



## **BUILDING HOPE IN HAITI**

A LOOK INSIDE HAITIANS' LIVES TWO YEARS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE



**Save the Children®**



## Greetings From Haiti

### Save the Children's Country Director **Gary Shaye**

When I drive through the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, two years after the earthquake, a few things strike me: buildings have been repaired, there's less rubble, and Haitians are getting on with life.

But that's only part of the story. After working here for close to two years, I know that more than 500,000 people still live in tents, millions still need jobs, and cholera is still a major problem, one which Haiti will face for years to come.

As you'll see from the stories in this year's report, Save the Children is fundamentally changing the lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitians. **And we're able to do that because of your support.**

But it is a slow process — anyone who thinks there is a quick fix to the obstacles

in Haiti is mistaken. Those who think progress is not fast enough in Haiti should simply remember the challenges Americans have faced in the more than five years since Hurricane Katrina hit.

But please don't give up on Haiti. Haitians haven't. Their resiliency and energy is inspiring. The new government has ambitious plans and is eager to make changes. The humanitarian community is ready to help for the long haul. Save the Children's generous donors are making a huge difference in Haitians' lives. The Haitian diaspora has played an important role in rebuilding the country and will for decades to come.

Our incredibly committed staff — from the nurses on the nightshift at the cholera clinic, to the staff who keep our offices running throughout the country — aren't giving up hope either. They aren't alone. As you'll see from the Haitians profiled in this year's report, they are working every day to put their country back on track.

To find out how you can support the work of Save the Children in Haiti, please go to [www.savethechildren.org/haiti-donate](http://www.savethechildren.org/haiti-donate)

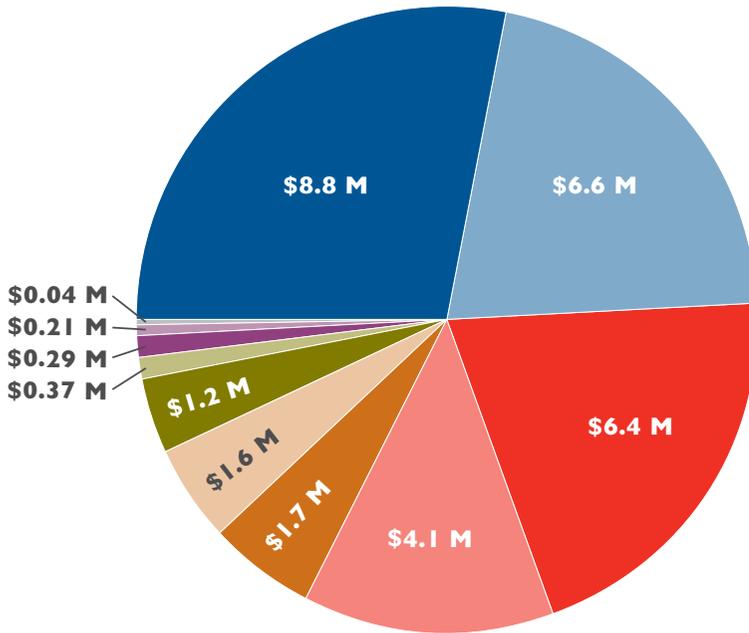
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# 2011 Haiti Program Expenditure by Sector

JANUARY 1, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

TOTAL \$31.3 MILLION

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**EDUCATION:**  
**\$8.8 MILLION**

**WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE:**  
**\$6.6 MILLION**

**HEALTH:**  
**\$6.4 MILLION**

**LIVELIHOODS:**  
**\$4.1 MILLION**

**EMERGENCY PROGRAM SUPPORT:**  
**1.7 MILLION**

**CHILD PROTECTION:**  
**1.6 MILLION**

**NUTRITION:**  
**\$1.2 MILLION**

**HIV/AIDS:**  
**\$0.37 MILLION**

**SHELTER**  
**\$0.29 MILLION**

**CHILD RIGHTS:**  
**\$0.21 MILLION**

**HEAD OFFICE**  
**ADMINISTRATION:**  
**\$0.04 MILLION**

*(all figures are rounded)*

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Our complete report on Haiti expenditures for all 2011 will be available in Spring 2012.

