

Socio-Economic Recovery Project in the 3rd Communal Section of Les Cayes



2025 REPORT

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Executive Summary

In January 2025, the Quixote Center and Développement Communautaire Chrétien Haïtien (DCCH) launched a one-year pilot project designed to improve the living conditions of 100 families in the communities of Gouin and Sainte-Hélène while fostering a new generation of citizens who will shape their own economic future. We designed the initiative as a replicable model that can be expanded to other communities across Haiti. This report presents the project's results, key lessons learned, and recommendations to strengthen future iterations.

1. The project challenges cycles of dependency that have long characterized development efforts in Haiti. Often described as the “Aid State” or a “nation of NGOs,” Haiti has experienced decades of poorly structured assistance that has sustained the aid industry without building durable local capacity. This initiative sought to demonstrate a different approach—one rooted in community leadership, accountability, and self-reliance.
2. Quixote Center selected DCCH as its local implementing partner based on its strong leadership, transparent communication, and extensive experience managing rural development programs in the Sud Department. As a member of Caritas, DCCH has established credibility and trusted relationships with local communities.
3. The pilot project represented a total investment of approximately \$75,000, disbursed in quarterly tranches, contingent upon the review of program reports and joint evaluation meetings. This structure ensured financial accountability and allowed for ongoing learning and adaptation during implementation.
4. A strong evidence base guided the project design. In 2023, with support from Quixote Center, DCCH conducted a comprehensive needs assessment involving 134 community leaders, identifying key challenges, opportunities, and priorities for local socio-economic recovery. This participatory process helped ensure that the project responded directly to community realities.
5. Community ownership was central to the project's approach. The first quarter focused on strengthening community cohesion and collective decision-making, an essential foundation for long-term sustainability. Participants played an active role in shaping the program, including selecting the types of seeds to cultivate and livestock to raise.
6. Seeds and livestock were distributed through a community loan model designed to multiply impact over time. Beneficiary families agreed to return the same quantity of seeds after harvest and the first offspring of livestock to the program. These repayments allow additional families to benefit, creating a self-sustaining cycle of agricultural production and asset building.

7. Following the selection of 100 participating households from Gouin, Sainte-Hélène, and Costa, DCCH collected baseline data to measure the program’s impact on agricultural productivity and household livelihoods.

8. Overall, the pilot project met or exceeded all objectives outlined in the project’s logical framework, demonstrating the effectiveness of a community-driven development model that prioritizes local leadership, shared responsibility, and sustainable economic growth.

Table 1: Project impact in a nutshell:

Specific Objectives	Results	Achievements
Contribute to increasing agricultural production and improving food security for 100 farmers.	More than 100 gardens with different crops have been created using seeds distributed as part of this project.	Almost every participating family has planted two plots of land, although scattered. With the number of participants, we estimate that participants created more than 100 gardens in the communities of Gouin and Saint-Helene.
Train 100 producers in sustainable and environmentally friendly farming techniques.	90 farmers participated in agroecological training workshops and have increased and improved their income by selling their crops.	Farmers report improved incomes compared to the previous year. Approximately 92 farming families have been able to increase their production.
Promoting and encouraging women’s empowerment through financial inclusion.	Two of the three Mutual Solidarity funds (MUSOs) have increased their credit portfolios.	Three MUSOs have been created, and two of them had their credit portfolios increase considerably.
Promote a more productive livestock farming system.	36 livestock farmers have increased their livestock numbers by implementing a more productive system.	36 livestock farmers received livestock (goat/sheep) enabling them to increase their herds. These livestock farmers are beginning to introduce a semi-intensive livestock farming system into their practices at the community level.

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Roots of the Project & Needs Assessment:

In 2023, the Quixote Center partnered with Développement Communautaire Chrétien Haïtien (DCCH) to conduct a participatory needs assessment in the third communal section of Les Cayes. Together, we set out to better understand how families survive, what opportunities exist for growth, and what barriers stand in the way of lasting economic stability.

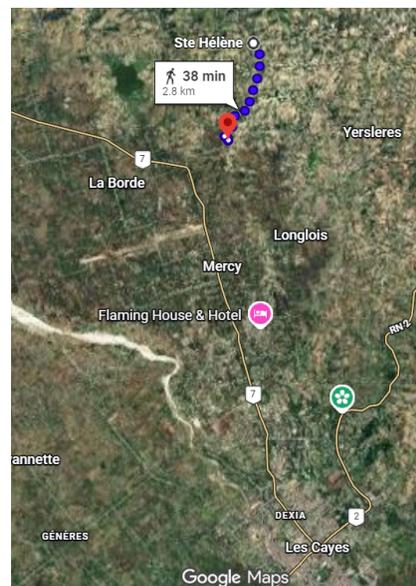
The findings revealed a community deeply rooted in agriculture, livestock breeding, and small-scale trade. Nearly every household depends on these activities, supplemented in some cases by sewing, teaching, or driving. Community members demonstrated strong entrepreneurial awareness and a clear understanding of how to increase their income, yet they lack access to capital, technical training, and structured financial systems to turn potential into progress.

The challenges are significant. Prolonged drought has reduced agricultural productivity and limited animal feed. Widespread deforestation for charcoal production has accelerated soil erosion, further diminishing yields. With no local health center, limited access to schools, and few economic alternatives, poverty remains severe. Many young people leave in search of opportunities elsewhere.

Through interviews, focus groups, and a SWOT analysis involving 134 community leaders (55 women and 79 men) from Gouin, Sainte-Hélène, and Anadere, three priority sectors for investment emerged: agricultural productivity, livestock breeding, and commerce/trade.

While families do not formally track income and losses, they consistently report that their primary livelihoods are no longer profitable. Yet beneath these hardships lies resilience, knowledge, and determination, creating a strong foundation for targeted support that can restore productivity, rebuild confidence, and revitalize the local economy.

