



The Model Community Initiative, Lagonav, Haiti
a partnership of
The Atlantic-Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
and Beyond Borders (2022-2026)

Executive Summary

By the end of June 2025, our partnership was working in all 11 communal sections across the island of Lagonav, Haiti.

Movement to End the Practice of Restavèk: This movement combined large-scale community mobilization, network building, advocacy, and direct child protection casework. In Year 4, efforts focused on expanding engagement, strengthening organizational capacity, reinforcing community case management, promoting survivor reintegration, and improving monitoring systems. Over 10,000 people—triple the target—were reached through events, outreach, and faith-based dialogues. This was supported by the creation of seven Child Protection Brigade committees and eight Survivor Network Coordination Committees, all strengthened through targeted training. Twelve children were freed from exploitation, while 80 others received protection, reintegration support, and multi-sectoral assistance. For survivors, mental health, therapy, literacy, and savings programs built both resilience and economic independence. Advocacy included public events and calls for stronger legal protections. Monitoring reflected growing community awareness, though a stronger system to track capacity-building outcomes remains needed.

Movement To Increase Access to Quality Primary Education: This movement aimed to mobilize communities to improve both access to and quality of primary education. Our approach paired local Education Platforms with strengthened School District Bureau (BDS) oversight and an island-wide Education Database. Thirteen Education Platforms conducted 23 quarterly meetings, using small match funds to prevent dropouts and helping 94 children enroll or remain in school. BDS supervision expanded significantly with 133 school visits, and teacher professional development reached 363 educators. The near-operational Education Database is expected to enable continuous tracking of retention, promotion, and quality indicators. Challenges included data standardization gaps and unclear responsibilities for routine data collection, prompting adaptive measures like added training and piloting quarterly dashboard templates.

Movement to Promote Economic Justice and Sustainable Livelihoods: Through partnerships with AAPLAG, the MCI implemented the Family Graduation Program (FGP) alongside village savings groups to transition families from ultra-poverty to sustainable livelihoods. In Year 4, 160 families completed the FGP cycle, with 100% meeting graduation criteria, supported by 8,471 cumulative home visits. The program provided a mix of asset transfers, health and hygiene education, veterinary services, home improvement assistance, and weekly coaching. Village savings and loan groups amassed 890,900 gourdes (\$6,800 USD) in collective assets, strengthening household resilience. Complementary gardening and food security initiatives promoted nutritional diversity and income opportunities, furthering the program's objective of long-term economic independence.