**Making better bricks,  
building stronger jobs,  
creating more hope**



**MEN AT WORK:** A team of eight brick makers shovel cement mixed with gravel and sand into a machine that makes bricks. If properly dried, the bricks will withstand a powerful earthquake. The machine, provided by Save the Children, makes more than 1,000 blocks per day. Photo credit: Lane Hartill



**Spattered with cement, and glazed with sweat, Jurice Jedene is working for his five kids. It's not glamorous work, brick making. It's terribly repetitive, and in the tropical heat, it will shatter a man with a weak back and no stamina. But Jurice is all sinew and focus. Heat and hard work have never bothered him.**

Making bricks is better than his former life, scratching a living out of Haiti's dry soil. Back then, working the land in southern Haiti, his hopes lived and died with the rains. For years, he never earned a steady income. That's why he moved to Port-au-Prince and took a job at a bakery. While the work was steady, it was hard to save money when he only made 75 cents a day.

But then his brother-in-law asked him to join his seven-man block making crew. With Haiti's construction boom, the team was getting all the work it could handle. They needed another man.

Brick making is booming in Haiti. That's why Save the Children partnered with Build Change, a construction development organization, to teach brick makers how to make stronger bricks. Save the Children provided eight brick-making machines to small businessmen who were using old fashioned molds. Build Change taught them the proper ratio of sand, cement and water to make the most solid brick possible.

They also got into details. What's the best kind of gravel to use (rough not round); the best ratio of cement to sand and gravel; and how long bricks should be left to dry (18 days). If brick makers follow Build Change's advice, the bricks should withstand another earthquake.

Stronger bricks are great. But brick machines also mean business owners need employees. These new machines and training have allowed each block maker to triple their production and double the number of employees. Now Jurice makes several dollars a day. Even better, he's paid at the end of every week. Finally, for the first time in his 40 years, Jurice is making a steady paycheck.

## Protecting children from violence before it starts



**SAFE SPACE:** Children work on arts and crafts at the Zanmi Timoun (Friend of Children) children's club. Save the Children's child protection program provided training and material for the recreation activities. Photo credit: Dan Alder



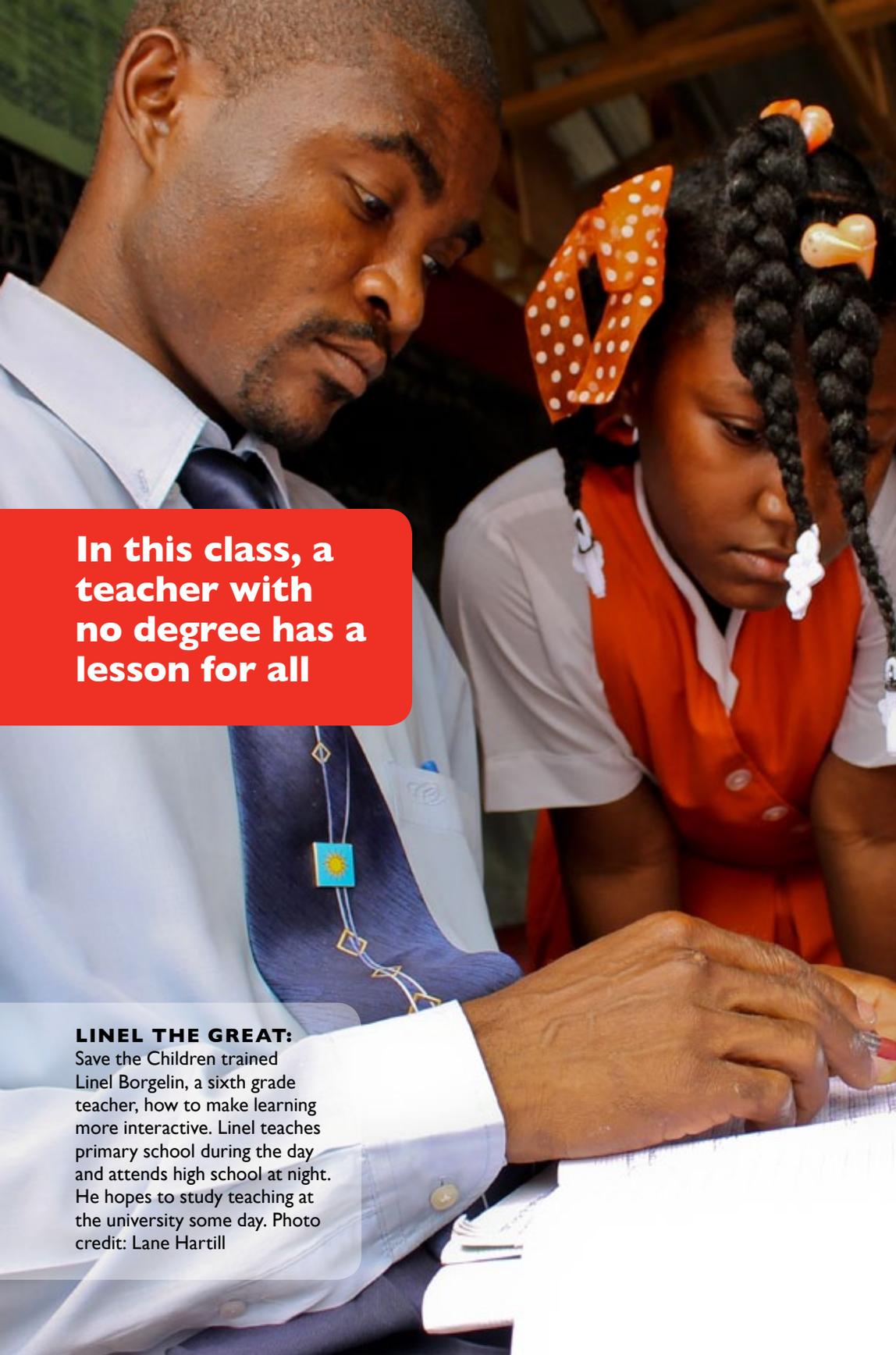
**At Cité Eternel, one of Port-au-Prince’s notorious slums, violence has been a common occurrence. Growing up here, residents say, you could hear the slaps and the screams pour out of the shacks as you walked down the narrow alleys.**