Map 1: Maps of Haiti Showing Project Area in the Region of Les Cayes



Following the 2023 study, DCCH submitted an ambitious 3-year plan with a large budget. We encouraged our partners to start off with a one-year pilot project that could expand gradually, guided by the results we obtain. In 2025, with Quixote Center's support, DCCH implemented the socio-economic recovery project in the communities of Gouin, Sainte-Hélène and Costa, located in the 3rd communal section of Les Cayes, in the Sud Department. This report shares the results, lessons and recommendations from this pilot project aiming to build local resilience, economic empowerment, and community solidarity.

The project's main goals are to:

- Contribute to increasing agricultural production and improving food security for 100 farmers.
- Train 100 producers in sustainable and environmentally-friendly farming techniques.
- Encourage empowerment of women with the access to microloans through Mutual Solidarity Groups (MUSOs).

Baseline Study:

The first step for the DCCH technical team was to identify the 100 participants and conduct a baseline study to measure the real impact of the different activities on their living conditions. Among the 100 participants we find mostly women (55) with an average age of 47 and a household size of 6 family members. Some are local community association members while others are internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled the capital due to insecurity. They all engage in a combination of three key activities: agriculture, commerce and raising livestock.

As reported during the needs assessment, it is difficult to measure the annual income of farming families. Based on direct observations during field visits and community members' statements, 79% of project participants live in extreme poverty. This means that they have a couple of pigs and a small plot of land, but lack the resources to optimize its use and suffer from hunger. 17% of the participants consider having a fair amount of income with a productive plot of land, 3 to 5 animals including cows, sometimes practice a trade such as bakers and masons. Only 4% of participants claim to have an average income with larger plots of productive land, plows and more animals. Most of their harvest is used for family consumption and they do not track how much they make from their animals.

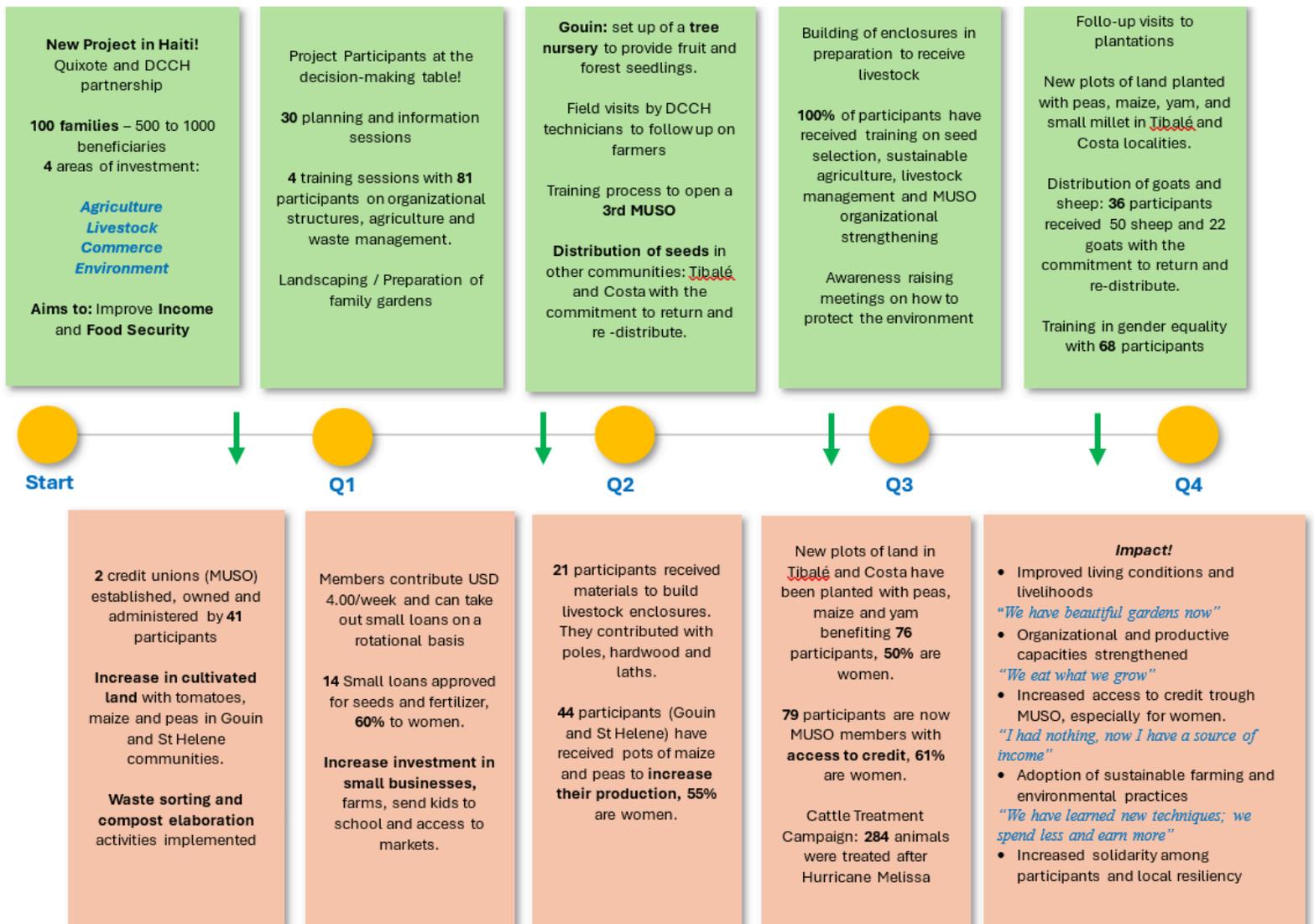
Summary of Project Activities over the 4 Quarters of 2025:

While conducting the baseline study, DCCH implemented the planned activities for the first quarter of the project as specified in their established timeline. At the end of each quarter, our partners elaborated a progress report including data and photos and we held a meeting to gain a better understanding of their methodology and the level of participation. Quixote Center then proceeded with the next disbursement so that the activities of the new quarter may carry on without delay. In this section you may review a synthesis of these quarterly reports.



