



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province

BEYOND BORDERS



The Haiti Water Initiative



AMSSND is committed to the goal of universal access to clean water. As part of that commitment, our province engages in education and advocacy efforts regarding the spirituality and vitality of water around the world and how to protect it. We advocate changes such as the elimination of bottled water, straws, and other plastics that pollute the earth's water and the life depending upon it. We also support and learn from projects that provide life given access to water. Last year, SSND and its network of bene-factors, sisters and associates partnered with Beyond Borders to provide 96 families with water catchment systems last year.



With increased access to water families in the remote and drought prone island of Lagonav, Haiti, families are able to grow nutritious vegetables, pay for children's schooling and other needs, and reduce the hours traditionally spent by women and girls fetching water at distant rivers or wells.

Carol Doriska is one of those benefiting from a water catchment system:

*There have been so many changes in my life because of [the catchment system]. I've sold vegetables that my family did not need, and I've been saving money in my savings account. I use the rainwater from the Tuff Tank storage drum to water my vegetable plants, to give my farm animals to drink, and to cook and do laundry. It's been so helpful for healthy organic nutrition for my family. And my daughters and I do not have to spend time carrying water from long distances; instead they can go to school. **Thank You!***

*I use the rainwater from the storage drum to water my vegetable plants, to give my farm animals to drink, and to do laundry. It's been so helpful for our family.
Thank you!*

-Carol Doriska



Water Initiative, cont

This initiative fits into the broader goal of the Haiti partnership between Beyond Borders and SSND. The partnership supports complementary education and protection projects that enable rural communities in Lagonav to overcome vulnerability to poverty and better protect the welfare and rights of their children.

Families receiving water catchment systems also participate in the family and school gardening project, which improves agricultural skills and nutrition. The eggplant and watermelon are some of the vegetables raised.

This will generate income for schools and families through sustainable school and family gardens. Teachers at the 25 schools of the Matenwa Community Learning Center extend students “learning laboratories” from school to home as they use school gardens to reinforce lessons taught in science, math and social sciences.

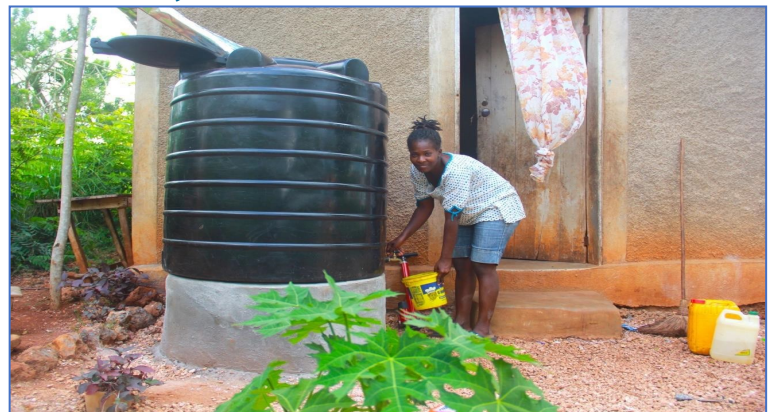
Besides improving her own livelihood, Carol Doriska and many other parents volunteer in the school gardens with their children.

Personal Testimony

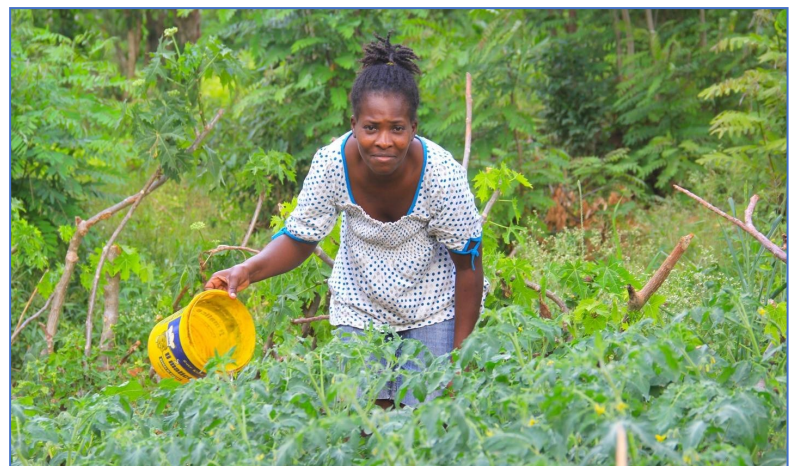


I live in Tè Wouj. I came to the family garden program in 2018. It's only been a month or so since I started the program. I've been to the workshops where I've learned how to plant my vegetable garden and how to care for it. I also volunteer at my kids' school garden, where I collect and deliver donkey manure to supply their composting. This garden helps me in so many ways. The rainwater harvesting system has been such a great addition to my household. It helps me have water to use at home for watering the garden, doing laundry, and for drinking water as well. -Jinette Cherme

Jinette Cherme, Family Garden Participant, Tè Wouj, La Gonâve Island



Jinette Cherme received her rainwater harvesting kit through the grant provided by the HOPE Foundation.



Going Forward ...

Beyond Borders and AMSSND
hope to extend its reach to more families on the remote and drought prone island of Lagonav, Haiti.

The AMSSND Haiti Committee of sisters and associates have set a target of providing 100 more families with water catchment systems in the coming year. Each catchment system will cost \$326 per household. Access to water at home helps vulnerable families in multiple ways, as attested by the stories of those that have participated in this project this far (see stories).



The Fednor Jean family in Nan Mango with their new rainwater catchment system



Prior to receiving installation of a rainwater catchment system, a family garden participant is required to attend a workshop on how to plant and care for an organic vegetable garden at home. Women heads of household from across La Gonâve Island gathered for these workshops.

“You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile. God’s stream is filled with water; with it you supply the world with grain. Thus do you prepare the earth: you drench plowed furrows, and level their ridges. With showers you keep the ground soft, blessing its young sprouts. You adorn the year with your bounty; your paths drip with fruitful rain. The untilled meadows also drip; the hills are robed with joy.” - Psalm 65

JOIN US!

We pray that your hearts will be open to whatever these stories are calling you to do.

Visit <https://atlanticmidwest.org/justice-and-peace-initiatives/haiti>

to learn about the SSND-Beyond Borders Partnership and how you can help.

What else you can do:

Pray

On behalf of Haiti’s children

Learn

Visit the Haiti page on our website

Advocate

Learn how you can take action

Support

Give online: