



# THE LAMBI FUND NEWSLETTER

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Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti  
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## End of the Year

*Letter from our Executive Director  
Marie Marthe Saint Cyr*



Over the years I have served and worked with the Lambi Fund, you have moved me with your generosity, your understanding and your solidarity as you have

partnered with us and with rural farmers to create lasting changes in Haiti.

In a country that is better known for what is going wrong, for what has been destroyed and what is being corrupted, you and I both know that there is more than meets the eye. As we reflect over the last 24 years of the Lambi Fund's existence, we can be proud of how we have valued the capacity of local farmers to find and implement strategic solutions to the challenges they face. Their local contributions, dignity and their trust are our most precious assets. You have made our accomplishments possible by joining us in partnership with the Haitian farmers.

Last year you donated to the Lambi Fund to create revenue for over 3500 individuals, of which 66.5% are women. These farmers and market women are in turn responsible for families, school children, and vulnerable grandparents who rely on them for support. Successful gardens, animal husbandry programs and microcredit funds for small-scale farmers and vendors have lifted people out of dependency and moved them closer to self-sufficiency. For over 80% of them, the long-term sustainability of their activities means that others will have access to these



*It's a community affair! Partners working together to mill grains improving local food security while increasing their incomes.*



## Understanding Recent Events in Haiti

*By Pierre Minn,  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Anthropology,  
Université de Montréal, Board Member*

On July 6th of this year, the Haitian government issued a decree announcing significant increases in the prices of gasoline, diesel and petrol. The increases, which represented hikes of 38%, 47% and 51% respectively, were supported by a larger IMF (International Monetary Fund) plan to reduce fuel subsidies in Haiti. The population's reaction to the proposed increases were swift: demonstrations broke out throughout in several cities, labor organizations declared a general strike, and protestors blocked roads throughout the country. Faced with widespread unrest, the Haitian government went back on its decision only a day after it was announced, and the country's Prime Minister resigned the following week. As usual, foreign media coverage of these events left much to be desired. Most of the focus was on acts of vandalism and looting, and on the "plight" of American missionaries who were unable to travel because of airport closures.

What can these events tell us about economic and political conditions in Haiti, and what do they mean for the country's future? I was in Haiti in early July for a Lambi Fund Board Meeting that took place in the southern town of Camp Perrin and had a partial view of the events as they

programs and have a viable option to change their lives.

Change in Haiti takes time and must be consistent. We are reaching out to you for support in the following projects:

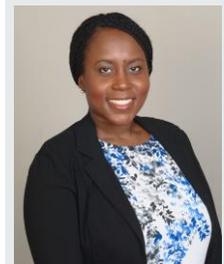
- 7 animal husbandries (goat breeding)
- 3 micro credit for over 300 women totaling 1,610,000.00 Haitian Gourde
- 5 Ox-plowing and loan for planters
- 3 mills for transformation of grains (rice, millet, corn)
- 400,000 trees for reforestation

Whether you maintain your contribution at the same level as last year, or if you are able to increase your support, your solidarity will help complete this year's activities and open new doors for many more in 2019. We are working hard to ensure our partnerships in rural Haiti continue to create new livelihoods and give new opportunities for new beginnings. Please consider making your gift before the end of the year.

Mesi Anpil  
Thank you very much

## Hurricane Matthew: 2 years later

*Update from Deputy Director  
Lourdes Eliacin Mars*



In 2016, our partners faced a crisis like no other. According to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, the hurricane caused 124.8 billion Haitian

Goud (HDG), which is over \$1 billion (US Dollars) in damages. Hurricane Matthew destroyed 20% of the agriculture sector in the South and Grand' Anse departments and left over 175,000 homeless. Already trying to recover from previous natural and man-made

unfolded. I have been traveling to Haiti for the last twenty years to conduct research on health and international interventions. Most of my research has been in rural areas and in Haiti's second city, Cap-Haïtien. My understanding of politics, power and economy in Haiti always feel limited. The perspectives I offer here should be read in light of other reports, reflections and analyses, particularly those produced by Haitians and members of the Haitian diaspora.