Participants showing their growing garden (left) and animal enclosure (right) in Gouin

Figure 1: Project Timeline Showing Main Activities in Each Quarter



First Quarter Activities (January – March 2025):

During the first quarter, the project focused on community mobilization, capacity building, agricultural support, and environmental improvement in Gouin, Costa, and Sainte-Hélène.

DCCH conducted a total of 30 weekly awareness and planning meetings to encourage families to take economic initiatives. After these sessions, lasting 1.5 to 2 hours, trainers provided follow-up, supervision, and evaluation visits to monitor both quantitative and qualitative progress and recommend improvements where needed.



Mutual Solidarity Group (MUSO) Meeting

They held four training sessions in Gouin and Sainte-Hélène. Two sessions on establishing organizational structures engaged 43 participants (23 women and 20 men). Two additional sessions on Mutual Solidarity groups (MUSOs) involved 38 participants. As a result, they established two MUSOs, with 41 members: 23 in Gouin and 18 in Sainte-Hélène. MUSOs are community-based groups that offer small loans with low interest rates to rural families who do not have access to basic financial services. Members of each MUSO set their own rules on how much they must contribute every month, set the interest rate and approve loans on a rotational basis.

Environmental and livelihood activities also progressed. Families implemented backyard clean-up initiatives, including waste sorting, compost production from biodegradable waste, and proper disposal of non-degradable materials. Participants planted two garden plots with tomatoes, with plans to expand cultivation to corn and peas following the rains.



Distribution of Corn Seeds

In March 2025, DCCH distributed 64 pots of maize to 25 farmers (14 women and 11 men), and 5 pots of peas to 19 farmers (10 women and 9 men). They provided the seeds as loans to establish a community working capital fund.

Despite severe drought conditions in the South department, rains beginning in mid-March allowed farmers to resume planting. Overall, participating families were increasingly engaged in community well-being and sustainable agricultural development.

Second Quarter Activities (April – June 2025):

During the second quarter, project activities focused on strengthening Mutual Solidarity groups (MUSOs), expanding agricultural production, launching reforestation efforts, and supporting livestock infrastructure in Costa, Gouin, and Sainte-Hélène.

DCCH conducted awareness and training sessions in Costa to reinforce the management and sustainability of MUSOs, emphasizing their importance in improving access to affordable credit for farming families. Monitoring visits to the two existing mutuels in Gouin and Sainte-Hélène confirmed that they are functioning well, with members expressing satisfaction. A new mutual was scheduled for establishment in Costa in late June 2025.

The construction of a community seedling nursery in Gouin, with a projected capacity of 75 million forest and fruit seedlings, was a major initiative this quarter. The nursery aims to promote reforestation and land restoration on hillside plots. However, persistent rainfall slowed progress. A planned training session on seed selection was postponed due to bereavements affecting participants and staff.



Community Tree Nursery in Gouin





Community Tree Nursery in Guoin

Following the technical training sessions DCCH provided to all participants in the first quarter, the practical part of the agricultural program began under more favorable weather. Participating farmers decided which seeds they wanted to sow on their plots and were encouraged to diversify their crops. DCCH distributed seeds as loans, starting with producers with already plowed fields. These producers had to return the same quantity of seeds to the program until every farmer received seeds. This system ensures community self-sufficiency and the long-term sustainability of the program.

Participants planted new plots in Tibalé and Costa. A total of 42 beneficiaries (28 women and 14 men) received yam seedlings, while 34 beneficiaries (24 men and 10 women) received maize and ground pea seeds. DCCH also conducted follow-up visits to maize, pea, and yam plantations.



Distribution of Yam Seedlings

Livestock support advanced through the construction of 12 m² animal enclosures. Twenty-one participants received building materials, nine enclosures were completed, and others are under construction. In rural Haiti, most families keep their farm animals on the loose, pushing them to seek their own food. This is a major challenge and source of conflict amongst neighbors as free-roaming animals are very destructive when they invade gardens and planted fields. These enclosures protect the animals from getting hurt or stolen while protecting young seedlings growing in the fields. Animal pens are essential to build community cohesion as they help every farmer achieve maximum yield.

Although most community members who did not participate in the project do not have enclosures and the problem of farm animals on the loose persists, this pilot demonstrates what can be achieved when communities come together and collaborate for the common good. We expect that as the program expands and more farming families see the results from participating producers, they will also adopt these best practices in raising livestock.



Participants Receiving Materials to Build Animal Enclosures

In the second quarter, despite weather challenges and broader socio-economic constraints, the project remained on track, with strong beneficiary participation and satisfactory progress toward its objectives.



Built Enclosures Ready to Receive Livestock

Third Quarter Activities (July – September 2025):

In the third quarter, awareness and motivation meetings remained ongoing across intervention areas, encouraging farming families to take greater responsibility for their economic future and environmental protection. DCCH delivered several training sessions on seed selection and techniques, livestock management, and organizational strengthening. These sessions were well received and strengthened participants' technical and managerial capacities.



Training in Livestock Management in Costa

Mutual Solidarity groups (MUSOs) in Gouin, Sainte-Hélène, and Costa (Jocelyn) functioned effectively. Regular monitoring by the technical team indicated that members respect their financial commitments despite difficult economic conditions. MUSOs operate thanks to two sources of capital:

1. The green fund comes directly from members' monthly contributions which range from \$2 to \$4 US per month depending on the MUSO. All these contributions constitute collective savings and demonstrate the members' commitment.
2. The blue fund comes from the project budget contributed by Quixote Center and enables the MUSO to make larger loans at low interest rates and extended grace periods. As members repay their loans with a small interest, the credit portfolio of the MUSO increases. That way, the blue fund becomes a revolving fund enabling members to access larger loans as it grows.

