

FONKOZE

A photograph of a smiling woman with dark skin and braided hair, wearing a bright blue sleeveless dress with a decorative neckline. She is sitting outdoors with three children. To her left is a young girl in a white t-shirt with a zebra graphic. To her right are two other children, a boy in a striped shirt and a girl in a dark blue dress. In the background, there are clotheslines with various items of clothing hanging, including a checkered cloth. The scene is set in a rural, sunny environment.

2024 Annual Report

FANM SE POTO MITAN : WOMEN ARE THE PILLARS

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Our Vision

Fonkoze’s vision is a Haiti where people, standing together, shoulder to shoulder, have pulled themselves out of poverty.

Our Mission

Fonkoze is a family of organizations that work together to provide the financial and non-financial services to empower Haitians - primarily women - to lift their families out of poverty.

Haiti's Cultural Flame: A Declaration Of Radiant Existence

We have a responsibility to leave the world better than we found it. My mother taught me this early on. It's a sacred charge passed down from ancestors who tilled land with bare hands and hope, weathered storms we can't imagine, and dared to plant seeds that would one day birth a new generation. It's a call to remember that our lives are not our own—a reminder we are part of a greater story. In this chapter, we must speak of return, reinvestment, and remembering our roots.

My story begins in Lazil, Haiti, a village in the south stitched together by calloused hands, sun-warmed earth, relentless optimism, and community spirit. I am the child of its rich red soil, a first-generation Haitian-American raised between two worlds: the abundance of opportunity and the grounding memory of scarcity. My roots are anchored in the quiet strength of a woman—my grandmother—a seamstress and komèsant who raised five daughters on her own. From her hands came more than garments and meals: she raised powerful women who became nurses, lawyers, and entrepreneurs. I come from a lineage of formidable women who have and continue to stand tall not because life gave them everything, but because they knew how to build with whatever was placed in their hands. Armed with resilience, optimism, and the audacity to dream, they shaped possibility from limitation and carved legacy from grit.

In Haiti, we say, “Fanm se poto mitan.” Women are the central pillar of society. They hold up homes, communities, and dreams—with grace that often goes unseen, unpaid, unthanked. If we believe in the power of



women—and we say we do—our actions must echo that belief. We must invest in women not just as beneficiaries, but as builders, as visionaries, as architects of a future they've long held together.

To those of us in the diaspora—who now speak of Haiti in two tongues, with passports that open doors and lives shaped by access—let us be clear: we are not distant from the land or the people who hold it down. We are their legacy in motion. And with legacy comes responsibility. The madan sara waking before dawn to make a sale, the mother skipping meals so her child can eat—they made it possible for us to dream beyond borders. They are still holding the line. We must not forget them. We must give back—not out of guilt, but out of love. Out of duty. Out of gratitude.

I speak as a friend of Fonkoze, as an admirer, and as a member of the village. This annual report is more than numbers and outcomes—it's a love letter to a community that shows up, again and again, with empty hands and full hearts. Fonkoze has long known what we're all beginning to understand: it takes a village.

Rebecca Zama | Attorney, Artist & Activist



A MESSAGE FROM FONKOZE'S LEADERS

“Fanm se poto mitan” – “Women are the pillars.”

This timeless Haitian adage reverberates like thunder across every mountain, every bustling marketplace, every loving home in Haiti. Women don't just support our communities—they ARE the unshakable foundation from which our dreams take flight and our nation's destiny unfolds. Reflecting on 2024, this theme has never felt more powerful.

What a year of extraordinary perseverance this has been! Amid political upheaval, economic challenges, and security crises, something magnificent emerged: the indomitable spirit of Haitian women, rising like the sun over the sea, unwavering and radiant. Time and again, we witnessed these incredible women stand tall, holding up not just their families but entire communities with grace and determination.

Fonkoze's commitment to women as poto mitan runs deeper than financial services—it is a recognition that women are the architects of hope, the guardians of family stability, and the catalysts for lasting community change. When we place resources in women's hands, we strengthen the very pillars that hold our communities together.

Throughout 2024, we have seen extraordinary examples of women living out this truth. Our borrowers didn't just weather the storms—they danced in the rain. They transformed their businesses despite supply chain chaos, created innovative learning spaces when schools shuttered, and built networks of love and support that reached every corner of their communities.

We celebrate the triumphant mothers who graduated from the CLM program, becoming beacons of hope for their families and communities. We honor the entrepreneurs who used their EdTek digital literacy skills to grow their businesses and teach other women. We uplift the savings group leaders who became financial anchors in neighborhoods where formal banking is out of reach.

Supporting women as poto mitan is more than individual success—it is the foundation of Haiti's renewal. Every woman who starts a business, every mother who sends her daughter to school, every community leader who organizes her neighbors is actively rebuilding Haiti from the ground up.

In these uncertain times, let us remember that Haiti's greatest strength has always flowed from its women. When we stand kole zepòl—shoulder to shoulder—with them, we are not just changing individual lives. We are reinforcing the very foundation on which Haiti's future stands.

Together, we build on the boundless strength of women. Thank you for your partnership in this vital work.



Dr. Carine Roenen
Executive Director
Fonkoze Foundation
Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite
Executive Director
Fonkoze USA
Washington, DC



Dominique Boyer,
Chief Executive Officer
Fonkoze Financial Services
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The Challenge: Haiti in Crisis

In 2024, Haiti faced one of its most difficult years yet—marked by economic collapse, widespread hunger, escalating violence, and deep political instability. The communities Fonkoze serves bore the weight of these compounding crises—making our mission more urgent than ever.

Fonkoze Remains A Lifeline for Haiti

Through it all, Fonkoze stood with Haiti’s families—providing economic, health, and development services in the country’s most vulnerable communities. Fonkoze’s work provided a critical safety net and a path toward self-sufficiency for women and families throughout rural Haiti.



Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

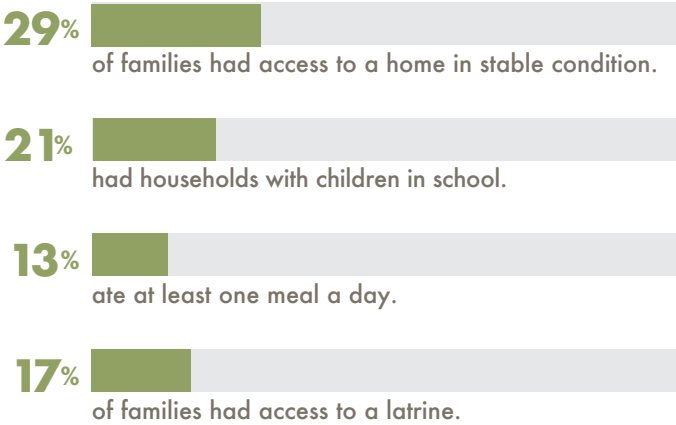
Chemen Lavi Miyo (CLM) is a comprehensive poverty alleviation program where women work 1:1 with a dedicated Fonkoze staff member to transform their families’ lives.

11,000+ people have graduated from the CLM program.

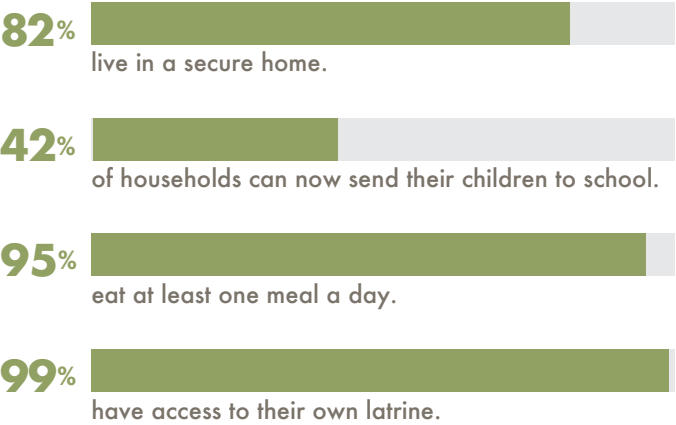
- ▶ CLM graduates were 3x more likely to send all of their children to school and they had more savings than when they began.
- ▶ CLM graduates had larger, more stable income-generating activities.

Recent cohort studied 2023-2024

BEGINNING OF PROGRAM




END OF PROGRAM



CLM doesn't just lift families — it transforms entire communities.

Digital Learning

Since the launch of **EdTek**,
10,786 
individuals have been reached through the **EdTek** (Education Through Technology) program.

By providing access to tablet based education, with no need for internet connection, literacy, or previous technology skills, clients learn essential life skills without costly travel or taking time away from their work and families.

- **Grow their businesses**
- **Build leadership & solidarity**
- **Learn through collaborative, accessible teaching**



The EdTek program expanded its reach in 2024:



EdTek learning modules include:

- **Business Development**
- **Financial Literacy**
- **Interpersonal Relationships**
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction**

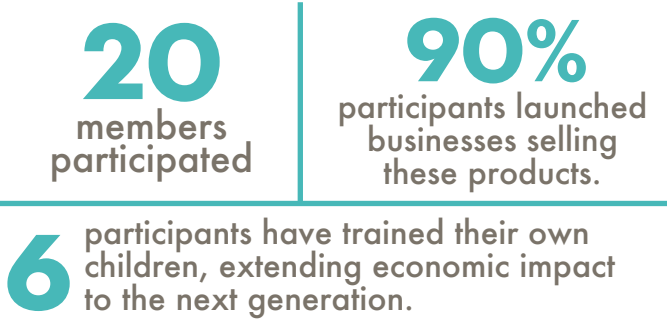
Building Rural Businesses

Through innovation and entrepreneurship, Fonkoze is equipping Haitians with the tools they need to build thriving businesses and gain financial independence.

- **70** microentrepreneurs received solar-powered appliances to grow businesses.
- Electric motorcycles piloted, reducing fuel dependency.

Fonkoze continues to help program participants move beyond simple trade into value-added businesses that create greater financial stability. A hands-on training introduced members to

plantain chip production, Karapinya (Haitian praline), and shredded dried coconut — all businesses with higher profit margins.



One member became a Fonkoze trainer, now leading workshops for new participants and working with two additional organizations as a trainer.

Seeing the program’s success, we are expanding this initiative to more cohorts, offering a pathway for members to establish sustainable, profitable businesses beyond traditional trading.

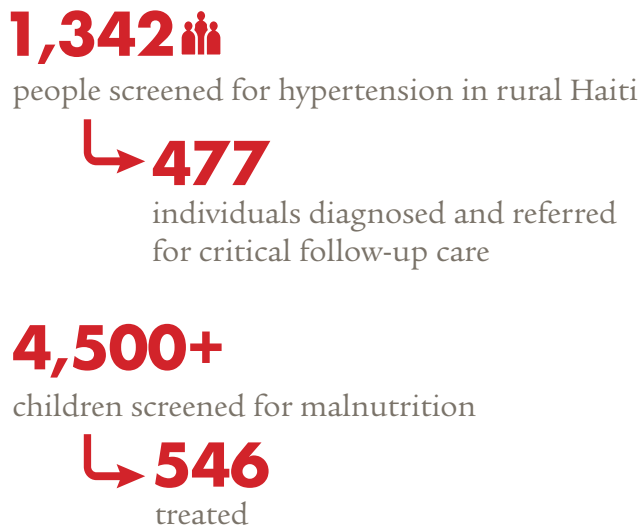


Health Women Leading Health Access in Rural Haiti

By empowering women as health leaders, Fonkoze enabled access to preventative medical care in rural communities.

In places where healthcare is hard to reach, Fonkoze sees women as the change-makers. By training local women as Community Health Entrepreneurs (CHEs), Fonkoze made preventative care possible for families in remote areas.

219 CHEs were trained to provide life-saving health education, basic screenings, and to refer patients for advanced care when needed. These women are now trusted health leaders in their communities.



