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## **Final Report**

**Project:** *Skills, School, and Social Support: Helping Haiti’s Displaced Girls and Women to Avoid Survival Sex*

**Project Reporting Dates:** June 2012 to June 2013

**Project Leader:** Yifat Susskind, Executive Director of MADRE

**Summarize Project** – Include what the deliverable is and who is key in making sure it is achieved

MADRE and our partner organization in Port-au-Prince, KOFAVIV, developed and implemented a program for women and girls who have been victims of sexual violence, survival sex and poverty. We provided education, vocational training, psycho-social support and rehabilitation activities.

After the devastating earthquake in January 2010, countless young women and girls were forced into survival sex in order to provide food for themselves, their siblings, and their children. Without jobs and often without a social network of support, women and girls cannot access what they need to survive without submitting to the sexual exploitation of men who control resources in the post-earthquake communities. Without education and training, they lack tools to combat the poverty that keeps them vulnerable. Though their futures seemed bleak, The Forix Foundation, MADRE, and KOFAVIV believed in these young women and girls. Together, we revived a suspended educational program that provided vocational training in arts and crafts and psychosocial support for returning to school. Through *Skills, School, and Social Support*, young women and girls have received occupational training in skills such as batik/dyeing, silkscreen printing, hand-making crafts, sewing and baking. Along with these marketable skills, the young girls participating in the workshops have taken part in individual

and group counseling sessions to rebuild their self-esteem and trust in others, deal with issues of post-traumatic stress, and see themselves as empowered actors within their communities. The program introduces the participants to international norms of human rights and issues of sexual and reproductive health. With this new outlook, the girls are more confident about their capacity to effect positive change in their lives and in the lives of others. They can diminish the vicious cycle of minors engaging in survival sex and risking pregnancy and continued poverty and exploitation.

**Progress** – List steps which have been achieved and to what end up to the date of this report. List issues that have arisen which may have (or maybe will occur) which will impact, either positively or negatively the outcome of the project.

With the help of your generous grant and KOFAVIV's determination to provide safe alternatives for the young girls who must alone provide for themselves and their families, the *Espas Timoun* (Children's Space) workshop has been successful. The KOFAVIV Center is open to the young girls six days a week and has become a haven where they can socialize, speak to peer educators, and build their self-esteem, as well as develop new interests, friendships and marketable occupational skills. Every Saturday, the Center hosts day-long workshops for a group of between 25 and 40 young women<sup>1</sup>, between the ages of 15 and 22. During these workshops, the girls receive counseling and participate in skill-building activities. The program also provides the girls with a hot meal and a stipend to cover their transportation to and from the Center. Through the program, the girls have access to the Center's nurse and are accompanied to a health center when they need medical attention.

Every month, the workshop was divided into three components. Every first and second Saturday of the month, the girls participated in handicraft workshops where they developed the skills to make jewelry and to print and tie-dye fabrics. They learned basic hairdressing and nail care skills, and polished their cooking skills. The set of capabilities the girls developed during the workshops provide them with marketable skills for safer income-generating

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1 at the end of report for the list of participants to the Saturday workshops.

activities, helping them to break free of survival sex. Every third Saturday of the month, the girls, divided into four groups of seven or eight, took part in counseling sessions with KOFAVIV's in-house therapist. These sessions were crucial in helping the girls deal with the traumatic experiences they faced, build back their self-esteem and trust in others, and most importantly, heal. The final Saturday of the month was dedicated to the evaluation of the girls' work. This allowed for the participants to show off their crafts and feel proud of their skills.

We have already seen the progress of this program through countless success stories. One of these stories is that of "Minou," (name has been changed) a 16 year old girl who was frequently exchanging sexual favors in order to provide for herself. A community agent from KOFAVIV brought Minou to the center, and shortly after, she enrolled in a Saturday program. Six months later, Minou was noticeably changing. She began to open up to new friends as well as her therapist. Her outlook on life had completely changed; she became positive and excited for her future. Minou was so invested in the program that she began to work as a KOFAVIV community outreach worker, inspired by the one who impacted her own life. As a KOFAVIV outreach worker, Minou has changed the lives of many other young girls who can easily relate to her struggles. Minou is just one example of the power of the program. Not only are those directly involved positively affected, but the ripple effect is boundless.

**STAFFING-** Account for staffing which has affected the project: who is involved, what needs are going unmet, if any, and the dollar cost of any additional personnel required.

The KOFAVIV staff includes training coordinator Carline Villard, vocational trainer Jean Rubens, and counselor Marie Jeanette Pierre. The supervisors of the program are Carline Villard, Marie Sofonie Louis, and Myriame St Quitte.

