

Countering Child Servitude Among Poor Haitian Families



Residents of the rural community of Bresilienne, Haiti, a few hours by foot from Limyè Lavi's office in Jacmel, take part in an August 2005 Open Space meeting.

Overview

Desperately poor Haitian families often send their children to live and work as servants in the homes of the more affluent, where too often children are exploited, abused and deprived of education. Limyè Lavi works with a network of partners to protect children in servitude, teach communities and officials about the risks of this practice and create alternatives for poor families. People at many levels of society will learn to counter child servitude and its effects, children will gain education and humane treatment and families will learn farming techniques.

Expected Life Change Results

An investment of \$84,932 expands Limyè Lavi's awareness and prevention efforts against child servitude in urban and rural Haiti. Expected Life Change:

- ▶ 800 representatives of households with servant children learn about their legal and ethical responsibilities
- ▶ 800 rural community leaders and parents and 400 urban community leaders and authorities learn about child rights and the risks of child servitude
- ▶ 600 adults learn about child servitude issues as well as sustainable techniques for increasing agricultural production
- ▶ 400 children at risk of servitude learn to read and write
- ▶ 350 children in servitude benefit from improved living conditions, including 50 who return to their families
- ▶ 3,510 people impacted – some in multiple ways – at a cost per life changed of \$24.20

What We Like About This Project

By working with communities, Limyè Lavi can reduce the likelihood that children will be sent into servitude, at the same time helping child servants return to their families. In a country where child servitude is widely accepted, educating community members and leaders will begin to undo years of ingrained practices. People who come to see these practices as unjust will put pressure on others at the community level, a force far more effective than Haitian law. With this project, Limyè Lavi will begin measuring results of its interventions.

Project Profile

Organization:

Fondasyon Limyè Lavi (Light for Life Foundation)

Grant amount:

\$84,932

Geneva Global ID:

1-H32B-1006

Project duration:

36 months

Expected Performance

DELTA SCORE

Measures relative grant effectiveness



GRANT PROFILE

Reflects aggregate project risk

CONSERVATIVE ——— AGGRESSIVE

Please refer to the FAQ at the end of this document for an explanation of the Delta Score and Grant Profile.

Project Location



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SECTOR
PERSPECTIVE

Slavery and human trafficking

Slavery thrives in the 21st century. At least 12.3 million adults and children (some estimate 27 million) are enslaved in exploitative labor or prostitution globally. More than 300,000 children worldwide have been abducted and conscripted as soldiers. Modern slavery treats human beings as disposable objects, exploited for profit, abused and then discarded.

Geneva Global recommends grants to local abolitionists. Finding local organizations that network in a region and clustering grants will multiply the impact on the problem. Our strategy targets forced labor, sex trafficking and forced conscription of children through:

- Prevention – Local anti-slavery action, increasing family income and education
- Rescue and restoration – shelter, counseling and healthcare, market-appropriate skills, basic education, reintegration and restitution where possible
- Legislation – equipping victims with knowledge of their legal rights and strengthening laws to protect victims and prosecute slave owners and traffickers

“Our media focuses attention on sex trafficking and high-profile law enforcement action. While these are important, thoughtful donors will back local abolitionists who are persistently attacking all aspects of slavery using every means available.”

Dot Beck
Geneva Global
Sector Manager

Need – *The Problem and Effects*

Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. Though slavery is against the law, growing poverty in recent decades has caused the emergence of a new kind of slavery. The system called “restavèk” or “restavec” is the practice of sending children into domestic servitude – an attempt to cope with isolation and economic destitution as well as a lack of educational opportunities and infrastructure in rural areas. It also reflects a strong system of social apartheid that some trace back to slavery and colonialism. Desperate parents, unaware of the risks involved, believe children will have better prospects in a distant town or city. Rural communities lose their children and families are separated. Children are traumatized and grow up to raise children who are more likely to be sent themselves into servitude.

“The majority of trafficking in Haiti involves poor mothers giving custody of their children to more affluent families in the hope that they will receive an education and economic opportunities. ... Restavèk is widespread and often involves sexual exploitation, physical abuse and youths being subjected to conditions of involuntary servitude, a severe form of trafficking in persons. Haitian officials estimate between 90,000 to 120,000 children are restavèks, while UNICEF and other international organizations estimate the numbers are significantly higher,” according to a June 2006 report by the U.S. State Department.

“This is challenging. Communities overall still view the restavèk system as essential and necessary. ... Families take in children of distant relatives who cannot support their children and then make this child a restavèk. ... Older people rely on restavèks to care for them when their children have all left to go to Port-au-Prince to find work. Not all restavèks are in a horrible situation – for some of them, the opportunity to eat every day, go to school through one of Limyè Lavi’s schools and have a roof over their heads is better than where they came from. Limyè Lavi recognizes this and is very sensitive to how you can discuss the restavèk problem without offending members in a community,” says Jessica Reitz, former research associate with Washington, D.C.-based Free the Slaves. Reitz conducted the organization’s first exploratory trip to Haiti in 2004.

“Why does a black republic – whose colonial population was composed almost entirely of plantation slaves – still tolerate child bondage? There was no value placed on children during the slavery era. ... Unfortunately, we’ve carried that mentality with us today. Indeed, it is not uncommon to hear a Haitian say, “Timoun se ti bet” – kids are animals,” the Rev. Miguel Jean Baptiste told Time magazine in 2001. Baptiste runs the Maurice Sixto shelter in Port-au-Prince for restavèks who have run away or whose owners allow them schooling.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti’s former president, called the practice “one of the cancers on our social body in Haiti that keep democracy from growing,” Time reported. Enforcing the law against it “first requires an intense education policy, because it is so ingrained in Haiti that too many people don’t even know they are breaking the law,” Aristide said.

“Poverty, destitution and violence foster the conditions that allow children to become excluded and invisible – exploited, neglected, trafficked and abused. It is estimated that more than half the children lack birth registration, without which they are more vulnerable to exclusion from essential services such as healthcare and education, protection from early marriage and labor, and, when they grow up, access to credit and the right to vote. ... Around one in 10 children is engaged in domestic work away from their families. Girls account for three-quarters of these 300,000-plus workers. ... Families are typically visited by prospective employers or intermediaries who promise that their children will be fed, educated and cared for. But all too often, the reality is that the child is exploited and abused, working long hours on meager food rations and with limited possibilities of receiving an education,” says a March 2006 UNICEF report.