Loans are granted from both funds during the first year of activity. Through green fund contributions, members access small loans to invest in petty trade, gardening, and livestock, helping them meet basic household needs.



MUSO Meeting in Saint Helene



MUSO Meeting in Gouin

Agricultural monitoring visits assessed previously planted corn and pea plots, including harvested yields and beneficiary satisfaction. Participants established new plantations of corn, peas, pea stems, and millet in Tibalé and Costa using seeds distributed as loans to promote seed autonomy within the community.



Monitoring of Growing Corn Fields in Costa

Livestock support also expanded during the third quarter. Participants received materials (sheet metal, nails, and planks) to construct protective pens before acquiring animals, promoting semi-intensive and environmentally responsible practices. DCCH distributed a total of 72 female animals—50 sheep and 22 goats—at a rate of two per beneficiary.



Participants with Enclosures in Saint-Helene Receiving Two Goats Each



Distribution of Sheep in Costa to Participants with Enclosures

While climatic conditions were generally favorable, a late-September tropical wave caused severe flooding in southern Haiti, damaging gardens and roads, including access to Sainte-Hélène. Despite these challenges, families have resumed key economic activities and remained satisfied with the project’s progress and support.

Fourth Quarter Activities (October – December 2025):

During the fourth quarter, DCCH reported significant progress in strengthening financial inclusion, livestock production, agriculture, and environmental protection in Gouin, Sainte-Hélène, and Costa.

They continued regular awareness and motivation meetings through MUSO (mutual solidarity groups) gatherings, focusing on financial management skills such as record keeping, budgeting, prioritization, and loan repayment. They also emphasized environmental protection and the role of community organizations. Training activities intensified, including a gender equality session attended by 68 participants (53 women and 15 men), reinforcing women’s leadership and participation.



Community Awareness and Motivation Meeting

Participants established three new Mutual Solidarity groups in Gouin and Sainte-Hélène with 79 members. The Costa MUSO received a grant of 170,000 gourdes to strengthen its blue fund, while Gouin and Sainte-Hélène each received 165,000 gourdes. Combined with members' monthly green fund contributions, these resources significantly increased lending capacity. Many members accessed loans to expand small businesses, invest in agriculture, and meet essential needs.

In livestock development, 36 beneficiaries received two sheep or goats each. The project promoted semi-intensive livestock farming through the construction of protective pens. Following Hurricane Melissa, DCCH conducted a livestock treatment campaign, treating 284 animals (cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs) to prevent post-disaster disease outbreaks.



Livestock Treatment Campaign to Prevent Disease Outbreaks

Agricultural results were mixed. Corn, pigeon peas, and market garden crops performed well due to favorable rains, though millet and some additional crops were damaged by Hurricane Melissa. Farmers began new planting cycles in anticipation of seasonal rains.

DCCH launched environmental awareness campaigns, including reforestation initiatives, that were well-received. Key impacts include increased women's participation, improved access to affordable credit, stronger social cohesion, higher yields, new income from produce sales, and improved waste management practices.

Overall, the project restored community trust, strengthened collective action, and reinforced resilience, while highlighting the need for continued organizational development, technical support, and youth engagement.

Local Consultant Qualitative Assessment



Quixote Center consultant interviewing a participant



Consultant meeting with project participants in Gouin

Due to the security crisis in Haiti, Quixote Center was unable to visit the project area and meet with the DCCH team and the participating families. Instead, in August 2025, we hired a local consultant not involved in the project to collect qualitative data and sit down with a few participants to get a sense of their level of engagement and satisfaction with the activities. He applied a survey to five participants in the MUSO program and five participants in the agricultural activities. This analysis complemented the quarterly reports that DCCH prepared while validating their methodology and guiding their next steps with a series of recommendations. We invite you to watch [this short video](#) where you can listen to some of the participants share their testimonials about the project.

Testimonials:

One of the most striking testimonials described the project as a “push-start” (kout defans):

“It’s like when a car has a dead starter and another car pushes it to restart. This project gave us the push we needed to move forward.”

Other key testimonies include:

“God sent DCCH and its partner to us. This is a miracle because our area never received any aid, even after natural disasters.”

“Now we have support to better care for our families and help others.”

“Thanks to this program, we work better using new techniques. There is less soil erosion after rains and more solidarity among members.”

“Before, I did nothing. Now I have an activity thanks to this program, and I thank the partners.”

“We have beautiful gardens, different from other farmers’, and we are proud.”

“The new techniques allow us to spend less and earn more. We no longer need to buy food at the market – we eat what we grow.”

“We are closer to each other, we protect our environment, and manage waste well. Organic waste is turned into fertilizer, and our children are healthier.”

“We hope partners will not give up on us. We are just starting, and we want more training to build a stronger, united, environmentally friendly community.”

“Solidarity mutual funds are a real asset because they allow us to obtain loans at very low rates so that we can invest in agriculture and small businesses, which enable us to make a profit to meet our needs. We are very grateful to the DCCH and the Quixote Center, which provides the funding.”

“We are already seeing some positive effects of the project in this community because in the past, every time there was bad weather, we used to lose our livestock, especially small ruminants, but today it's different with the construction of enclosures that protect our animals from dogs, thieves, and bad weather.”

“It's a great initiative that allows me to find funds to carry out my projects and relaunch my business. The mutual insurance company brings us many benefits.”

“I ask members to continue to show goodwill in order to ensure the mutual fund's long-term viability.”