Financial Inclusion & Microfinance

Sèvis Finansye Fonkoze (SFF) continued to deliver trusted, uninterrupted financial services—standing strong even as others scaled back. As 2024 continued to experience crisis with expanded gang activity, five branches were temporarily closed for safety and security concerns.



Despite the ongoing crisis, Fonkoze Financial Services did not halt services — remaining a lifeline for tens of thousands of Haitian families.

38,546

clients served across Haiti

↳ 28,813

in rural areas

36,742

women clients

\$20.3M

in total investments outstanding

43,619

microloans disbursed, totalling:

\$15.7M

Top sectors: Food service, gas distribution, retail/wholesale trade, and services

29,854

clients joined financial literacy and life skills workshops

(Data from calendar year 2024)



Uplifting the Truth of Haiti:

A Conversation with Dr. Bertrhude Albert

At Fonkoze USA, shifting the narrative around Haiti is part of our work. The dignity, courage, and strength of Haitian women — and the communities they lead — deserve not only investment, but recognition. Fonkoze USA Executive Director Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite sat down with Haitian-American scholar and advocate Dr. Bertrhude Albert for a powerful conversation. Her reflections echo the heart of Fonkoze’s mission: that when women rise, they bring entire communities with them.

Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite:
We know you as a proud Haitian-American voice advocating for Haiti and telling her story. Can you share a bit about your journey and what shaped your passion for this work?

Dr. Bertrhude Albert:
I was born in Haiti but moved to the U.S. before I turned one. I returned briefly when I was six and came back for good at eight. Growing up in South Florida, I wasn’t connected to Haiti’s history or culture. In fact, I was often teased for being Haitian. The only things I heard about Haiti were negative — disasters, poverty, instability.

That changed in college. I started reading about Haiti’s history and was blown away: the first free Black republic, the first to abolish slavery, the first independent nation in Latin America and the Caribbean. I had never been told any of that. Learning this completely transformed how I saw myself. I discovered powerful figures like Catherine Flon, who designed the Haitian flag, and Marie-Jean Lamartinière, who fought in the revolution. That history gave me pride and purpose.

I visited Haiti in 2010, shortly after learning about its revolutionary past. Despite the devastation of the earthquake, I felt an overwhelming love—for the mountains, the sea, the people, the food.

Nothing compares to walking those streets, breathing the air of your ancestors. That trip sealed it for me: I knew my life’s work would be dedicated to Haiti and its people.

Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite:
Haitian women are often called poto mitan—the central pillars of society. from your perspective. What are the three most inspiring qualities you see in Haitian women?

Dr. Bertrhude Albert:
It means everything. Haitian women are the backbone of Haiti. Studies say over 50% of households are led by women, but I believe it’s more than that. Haitian women carry the weight of families, communities, and the economy. They raise children, run businesses, care for elders, cook, clean, work — then do it all again the next day.

And beyond that, they are loyal. When a Haitian woman is with you, she’s with you all the way. I’ve seen it in my friendships and in my work — Haitian women show up for each other with everything they have. Their courage is historic. One of my favorite stories is of Marie-Jean Lamartinière. As she stood before execution during the revolution, she shouted, “Long live liberty! Down with slavery!” — a final cry that still echoes. That spirit lives in Haitian women today.

And let’s talk about their beauty — not just physical, though that too — but a deep, inner radiance. I’ve traveled to 43 countries, and Haitian women remain the most breathtaking — not just in how they look, but in how they live. Faithfulness, courage, and beauty: that’s what defines them.

Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite:
How can the Haitian diaspora play an important role in supporting Haiti’s future, especially for those who work alongside women?

Dr. Bertrhude Albert:
The diaspora is essential. Haiti will rise — but not without the support of Haitians abroad. Not everyone can move back or start a nonprofit,

but we can all do something. That could mean becoming a monthly donor, sharing stories, advocating, or amplifying the work of trusted organizations like Fonkoze.

Organizations like Fonkoze have been in the trenches for decades. They’re not parachuting in — they’ve built deep roots. And they have the proof: data, stories, results. We need to invest in what already works.

I always tell people — do your homework. Know who you’re giving to. Fonkoze has earned the trust of the communities it serves, and that means a lot. When we in the diaspora support organizations with a proven track record, our impact multiplies.

Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite:
What do you think it takes to strengthen organizations like Fonkoze and P4H? What role do they play in walking alongside Haitian women?

Dr. Bertrhude Albert:
First and foremost: financial support. Operating in Haiti is expensive, and prices have gone up drastically. Keeping the doors open takes consistent, reliable funding. That’s the baseline.

But beyond that, training is vital. At P4H, just like Fonkoze, we prioritize professional development. When we invest in our staff, we improve our service. That’s how we make sure our teams are the best at what they do — because the Haitian people deserve the best.

And finally, we need to elevate the voices of the people we serve. Too often, the story of Haiti is told only through tragedy. But that’s not the full picture. We have to tell the stories from the hills of Okap, from the markets of Gelmy, from the villages of Jacmèl — stories of women overcoming, leading, thriving.

That’s the work organizations like Fonkoze are doing: changing the narrative, one story, one woman at a time.

Haiti’s poto mitan—its women—as they rise from

poverty with dignity and determination. In the face of challenge, they lead with faithfulness, courage, and beauty.

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A Shared Vision

We invite our supporters and the Haitian diaspora to stand with us as we look to the future. Because when we invest in women, we invest in Haiti’s future.

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About Bertrhude

Dr. Bertrhude Albert is a Haitian-American educator, speaker, and the CEO and co-founder of P4H Global — the largest teacher-training nonprofit in Haiti. With a deep passion for education, equity, and reshaping global narratives about Haiti, she leads a movement that empowers Haitian educators and amplifies Haiti’s dignity on the world stage. Dr. Albert holds a PhD from the University of Florida, where she was honored in the UF Hall of Fame and recognized for her international outreach. Follow her journey and insights on Instagram and TikTok at @bertrhude and learn more at bertrhude.com.

This interview has been edited for length. The extended version is available at [Fonkoze.org](https://fonkoze.org).

