THE LAMBI FUND OF HAITI
Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti.

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LAMBI FUND LAUNCHES EMERGENCY FUND
To Help Hurricane Jeanne Flood Victims

The Lambi Fund of Haiti has launched a Hurricane Jeanne emergency relief fund to help get their self-sustaining development projects back up and running in the Artibonite Valley and Northern Haiti. Donations can be made by mail to The Lambi Fund, PO Box 18955, Washington, D.C., 20036. Or donations can be made online by logging onto www.lambifund.org and clicking on the Donate Now icon.

Josette Perard, Haiti Director of The Lambi Fund stated: “The rivers have killed hundreds of Haitians, farms have been flooded and people have lost their homes and belongings. Gonaives, capital of L’Artibonite, and nearby Gwomon were 1½ meters underwater.

Tidjo, Lambi Fund’s field monitor in Gonaives, told us that for the first few days he, his family and his neighbors were living on the roof of his house. They lost everything they possessed. They’re all alive, but didn’t have food or potable water to drink.

The international community will send relief aid to help the thousands of Haitian victims from Hurricane Jeanne to feed and house them for a few weeks or months until the next disaster strikes in another corner of the world. But the Lambi Fund is making a long term investment in building a sustainable structure for the country that will feed and improve living conditions for peasants for years to come.

We need help to rebuild the agricultural projects in the Artibonite Valley that are essential for Haitians to reach self-sustaining economic stability and independence. Lambi Fund partners with peasant communities to build self-sustaining economies such as cooperative farms, grain mills, reforestation efforts and pig raising operations. These projects have been totally wiped out. The plantain crops are gone, the newly planted seedlings to reforest the land are destroyed, community mills are gone, and pigs have drowned. All of these projects are run by their respective community organizations and bring food and income to thousands of peasants in the area.

Much of the devastation of the flooding is due to the soil erosion and deforestation that has occurred in the area. When heavy rains fall, there is nothing to stop the torrents and the waters sweep away anyone in its path. All the more reason to support Lambi Fund’s projects for sustainable agriculture and reforestation!

The Lambi Fund of Haiti has supported over 100 peasant led projects impacting over one million people in Haiti since 1993 in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security, Community Economic Development, Environment, Leadership Training, Micro Credit and Grassroots Democracy.

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our emails and sent in donations for hurricane relief! Those dollars are already at work. Meanwhile, those of you who want to help can still send donations.

More information can be found at www.lambifund.org.
All the news from Haiti is not bad. The research is in! The experts studied the Lambi Fund and found well-documented evidence that Lambi Fund projects create change with: improved economic conditions, increased availability of food, reduced erosion, improved environment, increased availability of potable water, increased gender equity, improved democratic functioning, increased management capacity of organizations, and increased collaboration among grassroots organizations.

Here are some excerpts from the Executive Summary:

**Economic Change**
From a socio-economic standpoint, all project areas contributed to the improvement of the standard of living of the beneficiary families. The projects enabled families to more easily pay for the education of their children, to procure health care and to improve their food security.

**Availability of Food in Project Areas**
The results show that after Lambi Fund’s intervention, food availability was increased by 4.3 months per year. There was also a net increase in the availability of grain and vegetable seed.

**Democratic Functioning**
Only 25% of organizations studied in the evaluation held periodic elections before their collaboration with the Lambi Fund. Because of the Lambi Fund’s commitment to grassroots democracy, this percentage has surpassed 75%, improving the process of installing new leadership in organizations. In all the organizations consulted, people stressed net improvements in member participation in the decision-making processes, both concerning day-to-day operations and also the organizations’ futures.

**Gender Equity in the Organizations**
The Lambi Fund supported the development efforts of 68 community organizations, of which 16 were women’s organizations. The rest were organizations including both men and women. The number of women members has also increased considerably over time. A prime example is AFKB, which had a 900% increase in women members.

Along with the sheer number of women in beneficiary organizations, it’s important to stress their integration and their participation in all aspects of the organizations. In many projects, they occupy high-level management positions and have a major role in the decision-making process.

