By Leonie Hermantin

In an effort to assess the lingering impact of the January 12, 2010 earthquake on Haiti's rural communities, the Lambi Fund of Haiti's team of staff and board members embarked on a fact-finding journey which took them to the departments of the Artibonite and the Northwest. Post-earthquake statistics indicate that over 600,000 internationally displaced persons (IDPs) left Port-au-Prince and migrated en masse to Haiti's provinces with a great majority heading for the Artibonite, the North and the Northwest.

The first stop in an itinerary that took us from Port-au-Prince to Haiti's most Northwestern town, Mole St. Nicholas, was at the Center for Plantain Propagation where we met with members of two partner organizations, Peasants Organization of Gwo Mon and Peasants Organization of Sél (AGPGM and APS). The meeting's agenda as set by the organizations included discussions about Lambi Fund's emergency assistance campaign and the work implemented at the Center.

As anticipated, we were all touched by moving accounts of earthquake stories shared by all. We heard of the tears shed over fallen relatives and neighbors. Continued on Page 4


By Leonie Hermantin

Strong Women Build Sustainable Communities

By Sarah Leavitt

A powerful women's movement, which today is more than 4,000 women strong was founded over 20 years ago in June 1986. This dynamic group, the Coordination of Women from Tet Kole- North West (KFTK-NW), is located in Haiti's Northwestern peninsula and is comprised of 600 groups of women of about 5 to 15 members each scattered throughout the region.

In addition, KFTK-NW is also affiliated with one of Haiti's largest peasant organizations - Tet Kole ti Peyisan Ayisen (TKPA) also founded in June 1986.

Women formed this coalition to create an avenue for women to discuss problems specific to women and to develop strategies to resolve these problems. This included addressing a number of important issues like advocating for equal rights between men and women in the home and to improve economic conditions for its members. Continued on Page 2
Since its inception, KFTK-NW has fought to ensure access to clean and potable water, food security and sustainable agriculture development.

Notable accomplishments in the past 20 years:
• Pooling member resources and leasing a large tract of land for a cooperative of crop cultivation
• Preparing homeopathic remedies to sell in markets
• Creating microcredit funds to support women's economic activities—today there are three such funds in operation
• Distributing 80 small manual corn mills in partnership with Lambi Fund to expand market value of milled grains
• Building six rainwater cisterns with Lambi Fund in Remon, which constitutes the main source of potable water for community members
• With Lambi Fund’s support, building two rainwater cisterns in Lacoma that support community-wide activities at the Marie Vincent Community Center
• Constructing two Lambi Fund grain mills in Remon and Mawotyé which support local economic activities

Impacts from this comprehensive network of women who work together as a unified front have been significant. The women of KFTK-NW have brought engagement and sustainable solutions to their communities. Residents of entire communities now have the opportunity to transform their crops, process their grains without traveling long distances and access to clean, potable water.

Merile Lebien, a member’s husband, states that prior to construction of the grain mill, he and his wife had to get up at 2am to travel for hours to the nearest mill. They had to leave their children in the care of neighbors because roads were not safe for a woman to travel alone. Now, the local grain mill makes these time consuming trips unnecessary.

In addition to ensuring greater access to food and encouraging members to invest in agriculture, the mills have spawned a space for retail activities. Members now sell their wares, prepared foods, dried fish, bread and fruits to grain mill customers—creating a viable sub-economy in these communities.

The women of KFTK-NW have brought engagement and sustainable solutions to their communities.
The Center for Plantain Propagation (CPP) has just moved into its third phase with a landmark grant from Lambi Fund for $53,000. For over four years, the center has been a training space for community organizations to learn plantain cultivation using the cutting edge PIF method and to purchase healthy plantain trees.

Since plantain trees never form seeds, they cannot self-produce. Therefore it’s an absolute necessity that farmers learn an effective way to manually cultivate plantain trees. The PIF method ensures farmers have a reliable source of new plantain plants to plant from season to season.

In just a few years, the CPP has grown from a small center training a handful of farmers in the area into a fully functioning program that trains farmers throughout the Artibonite. This joint initiative has provided grassroots organizations in Haiti with a valuable opportunity to strengthen plantain cultivation and to learn techniques for commercial marketing.

Members of the Center envision an exciting future. In this next phase, Lambi Fund plans to strengthen the Plantain Farmers Cooperative—an initiative launched by two partner organizations, AGPGM and APS. These two groups are blazing the trail by joining forces to increase revenue, strengthen sustainability and food security in the region.