The Poto Mitan (Pillars) of Fonkoze: Dr. Carine Roenen & Dominique Boyer

At the heart of Fonkoze’s work are two women: Dr. Carine Roenen, Executive Director of the Fonkoze Foundation, which delivers development services to families facing extreme poverty; and Dominique Boyer, Chief Executive Officer of Sèvis Finansye Fonkoze (SFF), which provides microfinance and financial tools to help individuals build livelihoods. In May 2025 Haitian-American lawyer and entrepreneur Régine Théodat spoke with these leaders as they reflect on leading through Haiti’s ongoing challenges and the power of solidarity. The Fonkoze Foundation focuses on development services that walk alongside families as they work to overcome extreme poverty, while SFF provides microfinance and financial tools that help individuals build and expand their livelihoods. We spoke about how their teams continue to adapt in the face of unrelenting challenges, and why now, more than ever, solidarity with Haiti is essential.



Dr. Carine Roenen



Dominique Boyer

Régine Théodat:

What happens in Port-au-Prince inevitably ripples out to the rest of the country. Since you both live and work in Haiti, how are your organizations continuing to operate under such difficult conditions? What has been hardest, and what’s still working?

Dr. Carine Roenen:

There are two things that have always been part of Fonkoze’s DNA, and they’ve proven to be critical in times like these.

First, proximity. We’ve always believed in living and working close to the communities we serve. Our model doesn’t depend on frequent travel or centralized operations. That’s been a huge advantage. We have local staff embedded in the field — they don’t need to travel far to reach our program participants, which is vital right now.

Second, decentralized decision-making. I remember after the 2010 earthquake, we kept operating because our local leaders had the authority to make decisions on the ground. It’s the same today. When our Mirebalais branch was attacked in April 2025, the local team knew what to do—how to regroup, ensure safety, and keep working.

Dominique Boyer:

For SFF, our ability to continue has come down to deep community trust and an ongoing commitment to adapt. Even though our headquarters is in Port-au-Prince, our core operations were never centered there. That’s helped us tremendously.

We’ve had to be flexible and responsive at every level. One of our greatest strengths is our extensive grassroots network. In addition to our branches, we work through nearly 1,000 community centers, many located hours away from urban hubs.

We’ve also leaned into decentralized decision-making. Branch managers are the ones who know if it’s safe to open, who to contact, and where to go. We trust them to lead. In many of the areas we serve, we’re the only financial institution people have access to. If we don’t show up, no one else will.

Régine Théodat:

Many people in the Haitian diaspora—whether in New York, Miami, or even South America—are watching the headlines and wondering: Is this really a good time to give to Haiti? There’s fear that their support won’t reach the people who need it most. What would you say to them? Why is it so important to support Fonkoze’s work right now?

“Even in the face of immense adversity, the work of Fonkoze continues—quietly, steadfastly, and powerfully— because Haitian women continue to lead.”

– Dr. Carine Roenen

Dr. Carine Roenen:

The need is immense. Over a million people have been displaced. More than five million are food insecure. That’s the reality. But what the headlines don’t show is the courage of the Haitian people.

Markets that were forced to shut down in certain areas. They’ve relocated. Vendors found new spaces to sell. Over 80% of displaced people aren’t in camps—they’re living with family, friends, neighbors. Communities are taking care of one another.

That’s what keeps us going. Our programs work. From our graduation program to financial training and business development—these tools make a real difference. We see it every day.

And I have to say: the Foundation couldn’t do what it does without SFF. When we lost access to the Mirebalais branch, we needed cash to pay training stipends, to make transfers so women could start small businesses. SFF’s infrastructure makes our work possible.

We’re not starting from scratch. We have systems in place, and we’re using them. That’s why support right now isn’t just necessary, it’s effective and proven to be impactful.

Régine Théodat:

We talked about how Haitians are adapting. And as someone in the diaspora, I’ll admit—it’s hard to keep hearing the word resilience. It’s exhausting, because what we really want is for Haitians to finally catch a break. But it’s also true—this resilience, this courage, is what keeps Haiti going.

Are there any recent moments that especially reminded you of that perseverance?

Dominique Boyer:

So many. Just getting to the market right now can be a challenge—roadblocks, insecurity—but people still find a way. I see kids showing up to school every day, despite the chaos. That quiet act of showing up is profound.

Our team, too. Some of our staff had to sleep outside last night because they couldn’t get home. This morning, they found out their houses were burned. And yet, they came to work.

“That’s what keeps us going. Our programs work. From our graduation program to financial training and business development – these tools make a real difference. We see it every day.” – Dr. Carine Roenen

Our clients in Mirebalais are now walking to other branches. They say, “This is what happened to my business, but I’ll figure something out.”

It’s not that they aren’t afraid—they are. But they keep showing up for their families, for their neighbors. That kind of courage, it humbles me.

We talk a lot about resilience. And yes, sometimes I get tired of hearing the word. But then I think—if they stop, who will carry the load? That’s what drives me, too.

Dr. Carine Roenen:

It’s the small, everyday things that show the strength of the Haitian spirit. People still get dressed for church on Sunday. They still celebrate First Communion, even if there’s not as much food or music as there used to be.

They still find joy. They laugh, they gather, they support one another.

That’s what I see—not just resilience, but courage.

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Even in the face of immense adversity, the work of Fonkoze continues—quietly, steadfastly, and powerfully—just like the Haitian women who continue to lead. Carine and Dominique remind us that when we invest in local leadership and trust Haitian solutions, real change is only possible and is already happening.

Now, more than ever, your support is crucial. Join us in walking alongside these resilient communities. Donate today and help us continue our mission at [Fonkoze.org](https://fonkoze.org).

This interview has been edited for length.
[The extended version is available at Fonkoze.org.](https://fonkoze.org)



Régine Théodat,
Disruptor & Strategist,
Forever a Haiti Optimist



FONKOZE USA

Fonkoze USA is the U.S. based nonprofit sister organization of the Fonkoze Family. The USA team raises funds, builds awareness, and connects supporters to Fonkoze’s locally led, grassroots programs that walk alongside Haitian women as they lift their families out of poverty. We help fuel a movement for dignity, access, and opportunity in Haiti through advocacy, storytelling, and partnership.