“It was crazy,” says one young man who is a volunteer with a child protection committee started by Save the Children. “You couldn’t look an adult in the eyes.” The thinking was, he said, if I didn’t beat you, I wasn’t helping you.

But then Save the Children arrived. We found volunteers and formed child-protection committees. We taught parents non-violent ways to teach and discipline their children, along with other skills to help them support their children. And we started youth clubs and taught children about their rights.

If a case of abuse happens, it’s the volunteers who deal with it. Not someone from the outside. These are neighbors, friends, family members. They live in the slum, and their words carry weight.

“There’s been a decrease (in violence),” says René Michel Longchamp, a Haitian who supports the protection committee. “Before, we had a case of violence in (almost) every house.” But since Save the Children helped child protection committees establish themselves — three committees of 13 people in this area alone — violence has clearly decreased.

A close-up photograph of a male teacher and a young female student. The teacher, on the left, is wearing a light blue dress shirt and a dark blue tie with a small yellow and blue square logo. He is looking down at a book. The student, on the right, is wearing a white shirt with a red vest and has her hair in braids with orange and white accessories. She is also looking down at the book. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom setting.

**In this class, a teacher with no degree has a lesson for all**

**LINEL THE GREAT:** Save the Children trained Linel Borgelin, a sixth grade teacher, how to make learning more interactive. Linel teaches primary school during the day and attends high school at night. He hopes to study teaching at the university some day. Photo credit: Lane Hartill



**Shhhh.**

**Don't interrupt the students.**

**The Great Linel is presiding.**

**He's the man at the front of the class, the one with the chalk all over his pants, the one bouncing around the room, shouting like an old-time preacher, lighting up the room with his nuclear smile.**

He commands attention, even when he's diagramming sentences.

"Give me a sentence!" he thunders.

"The hippopotamus is the first animal of the earth," mumbles a girl.

"What's the subject?" he booms.

"Hippopotamus," the class says in unison.

A hand goes up.

"What," asks a confused boy, "is a hippopotamus?"

The Great Linel can't help but laugh. There are no hippos in Haiti.