This is a landmark moment for agriculture in Haiti as this effort plans to continue the ‘spread of knowledge’ by training other farmers and inviting them to join the ever-growing cooperative. Local farmers are training their neighbors.

In addition, the Center has recently begun processing raw plantains into the ever popular plantain chips for sale in local schools and markets. This is proving to be a lucrative enterprise that is raising incomes of organization members as they improve the market value of their plantains.

To date, Lambi Fund has supplied plantains, two seed germinators, tree nurseries and a...
Continued from Page 1

We were all moved by the narratives of solidarity and mutual support extended to total strangers who walked into their lives traumatized, wounded and seeking support. Our partners told the stories that we would hear along the way. Stories of communities overwhelmed by refugees, men and women eager to help but wondering how they would all survive with their meager supplies of food and water, in the absence of any type of assistance.

Mr. Josephat, a member of APS recalled tearfully:

"I had 21 people, strangers staying with me and my family. We did not think twice about welcoming them, but we had not yet figured out how they would be cared for or how they would be fed.

When we heard about Lambi Fund's program to help impacted families, I was so happy that I cried. I cried because I was touched and shocked that people who had been at the center of this disaster had the time to think about us.

I was so proud to be a member of a strong organization, and I really deeply understood why being organized is the path to a better life. We would have been left to our own devices without Lambi Fund's support.

The government never came and the NGOs which did drop by brought free food supplies and their methods of distribution stripped us of our dignity."

His sentiments were echoed throughout our visits in the Northwest. Haitian peasants continued to reiterate that Lambi Fund delivered aid respectfully through the direct engagement of partner communities.

Phase II: Expanding Food Production

Reports from all communities visited confirmed that the second phase of Lambi Fund's emergency assistance program focusing on food production and food security was a total success. Nearly all farmers from Gwo Mon to Gwo Sab shared their successes stories of fast growing cultivation within two months of the earthquake. Thanks to Lambi Fund's support, partner communities generated bountiful harvests of peas, vegetables and corn for consumption and sale at local markets.

In Mawotyé, farmers were less successful with the Emergency Fund's second phase because they purchased most of their seeds from a government agency which was selling hybrid seeds donated by the international community. This unfortunate deviation from their tradition of acquiring local seeds proved very costly. According to disappointed farmers, with the exception of corn cultivation, the harvest for peas, okra, millet and other vegetables was dismal. The farmers said that they have learned their lesson and will return to purchasing local seeds.

In all communities visited, farmers reported that their ongoing projects were now proceeding on-course following justifiable post-earthquake interruptions. In Gwo Mon, activities related to plantain production, sale and processing were going strong.

Members of KFTK-NW in Remon, spoke of the importance of the Lambi Fund's support immediately following the earthquake and the Second Phase of assistance focusing on food security and sustainability. In Gwo Sab, farmers, fishermen and market women thanked Lambi Fund for its support...

QUAKE Continued on Page 5
Update: Continued Support for Women's Groups in Port-au-Prince

It has been over nine months since January's earthquake sent Haiti reeling. Aid and rebuilding have been painfully slow as international agencies and Haiti's crippled government have struggled to provide effective relief for the more than 1 million Haitians who lost their homes in the earthquake.

Two women's groups KOFA VIV (The Coordination of Women Victims of Violence) and FAMAB (The Organization of Brave Women) are living in the heart of this chaos - striving to survive in the tent cities.

Prior to the earthquake, FAMAB focused on making microcredit loans to poor women so that they could start their own businesses. KOFA VIV provides services to women who have been victims of sexual abuse and other forms of violence. These women are also working hard to prevent newly orphaned children from becoming child slaves.

Because of the significant losses suffered, these women have since solicited Lambi Fund's support. Living in the refugee camps, it has been incredibly difficult accessing the resources needed to survive, they explained.

The relief aid is not well distributed because aid has not reached the entire population in need.

Despite abysmal living conditions, both KOFAVIV and FAMAB continue to meet weekly to analyze their current situation and work in solidarity.

In an effort to address these groups' immediate needs, Lambi Fund has provided FAMAB and KOFAVIV with emergency grants to support 350 women...
Lambi Fund Speaks at Human Rights Conference

In July, Lambi Fund of Haiti Board President, Marie Marthe Saint Cyr spoke at the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) conference held in New York City and introduced the US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor - Mr. Michael Posner.

Lambi Fund Speaks at UN Foundation

Deputy Director, Leonie Hermantin, spoke at the United Nations Foundation and Women Donors Network to discuss "Haitian Women & Girls; Building a New Future of Equality" in September. This provided an important opportunity to demonstrate support for women's programs in rebuilding Haiti.