Original Music Video Shines a Light on CLM Women



The “Fanm CLM Yo” (Women of CLM) music video celebrates the strength and leadership of women in Fonkoze’s CLM program through powerful storytelling, original music, and community collaboration. Fanm CLM Yo is sung by professional Haitian artists and features 2024 CLM program graduates. This video is dedicated to CLM members, past and present.

[Watch the “Fanm CLM Yo” music video](#)

Celebrating: 30 Years With Our Community

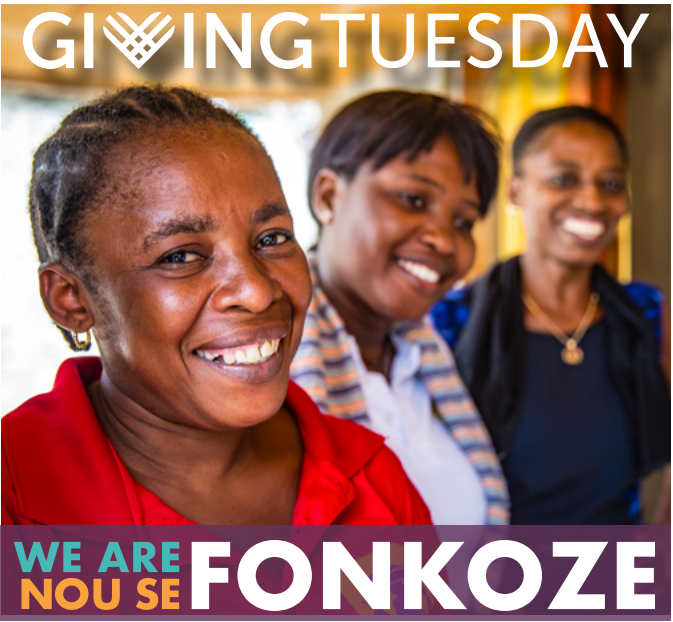
In 2024, Fonkoze USA celebrated the Fonkoze Foundation’s 30th anniversary with vibrant events along the East Coast in DC, NYC, Maine, Miami, and Boston. Supporters came together to honor Fonkoze’s impact, share stories, and reaffirm their commitment. We connected with new audiences through In-person gatherings and digital outreach. We also collaborated with Mercy Focus on Haiti, to hold an interactive webinar where three CLM graduates joined us live from Gwo Mòn.



“Sometimes a woman is more than a woman. Well on her way to becoming a goddess she metamorphoses into a *Famn Ayisyèn*. ” – *Francesca Momplaisir*



Steven Werlin & Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite



Cooking Up Connection and Solidarity

The “[Cooking with Fonkoze](#)” video mini series brought Haitian cuisine into homes across the world, opening Fonkoze to new audiences. Star chefs Alain Lemaire, Jouvens Jean, and Jason Pierre connected food with mission, while transforming kitchens into spaces of solidarity.

Culture as Connection

We celebrated Haitian culture through public events that uplifted art, music, food, and storytelling. In Rockport, Maine, a family friendly day of Haitian childrens literature and rara music was followed by an evening film screening of Kite Zo A (Leave the Bones), Q&A with producer

Building Momentum in 2024

Fonkoze USA also welcomed two new board members, Melanie Steger and Steven Cartwright, whose leadership helps guide our next chapter. In February 2024, Fonkoze USA welcomed Margaret Noel as its new Communications and Marketing Director. With a passion for storytelling and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, she brings a mission aligned vision to the role.

Fueling Change, One Gift at a Time \$150,000+

We welcomed over 200 first time donors to Fonkoze and surpassed our Giving Tuesday goal with over \$150,000 raised. Thanks to a generous match and a community of donors committed to solidarity with Haitian families, these funds help expand programs that support women as they lead their families out of poverty.

Star Chefs & Culinary Artists:



Alain Lemaire



Jouvens Jean



Jason Pierre

Zach Niles, reception with Chef Alain Lemaire, and live music from Lakou Mizik. Meanwhile, in Pittsburgh, an art exhibition interpreted by Fonkoze USA Executive Director Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite highlighted Haitian culture and strength.



Melanie Steger



Steven Cartwright



Margaret Noel

Nadia Colin: Building a Future with Fonkoze



“With Fonkoze, we’ve accomplished a lot.”
– Nadia Colin

For over 15 years, Madame Nadia Colin has been a proud Fonkoze client. She remembers starting with a modest loan of 50,000 Haitian Gourdes (about \$380 USD)—a pivotal step that launched her journey as an entrepreneur.

Through consistent borrowing, repayment, and trust built with her local Fonkoze branch, Nadia grew her business even amid Haiti’s ongoing challenges. Today, her enterprise is thriving. With Fonkoze’s support, she and her family have purchased a car to operate as a taxi, sent their children to school, and built a home.

“Even though the country is not in good shape, my business is successful.”

Nadia’s success hasn’t gone unnoticed. Friends and neighbors often ask about the secret behind her growth—and she proudly tells them about Fonkoze. Her story has inspired others in her community to become clients, too.