“One of the worst forms of abuse facing Haiti’s slave children is exclusion. Slave children in Haiti set tables for meals in which they cannot partake, fetch water that they cannot use

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“The work of Limyè Lavi [is] remarkable. ... I took a motorcycle with the staff for two hours and on foot for one hour to get to an isolated place. There [was] no electricity and no television, yet Limyè Lavi was able to reach them and let them know what was happening to their children. What was remarkable is that despite the poverty these people faced, Limyè Lavi was able to change their attitude about giving their children away. Almost everyone I talked to said they would not send their children into servitude. This was direct tangible evidence that [Limyè Lavi is] keeping children out of slavery. I talked to community leaders and asked about Limyè Lavi’s impact, and they said that they are one of the few very good groups working on this issue. Limyè Lavi is one of the only NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] I found in Haiti that were going to the remote villages. ... I visited other international NGOs and found them writing reports in air-conditioned offices and hardly doing anything in the communities. ... Limyè Lavi exists to help even in the smallest cases. They do not have nice cars and large offices, but they go to the remote areas to be among the people and work at the grass-roots level. ... They do the absolute best with the tools and resources they have, which [are] limited. ... They are well received by the community and community leaders. ... I was very impressed with Guerda [Lexima-Constant] and Samson [Joseph]. ... The leadership is very open, very hardworking and passionate while being very practical,” says *journalist and author Benjamin Skinner, who served as speechwriter for Richard Holbrook, former U.S. assistant secretary of state and ambassador to the United Nations. Skinner’s book, A Crime So Monstrous: A Living History of Contemporary Slavery, that will be published by Simon and Schuster’s Free Press in 2007.*

for their own needs, are denied medical care when they are struck by illness, are forbidden to speak until spoken to and stay outside when adults are inside. While these slave children are forced to be invisible, they must remain within the reach of their master’s voice. Otherwise, severe doses of physical punishment will ensue without mercy. This is a reality which provoked nightmares that consumed my own childhood and still haunt me well into my adulthood,” says Jean-Robert Cadet, a former *restavèk* and currently executive director of the Restavec Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cadet’s lecture was published in November 2002 by the Geneva, Switzerland-based International Institute for Labor Studies in November 2002.

“On any early morning in Port-au-Prince, children in tattered clothes are seen hand-in-hand with children in bright uniforms crossing the street. The ones in tattered clothes are *restavecs*, who must return to their duties as domestic slaves after escorting their counterparts to school. ... This daily exclusion from any community or family often leaves no visible scars, but the trauma lasts a lifetime. These children all too frequently become victims of the abusive and institutionalized practice of domestic servitude. ... Their most basic rights – to a family’s love and protection, health and education – are denied,” Cadet says.

“Millions of people in the Caribbean are unaware that this exploitation and a contemporary form of slavery still exists in the region. ... The need that Haiti has is to protect, educate and prepare each child that will form the upcoming generation. Giving children away as if they were a commodity is an obscene practice. ... It is more important than ever to move Haiti forward in addressing this critical situation for children and their families. Haiti has not been able to achieve what other poor countries have done to protect their children. One of the goals now is to use technology and regional cooperation to support this campaign. Limyè Lavi is working to change this practice by offering alternatives through education and community empowerment,” says Anna Grimaldi Colomer, delegate to the United Nations for the National Coalition for Haitian Rights, New York, and author of *A Kid’s Guide to the Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

“A growing concern [is] that trafficking is becoming so lucrative that the numbers could go up instead of down unless coordinated action is taken. Even when children are identified and rescued, the resources and assistance [are] so limited that many children cannot be included in any programs. The prevention component is therefore very critical in the campaign. Stemming the flow of children into the system requires open dialogues with the members of the community, and treatment of children in the care of members of the community requires the formation of new insights,” Colomer says.

“Washington has been quick to respond to political turmoil in Haiti, with its accompanying fears of uncontrollable refugee flows. But the frenzied flurries of international crisis management that follow typically leave no lasting results. ... A wiser, more promising alternative would be to help create long-term economic options by improving access to schools and creating sustainable agriculture. Meanwhile, the United States should work with nongovernmental organizations to battle the resigned acceptance by many Haitians of the *restavèk* system. They could, for example, help local radio stations broadcast programs of open dialogue about how damaging the system is, and include *restavèk* survivors or human-rights experts. ... The primary responsibility for eliminating the *restavèk* system lies with the Haitian people and their government. ... Eradicating the *restavèk* system should be one of its top priorities, combining law enforcement efforts with attacks on the root social and economic causes,” said a September 2006 New York Times editorial.

Vision — *In Their Own Words*

“When I was a child my mother had a *restavèk* child in our home. Because I grew up with her around, it seemed totally normal to me. She had to sell water and work, while I got to study and play. I remember wondering what made us different from each other. I remember thinking that if my mother died, I could end up in the same situation. It was in my first year in college that I began thinking differently, when a psychology professor talked about

Reference

“Any campaign against the restavèk system needs to be rooted in the realities of life in the communities worst affected. This can only be gained by spending lots of time simply in dialogue and listening to community residents. ... Limyè Lavi’s campaign is strengthened through having this as their starting point. ... They skillfully help community members explore the effects of the system on the children, their families, the local economy and future prospects. ... They focus on the community’s own assessment of why children are trafficked and what could be done about it. ... Limyè Lavi’s strategy of training grass-roots leaders is effective because those leaders have credibility within the communities where change is most needed. ... In order to create momentum in a wider area, for policy change and for essential government services such as functioning schools, NGOs need to be linked together and work on common goals. Once again, Limyè Lavi has a good reputation and their coordination efforts are welcomed. ... All of the program’s work tends to focus on multiplying the effects of their activities – for example, sharing good practices through the [organization’s] network. ... Limyè Lavi staff seem to be thinking critically about their own strategies on a regular basis, and being frank about whether particular approaches they have tried are having the hoped-for effects. They are competent at identifying the next growing points for themselves and for the movement in Haiti. ... Because of its critical thinking capacity, Limyè Lavi is able to pilot methods that may have great potential not only within this region but within the global anti-slavery movement. ... Its work complements other anti-trafficking programs in the region that may be undertaking more typical rescue or rehabilitation work. Also, Haiti has an almost uniquely high prevalence of child servitude, and initiatives that can be shown to work in this context may be transferable to other countries or regions badly affected by domestic slavery. It was because of this strategic importance that Free the Slaves selected Limyè Lavi as a partner [to fund] in Haiti, having interviewed and assessed the work of many other NGOs in the country,” says *Ginny Bauman, director of partnerships, Free the Slaves, Washington, D.C.*