## BUDGET

Attached you will find a complete financial report detailing the expenses for the project, as well as copies of the receipts.

BUDGET	TOTAL
<b>Staff</b>	
1. Training coordinator	\$1,803
2. Vocational trainer	\$624
3. Counselor	\$1,803
4. Child Care	\$173
<b>Project Expenses</b>	
5. Materials	\$880
6. Lunch	\$1,733
<b>MADRE M&amp;E and Administration</b>	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**Other Funding** - If there are any problems with other sources of funding for the project at this time that should also be noted here.

The KOFVIV Women's Center is currently receiving support from MADRE and the Annenberg Foundation. With MADRE's assistance, various facets of their programming have received support from well-known funders: Avon Foundation aided in the re-establishment of KOFVIV's offices, and the World Bank has contributed to their human rights advocacy work. MADRE mobilized shipments of humanitarian aid after the earthquake, with donations from our membership to our Helping Hands program, including medical and hygienic supplies. Also, KOFVIV discovered that a lack of shoes prevented girls and women from traveling to the Center to access the services they needed, and MADRE responded by soliciting and shipping new and gently-used shoes.

We continue to identify and pursue additional prospective funders. KOFAVIV also pursues funding independently.

The Saturday workshops are successful and in high demand by the communities served by KOFAVIV. The young girls who have participated have greatly benefitted and are very enthusiastic about the program. Participants and coordinators hope that the project can continue to serve and aid more girls and help them also to develop and refine marketable skills. More funding is needed to accomplish these goals.

**Milestones Current** - Discuss milestones and/or actionable items which have been achieved at the writing of this report. Flag issues, if any, which came up in achieving this goal.

Through this project and thanks to your generous grant, 36 girls have directly benefitted from this project, receiving the skills and support they needed to provide for themselves and their families without resorting to survival sex. This program has also made it possible for these young women to receive free and crucial medical and psychological services. And it has provided a safe haven, where the young women can escape the terrible hardships they face on a daily basis. The Saturday workshops not only teach the girls income-generating skills but they also introduce the young participants to international norms of human rights and issues of sexual and reproductive health. This information is pertinent to their present and future wellbeing. Participants have responded quite positively to it and have felt empowered by understanding their rights.

Here are some highlights from workshops:

- ❖ On December 10, 2012, during a commemoration for the International Day of Human Rights, KOFAVIV held an exhibition of the crafts made by the young girls who participated in the workshop. All 36 participants were proud to showcase the beaded jewelry and other crafts they had created.

- ❖ On February 23, 2013, the girls came together for an educational retreat. The retreat was held at a beach town in the south of Haiti. The retreat provided educational and informational activities, as well as a relaxing time for the girls to build friendships and share personal stories.
- ❖ On May 15, 2013, we saw the success of one of our participants, Diana Elisee, as she participated at a crafts fair organized at the Brothers' Methodist College in Pétion-Ville, Haiti. There she presented her own hand-made crafts; a skill she learned through the Saturday morning programs.

**Milestones Future** - List milestones and/or actionable items expected to be completed by the next reporting period. If any complications are expected, raise them here as well as any possible resolutions.

MADRE and KOFIVIV hope to be able to continue to conduct the program and to expand it. The young girls have greatly benefitted from the weekly workshops as well as the supportive psycho-social services and medical accompaniment. However, KOFIVIV knows that the longevity of such a program is important to create a real impact with these young participants. The organization hopes to expand the program so that the girls can polish the handicraft skills they have acquired and develop more skills, in cooking, baking, and cosmetology, that can provide income. KOFIVIV also hopes to connect the girls to local artisan fairs, held every October, where they may sell their crafts. Finally, KOFIVIV hopes to amass more financial resources that can increase the partial support that they offer to participants who return to formal educational programs.

**Opinion** - The project leader should include his/her analysis on the overall progress of the project, weigh in with any issues or variations which have occurred or are expected to occur. Include the next date of reporting due, if applicable. Photo inclusions are encouraged whenever possible.

The project has been able to meet our goals, and we are submitting our final report. Below, we have included pictures highlighting some of the activities.



Carline Villard (in blue, on the right), teaching the girls how to prepare a basic meat dish.  
KOFIV Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti ©KOFIV.



The participants posing with their jewelry crafts. ©KOFIV



The participants during a beauty workshop. KOFAVIV Center, Haiti. ©KOFAVIV



Some of the participants displaying their work. ©KOFIV



The participants during a trust-building exercise. KOFIV Center, Haiti. ©KOFIV



The participants during a jewelry making workshop. ©KOFIV



One of the young girls smiles as she presents in front of her colleagues during the Saturday workshops.  
KOFIV Center, Haiti ©KOFIV