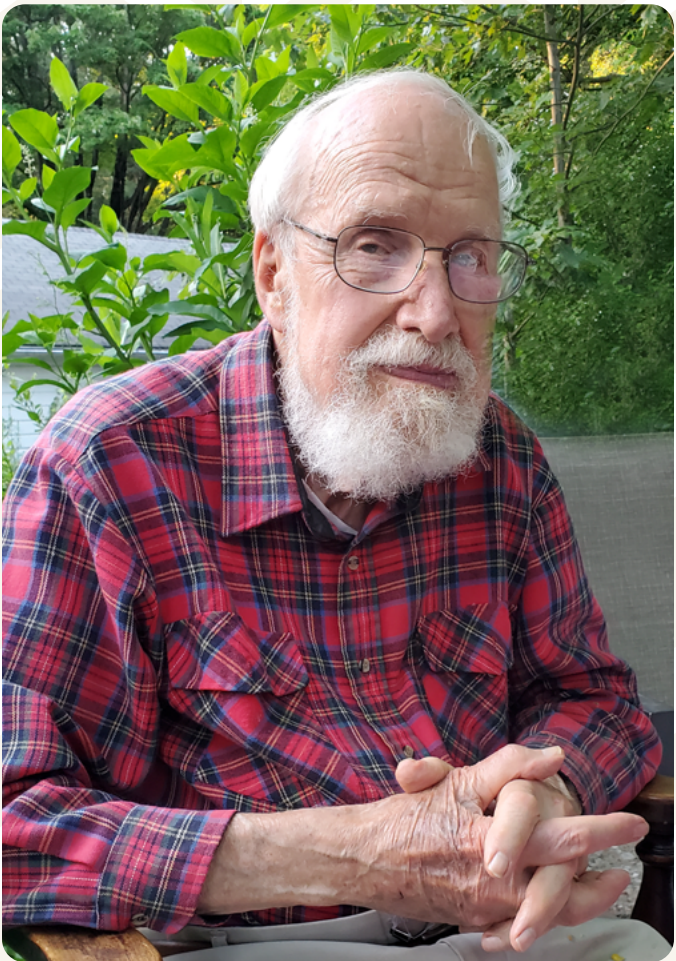
“People ask me how I’m able to be so successful. I tell them: I use Fonkoze.”

Her journey is one of thousands showing how access to financial services—combined with accountability, opportunity, and trust—can be transformational. Nadia’s story is a testament to Fonkoze Financial Services work to give access to microcredit for families in Haiti.

[Watch stories from the ground with Nadia](#)

In Loving Memory of a Friend of Fonkoze

Fonkoze mourns the loss of activist, gardener, and friend Richard Vanden Heuvel, who passed away on January 12, 2025, at the age of 97.



Richard Vanden Heuvel

The following reflection, written by Leigh Carter, Fonkoze USA’s Founding Executive Director, honors Richard Vanden Heuvel — one of the many early supporters who helped shape Fonkoze’s decades-long journey.

Leigh’s story recalls a chance meeting that blossomed into a lifelong connection.

“In the Fall of 1996, I met Richard at Mathew 25, a guest house in Port-au-Prince known for welcoming international visitors. His flight had been delayed, separating him from his group. True to his indomitable spirit, Richard simply walked out of the airport, hailed a cab, and said, ‘Take me where I might find other visiting blans (non-Haitians).’ The driver delivered him to Mathew 25, where I answered the door.

Later that evening, we sat on the roof, shared our stories, and enjoyed the cool Port-au-Prince breeze. He caught up with his group the next day, but not before both of us got to know Fonkoze. I would go on to establish Fonkoze USA. Richard would become a devoted supporter, volunteering, raising awareness, and donating the proceeds of plants he grew and sold each year.

His memorial service in Annapolis was a beautiful celebration of a life well lived. I honor Richard and all the early friends of Fonkoze who walked with us from the very beginning.”

– Leigh Carter



Teramise Ceus: *Building a Future with Fonkoze*



My life wasn't good at all. I was at zero. I could wake up and pass the whole day without eating, and I'd go to sleep like that.

I was like a bird without a branch.

Once I had a little business going, I didn't have to rely on family anymore. And they didn't need to worry about me.

With the profits I earned, I bought a pig. Then I bought some chickens. And now I have chickens, goats, pigs—and a finished house.

Before joining Fonkoze's Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM) program, Teramise Ceus was at a breaking point.

She and her children lived in an old, crumbling house with no reliable income. Her survival depended on the kindness of passing relatives who might hand her 100 Haitian Gourdes (about \$1 USD) to buy a bit of food.

But when Teramise was selected for CLM, everything began to change.

She joined a community savings group, contributing 100 Gourdes each week. When her turn came to receive the pooled funds, she received 5,000 Gourdes (about \$50 USD). That investment helped her buy her first small set of products to sell. Through her determination and CLM's structured support—including coaching, savings, housing, and livelihood development—Teramise built a sustainable income and gained her independence.

[Watch stories from the ground with Teramise](#)

Today, Teramise stands as a symbol of what's possible when women living in extreme poverty are given the tools and support to chart a better path forward. 🌱



POEM

Gary Becker,
*beloved father, devoted
husband, former board
member and steadfast
friend to Fonkoze— penned
these reflections after
his Board visit to Haiti in
2004, where the spirit of
the people left an indelible
mark on his heart.*

Haiti 2004 Gary Becker (1939-2018)

Fear and trembling –
Accounts of violence abound
as we travel toward Haiti.

As usual it couldn't be worse
and then it will, the
poorest poor killing their own.

Down we come and all seems well.
The usual airport hordes diminished,
our escort timely and secure.

Through the windows of the truck
a colorful shambles appears
on streets full and overflowing.

People moving quickly in all directions,
up down back forth and around,
merchants edging into the road
selling bananas chickens charcoal.

Such energy in poverty.
So dynamic this beleaguered land.
Bright colorful zippy people
moving with purpose and concern.

Once again fear abates
replaced with faith renewed.
Hope where hope cannot be
returns,
 rising,
 to overwhelm.

What a strange and potent land
with so much violence and chaos,
poverty all around, yet the
paradox remains – hope is always found.