"The loans support me in my farming activity."

"The loans I obtained have strengthened my business, which is progressing very well."

Recommendations from participants:

- Increase MUSO funds to allow more members to access credit and strengthen micro-enterprises.
- Provide animal-drawn plows to facilitate land preparation and boost productivity.
- Offer more training on environmental management, disaster risk reduction, and civic responsibility.
- Increase the number of goats distributed; there is growing demand from initially hesitant members.
- Consider additional livestock (pigs and cattle) for future phases to enhance income generation.
- Allocate extra resources to assist beneficiaries hosting Internally Displaced Persons fleeing gang-controlled areas.

Qualitative Assessment Conclusion:

The Quixote Center – DCCH partnership has made a positive and sustainable impact on the lives of beneficiaries in Goin and Sainte-Hélène. By combining agriculture, livestock, environmental stewardship, and financial solidarity, the project has restored trust, strengthened social cohesion, and empowered communities long neglected.

Beneficiaries view the program as a catalyst for change, a “miracle,” and a foundation for lasting peace and resilience. Scaling up while integrating the above recommendations would amplify its impact and inspire replication in other communities.

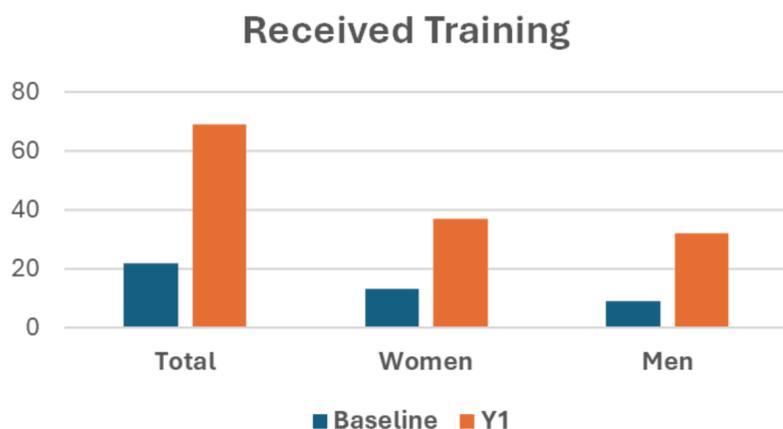
Results and Data Analysis

In January 2026, DCCH conducted the same survey used during the baseline study to find out what difference one year of intense activities has had. Note that during the first quarter of the project, 15 farmers who participated in the baseline study decided not to be part of the program and were replaced by 15 new members. The baseline was not adjusted accordingly; therefore we decided to analyze the data for the 85 participants for whom we have reliable baseline and final data. The graphs below compare the baseline data with the end of year one or Y1.

Training & Occupation

Only 22 of the 85 participating farmers had received any training prior to this project, by the end of 2025, 69 stated that they received some training in agriculture, livestock management or MUSO.

Graph 1: Received Training Comparison



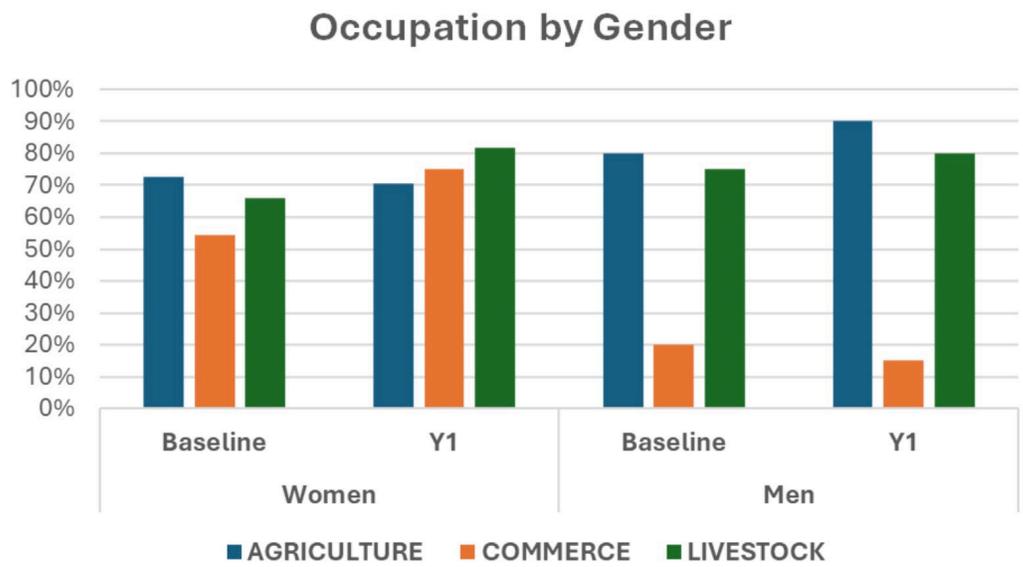
As revealed during the baseline study, communities around Les Cayes engage in all three main economic activities – agriculture, commerce and livestock – to some degree. The main shift that occurred because of this project was the number of women who increased their engagement in commerce and livestock activities. This is likely related to women’s increased participation in Mutual Solidarity groups giving them access to microloans to start commercial activity or purchase livestock.

Men already had a low participation in commerce and this trend decreased during the project, most members engaging more actively in agriculture and livestock. These trends confirm gender inclinations towards certain types of income-generating activities.