He's part preacher, a dash of comedian, and pinch of performer. But this is no side-show circus act. This is Linel Borgelin, 33, a sixth grade teacher in one of the rougher parts of Port-au-Prince. To get his students' attention — especially this bunch of preteens — Linel brings his A-game every lesson, every day. If he doesn't have a healthy dose of entertainment, he loses them. And it's tough to get them back.



Linel is addictive, a drug that kids can't get enough of. And that's exactly what Haiti needs more of: Teachers who capture the imagination of students.

Frederick Celner, the dapperly dressed principal of the school, Ecole Splendeur Mixte, agrees. Linel is one of their best.

"A good teacher should have a hard hand in a smooth glove," he says. "Before you start (a lesson), there are things you should do, You should captivate children's minds. Once you do that, you have all the students hooked," says Celner.

All of this is even more surprising when you learn Linel's story. His parents were illiterate farmers, but they understood the importance of education. They cut down trees and made charcoal to pay for his school fees. Linel spent his days in a run-down school house. In the afternoons, he pulled weeds and turned the earth in the corn and bean fields next to his parents.

***"A good teacher  
should have a  
hard hand in a  
smooth glove."***

—Frederick Celner,  
Principal Ecole  
Splendeur Mixte

He moved to Port-au-Prince for high school, but he didn't finish. He couldn't come up with the school fees. He dropped out as a junior, swallowed his pride, and moved back in with his parents. He got a job teaching at his old grade school. He made about \$60 a month, saving a little each month.

He hasn't given up on his dream of finishing high school and getting into the teacher training college.

After he teaches all day at Splendeur, Linel rushes to his senior year of high school. He gets home, to his wife and son, Godson, at 7 p.m. Then he hits the books until 1 a.m. He'll be up with the sun, preparing lessons for his students.

His class is fortunate to have someone so motivated. In Haiti, teachers like Linel and a school like Splendeur, which Save the Children rebuilt this year, are hard to find. Students are often crowded into sweaty, cramped classrooms, wedged onto benches, squinting at scarred blackboards hovered over by monotonous teachers.

That's if they're lucky.

If they're *really* lucky, they get someone like Linel. He's just one of hundreds of teachers Save the Children has trained since the earthquake. Most of the teachers in Haiti desperately need this kind of training. The average primary school teacher has completed just one year of secondary education and only 11 percent of primary schools are licensed by the Ministry of Education.

The problem is compounded by the lack of schools. After the 2010 earthquake, Save the Children estimated that 90 percent of schools in Port-au-Prince had been damaged, affecting about 500,000 children aged 5 to 14.

Save the Children saw the problem and addressed it. So far, we have built more than 38 schools and trained 2,300 teachers. Linel was one of them. Save the Children taught him about interactive lessons, lesson plans and how to present material.

The physical punishment has also stopped. Director Frederick sheepishly says, yes, teachers used to whip the kids. Now Linel punishes students with extra homework. Or old-fashioned copying sentences such as "I will not talk while the teacher is teaching." A beating was fleeting. But homework stings a lot longer, and Linel says students learn quickly.

Save the Children's training is working. Last year, the school sent 53 children to the required state exam after the 6th grade. Fifty of them passed. That ranked Ecole Splendeur third out of 100 schools. It's their best performance in years.

But for the students, it's the daily performance by a man who has yet to graduate from high school that they have to thank — The Great Linel.





## A family of children raise themselves in a tent camp

**TINY CAMPER:** Darline Mizac holds her 6-day old son, Marckensley. Darline, 17, and her two sisters and brother live as a family without parents in Gaston Margron, a tent camp in Port-au-Prince. Photo credit: Lane Hartill



**In line at Save the Children's health clinic, among the forest of plump, sweating women and crying babies, Marlene is lost.**

**She's willow thin and looks like she belongs in middle school. Her eyes are downcast. In her arms, she's holding what appears to be a loaf of bread in a terrycloth bath towel.**

She peels back the corner and unwraps the newest addition to her family.

"Six days old," she says, quietly.

Marckensley, her sleeping nephew, is the newest member of Gaston Margron, a moldering tent camp of 4,800 people living on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. This camp — one of more than 800 in the city — has been home for Marlene and her three siblings since the earthquake two years ago. And it will probably be home for some time to come.

By day, the camp is a warren of hot tents that have started to disintegrate with age. People here pass the days sitting on bald patches of ground waiting for nothing in particular. At night, thuggish men lurk in the muddy alleys and women chat in the shadows.