First, it is important to note the context in which the price increases (and reactions to them) took place. Haitians have long endured rising costs for basic and essential goods. The prices of food, potable water, and fuel have increased significantly over the last decades, and while Haiti's economy has grown, the country's impoverished majority continue to live in precarious living conditions. To put things in perspective, GDP per capita is just under 750 USD per year, but average gas prices before the proposed increases were slightly higher than average prices in the US. Many food items and other staples are imported, and Haiti's currency, the gourde, continues to lose value vis-à-vis the US dollar. Many Haitians have become used to living hand to mouth: I emphasize this out not to suggest a magical Haitian "resilience" or to insinuate that impoverished people aren't infuriated by or critical of the unjust conditions in which they live, but to highlight that the recent proposed increases and reactions to them were not routine. The increases were drastic, unrealistic and imposed by foreign and domestic elites who have little understanding of poorer Haitians' everyday living conditions. The reactions were not surprising for a population who have few avenues for political representation or civic participation, particularly in a global system that considers them to be little more than potential markets and sources of inexpensive labor.

Secondly, it's important to consider the gendered dynamics of the protests and unrest. As we talked with protestors at roadblocks and saw demonstrations of marchers, it struck me that nearly all of the individuals in the streets were young men. Such a situation would not be specific to Haiti: in any country where women are responsible for caring for children and elders, and where women are considered by many to be physically weaker and more vulnerable than men, it is to be expected that they would be less visible in public spaces in times of civil unrest. What this tendency masks, however, is women's long tradition of political activism and organizing in Haiti, and the important roles that women play in Haitian institutions, both formal and informal. While there is something inspiring and cathartic about popular mobilizations that represent an oppressed population's refusal to accept an unjust decision by powerful institutions, we must also ask who is excluded from these mobilizations, and how we can work to create processes that include those who cannot, for diverse reasons, afford to take to the streets.

disasters like the 2010 Earthquake, cholera, and Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew was another major setback that completely devastated the South and Grand' Anse.

Among our projects, we lost 20 agro-production structures, 3 mills, 7 ox-plowing services, over 6,000 animal heads, inventory and storage of goods for 31 partner organizations and a total of 320,000 new seedlings in nurseries blown by wind gust of 145 MPH or submerged due to inundation.

This complete devastation resulted in Lambi Fund providing emergency funding and relief to our partners affected. The Lambi Fund created a three-prong recovery plan: 1) emergency response; 2) repair/ resuming planting; and 3) rehabilitation to return all partners to the sense normalcy and self-sufficiency prior to the Hurricane. The first two phases (emergency response and repair) of our response prepared our partners to enter 2017 with a strategic solution to the devastation. These phases were completed by April 2017:

- Cleaned miles of irrigation canals that made it possible for farmers to access water to plant as early as December 2016;
- Cleared 5000 kawo (6,450 acres) of land that 1500 farmers seeded in December 2016 and harvested in March-April 2017.
- Over 200 women restarted their small business replenishing their small inventory that had been lost, with community loans at a 2% interest rate that gets re-invested in their organizations
- Three organizations rebuilt their nurseries with the goal of planting 145,000 seedlings.
- By the end of 2017 we launched rehabilitation of 9 of the 20 agro and revenue producing activities and structures identified for rebuilding.

The word « crisis » has been applied to Haiti over three decades. This is contradictory in that a crisis refers to a specific moment when conditions will improve or deteriorate, not a drawn-out or extended process. Part of what makes the current situation in Haiti confusing and troubling is that a specific moment for change does not seem forthcoming. While the country's electoral process is deeply flawed, there is no traditional dictator to overthrow. The country's army has been reconstituted, but currently doesn't have enough resources to pose a real threat. Haiti's greatest enemy now seems to be the routine systems that structure the global economy. They are unlikely to be changed by a single leader or a single law and undoing the years of damage they have caused countries like Haiti is not a short-term project. Organizations like the Lambi Fund, by taking a longer view of processes and politics, provides alternatives that may not make for dramatic news coverage, but ultimately work towards lasting, sustainable changes.