SFF financials

FY2024 was another exceptionally challenging period marked by a deteriorating operating environment due to sustained and expanding insecurity. These conditions have severely disrupted

SEVIS FINANSYE FONKOZE - BALANCE SHEET		
All amounts are expressed in Haitian gourdes (HTG)	Year ended September 2024	Year ended September 2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	503,292,415	753,929,948
Term deposits, net	877,323,285	1,205,886,074
Loans and interest receivable	2,592,383,305	2,591,509,049
Expected credit loss	(701,427,377)	(210,233,623)
Loans, net	1,890,955,928	2,381,275,426
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS		
Accounts receivable, net	586,684,361	400,091,191
Prepaid expenses and supplies	93,051,888	151,751,748
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	679,736,249	551,842,939
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,951,307,877	4,892,934,387
NON - CURRENT ASSETS		
Equity investments	1,843,634	1,843,634
Fixed assets, at cost	767,383,528	755,045,029
Accumulated	(355,082,393)	(293,136,486)
Fixed assets, net	412,301,135	461,908,543
Right-of-use assets, net	78,584,415	114,725,044
Investment property	19,440,665	19,440,665
Forward contracts and other assets	1,186,746,682	1,122,846,476
Intangible assets	85,123,899	33,963,373
TOTAL ASSETS	5,735,348,307	6,647,662,122
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY		
CURRENT-LIABILITIES		
Deposits	3,575,024,192	3,797,040,940
Other notes payable (current portion)	271,195,287	286,114,396
Lease liabilities-current portion	46,622,136	39,304,895
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,182,097,887	402,839,909
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	5,074,939,502	4,525,300,140
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other notes payable (long Term Portion)	102,472,341	144,739,647
Lease liabilities	41,838,835	92,743,847
Other non-current liabilitie	33,775,936	1,150,828,615
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	178,087,111	1,388,312,109
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,253,026,613	5,913,612,249
SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY		
Capital stock:		
Common shares	87,867,146	87,913,675
Additional paid-in capital	637,183,231	498,892,764
(Accumulated deficit) retained earnings	(373,883,880)	16,088,237
Legal reserve	43,955,400	43,955,400
Revaluation reserve (land and buildings)	84,391,756	84,391,756
Acc. other comprehensive income	2,808,041	2,808,041
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY	482,321,694	734,049,873
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY	5,735,348,307	6,647,662,122

commerce, limiting clients’ access to merchandise, safe market spaces, and their ability to service loans.

Despite these pressures, SFF has maintained strong financial discipline, keeping operating expenses flat for the second consecutive year while investing in solar power and satellite communications to build long-term resilience.

Additional equity was raised, strengthening SFF’s capital base and liquidity. SFF maintains a solid liquidity position to meet the needs of its clients and fulfill its mission. 🌸

SEVIS FINANSYE FONKOZE - INCOME STATEMENT		
All amounts are expressed in Haitian gourdes (HTG)	Year ended September 2024	Year ended September 2023
INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL INCOME		
Loans	987,044,686	1,100,221,326
Other	46,889,666	41,903,968
TOTAL INTEREST INCOME	1,033,934,352	1,142,125,294
INTEREST EXPENSES		
Interest paid on client deposits	30,343,571	21,912,624
Debt (line of credit and notes)	28,211,231	31,767,783
TOTAL INTEREST EXPENSE	58,554,802	53,680,407
NET INTEREST INCOME	975,379,550	1,088,444,887
PROVISION FOR CREDIT LOSSES	450,343,587	198,906,211
NET INTEREST INCOME AFTER PROVISION FOR CREDIT LOSSES	525,035,963	889,538,676
OTHER OPERATING INCOME		
Commissions and loan penalties	147,294,797	145,253,804
Income from foreign exchange (trading)	19,553,464	63,928,823
Income from remittance services	52,552,734	51,620,234
Savings accounts fees	5,813,973	23,482,890
Recoveries of loans written off	1,624,788	7,267,438
Other	14,939,766	16,609,453
TOTAL OTHER OPERATING INCOME	241,779,522	308,162,642
NET INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME	766,815,485	1,197,701,318
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Personnel expenses	713,827,849	698,363,968
Premises and equipment expenses	296,895,550	131,553,380
Depreciation and amortization	76,460,599	62,898,105
Lease charges	2,401,803	29,893,510
Other expenses	254,918,180	436,960,924
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,344,503,981	1,359,669,887
(LOSS) PROFIT NET FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE OTHER INCOME AND INCOME TAXES	(577,688,496)	(161,968,569)
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Unrealized (loss) gain on foreign exch.	1,621,165	-8,130,992
Grants	3,717,291	4,898,419
Other non-operating income	15,247,016	18,581,050
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	20,585,472	15,348,477
NET OPERATING (LOSS) PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAXES (TAX CREDIT)	-557,103,024	-146,620,092
TAX CREDIT (INCOME TAX)		
Tax credit (current income tax)	167,130,907	43,986,028
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES		
TOTAL TAX CREDIT	167,130,907	43,986,028
NET (LOSS)PROFIT	(389,972,117)	(102,634,064)

(Financial figures presented for 2024 have not yet been audited.)

Foundation financials

I am pleased to present Fonkoze Kole Zepòl’s Statement of Financial Position for the year ending December 31, 2024. This statement aims to provide stakeholders and partners with the following:

- A clear understanding of the Foundation’s overall financial position for 2023/2024.
- Confidence that the Foundation has used and accounted for donor funds in an appropriate and responsible manner.
- Reassurance that the Foundation remains financially stable and operationally secure.

The pressures on the Foundation’s services are expected to continue increasing. The financial outlook for 2025 and beyond will depend on our ability to manage growing demand while identifying new sources of revenue and maintaining donor support.

Total assets increased significantly from HTG 518 million in 2023 to HTG 614 million in 2024, reflecting the Foundation’s capacity to strengthen its financial base despite economic and social challenges.

Our cash position improved substantially, driven by HTG 92 million increase in cash and cash equivalents, positioning the Foundation to meet its short-term obligations more efficiently. In addition, grants receivable rose by nearly HTG 29 million, underscoring our success in mobilizing donor commitments to sustain project delivery.

On the liability side, total short-term liabilities increased considerably to HTG 426 million in 2024 from HTG 272 million in 2023. This is primarily due to expanded program activity and increased contractual obligations. In addition, deferred contributions grew by over HTG 130 million, affirming donor confidence and long-term investment in the Foundation’s mission.