Table 2: Economic Activity Comparison

	Women		Men	
	Baseline	Y1	Baseline	Y1
AGRICULTURE	73%	70%	80%	90%
COMMERCE	55%	75%	20%	15%
LIVESTOCK	66%	82%	75%	80%

Graph 2: Occupation by Gender Comparison



Income & Land

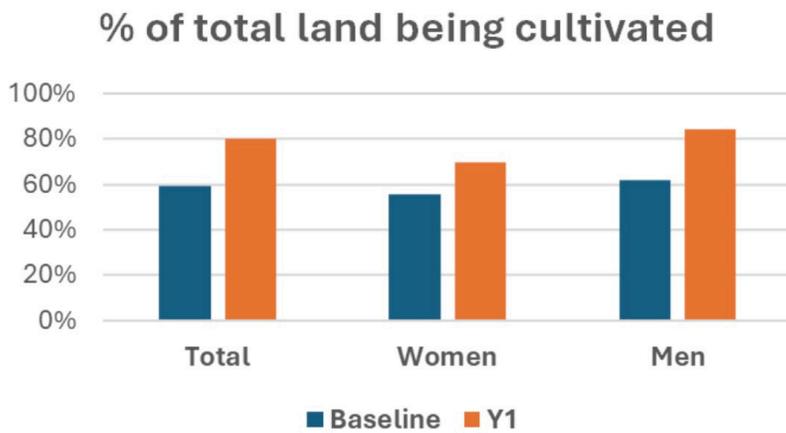


Planted field in Gouin

Table 3: Percentage of land being cultivated

	Baseline	Y1
Total	59%	80%
Women	56%	70%
Men	62%	84%

Graph 3: Percentage of land being cultivated comparison



Every participant increased the amount of land cultivated through the project’s agricultural activities and its seed distribution mechanism. This program benefited women and men; however, the latter engaged in agricultural activities at a higher-level, inching closer to full optimization of their plots.



Distribution of millet seeds

With respect to income, the data collected is not reliable as participating families do not track how much money they make in a year. 92% of respondents claim to have increased their family income in 2025. Men perceived having earned a significant increase in revenue probably through additional sale of livestock. DCCH and Quixote Center are planning on tracking the number of crops and farm animals participants sell per year to extrapolate a more accurate measurement of changes in income during their engagement with the project.

Livestock

Table 4: Comparison in Number of Livestock

Total	Cows	Sheep	Pigs	Goats
Baseline	147	196	101	137
Y1	157	204	111	150

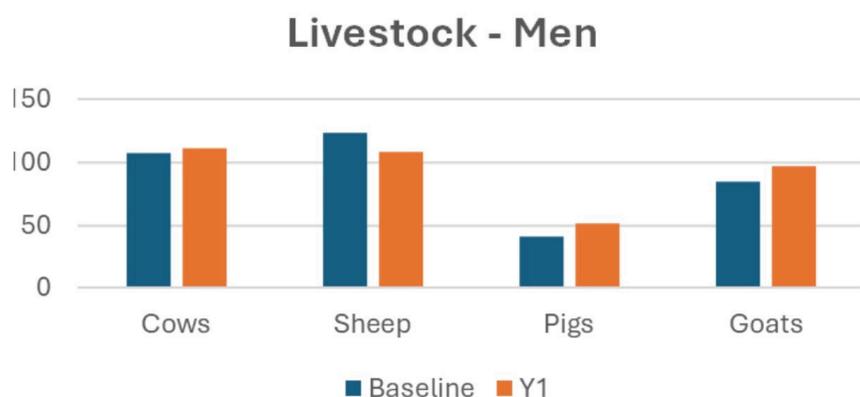
Women	Cows	Sheep	Pigs	Goats
Baseline	40	73	60	52
Y1	46	96	60	53

Men	Cows	Sheep	Pigs	Goats
Baseline	107	123	41	85
Y1	111	108	51	97

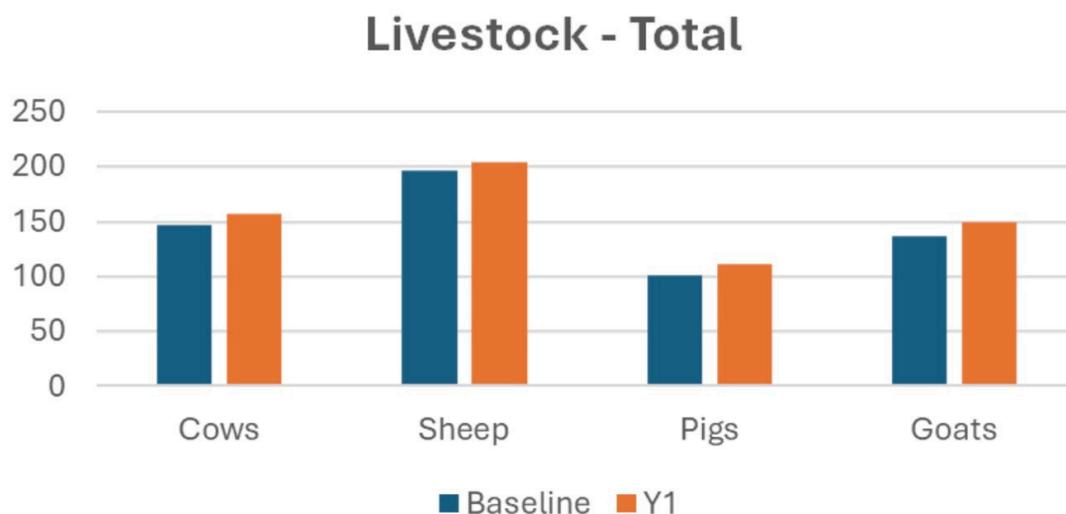
Graph 4: Livestock Owned by Women Comparison



Graph 5: Livestock Owned by Men Comparison



Graph 6: Total Livestock Comparison



In rural Haiti, livestock farming is a key activity for small farmers working the land. Without goats and cattle, they would lose the benefit of their crop residues (the stems and stalks left in the field for livestock to consume). It is extremely important to evaluate this sector of activity, which is so important for farming families in the communities of Gouin and Sainte-Hélène, to see the progress made.