the developmental needs of children and the impact of childhood trauma. I knew that there was a class difference between me and that girl, but it hadn’t really occurred to me that there was a long-term impact on her emotionally and psychologically. These thoughts and further study began to open my eyes and help me see this practice more critically. I committed myself to working with children, and had a special interest in providing care for children who had experienced abuse or trauma. I worked with street children in Port-au-Prince. Many of these children were also prostitutes. The vast majority of these children had previously been sent into servitude. They usually escaped from some abusive situation and landed in the street. ... Street children are much more obvious than restavèk children in the cities of Haiti, but there are far more children living and suffering in servitude. By ending the restavèk system in Haiti, we can greatly reduce the numbers of children who end up on the streets or who get trafficked into the Dominican Republic,” says Guerdia Lexima-Constant, Limyè Lavi program coordinator.

Strategy — *How to Meet the Need*

Organization background

Staff members with Limyè Lavi and its Norristown, Pa.-based sister organization Beyond Borders have been working with children in servitude since before the two groups were founded in 1993. Each year, Limyè Lavi and Beyond Borders provide hundreds of children in servitude with literacy training and basic education through a local partner, the Les Cayes, Haiti-based Integrated Rural Development (IRD), originally the development arm of the Les Cayes-based Mission Evangelique Baptiste du Sud d’Haiti (Evangelical Baptist Mission of South Haiti).

Limyè Lavi realized that educating a relatively small number of children did little to mitigate the widespread damage restavèk causes. In fact, by improving the conditions and future prospects of children in servitude, these centers encouraged more rural parents to choose servitude as a route to education and advancement for their children. As a result, Limyè Lavi developed an approach using multiple interventions that work together, providing an integrated response to the factors driving children into servitude. This approach combines efforts to increase awareness, strengthen prevention and provide families with alternatives to servitude.

Track record

Awareness raising: Limyè Lavi raises awareness of child servitude through radio, billboards, street theater, compositions by local recording artists, publications, marches and conferences. Radio is particularly effective, since the only electronic device found in many rural communities is the transistor radio.

Open Space meetings: In 1995, Beyond Borders co-founder John Engle introduced the Open Space conferencing methodology to Haiti as a way to build trust and communication among different groups and allow democracy to work better at the community level. In use for more than 20 years and practiced in 100 countries, the Open Space approach has been adopted by several Haitian schools and organizations. Adapted to the local culture, it is a key methodology used by Limyè Lavi since 1996.

Limyè Lavi organizes Open Space gatherings for leaders at various levels, rural parents who send children into servitude and adult survivors of servitude. Meetings open to an entire community allow Limyè Lavi to hear from a diverse range of members. Open Space meetings foster dialogue and learning among participants, and encourage connections that lead to collaborative action.

The gatherings are simple and developed to be used by adults, children and illiterate people. Typically two-day events, Open Space meetings can be integrated with panel discussions and trainings. After the initial meeting, groups may spin off and continue meeting. Typically, 50 to 100 people take part in initial gatherings, and 50 to 60 continue with follow-up meetings. The structure of the Open Space includes three key elements:

Reference

“Through their Open Space, Circle of Change and other teaching methods, [Limyè Lavi is] promoting a fundamentally necessary transformation in practitioner thinking. ... In general, I have seen institutionalized dialogue promoted with big budgets thrown at lavish offices and handsome administrative salaries. It has not worked as far as I can see. Beyond Borders and Limyè Lavi have a far more relational and street-level orientation, [validating] the individual human being, with low overhead and high impact. ... I have met both John Engle [Beyond Borders co-founder] and Jean-Claude Cerin [Limyè Lavi co-founder and Board of Directors president]. I worked with Jean-Claude Cerin for three years while he was country director in Haiti for [Mennonite Economic Development Associates of Waterloo, Canada]. I can vouch for his integrity. We turned around a failing water treatment business together and many difficult decisions had to be made. His dedication to doing the right thing for customers, employees and shareholders was always unimpeachable. I have a wonderful impression of John Engle. ... I have met Samson [Joseph] and Guerda [Lexima-Constant]. The only thing that I can say is that I am impressed by their dedication. ... They believe in the vision. ... [Limyè Lavi is creating] bridges of contact between classes of society in a country which is violently polarized along differences in social and economic wealth. As Haiti stumbles along towards class warfare, when people [through this intervention] suddenly start talking together in peaceful ways and appreciating each other’s values as human beings, it is a major development,” says *Louis Henri Mars, coordinator of Agapeyiti (Unconditional Love for Haiti) based in Port-au-Prince.*

- **Circle:** Every Open Space event starts and ends with a circle, a symbol of community and of mutual respect for those who have gathered. A facilitator explains the basic rules before giving way to the group’s self-organization.
- **Bulletin board:** Each gathering has a bulletin board rather than a fixed agenda. This is a blank board or wall with specified time slots and designated breakout locations as a framework. The content of the sessions is determined by the participants themselves, who establish a detailed agenda early in the event.
- **Marketplace:** After the agenda is established, participants scan the bulletin board to survey the event’s content and determine how they will be involved. The person who proposed a given topic decides how it will be scheduled and whether it should be folded into a similar topic.

Communities have continued to invite Limyè Lavi back, and to send representatives to regional gatherings. Limyè Lavi has many more invitations to come or return to communities than the organization can respond to.

In communities of Port-au-Prince and Haiti’s Sud (South) department, Limyè Lavi has since 2003 carried out Open Space meetings with children and with families that have *restavèks* in their homes, called “*matant*” families.

