
HAITI *One Year Later:
Grassroots Response to Tragedy*

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE



HAITI REMAINS IN UPHEAVAL one year after a 7.3 magnitude earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince and extinguished the lives of an estimated 230,000 people. Haitians—more than a million of whom are still living in temporary camps—are struggling to grapple with disease outbreaks, political violence and the continued lack of basic services and infrastructure.



OVER THE PAST YEAR, 21 AJWS GRANTEES have worked tirelessly to confront the tremendous challenges faced by their nation and its people.



THESE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS—who, prior to the quake, worked to address the crushing poverty throughout the country, were on the front lines of the crisis as it unfolded, providing food, medical care and supplies to marginalized communities that were neglected by mainstream relief efforts.





TODAY THEY ARE HELPING people pick up the pieces of broken lives and livelihoods, through programs that empower fellow citizens to organize and rebuild.

A photograph of four young girls of African descent standing under a white tarp tent. The girl on the far right is wearing a bright orange tank top and has her hands clasped. The girl next to her is wearing a white top and has her hand near her face. The girl on the left is wearing a denim vest. The girl on the far right is wearing a red top. The background shows a wooden wall and a blue tarp.

AJWS RAISED \$6.5 MILLION from 28,000 donors to support these efforts over four years.



IMAGES OF THEIR WORK TELL A POWERFUL STORY of Haitian resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

AJWS PARTNERS EARTHSPARK INTERNATIONAL AND KONPAY have found a novel way to address nighttime violence against women in the camps, which has reached epidemic proportions due to the lack of streetlights. With AJWS funding, the organizations have distributed thousands of solar flashlights to women, who have used them to create lit pathways to latrines and other vulnerable areas.





THE FLASHLIGHTS HAVE DRAMATICALLY DECREASED THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE AND RAPE, and become a powerful tool for community organizing. Empowered by the light, women are now coordinating civilian safety patrols and peer counseling programs, and teaching income-generating activities in the hope of some day earning the money to resettle outside the camps.



AJWS GRANTEE MUDHA, which ran a mobile ambulance caravan in the days and weeks after the disaster, currently organizes women's workshops in five camps, teaching them practical skills and helping to start small-business cooperatives.



MUDHA'S EXTRAORDINARY DIRECTOR SONIA PIERRE

was recognized for this work by the U.S. Department of State's "International Women of Courage Award," presented by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and First Lady Michelle Obama, in March. In November, she joined AJWS as one of the keynote speakers at our 25th anniversary celebration in New York.



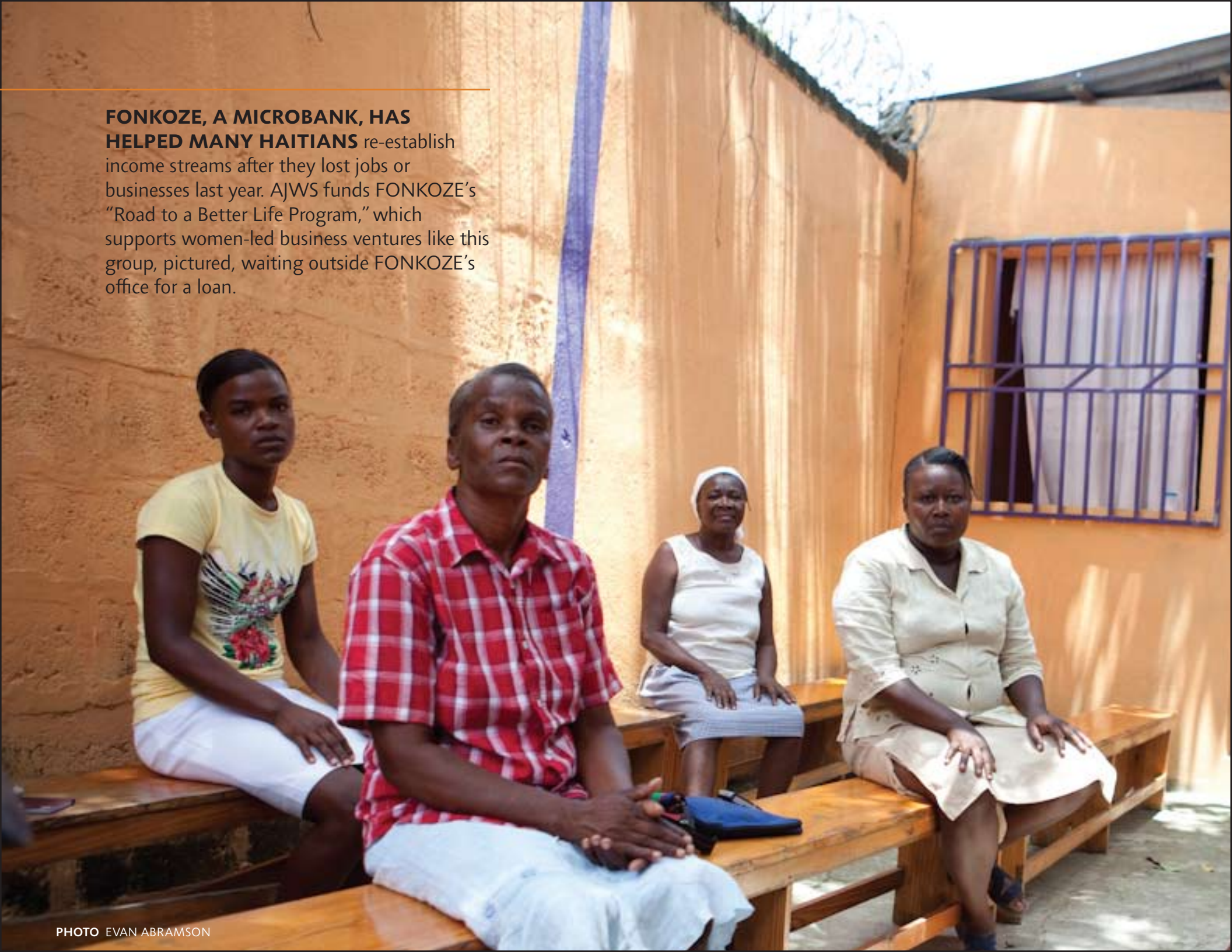
AJWS GRANTEES HAVE WORKED since the disaster to prevent disease. During the days after the earthquake, KONPAY staff taught the newly displaced how to use water filters to generate safe drinking water. And in November, MOSCTHA worked to staunch the spread of the cholera outbreak with a community-based water safety education program.

MOSCTHA HAVE CONTINUED to maintain a mobile health clinic, providing medical care to remote communities who still lack basic health care and public services.



FONKOZE, A MICROBANK, HAS HELPED MANY HAITIANS

re-establish income streams after they lost jobs or businesses last year. AJWS funds FONKOZE's "Road to a Better Life Program," which supports women-led business ventures like this group, pictured, waiting outside FONKOZE's office for a loan.





AJWS GRANTEES HAVE ALSO RESPONDED TO THE NEEDS OF THOUSANDS of Haitians who were injured or lost limbs in the earthquake. The new BRAC Limb and Brace Center—built with AJWS funding and staffed by local Haitian doctors and technicians—made more than 1,500 prosthetics and braces for earthquake survivors this year.



THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OTHERS

offer a glimmer of hope in what continues to be a desperate situation. One year after the earthquake, Haiti remains crippled by physical devastation, infrastructural chaos and intense trauma. The efforts of grassroots organizations, however, demonstrate that change is possible.