## My Perspective on July 2018 Events in Haiti

*By Wendy Emrich, Board Member*

Being from the USA, I have often heard of the many dangers in Haiti. I find many of these dangers are rooted in hearsay; that Haiti is overall a relatively safe place.

My most recent visit to Haiti in early July was the first time I felt some insecurity in the country. The annual Lambi Fund meeting was finishing in rural Haiti, when some of us started hearing news of road and airport closures and tires and cars, even buildings being burnt down in Port au Prince. There was also a call for a general strike across the entire country. The unrest began just after the Brazil soccer team lost in the World Cup and the government announced a large price hike for gas countrywide. Lots of Haitians are fans of Brazilian soccer and people were already upset by the soccer loss so rather than celebrating as hoped, the price hike and the way it was announced added insult to injury. The hike was announced some time during the game and most Haitians felt that it was done during the game in hopes that they game would distract them from the news. That obviously did not work because at the same time the game ended, the protest began.

Due to these protests, our group was not clear how to proceed. We were safe in the countryside, but our meeting was over, and we had planes to catch in the capital. We did not know who to believe and what to do. After much deliberation, we chose to proceed to return to Port au Prince. Most everyone was on edge.

The third and last stage, rehabilitation of 20 dismantled projects, was of great importance for our partners and their community. From September to December 2017, we initiated the rebuilding of 9 projects expected to be completed by December 2018.

So far, various foundations have joined in partnership to make the rehabilitations a reality. However, the work is far from done.

We continue to need additional support to complete the remaining 11 projects. Some have begun to be rebuilt in earnest and others have not started due to lack of funding.

We are seeking additional support to end 2018 with all projects either rehabilitated or funded to be rehabilitated by 2019.

The importance of these projects cannot be overstated. A latest World Bank figure shows the need for such rehabilitation and projects in Haiti. World Bank states that more than 6 million Haitians (59%) are living below the national poverty line of US \$2.41 per day and over 2.5 million (24%) living below the national extreme poverty line of US \$1.23 per day.

These numbers show the continued need of the Haitian people. Our projects and mission attempt to tackle these dire numbers. Projects contribute to the improvement of livelihoods, increase in food production which result in an increase in food security. This means that children can attend school and families can be fed.

Here at Lambi Fund, we are committed to provide the tools for partners to improve their livelihoods and reduce their poverty. Now more than ever, your help is needed to make this happen!

What was most astonishing to me, was both the way and speed with which much of the population organized itself. They were able to bring the country to a standstill in a very short time. This does not happen so quickly in the USA. We spend months planning actions, and a small percentage of our citizens participate.

As we caravanned through the countryside with our bus and SUV, we saw giant boulders blocking the road. How did the people move these enormously heavy rocks? As we left in the heat of the day, the roadblocks were not being manned so we could pass. When we were finally stopped closer to Port Au Prince; friends of the Lambi Fund gave us a place to rest until we could attempt to move closer to the city.

We eventually arrived late into the evening when things had calmed down with nightfall.

We were able to catch our plane the next day in spite of the strike. The Lambi team with all its allies in the countryside got us safely home. Again, the Haitians are a role model for organizing political action; something we need to learn more about in the States, particularly in this unusually insecure time. It is yet another reminder that we have a great deal to learn from our Haitian partners.

## 2018 Tree Planting Update

*Update by Executive Director Marie Marthe Saint Cyr*

At the beginning of 2018, we had a commitment from eight organizations to plant 406,000 trees in their respective communities. For them and for Haiti, it is one of the entrées in the course of activities that will be essential for future growth in Haiti. Today we seek to draw national attention to what should be obvious to everyone and anyone: THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN HAITI.

We are diligently working to do our share and want to remind everyone that it is possible together to improve the natural environment in Haiti.