Limyè Lavi has not been systematic in measuring impact quantitatively, but believes that these meetings have increased *matant* families’ awareness of their responsibilities, of what is considered abuse and of the fact that many in the community are watching how children are treated. David Diggs, Beyond Borders program liaison and co-founder, provides an example: “A *matant* in the community of [Jacmel] was known to be particularly abusive to the *restavèk* child who served her. One of the leaders of the women’s organization that invited us to organize the Open Space in [Jacmel] invited her to come. In the course of the discussions she became very aware that she had been mistreating the child, and that many of her neighbors were troubled by how she was abusing the child. She [said] that she thought she was doing the child a favor by being strict, and that her eyes had been opened and that she would commit to changing her ways. The community accepted this, but said that they would be more attentive from now on and intervene.”

Open Space meetings for parents of *restavèk* children has helped parents realize the risks their children face, and understand that they have support in the community. In some cases, this awareness has prompted parents to bring their children home.

Many of the children who take part in Open Space meetings have previously escaped servitude. The meetings let them talk about their experiences, find support and help Limyè Lavi understand and deal with the *restavèk* situation.

Anecdotal evidence and testimonies indicate that Open Space meetings have also had impact on local authorities. In Anse Rouge town, Nord-Ouest (Northwest) department, a local official committed to making sure that children in servitude are properly documented. In Port-au-Prince, one of Haiti’s few juvenile judges is an active member of Limyè Lavi’s network working against child servitude, has been a guest on Limyè Lavi’s radio program and is working to make Haiti’s courts more responsive to the needs of *restavèk* children and more aggressive in defending their rights. The head of the Port-au-Prince police child protection unit was an active member of the Limyè Lavi’s network until political turmoil forced her into a new position. Child-rights legislation has been sponsored but is still in progress, delayed by political instability.

Limyè Lavi held its first meeting for adult survivors of *restavèk* in May 2006 in Jacmel. Attendees included 27 women who met others who had undergone similar experiences. Many had never before spoken about their lives in servitude; they overcame shame and isolation, planning to continue meeting and form a support group to join the fight against the *restavèk* system.

A Changed Life

“I am 42 years old and have seven children. The oldest is 22, and the youngest is 3. I don’t have a job. I used to sell in the market, but ... a thief took everything I had. Now I have to borrow money to do what I can. The interest on what I borrow is 100%. That means I have to work a lot just to get by. I don’t have a husband. Their father left them behind and doesn’t give me anything to help them. I do everything I can to be able to get them through school, feed them, pay medical expenses, rent and everything else. The training I’ve received from Limyè Lavi helps me a lot. ... It is like deliverance, because we talked about things we never thought we’d ever have a chance to talk about. It has changed my situation a lot. Before, when I looked at my life I got very discouraged. I wanted to kill myself because I didn’t have any confidence. I looked at how many children I had to care for without any work, in a dangerous neighborhood. I was in a completely hopeless situation. Now I feel like I’m a completely different person. I have strength. The training from Limyè Lavi helped me realize that I’m a human being who has a role in society just like everyone else. It has helped me raise the children even though I live in an area that is extremely dangerous, where the young join armed gangs and kill people. My children aren’t in any gangs. My training has helped me raise them. If it weren’t for that training, my oldest boy would probably be in a gang, or already have children or gotten himself into trouble. Whenever I complete training, I return home and share with them what I’ve learned. I don’t know how I’m going to get them into school, but I haven’t lost hope. I would just ask that you continue to give women training so they can continue to live, so they’ll know their rights and responsibilities as human beings. That helps them educate their children as well,” says *Elisna Nicolas of La Saline, Pont-Rouge, Haiti*.

Networking and capacity building: Limyè Lavi has been actively involved in increasing leadership, organizing capacity, effectiveness and collaboration among key individual and institutional actors engaged in children’s rights. In a 2000 joint effort with the Geneva, Switzerland-based International Labor Organization, Limyè Lavi hosted a national conference on the restavèk system. Forty organizations took part, and 25 continued working together to bring an end to child servitude as Rezo Aba Sistèm Restavèk la (ASR, the Down with Child Servitude Network). A total of 228 leaders were trained in 2005. Leaders are actively involved in promoting awareness in their communities and developing resources. The network has provided training on how to prevent abuse, legal issues around child labor, understanding and responding to childhood trauma and using the Internet as an organizing tool.

The ASR network meets at least every two months, and works to expand the network regionally and nationally. Limyè Lavi organizes Open Space meetings, providing additional resources and training. Guest experts help train members.

Education for at-risk children: Through the child literacy program in partnership with IRD, launched in 1993, Limyè Lavi supports education opportunities for restavèk children in urban areas and at-risk children in rural areas. Education is provided in the local Creole language rather than French. Students learn reading, writing, arithmetic, history, health, sanitation, geography and agriculture. Some have been integrated into regular schools and completed high school. Students must never have attended school before, and must be at least 10 years old – a vulnerable age for being sent into servitude. IRD partners with rural schools, using school facilities five days a week for three and half hours a day when regular students are not in class. IRD contributes four full-time and 30 part-time staff to this program.

Proposed Action — *What This Project Will Do*

Limyè Lavi’s goal is to stabilize rural communities and draw children back to their homes and families. This work relies on partnerships and a network of organizations working together, combining resources to meet communities’ needs in a holistic manner. Limyè Lavi is meeting with local and international organizations to develop ties with partners who can help meet needs such as education, economic, infrastructure, water and sanitation.

This initiative will identify two or three rural pilot communities with strong, motivated local leadership, who will determine their responsibilities through Open Space meetings. Meetings will also be carried out with community members to determine their needs.

Limyè Lavi will be responsible for networking with partner organizations and directing families toward resources. Each partner organization will be responsible for collecting information on results and reporting to Limyè Lavi.

Open Space meetings: Limyè Lavi will hold Open Space meetings on child rights and the risks of restavèk for church and other local leaders, NGOs, matant families, children, rural parents, adult victims of servitude and representatives of government, social service and law enforcement agencies.

In four urban communities, Limyè Lavi will hold Open Space meetings for matant families, local leaders and community members in general. Limyè Lavi will work with local leaders to set up a system where restavèk children can be registered with local authorities and their treatment monitored. Where possible, community leaders will establish direct contact with children in servitude, providing them with support and opportunities for meeting with their peers.