Marlene is used to it. She's used to bathing in a basin in her tent. She's used to going without soap and laundry detergent because she can't afford it. She's used to asking people for money.

She's a mom by default for her two sisters and brother. She never wanted to do this. She wanted to be a doctor growing up. But she's the oldest at 20 years old, and mothering has fallen to her. It is hard because she spent little time with her own mom, so she relies on instincts, friends and her old Creole Bible to guide her. Inside the fug of her tent, she recites Creole verses, praying for guidance. And maybe a little money.

“When problems come up,” she says, “I get on my knees and pray, and I feel better after that.”

Today, her prayers were answered. She had enough money for a pot of beans for dinner. After the dishes are washed, when the sun goes down, she’ll crawl into her dank tent, and snuggle in next to Darline, her 17-year-old sister, Marckensley’s mom.

Marckensley will sleep between them on a clean white sheet and mattress. And Mona, their 18-year-old sister, will sleep on the floor. Their brother, Ted, 19, the breadwinner of this sibling family — he brings in a dollar a day, if he’s lucky, selling sachets of drinking water in the market — sleeps on a piece of plywood with a ratty blanket in the tent next door.

**“If the clinic wasn’t here, they’d have no access to healthcare.”**

—Dr. Bien-Aimee Jooby,  
Save the Children

At night, Marlene tries to block out the noise from the loud neighbors and the thumping music. The humidity, that arrives daily, uninvited, has once again worn out its welcome. There’s a hole in the side of the tent for ventilation if the heat is too much. She’ll doze off, but wake up when Darline gets up three times a night to nurse. But that’s okay. Marckensley’s tiny cry doesn’t bother her.

What are harder to ignore are life’s problems, the headaches women twice her age wrestle with: Where will she find money to pay for Mona’s school supplies? And the money she borrowed to pay for Darline’s hospital bills, how will she pay that back? Even more pressing: What will she have for dinner tomorrow?

For Ted, a quiet young man who always seems to be holding something back, the toughest parts of living in this camp are simple. His answers crystallize the needs of many Haitians.

“Food,” he says. That’s Marlene’s nemesis.

Marlene has a hard time coming up with the 37 cents to buy a few hunks of charcoal to cook beans or plain spaghetti, her go-to meals. The fall back option: *paté*. Small biscuits made of oil, flour and salt. They have little nutritional value, but they quiet a groaning stomach.

While there are plenty of problems, Marlene and her siblings are lucky. Save the Children still operates a free health clinic in the camp. Many humanitarian groups no longer work in the camps because of funding constraints due to the decline in funds for Haiti.

Dr. Bien-Aimee Jooby, a gentle, English-speaking, bear-of-a man, works for Save the Children in Gaston Margron. He has a depthless vat of patience, seeing a never-ending stream of patients with from the camp and the nearby neighborhood.

“If the clinic wasn’t here, they’d have no access to healthcare,” he says. The people who have money and connections have left the camp. The people who remain are the poorest in Port-au-Prince. “The money they find, they use for other things. They use money for healthcare only if they really need it.”

But despite their problems, Marclene’s sibling family somehow manages. God, friends and a little luck got Marclene through to this point. Dr. Jooby and the other Save the Children staff will look after Darline and Marckensley’s health.

As for Marclene, being a mom has made her grow up fast. She’s become more thoughtful, she says, because she’s forced to think about others and put them before herself.

“God says not to give up on yourself,” she says “even if you have problems.”

One thing is clear. No matter what life throws at her, Marclene isn’t giving up.



# About Save the Children

Save the Children has been implementing child-focused programs in Haiti for more than three decades — and working to help children survive and thrive around the world for more than 90 years.

Save the Children will stand with and continue to assist children, families, communities, agencies and authorities in the quake zone. Our generous donors make this possible. We will prioritize education, child protection and health needs; help parents provide a secure and healthy environment for their children; and work to ensure a better future for Haitian children.

Save the Children is the leading organization creating immediate and lasting change for children in more than 120 countries around the world.

To find out how you can support the work of Save the Children in Haiti, please go to [www.savethechildren.org/haiti-donate](http://www.savethechildren.org/haiti-donate)

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