Several projects are being implemented at an accelerated pace, supported by strong financial controls and oversight. With effective project and donor management in place, the Foundation was able to deliver impactful programs and maintain operational resilience throughout 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Foundation anticipates continued financial and operational pressure due to a decline in donor funding and the persistent socio-political turmoil affecting the country. As a result, the Foundation has taken proactive steps to reduce operational costs, including a strategic reduction in staffing resources. Despite these constraints, the foundation remains committed to safeguarding its core programs and will continue to seek innovative partnerships and funding avenues to sustain its mission in support of the most vulnerable communities. 🌸

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
Average Exchange rate HTG/USD during reporting period.	131.7785	145.3700
All amounts are expressed in Haitian gourdes (HTG).	Year ended December 2024	Year ended December 2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	272,174,556	179,361,799
Reserves Fund	40,067,861	40,558,001
Investments	21,760,795	22,496,145
Grants receivables	181,917,807	152,963,830
Other Receivables	3,458,226	4,624,946
Prepaid expenses	771,539	735,858
Third party related assets	3,192,345	707,747
TOTAL ASSETS (SHORT-TERM)	523,343,129	401,448,326
ASSETS LONG-TERM		
Immobilisation	74,823,248	91,859,824
Other Assets	15,520,877	24,762,655
TOTAL ASSETS (LONG-TERM)	90,344,125	116,622,479

TOTAL ASSETS	613,687,254	518,070,805
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LIABILITES		
Current liabilities	50,748,233	21,318,507
Other liabilities		2,866,061
Deferred Contributions	375,582,034	245,547,119
Third Party Liabilities		2,750,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES (SHORT-TERM)	426,330,267	272,481,687

LIABILITIES (LONG-TERM)		
Promisory Notes -Long Term Liabilities	22,000,000	19,250,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES (LONG-TERM)	22,000,000	19,250,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES	448,330,267	291,731,687
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TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	974,245,683	863,594,238
(LOSS) PROFIT NET FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE OTHER INCOME AND INCOME TAXES	244,505,942	226,339,065

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
REVENUES		
Revenues from donors	849,726,592	792,464,021
Interest Income		
Gain (loss) due to exchange rate fluctuation		
Other Income	28,955,225	14,844,307
TOTAL REVENUES	878,681,817	807,308,328

EXPENSES PROGRAM SERVICES: GRANTMAKING		
Program services: Grantmaking	830,879,627	782,265,661
Central Office Costs	143,296,935	81,328,577
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	974,176,561	863,594,238
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(95,563,866.38)	(56,285,910)

(Financial figures presented for 2024 have not yet been audited.)

USA financials

Fonkoze USA is a Washington, DC-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that connects international donors with Haitian communities to fund sustainable development and poverty reduction initiatives. The nonprofit serves as a strategic bridge, channeling resources and expertise to support community-led solutions across Haiti.

In 2024, Fonkoze USA adapted quickly to Haiti’s escalating security crisis and gang violence, developing innovative approaches to maintain donor engagement and partner support.

Fonkoze USA secured diverse funding through grants, individual donations, communications campaigns, and technical assistance, providing crucial backing to key partners. This included social loans to Sèvis Finansye Fonkoze and capacity-building grants to Fondasyon Kole Zepòl, enabling both organizations to expand critical programs throughout rural Haiti despite challenging conditions.

Beyond financial support, Fonkoze USA builds institutional capacity within partner organizations, enhancing their programmatic capabilities and providing access to technical expertise and international advocacy platforms. As both facilitator and amplifier, Fonkoze USA advances the vision of a more just and prosperous Haiti.

Fonkoze USA demonstrates how international solidarity combined with Haitian-led solutions can create lasting change even in the face of extraordinary challenges. 🌿

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
All amounts are expressed in U.S. Dollars (USD)	Year ended December 2024	Year ended December 2023
REVENUES		
Contributions and Grants	1,649,806	2,621,312
Interest, Dividend & Capital Gain Income	177,395	223,845
Other Income- Contracts Income	116,748	116,557
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,943,949	\$2,961,714
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES AND GRANTS TO HAITI		
Grants Expense	868,604	1,170,055
Education Expense	523,278	303,946
Other program expense	307,721	479,480
Total Program Services	\$1,699,603	\$1,953,481
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
Management & General	233,480	229,721
Fundraising	215,861	189,432
Total Supporting Services	\$449,341	\$419,153
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,148,944	\$2,372,634
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(\$204,995)	\$589,080

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
All amounts are expressed in U.S. Dollars (USD)	Year ended December 2024	Year ended December 2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents	986,733	950,696
Short-term Receivables (Contribution Receivable+Grants Receivable)	487,544	894,157
Prepaid Expenses	21,148	13,165
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,495,425	\$1,858,018
NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Investments	1,878,329	1,825,645
Long-term Receivables	2,469,505	2,615,510
Other Assets (Other Receivable + ROU Asset)	63,861	116,162
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,907,120	\$6,415,335
LIABILITIES		
Short-term Liabilities	106,513	603,680
Long-term Liabilities	3,010,415	2,815,468
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,115,928	\$3,419,148
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	2,076,901	1,782,627
With Donor Restrictions	714,291	1,213,560
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$2,791,192	\$2,996,187
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$5,907,120	\$6,415,335

LEADERSHIP TEAM



FONKOZE FAMILY SENIOR STAFF

SÈVIS FINANSYE FONKOZE, S.A.
Dominique Boyer
(Chief Executive Officer)

FONDASYON KOLE ZEPÒL

Dr. Carine Roenen
(Executive Director)

FONKOZE USA

Dr. Erlantz Hyppolite
(Executive Director)

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Deanna Durban, Secretary
Cara Forster
Jean-Garnier Bélizaire
Fr. Joseph B. Philippe, CSSp

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Marie George Salomon
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Anne Hastings
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Maxence Bradley is a Canadian photographer, who specializes in documentary, journalism, humanitarian

and social photography. Fonkoze is so appreciative to work together with Maxence on capturing our programs, clients and the essence of Haiti.



© Erwan Greard



“I speak as a friend of Fonkoze, as an admirer, and as a member of the village. This annual report is more than numbers and outcomes—it’s a love letter to a community that shows up, again and again, with empty hands and full hearts. Fonkoze has long known what we’re all beginning to understand: it takes a village.”

—Rebecca Zama





FONKOZE
Empowering Families Across Haiti



FONKOZE.ORG