In this new urban initiative, Limyè Lavi will work to connect local authorities with local organizations to create a network supporting children in servitude. In Open Space meetings, authorities will become aware of their responsibilities and motivated to report and

A Changed Life

"I am 14 years old and the fifth of eight children. My mother is a farmer and my father is living in the Dominican Republic trying to earn a living for his children. He comes back to see everyone every eight months. He will bring a little something for us, but that hasn't been very good lately. This year I was living in servitude with someone in Port-au-Prince. It was not my mother who put me with this family. ... I went to live there because of the misery and deep poverty at home. ... I was happy to go to Port-au-Prince because they promised me that they'd put me in school, but that never happened. I suffered great tribulations from other children in the home, the children of the master of the house humiliated me and beat me whenever they wanted, and cursed me. Because of what I endured, I never want to live with another family again. The days were too much for me. This year I started school but I had to stop because the school charged 250 gourdes [\$6] for tuition. My mom couldn't pay even a single gourde for me. ... I have hope to be able to go to school this year like other children," says *Yvrose Francois of Breslienne, Haiti*. "Though Yvrose's mother did not send her into servitude, after she attended an Open Space meeting she wanted to bring her daughter back. That's why Yvrose is living with her mother now. Her mother still has one child living with a family on Lagonav Island and another staying in Port-au-Prince. Now she would like for all her children to return, even though the situation is very difficult for her. ... Yvrose also participated in an Open Space in her neighborhood. She was happy to hear people talking about the same problems she personally endured when she was living with a family in the city," says *Samson Joseph, Limyè Lavi program assistant*.

investigate abuse. At these meetings, representatives of government and law enforcement agencies will develop relationships with local community leaders and work to build community awareness that child abuse will not be accepted. Authorities will encourage child protection efforts by the new administration of President René Garcia Préval and invite the administration to take part in the ASR network.

Children will be referred to Open Space meetings through ASR member organizations that provide child services, through local churches, IRD literacy centers serving restavèk children or other local groups. Through meetings in rural communities, Limyè Lavi will direct parents to resources that can help them improve their circumstances and reduce the perceived need to send their children into servitude.

Parents and adult survivors of servitude will be referred to Open Space meetings by partners such as the Port-au-Prince-based *Komisyon Fanm Viktim pou Viktim (KOFAVIV, Commission of Women Victims for Victims)*, a local organization that works with rape and abuse victims, as well as the *Lagonav, Haiti-based Asosyasyon Animate Peyizan Lagonav (AAPLAG, Association of Peasant Organizers of Lagonav)*, a rural organization that works with Limyè Lavi's adult education program.

Adult education: Limyè Lavi will develop new native-language educational programming and materials in collaboration with *Fonkoze*, one of Haiti's largest microfinance institutions. One four-month course will focus on child rights, while another will focus on sustainable agricultural techniques to help rural families increase food production.

This training will help participants critically examine the restavèk practice and consequences for children, communities and society as a whole. Alternatives to sending children into servitude will be explored. Legal and ethical obligations of parents, communities and the state will also be considered.

Ten Haitian researchers will be trained to carry out ethnographic research as the basis of the two new education programs. An initial group of teachers and facilitators will be trained to use the new materials, which will be piloted in several communities among *Fonkoze* clients and participants in Limyè Lavi's adult literacy program. Some *Fonkoze* clients have child servants in their households, while others have sent children into servitude. The materials will subsequently be available to other groups.

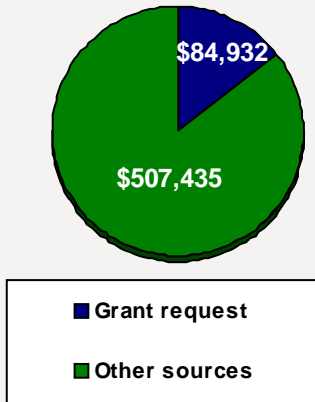
Three textbooks for each program will be illustrated by local artists. Situations drawn from Haitian life will encourage discussion. The curriculum will be developed under the direction of *Dr. Kathy Cash*, a consultant, educator and ethnographer based in *Morgantown, W.Va.* A two-time Fulbright award winner, Cash has conducted research and developed educational programming in Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Haiti, Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria, Ethiopia and disadvantaged U.S. communities. Cash worked with *Fonkoze* to develop a similar program on sexual and reproductive health which has been used by tens of thousands in Haiti.

Limyè Lavi's partner organization *Beyond Borders* contributes 35 part-time staff to the adult literacy program.

Awareness raising: Limyè Lavi will continue to produce radio programming on child servitude and children's rights, and expand efforts to broadcast from rural radio stations. In addition to raising awareness, new programming will focus on alternatives for rural communities.

Monitoring: By contracting with a trainer specializing in evaluation and follow-up, Limyè Lavi will strengthen its capacity to measure the impact of its work, and train partners to do the same. Monitoring will include visits and monthly meetings to monitor change in matant families and the condition of restavèk children. Agreements will be developed with state authorities, NGOs and community groups regarding who will provide support for children

Project Budget



fleeing abusive situations and report on actions taken.

Capacity building: Limyè Lavi will continue to train ASR member organizations and affiliates in awareness-raising techniques, providing psychological support to children traumatized by abuse and using the Internet for communication, education and organizing.

Budget: \$592,367

Total budget for this project is estimated at \$592,367, of which this grant will cover \$84,932. The remaining \$507,435 will come from other sources.

Budgets for the second and third years of this project will be determined at the completion of each preceding year. This grant will be disbursed over three years, in amounts of \$39,932, \$25,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Disbursement of second- and third-year funds is dependent upon completion of metrics for each preceding year.

Total budget for the first year is \$162,737, of which this grant will cover \$39,932. Of the remaining \$122,805, \$50,000 is secured, \$52,805 is committed and \$20,000 must still be raised.

