

## Hope for Haiti's Caisses Populaires

Haiti's economic future looks brighter, thanks to technology, persistence, and help from the global credit union community.

Since 2009, World Council of Credit Unions has led the USAID-funded Haiti Integrated Financing for Value Chains and Enterprises (HIFIVE) program to:

- **Stimulate** the economy through financial sector development;
- **Promote** job creation;
- **Improve** livelihoods; and
- **Contribute** to the sustainable and lasting development of Haitian enterprises, particularly in rural areas.

HIFIVE works with local credit unions, called caisses populaires, and other financial institutions to expand outreach to new markets, reduce costs, and develop financial products and services for Haiti's rural communities, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises; producers; and farmers.

While these institutions continue rebuilding follow-

ing a devastating earthquake in 2010, HIFIVE's work to promote mobile money increases the availability of financial services using technology.

Of the country's 70 credit unions, nearly half are newly engaged in value chain finance, and 24 now use information and communication technology tools to increase access to finance.

These credit unions serve 660,000 Haitians, mostly living in rural areas. To date, members have received \$98 million in loans, mainly agricultural.

As World Council finishes its final year in Haiti this month, credit unions continue to grow, mobilize share savings, and distribute and collect loans for productive activities.

Given credit unions' success under difficult conditions, financial freedom beyond rebuilding remains hopeful in Haiti.

Learn more about World Council's efforts in Haiti at [hifiveproject.org](http://hifiveproject.org).



▲CODECREM CU has received a HIFIVE grant to expand rural and agricultural finance. These rural mango growers formed a women's group to access credit through visits from CODECREM officers. With access to loans, they achieve higher profits by selling their crops at more favorable times, and gain better incomes to provide for their families.

(Photos courtesy of World Council, unless otherwise noted)





▲From left: Alfred and Dorisca, cacao producers and entrepreneurs, exhibit their cacao products at a trade fair in Haiti. In 2011, Alfred, Dorisca, and other cacao producers of Fédération des Coopératives Cacaoyères du Nord (FECCANO) accessed credit for the first time through Collectif de Financement Populaire. Financing enabled FECCANO producers to increase exports from 12.5 tons to 75 tons per year.



▲SOCOLAVIM CU member Ilette (right) has been growing and selling rice for 15 years. She received her first loan from SOCOLAVIM to expand production, as well as to diversify and increase her variety of vegetables. The loan allowed Ilette to invest more in her business, increase her earnings and savings, and develop a long-term business plan.



▲With improved profits through access to agricultural credit, Ansolom (left), a former day laborer, has been able to expand his plantain production, hire three employees, and buy a motorbike to make deliveries to hotels and local markets.



▲Frantz (left), a SOCOLAVIM member for more than 15 years, conducts his first transaction at a branch outside his home branch. SOCOLAVIM connected all its branches through information and communications technology infrastructure with a HIFIVE grant. This has strengthened SOCOLAVIM's management capacity, so that the institution can offer more efficient services to its current clients and expand outreach.

(Photo courtesy of HIFIVE)