes-Jérémie and Jérémie to the cays.	482.00 us
Cleaning costs for space, water supply costs, and for travel expenses of the logistics team.	232.00 us
Flat fee (consultation and prescription fees, informal purchase costs in the execution of the project.	91.00 us

Debt contracted by the organization: 500 us which will be paid to the catering service once the report is submitted to Fokal. Attached to the report, you will find proof of expenditure for transport (Sunrise sheet) and for food (in the form of a signed contract after payment.) .

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These supporting documents can be used for the allocation of Fokal to the organization as their grant covered 1500.00 US on transport and 500.00 on food.

For the ticket sheet, the program coordinator holds a ticket from Jérémie to Port-au-Prince (round trip) and from Port-au-Prince to Santo Domingo (round trip) in a special mission to represent the organization to meet young leaders from the Caribbean. These costs were covered by the organization and not the program fee so 482.00 us is to be deducted from this receipt.

- **Follow-up Strategies**

One of the most critical aspects of our program is the sustainability of the project and the ability to measure its impact over the years. This annual summit has not only brought together young people but aims to connect leaders in order to expand their network and thus better impact their respective communities.

With this in mind, leaders are always connected through groups that members of the organization also share or repeatedly present their initiatives or project ideas. Thus, the organization offers them expert consultations to better guide them and have a real impact with their initiatives. In addition, they follow a year of " **Action Accelerator**" program, which is actually a monthly training meeting on the organization's policy topics that encourage change in Haiti. Each month, an expert or a group of experts via ZOOM meeting joins them to continue our training programs.

At the level of the organization's future projects, they will also be able to participate as ambassadors of the organization. This will allow them to better present their initiatives under our banner and at the same time make themselves better known. The organization is committed to supporting them in achieving the objectives of this program: "To create a generation of actors of change better able to generate profound and radical change in Haiti through education."

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