Org. Name	Project	Planting Goal	Trees Planted So Far
AFTA	Credit	20,000	15,397
COPADET	Ox-plow-credit fund	20,000	11,321
SADN	Reforestation	40,000	26,000
KOKAP	Coffee and Cacao	120,000	60,000
APTK	Reforestation	60,000	40,000
KPM	Reforestation	60,000	65,000
OPDERGM	Credit Fund	20,000	16,020



Planting gardens

## AFVF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

*Lambi Fund field update by Agronomist Ferry Pierre-Charles*



AFVF is an association located in the Fyevil locality, fourth section in Lakil Gwomon. Lambi Fund

financed an animal husbandry project that cost 2,295,700 Goud (\$38261.67 US). Lambi Fund will follow this project for 2 years.

The project was launched on December 2017. AFVF already purchased 99 goats (90 females, and 9 males). The 9 males were bought in Ti Guave and transported to the locality. All the females were bought at the local markets. 85% of the females were bought from other local organizations that Lambi Fund has partnered with in past (MOTAB, APEAG, OPB, APEG). These goats were a lot cheaper to purchase and helped AFVF stay within their budget.

From December 2017 to August 2018, we successfully completed these activities:

- 9 parks were built for the goats with the participation of all members. There was a delay because of the rainy season but all parks were eventually built

OPGDSC	Mango Production	66,000	30,725
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>406,000</b>	<b>264,463</b>

The goal to plant 406,000 trees is probably the most important goal of the year. You might ask well why not a mill for food production when food insecurity is increasing? Why not the storage of grain for the same problem of production and need for food? Why not simply provide supplies and demand, factors at a time of increasing climatic events that threatens production?

Realistically, all these goals are dependent on our environment. Improvement in soil retention, increasing green cover and reforestation are critical aspects of working towards local food security which are crucial to the survival of 10 million people on an island that is 27,500 square miles. Without consciously working to improve Haiti’s environment, we stand to starve, thirst for water and die in large numbers because of deadly hurricane seasons, disease and exposure.

Are we going too far to think that way? I think not. These are realities that rural communities have already begun to experience. Therefore, it is dire to continue the work to address these issues with our partners. Planting trees is crucial for our partners. and we encourage you to support these urgent initiatives and to reach our goal. Trees are life as much as water is life.

Thank you for your support!



Partners’ seedlings growing in nurseries

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Conch Shell Production Fundraising Partnership**

Thank you, Conch Shell Production, for partnering with us. We were able to bring awareness to our work while enjoying a moving theater piece that highlights the resilience of the Haitian people.

- **Lambi Fund Project Training**

- Land for grazing was set aside for the goats
- Goat medication has been distributed and given to AFVF. They continue to raise money among themselves to buy more medicine. They've raised 38,000 Goud to buy medicine.
- 2 Trainings on animal husbandry techniques have been completed
- 2 Vet assistants have been hired and trained from within AFVF's membership
- Currently, there are 57 goats pregnant and babies will be distributed among members

**Difficulties:** These first activities were launched in difficult conditions because of the constant rainfall. The staff was forced to use motorcycles rather than a car because the roads were too slippery to maneuver with a car. Also, the rain caused goats to become ill. Fortunately, they were treated and there have been no fatalities yet this season.

Amid difficulties, the organization remains steadfast to continue the project and improve their livelihoods. Members are enthusiastic about the project and have teamed up to find new grazing pastures for the goats. They also work as a group to solve issues with the herd. The constant teamwork is essential to the success of the project.



*One of the 20 pregnant goats of AFVF*

This fall, Lambi Fund will train partners in better accounting practices. Also, there will be trainings on planting and growing seedlings. Over 100 members participated in the trainings.

- **2017 Lambi Fund Audit Complete**

Lambi Fund completed its audit in September and will send our annual report by November. The 2018 Financial report is available on our website: <http://www.lambifund.org/annual-reports->

- **Year-end- campaigns**

Our busiest season in terms of fundraising will begin in October. Please be on the lookout for ways in which your donation may be doubled or even tripled through our various partnerships.

### Contact Us

*We'd love to hear from you. Feel free to contact us at [info@lambifund.org](mailto:info@lambifund.org) with any questions or comments.*

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