Item	Grant amount	Other sources	Total (\$)
Salaries (five staff, two contractors)	11,000	53,639	64,639
Administration, Beyond Borders (Travel, utilities, communications, rent, materials, fees, insurance, publications, board development, equipment, supplies)		18,586	18,586
Pilot program in rural communities (travel, meetings, materials, follow-up)	6,200	10,686	16,886
Awareness efforts (trainings, Open Space meetings, radio, materials)	4,000	10,086	14,086
Adult education (materials, conferences, transportation)	3,000	9,886	12,886
Capacity building for ASR network (meetings, transportation, publications, conferences)	3,000	8,490	11,490
Administration (accounting, audit, office rent)		8,231	8,231
Impact evaluation training, online database for partners' reporting	7,500		7,500
Open Space meetings, training, facilitation in Jacmel office	2,000	3,201	5,201
Organizational development (staff training, seminars, conferences)	3,232		3,232
Total	39,932	122,805	162,737

Evaluation Metrics

Geneva Global's forecast of results is located on the first page of this report. At the conclusion of this three-year project, Geneva Global will issue a report comparing actual results with:

- 800 representatives of matant families gaining understanding of their legal and ethical responsibility toward children, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi report summarizing training attendance records and follow-up interviews of 120 attendees; of those interviewed, 50% making public commitments to improve treatment of children
- 800 rural community leaders and parents gaining understanding of child rights and the risks of child servitude, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi report summarizing training attendance records and follow-up interviews of 120 attendees; of parents interviewed, 50% demonstrating awareness of economic or educational resources available
- 600 adult education students and microfinance clients gaining understanding of child rights and the risks of child servitude, as well as sustainable techniques for increasing agricultural production, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi report summarizing records of

- training attendance and successful completion
- 400 urban community leaders and authorities gaining understanding of children’s rights and child servitude issues, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi report summarizing training attendance records and follow-up interviews of 60 attendees
 - 400 children at risk of servitude learning to read and write, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi report summarizing attendance records and satisfactory academic progress
 - 350 children in servitude benefiting from improved living conditions, such as no longer showing signs of physical abuse, beginning to attend school or resuming contact with their own families, as well as being registered with local authorities, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi tally and report on children receiving monthly follow-up visits indicating how treatment has improved, as well as a tally of children placed in schools and a tally of matant families publicly committing to register children in their care
 - 160 adult survivors of child servitude gaining understanding of children’s rights and child servitude issues , as indicated by a Limyè Lavi report summarizing training attendance records and follow-up interviews of 20 attendees
 - 80 adult survivors attending meetings for former restavèks, regaining self-esteem and overcoming shame, as indicated by meeting attendance records and follow-up interviews of 10 attendees; of those interviewed, 50% will have participated in child rights efforts such as radio programs, lobbying officials or speaking at public gatherings
 - 50 children leaving servitude and returning to their families, as indicated by a Limyè Lavi tally
 - Limyè Lavi providing a summary of reports from community leaders and government authorities on actions taken to protect children and report mistreatment

Geneva Global Services

Project discovery. In consultation with field experts, Geneva Global finds superior programs that correct situations of the greatest human need.

Field investigation. References are checked with independent sources who know the organization.

Site visit. Before recommending a project, a Geneva Global staff person or Geneva Global Network member visits the site to verify the information we gather.

Desk research. Best practices and other reference information are used as yardsticks to measure the project.

Peer review. During research, information gathered and the description prepared must pass three quality control checks.

Expert review. A Geneva Global sector manager checks findings and recommendations.

Deal structure. A Geneva Global researcher confers with the implementer to reach agreement on expected results, timetable and criteria for evaluation, use of funds and budget.

When you fund this project, Geneva Global will:

Document the agreement. Before money is sent to the project, a Memorandum of Understanding is signed that details expected results, timelines and acceptable uses of funds.

Assist with international funds transfers. As you require, Geneva Global will simply provide wire transfer instructions or will handle the entire process on your behalf.

Obtain receipt of funds. Geneva Global confirms when grant funds arrive with the implementer.

Check progress. Early in the project, usually about 90 days, Geneva Global confirms that the program is proceeding according to plan. The lead analyst is available to the implementer for advice and consultation throughout the project.

Measure results. Shortly after conclusion of the project, Geneva Global collects data from the implementer and compiles a concise analysis of project outcomes and lessons learned. For every project you fund, you will receive a Geneva Global Results Report.

Concept — *Approach to Addressing the Need*

Key strengths

- Limyè Lavi has proven effective at training rural parents, helping change their attitudes and educating children to help break a vicious cycle.
- The implementer is effective at developing partnerships, bringing together organizations to share resources in joint initiatives. Limyè Lavi has strong connections with local communities, and communicates well with NGOs at levels from the grass-roots to the global.
- Haitians themselves must change the restavèk system, so collaboration among leaders, awareness and providing alternatives are crucial.

Key risks – low

Design — *Effective and Proven Methods*

Key strengths

- Limyè Lavi has experience in networking, staging Open Space conferences and engaging local communities, in addition to awareness and prevention initiatives.
- Communities and leaders are invested in this initiative, often inviting Limyè Lavi to educate community members.
- Few if any other organizations do such work in remote rural areas.

Key risks – medium high

- Implementer has not systematically measured long-term program impact.
- Project represents Limyè Lavi’s first effort to mobilize integrated interventions to meet needs of rural families.
- Structure of Open Space meetings is informal, with unpredictable results.

Capability — *Leadership Depth and Expertise*

Key strengths

- Staff members are experienced, well-known and accepted in the community.
- Staff have strong principles of engagement, coming to communities as listeners rather than as experts.
- Leaders are passionate and operate with transparency.
- Non-hierarchical, consensus-based structure lets staff members take greater responsibility for work and personal development.