**Reduced Erosion and Improved Environment**
The evaluators observed an increasing cover crop with the establishment of groves of trees and crop rows planted along contour lines, which had already begun to stabilize the soil.

Contact us at info@lambifund.org for an Executive Summary of the Ten Year Evaluation conducted by INFODEV, an evaluation and consulting firm in Haiti.
IN MEMORIAM Father Hugo Triest (1932–2003)
This issue is dedicated to the memory of Father Hugo Triest. During the more than 40 years he spent in the country of Haiti, Fr. Hugo was liked by everyone he encountered, through his priesthood and his work with the poor. The Lambi Fund team and the grassroots organizations who have received Lambi Fund’s support will never forget the work that Fr. Hugo accomplished as a member of Lambi Fund’s Advisory Board. He was always there under all circumstances supporting the cause of the poor. —Fr. Hugo, we will never forget you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Lambi Fund of Haiti!
The Lambi Fund of Haiti started in 1994 and has celebrated a decade of partnering with rural peasant communities in Haiti, with over 100 projects impacting over one million Haitians. Thanks for your loyal support of Lambi for the past ten years! Make a donation now to commemorate Lambi Fund’s first decade (and many more).

NEW PROJECTS
Peasant Organization of Tach—7th Moulen—Members are building a mill to process sugar cane and ensure more sustainable control over their primary source of livelihood.
Peasant Farmers Organization for Economic and Social Development—Peasants will build an irrigation system to water more than 100 kawo of land that has remained uncultivated due to the lack of water.
The Tet Ansanm (Heads Together) Women’s Coordinating Committee of the Northwest—Forty corn mills will enable 300 women to mill their corn locally and better feed their families. It will also give them an opportunity to earn income by providing the milling service for a fee to non-members.
Peasant Organization of Bige—Last year OPB created a large community water system to supply potable water to residents of Bige. It was so successful they asked to expand it to supply even more families with water. However, Bige is one of the communities devastated by the recent floods. Phase 1 cisterns will need to be re-constructed, in addition to the new ones for Phase 2.
Peasant Movement of Periyen, Organization for the Development of Cavaillon, Small Church Community of Laval—Members from all three of these communities will start a plowing service for the area farmers. They will use the profits from the cooperative plowing service for micro-enterprise loans to its members. To start the plowing service, they need: plows, oxen, farming tools, veterinary service for the oxen, and seed capital for its micro-credit fund.
Peasant Organization of Garat—A pig raising operation will help improve economic conditions for families. Lambi will supply 36 pigs and veterinary service for the members.
Re-organized Farmers Cooperative for Development—Members will attain sustainable control over food production with a collective farm based on the principles and techniques of sustainable agriculture.

Before I got involved with the organization and the Lambi Fund project, my husband did not respect me and I had no voice in the community. Now that I am a leader in the organization, my voice is heard, my husband respects me and the entire community listens to me.
—Woman who is a leader in her peasant organization
The Board of Directors of the Lambi Fund appointed Karen Ashmore as Executive Director. Ashmore was Interim Executive Director and previously Development Director of the organization.

Ashmore has over 25 years non-profit management, fund development and philanthropic experience. She is a former board chair of the Chinook Fund and is active in the National Network of Grantmakers and Grantmakers Without Borders. She is the mother of two daughters from Haiti.

“Before I became associated with the Lambi Fund, I carefully researched the non-governmental organizations in Haiti. With its grassroots development model, I found that the Lambi Fund is one of the most effective organizations working in partnership with the people of Haiti to improve the economic, social and political conditions. The Lambi Fund has a ten year track record of proven success. I am thrilled to be working with such a stellar organization known for its integrity and quality of programs,” said Ashmore.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lambi Fund’s mission is to assist the popular, democratic movement in Haiti. Its goal is to help strengthen civil society as a necessary foundation of democracy and development. The fund channels financial and other resources to community-based organizations that promote the social and economic empowerment of the Haitian people.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Send us an email at info@lambifund.org if you want to be on our email list for periodic updates directly from Haiti. Or check our website www.lambifund.org for blogs from Haiti, information on delegation trips to Haiti, job openings and other up to the minute news.