Livestock farming is also a way for the families we support to earn quick money, especially at the start of the school year. We have noticed progress in all the families' livestock. Some families have members who are livestock traders, which means they do not keep the animals for too long.

Farm animals serve as their savings account and are sold to respond to emergencies. Rural families often sell livestock before the school year begins so that they can pay for their children's tuition, uniforms and supplies. We monitored the number of school aged children enrolled in school and among the 85 surveyed families, they reported a 4% increase in the number of school aged children enrolled in school in 2025. There are other variables at play, and this trend cannot be solely attributed to the project although some participants gave it credit:

"The mutual fund is a source of hope for us. My loans are consolidating my business, and the profits allow me to pay for my children's schooling. Before, my husband used to sell a cow every year for this purpose, but this year he didn't have to."

As part of the livestock program, DCCH distributed 72 animals to 36 participants with enclosures (either 2 goats or 2 sheep). It is important to note that in the graphs 4, 5 and 6 do not include these 72 animals. During the baseline study in January 2025, every participant reported the number of animals they owned and during the project many benefited from DCCH's cattle treatment campaign after Hurricane Melissa hit. This campaign treated 284 heads of livestock, and most producers were able to increase their herd during the project.



Distribution of materials for animal enclosures

One important remaining challenge concerns livestock on the loose from other farmers in communities damaging crops that can be a source of conflict amongst neighbors. Building enclosures make a considerable difference in protecting the animals and the crops while also strengthening community cohesion and peace.

Mutual Solidarity Groups – MUSO

Before the implementation of this project, 75% of the population of the community of Gouin and Saint-Helene was not involved in any Mutual Solidarity Groups and did not know how important this financial instrument can be for low-income households with no access to conventional credit from banks. In Haiti, access to credit is a major challenge for rural populations with banks asking for exorbitant interest rates and collaterals while usurers further extort smallholder farmers. Mutual Solidarity Groups offer an opportunity for farming families to have access to small loans at an affordable interest rate.

Women were the main beneficiaries of the MUSO program with a 61% representation among the 3 formed groups in Gouin, Costa and Saint-Helene and recipients of 62% of the 83 total loans in 2025. Women have a particularly strong representation in the MUSO in Costa. Their active participation in meetings and gaining access to small loans is empowering them to take control of their lives. Haitian women excel in retail, commerce, food trade and preparation. It was not surprising to see that 87% of all loans were invested in these income-generating activities.

With only 2% of all loans allocated to household needs or emergencies, the MUSO program helped 98% of their members start or grow their small businesses and farms. Once excluded from any form of financial services, these producers demonstrated what can be achieved through these solidarity groups. DCCH reported that some members experienced difficulties repaying their loans with at least one case of intentional loan default. We are working with our partners to seek solutions to these situations, including the possibility of dissolving the MUSOs at the end of each annual cycle, removing members who do not abide by the rules, and initiating a new cycle with replenished funds and additional members.

Graph 7: Muso Members by Gender

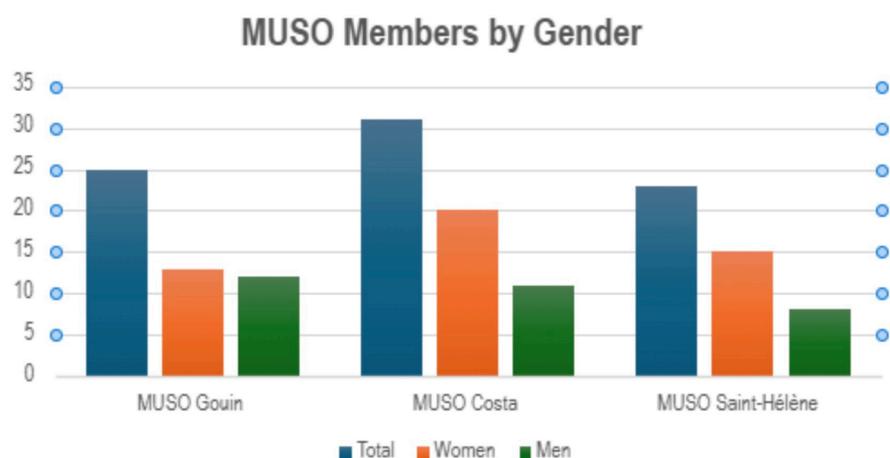
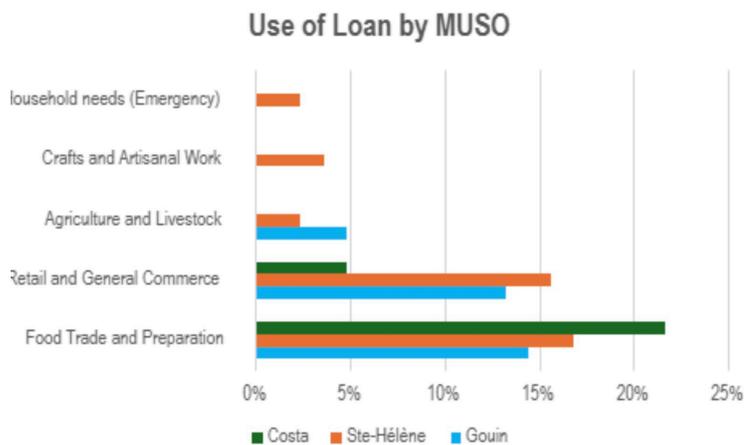