Key risks – medium

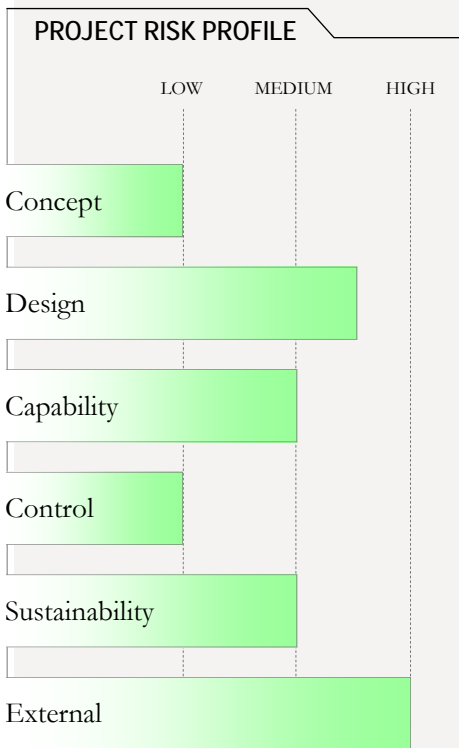
- Staff development is limited by available funds.
- Limyè Lavi is in the process of contracting with additional staff.
- Consensus-based process may slow decision making as organization grows larger.
- Limyè Lavi is in the midst of a Board of Directors turnover, and new members will be added.

Control — *Transparency, Governance and Financial Oversight*

Key strengths – low

- Limyè Lavi has stable management, independent governance, secure fund transfer measures and externally audited financial statements

Key risks – low



Sustainability — *Lasting Impact*

Key strengths

- Limyè Lavi plans is building a movement that will have a life of its own and not depend upon the implementer for sustainability.
- By raising awareness locally and internationally, Limyè Lavi has increased interest among donors.
- Local communities are engaged and committed as they host Open Space events, inform potential attendees, provide a venue as well as food and lodging for participants.

Key risks – medium

- Limyè Lavi depends on funds from external sources, but hopes through this integrated initiative to appeal to a wider base of donors interested in a variety of interventions.
- Some funds remain to be secured, while additional funds must still be raised.

External — *Factors Outside the Implementer's Control*

Key risks – high

- Most of Limyè Lavi's work is done through collaboration with other organizations. This project is heavily dependent on partners' commitment to working with beneficiaries.
- Jacmel is vulnerable to destructive winds.
- Staff members have been abducted temporarily, though new offices in Jacmel may be less dangerous than previous location in Port-au-Prince.
- Poor infrastructure and environmental factors may limit access to rural areas.
- Staff recruitment is dependent upon availability of funds.
- Political instability results in inconsistent law enforcement, civil unrest and unsafe conditions.
- High poverty levels breed crime.



Haiti

Population: 8.4 million
Population younger than 15: 38%
Average annual population growth rate: 1.4% (compared with 1.2% in the U.S.)
Urban population: 38%
Languages: French (official), Creole (official) (CIA World Factbook)
Life expectancy: female 53, male 51
Maternal mortality (deaths per 100,000 live births): 680 (compared with 17 in the U.S.)
Infant mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births): 74 (compared with 7 in the U.S.)
Under-5 mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births): 117 (compared with 8 in the U.S.)
HIV prevalence (ages 15-49): 3.8% in 2005 (5.6% in 2001)
People with HIV: 190,000 in 2005 (280,000 in 2001)
HIV-infected children (0-14): 17,000 in 2005 (19,000 in 2001)
HIV-related deaths (annual): 16,000 in 2005 (24,000 in 2001)
Literacy (15 and older): female 50%, male 54%
Gross national income per capita: \$400
Population living on less than \$1 daily: 54%
Population living on less than \$2 daily: 78%
Malnutrition among children under 5: 17% (compared with 2% in the U.S.)
Mothers ages 15-19 (births per 1,000 females): 62 (compared with 50 in the U.S.)
Unemployment rate: 12% (compared with 5% in the U.S.)
Religions: Christian 95%, traditional ethnic 3%, other 2% (World Christian Database)
2005 U.N. Human Development Index rank: 153 of 177 countries

HIV and AIDS data are from UNAIDS. All other data are from the World Bank unless otherwise noted.

Organization

Fondasyon Limyè Lavi (Light for Life Foundation)

Jacmel, Haiti

Founded

May 1993

Affiliations

- International Labor Organization, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor, Geneva, Switzerland
- Pan-American Development Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Save the Children Canada, Toronto, Canada
- Alternative Gifts International, Wichita, Kan.
- Foyer Maurice Sixto (Maurice Sixto Welcoming Center), Carrefour, Haiti
- Coalition Haïtienne pour la Défense des Droits de d'Enfant (Haitian Coalition for the Defense of Children's Rights), Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Centre d'Aide au Développement (Action Center for Development), Port-au-Prince
- Ti Moun Kap Teke Chans (Children Working for a Chance), Port-au-Prince
- Solidarite Fanm Ayisyen (Solidarity of Haitian Women), Port-au-Prince
- Aide à l'Enfant en Domesticté (Aid for Children in Domestic Servitude), Port-au-Prince
- Rasanbleman Jen Savanette (Savanette Youth Association), Savanette, Haiti
- Foyer d'Accueil FCCM (FCCM Welcoming Center), Cité Leternel, Haiti
- Centre d'Apprentissage et de Formation Pour la Transformation (Apprenticeship and Training Center for Transformation), Pétion-Ville, Haiti
- Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Md.
- Fondasyon Demokrasi pou Libèrte (Democracy and Liberty Foundation) Delmas, Haiti
- Force d'Entraide Nationale pour le Developement (National Intra-Aid Force for Development), Delmas
- Programme pour l'Alphabetisation et la Promotion d l'Enfance (Program for the Promotion of Literacy and Childhood), Les Cayes, Haiti
- Integrated Rural Development (IRD), Les Cayes
- Organizasyon pou Devlopman ak Edikasyon Brezilyèn (Organization for the Development and Education of Bresilienne), Bresilienne, Haiti
- Asosyansyon pour Gèrer les Enfants Démunis (Association for Managing Deprived Children), Menaud, Haiti
- Asosyansyon Jen Fi pou Devlopman (Association of Young Women for Development) Jacmel, Haiti
- Jeunes et Enfants en Solidarité (Youth and Children in Solidarity), Cayes Jacmel, Haiti

Active programs

Description	Inception	People helped, 2005	Staff
Child literacy program	1993	850	1 full-time, paid 90 volunteers
Adult literacy program	1993	530	1 full-time, paid
Circles of Change program for teachers	2004	200	2 full-time, paid 27 volunteers

Overall organization revenue sources (income) and spending (expenditure) in U.S. dollars*

Income	2003	%	2004	%	2005	%
Beyond Borders	212,887	100	359,474	100	284,116	100
Total	212,887	100	359,474	100	284,116	100
Expenditures**						
	2003	%	2004	%	2005	%
Adult and child education	148,585	72	240,909	73	172,060	59
Other programs	58,633	28	87,465	27	120,606	41
Total	207,218	100	328,374	100	292,666	100
Surplus/(deficit)	5,669		31,100		(8,550)	

*Exchange rates were 39.376 Haitian gourdes (HTG) to \$1 in 2003, 35.440 HTG to \$1 in 2004 and 40.456 HTG to \$1 in 2005.