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...living in the tent cities of Port-au-Prince.

These grants will supplement the needs of women and their children - such as school tuition/uniforms, healthcare and the start of new small businesses. The new school year started in October, so these grants were urgently needed.

Lambi Fund recognizes that this small token of support will by no means solve all of the women's problems, yet it will provide them with the means to begin the long road to recovery.

Plant a Tree, Offset Your Carbon!

Being carbon neutral has never been so easy! Simply use Lambi Fund's Carbon Calculator at www.lambifund.org/EmissionsCalc.shtml to figure out your carbon footprint. One ton of CO2 is offset by planting one tree in Haiti. Each tree is $22.

Why so much for one tree you ask? $22 provides all of the seeds, tools, and training necessary to ensure that a tree sapling reaches a sustainable level. So rest easy knowing every tree purchased reaches its oxygen loving, CO2 absorbing potential!

Sell Goods on eBay and Do Good.

Need to clean out the garage? Been meaning to sell that old set of skis? Now any item you list on eBay can benefit Lambi Fund!

Simply visit www.givingworks.ebay.com and under the 'nonprofit' category search Lambi Fund. From there, you can decide to donate anywhere from 10-100% of your profits from items sold on eBay. Earning a little extra cash and supporting grassroots organizations in Haiti - now that's an idea!

WOMEN cont'd from page 2

...as "water managers" and the community has steady access to a locally controlled source of potable water.

Over the years, KFTK-NW has grown into a multi-generational network of women working together to improve their communities. They have proven to be a positive force that challenges critical issues they face and works together to solve them. By providing opportunities for training, economic development and sustainable incomes to its 4,000 members, KFTK-NW has not only strengthened women's position in society, but improved entire families' livelihoods.

Keep Up With Lambi Fund News
Online at www.lambifund.org/news.shtml

A Very Big Thank You!

Lambi Fund would like to extend our warmest gratitude to Julie Meyer and Nadege Clitandre - two board members who have recently rotated off the Lambi Fund Board of Directors. We are deeply appreciative of both Julie and Nadege's dedicated commitment throughout the years. Mèsi Anpil!
Why We Give

In early Fall, a team of eight adventurous canoeists set out to paddle the Mississippi River - all 2,320 miles of it from Lake Itasca, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. This ambitious team calls themselves 'Paddle to Haiti' and hopes to canoe the Mississippi River in the course of nearly three months and raise $50,000 for Lambi Fund to support earthquake reconstruction in Haiti.

On September 3, 2010 this tenacious crew began canoeing at the headwaters of the Mississippi in Minnesota. The first few days were a bit slow though as they did more walking than paddling - the water was just too shallow! Things quickly progressed as the water got deeper, and now a month into the journey (at print time) the 'Paddle to Haiti' crew has paddled all the way to Iowa.

Why such an ambitious journey? Everyone in 'Paddle to Haiti' clearly loves adventure, but as one of its leading members Michael Gutschenritter explains, "I had always felt that doing these long-distance trips had always been a little selfish. Louis Gutschenritter (his cousin and teammate) agreed, and so we started doing research on Haiti." This is where Lambi Fund came in. They decided to raise funds and awareness for Lambi Fund to support long-term rebuilding in Haiti - long after the media attention had turned away.

Paddle to Haiti has garnered nationwide support. The crew landed a handful of key sponsors and has several major fundraising events, barbecues, and concerts planned along the way. These will play an important part in meeting local communities and working towards their fundraising goal of $50,000. Follow Paddle to Haiti’s adventure and see ‘Where in the Mississippi’ they are on their blog www.paddletohaiti.blogspot.com. The crew plans to keep paddling until November 30, 2010 when they reach the Gulf of Mexico, so show your support and attend an event if you are in the area!

I want to make a difference for a rural Haitian community!

☐ Check enclosed for $ ___________________
  (make check payable to the Lambi Fund of Haiti)

☐ I would like to make this donation on a monthly basis.

☐ I would like information on how to include the Lambi Fund in my estate plans.

☐ Please charge my (circle one):
   Mastercard   Visa   AmEx

______________________________  ________________
Card number                  Exp. Date

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Signature                    Today’s Date

For more information about the Lambi Fund or to make an online donation, go to www.lambifund.org

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Return to: Lambi Fund of Haiti, PO Box 18955,
Washington DC 20036    Or email us at info@lambifund.org
The Lambi Fund’s mission is to assist the popular, democratic movement in Haiti. The Lambi Fund provides financial resources, training and technical assistance to peasant-led community organizations that promote the social and economic empowerment of the Haitian people.