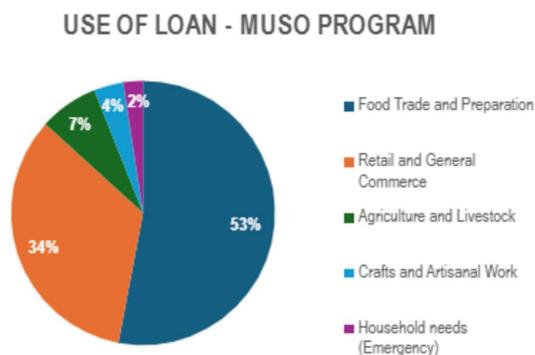
Table 5: Amount of the Loans among all MUSOs

	US Dollar	Haitian Gourdes
Total on Loans	\$ 7,567.98	983,837.00
Average Loan	\$ 95.80	12,453.63
Smallest Loan	\$ 18.85	2,450.00
Largest Loan	\$ 384.62	50,000.00
Total number of loans granted in 2025	83	
% of loans granted to women	61%	

Graph 8: Use of Loans by Muso



Graph 9: Total Use of Loan within the MUSO Program



Lessons learned

We have learned some important lessons that clearly show that the project has had a positive impact on the communities where this program has been active:

- Raising collective awareness in the communities of Gouin and Sainte-Hélène.
- Restoring trust between the community and mutual aid actors. For DCCH, restoring this trust, which had been lost in a context of repeated crises, is the first step in recovery.
- Strengthening social cohesion and developing a collective approach with the distribution of seeds as loans and building animal enclosures.
- Beneficiaries are organizing themselves and working together, thereby strengthening resilience in the community.
- Creation of conditions that encourage people to rebuild their lives locally thanks to our sustainable livelihood support.

- The success of the project generates demand for inclusion from certain people who are not yet beneficiaries.
- To strengthen support, some participants identify improving their housing as crucial to consolidating their gains and ensuring the well-being of their families.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Low integration and involvement of young people in the project implementation process needs to be addressed in the next cycles.
- Most farm animals in the community are free-roaming and threaten community cohesion. We hope that through the program's expansion and after the community members witness the increase in productivity, they will also begin to adopt these best practices.
- Few MUSO members did not abide by the rules of the Mutual Solidarity fund group and refused to pay back their loans. We are working with DCCH to mitigate these isolated cases in the next phase of the project.
- In Haiti, access to irrigation water is a constant challenge and many producers deal with either too much or too little water to produce maximum yield. Quixote Center and DCCH are exploring some ways we can support the communities of Gouin and Saint-Helene to secure access to irrigation water throughout the year with rainwater harvesting in large community cisterns.

Conclusion

The socio-economic recovery project in the 3rd communal section of Les Cayes communities has brought hope to farming families in Gouin, Sainte-Hélène and Costa. It fosters social cohesion. It strengthens working relationships, helping them to build sustainable lives and success, and pass on this culture to young people. This facilitates fruitful exchanges between families, enabling them to work together in perfect harmony. The lessons learned from this first year show that the project has restored confidence and initiated a collective dynamic that brings hope to the community.

This allows DCCH to state the following facts:

- The structuring of community organizations must continue and gain enough maturity and know-how to implement truly transformative actions.
- Technical support and training for beneficiaries is essential to the success of project actions.
- Support for MUSO remains a key factor in better preparing families to cope with everyday life.

DCCH's methodology forged community cohesion, participation, and trust. The effects these actions produced are:

- Involvement and participation of women in the project implementation process.
- Structuring and establishing organizational structures for farming families participating in the project.
- Access to small loans for women traders at the MUSOS level.
- Acquisition of new knowledge by beneficiary families through training sessions.
- Increase in plot yields for beneficiaries.
- Sale of garden produce by families to meet certain basic needs and purchase new livestock.
- Co-responsible behavior towards the environment by beneficiary families, as many of them are beginning to introduce waste management into their farming practices by building waste pits to collect biodegradable waste for composting.

Quixote Center and DCCH look forward to expanding this project to more communities in 2026.



Table 6: Logical Framework

Objectives	Indicators	Achievement	Comments
Contribute to increasing agricultural production and improving food security for 100 farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -At least 5 hectares of land are planted with the seeds distributed -At least 90% of garden plots are successful. -The productivity of 90 farmers has increased, and their yield has risen by 60% 	<p>12.5 hectares of land have been planted with corn.</p> <p>0.5625 hectares of land have been planted with cowpeas.</p> <p>2.8 hectares with millet.</p>	<p>Before the project began, participants were able to work 17% of their land according to baseline data, meaning they had 18 hectares of land when the baseline was collected. With the project in place, they worked 28.5 hectares, representing 78.5% of the 36.3 hectares that should be developed. The project has stimulated its members to create wealth which encourages them to plant more land. On average, the farming families reported significant increase in their annual income although the data collected is not precise enough to disclose.</p>
Train 100 small scale producers in sustainable and environmentally friendly farming techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -100 farmers have been made aware of and training in sustainable and environmentally friendly farming techniques. -Adoption of environmentally responsible behavior by the youth in the community. -Reinforce and capitalize on agroecological 	<p>Approximately 100 participating families were made aware of the program and 80 were trained on best agroecological practices and sustainable farming techniques.</p>	
Promote and encourage women's empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of loans granted per MUSO member. -Creation of at least two Mutual Solidarity funds. -Women traders have access to credit and manage their commercial activities more effectively. -Women's financial independence has improved and their point of sale has increased. 	<p>Three Solidarity Mutual funds have been set up and their loan portfolio has increased significantly.</p> <p>Women's access to credit is much more readily available and at low interest rates. This makes it easier for them to invest in their small business.</p>	
Promote a more productive livestock farming system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -36 livestock farmers have been educated and trained on a more productive livestock farming system, changing their farming practices and diversifying their livestock during the project cycle. -Farmers have access to livestock and increase their community's self-sufficiency. 	<p>36 livestock farmers received livestock (goat/sheep), enabling them to increase their livestock numbers. These livestock farmers practice a semi-intensive livestock farming system.</p>	