**Salary and administration expenses are included in program expenses. Salary expenses are \$73,187 (35% of total expenses), \$82,917 (25%), and \$91,790 (31%) for years 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Financial statements

Prepared: Monthly
 Reviewed by: Board of Directors
 Externally audited: Yes, year ending June 30, 2005

Complete bank wire transfer
 on file at Geneva Global: Yes

Profiles

Guerda Lexima-Constant holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from L’Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales et Internationales (Institute for Advanced Commercial and International Studies) and a bachelor’s degree in special education and clinical psychology from the Université d’Etat d’Haiti (State University of Haiti), both in Port-au-Prince. She has eight years of experience doing research and working with Haitian street children in Port-au-Prince with Volontaires pour le Développement d’Haiti (Volunteers for the Development of Haiti), Centre d’Education Populaire (Center for Popular Education) and Chemonics International, all based in Port-au-Prince.

Samson Joseph has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the Port-au-Prince based Université d’Etat d’Haiti (State University of Haiti), Port-au-Prince. He is co-founder of the Gwoup Aksyon pou Lape ak Otonomi (GALO, the Action Group for Peace and Autonomy), also in Port-au-Prince. He has six years of experience in community organizing and leadership development.

Coleen Hedglin has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Oxford, Ohio-based Miami University. Coleen has six years of experience in teaching and curriculum development and two years of experience with the Washington, D.C.-based Peace Corps doing rural community development in Haiti. She is paid by both Limyè Lavi and its partner Beyond Borders.

Leadership

Governance

A Board of Directors usually meets every two months to oversee finances, policies, programs and the organization’s long-range direction. Limyè Lavi is currently undergoing turnover of Board members and expects to add new members in the near future. All three current members were founders of Limyè Lavi but no longer work for the organization. Members are:

- The Rev. Jean-Claude Cerin, president (former Haiti director, Mennonite Economic Development Associates, Waterloo, Canada; current Haiti director, Tearfund, Teddington, United Kingdom)
- Andries de Blasij, treasurer (former executive director, Parole et Action – Word and Deed, Port-au-Prince; current Haiti director, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Grand Rapids, Mich.)
- Peter Graeff, secretary (rural development consultant, Port-au-Prince)

Policies

Related parties in management or governance: No
 Staff and/or Board reflect the spectrum of ethnic groups or tribes: Yes
 Women in supervision or management: Yes

Leaders

Responsibility	Name	Title	Years of related experience	Years with organization	Years in current role
Guerda Lexima-Constant	General program coordination	Program coordinator	16	9	3
Samson Joseph	Directs training and logistics	Program assistant	6	4	3
Coleen Hedglin*	Planning and curriculum development	Program assistant	15	7	3

*Hedglin is paid by both Limyè Lavi and its partner Beyond Borders.

Who is Geneva Global?

Geneva Global works for donors. We are not fund-raisers for charities. We do not promote our own projects. Rather, we are a service for thoughtful donors who want measurable results from the money they give. Geneva Global provides independent research, insightful analysis and grant management so our clients can invest where their giving changes the most lives. In short, we help you accomplish more with the money you give.

What is a *Delta Score* and how is it calculated?

The Delta Score is a universal measurement that makes it possible to compare projects, regardless of type or location. The Delta Score calculates the depth and breadth of Life Change from a project and compares it to the most common form of international giving, child sponsorship. The scoring system is calibrated so a Delta Score of 1 equals successful sponsorship of one child. This means a project with a Delta Score of 7 is expected to produce seven times more Life Change than if an equivalent amount of money were spent on child sponsorships.

What do you mean by *Life Change*?

One of the most serious flaws in traditional philanthropy is the lack of ways to measure success. How do you know whether your contribution did any good? Geneva Global uses Life Change to measure success in giving. We define Life Change as a direct, material and measurable difference in the quality of a person's life. A life is changed when an AIDS orphan is integrated into a loving family, when a mother achieves economic security by starting a small business, when an infant's life is saved by a vaccine, when a girl completes her education or when a slave becomes free from bondage.

What is the *Risk Adjusted Range*?

The comparable term in investing is "volatility." Every project involves risk. We assess up to seven categories of risk. The Risk Adjusted Range shows the range of likely Delta Scores for the project based on the combined risk. A project with low total risk will have a very narrow Risk Adjusted Range (for example, 7 to 9 with a Delta Score of 8), while a project with high total risk will have a broader Risk Adjusted Range (for example, 4 to 12 with a Delta Score of 8).

What is the *Grant Profile* and how is it determined?

We only recommend projects that, based on Geneva Global's extensive experience, have acceptable levels of risk. However, tolerance for risk varies among donors. The Grant Profile is a simple way of summarizing the total risk associated with a project. What is your personal giving style? Do you have an appetite for courageous projects that operate in difficult and even dangerous situations? Or do you value stability? Geneva Global finds, researches and recommends projects that range from daring to stalwart. The Grant Profile is an at-a-glance indicator of which giving style best matches the amount of risk for a particular project.

Who pays for Geneva Global's research?

Investigating projects in foreign countries is difficult and costly. The benefits, however, are tremendous. Geneva Global clients discover they are able to obtain 10 and sometimes as much as 30 times the results compared to traditional methods of giving. The increased results far outweigh the modest professional fees Geneva Global charges. Contact your Geneva Global advisor for fee details and information about all the services you receive.

Whom do I contact to fund this project or ask questions?

Contact your Geneva Global advisor.
If you don't have an advisor, please contact
Joan Cortright in Client Services:
866-7-GENEVA (toll-free in the U.S.)
610-254-0000
JCortright@GenevaGlobal.com

