



# Annual Report 2011: Overcoming Obstacles in COBOCOL, Haiti

## Strengthening Communities and Reducing Vulnerability

In Haiti's Central Plateau area, World Vision is working in a cluster of four communities just outside the city of Hinche, which is about 128 kilometres north of Port-au-Prince. Since 2001, World Vision has been working in these remote agricultural communities through the COBOCOL Area Development Program. Deforestation is one of the chief challenges in the area, which has left these communities highly vulnerable to soil erosion, water scarcity and frequent landslides. Historically, families in COBOCOL have struggled to provide for their children, who often lacked the opportunity to attend school and were vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. After the earthquake, many displaced families have made their way to COBOCOL, further stretching the resources of the communities.



**Thank you for investing in children and young people and giving them the knowledge and skills they need to build a better community.**

Your partnership with World Vision and the people of COBOCOL empowers the community with the knowledge and skills they need to step out of poverty. With your help we are investing in the health and education of children, who are the future of the community. Your gifts also provide the resources the community needs to restore the environment so that farms and businesses can be productive and provide families with sustainable income.

As you may recall, World Vision's long-term objectives in COBOCOL are to:

- Provide an integrated education program that provides children and young people with an opportunity to complete school and to learn vocational skills to establish livelihoods.
- Reduce the vulnerability of the community by providing access to clean water, immunization for children, maternal and child health care and hygiene education for children and families.

- Build an economic foundation for community development through agricultural and economic support.
- Support the development of community organizations through which the people of COBOCOL can take responsibility for their own community development.

We are so grateful that you are willing to stand with the people of Haiti and provide these life-changing opportunities for the children and families of COBOCOL.

**Thank you for your support this year. We are pleased to provide you with this annual report that highlights the most significant activities you supported for the period between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011.**

## Your Gift at Work: Report on Achievements in 2011

Thank you for responding to the needs of vulnerable children and their families in the COBOCOL Area Development Program in Haiti. We value your partnership in this project that is building greater resilience in the community that enables them to meet present and future health and economic challenges. Your gift helps provide children and families with quality education, health care and economic opportunities to increase household incomes. World Vision is happy to provide this report of the impact of your gift over the past year.

### Integrated Education

With your help, we are providing the people of COBOCOL with quality education for their children. Your gift of education offers hope and helps build a better future by preparing the next generation with the skills they need to escape poverty and become leaders of a more prosperous community.

Your gifts are supporting 3,580 children who are involved in an integrated education program that provides students with academic instruction as well as life-skills and leadership training that empowers them to make healthy life choices. One of the most evident results of the



**With your help, 3,580 children received tuition support and school uniforms so they could attend school.**

program this year is that the success rate of students in school has increased. This past year almost 80% of the sponsored children and youth in the community have passed their school exams. One of the students you have helped is Chlenive Aneas, who recently became the first sponsored child to complete secondary studies and enter university, where she is studying medicine.

Thank you for helping World Vision to achieve this encouraging result. In addition, your gift has helped to:

- Rehabilitate the school in Cayahonde where more than 100 students now have a more conducive environment for learning. You have also helped to provide desks for students at 10 other schools in the community.
- Stock primary classrooms with educational supplies that include 2,000 text books, pencils, pens, chalk, maps and geometry materials to create better learning opportunities for each primary student. The schools have instituted a loan system for the textbooks that ensures that future students are able to make use of the various textbooks.
- Train 50 teachers and school administrators in child rights and teaching methodologies that enable them to improve student learning in the classroom. Teachers learned how to design their programs of study and received resource materials to aid their lesson planning. Children are benefitting from the increased skill and confidence of the teachers after the training.
- Support a music program for 102 young people who are learning to play several musical instruments and participate in band performances where they are developing responsibility and greater confidence in their abilities to contribute in the community.
- Help establish four community clubs where children are learning about child rights and developing life and leadership skills through a program that includes dance, theater, painting, music and other cultural activities that children enjoy. The club program also teaches children about environmental issues and involves them in community activities, such as tree planting, that help to improve and protect the health of their environment. In the past year, 240 children joined the clubs and 30 children were trained as leaders of their peers.
- Establish a community recreation centre where children can engage in safe and healthy physical activities. In the past year, 250 young people have completed a sports and fitness program conducted at the recreation centre.
- Support a school feeding program at 12 schools that have provided nutritious food to 3,104 students, whose school performance has increased noticeably.

- Support three vocational training centres that provide 114 young people and adults with skills to enter the local job market. The vocational training program has provided new opportunities for adolescent students, who previously dropped out of school. This past year 30 vocational program graduates started their own carpentry shop that produces furniture that is being used in local schools.



**Your gifts support sewing and carpentry workshops that equip graduates with vocational skills so they are able to earn a living and support a family.**

### **Vulnerability Reduction**

Your partnership with World Vision and the people of COBOCOL is equipping children and young people with the knowledge they need to protect themselves from natural disasters and diseases such as HIV and AIDS. With your help, we mobilized community members to form five disaster management committees, which have conducted campaigns to increase community preparedness for the hurricane season and prevent loss of life and property. In addition, we have been able to raise awareness of the threat of HIV and AIDS and reduce the stigma associated with this deadly disease. Church leaders in four communities have educated their congregations about HIV and have become more accepting of those impacted by the disease. As a result, four churches have mobilized teams of volunteers that are working in their communities to promote prevention and

offer support to people living with HIV and AIDS. You have also helped provide public hand washing facilities that have significantly reduced the incidence of diarrhea, typhoid, intestinal parasites and cholera in the 2,018 families served by this new infrastructure. In addition, 3,098 children received medical checkups this year, many for the first time in their lives, and 30 children received life-saving interventions after referrals to the local hospital.

Thank you for helping to change community attitudes and reduce the vulnerability of community members to disaster and illness. We are happy to share the following highlights of other accomplishments of our work in this area. In the past year, your gift has also helped to:

- Support a team of volunteers who are conducting a comprehensive campaign to raise community awareness about HIV and AIDS. Volunteers work with religious and government leaders, schools, community groups, families and young people to provide prevention education at every level of the community. In the reporting period, volunteers conducted large community events where 986 adults were invited to join the fight against AIDS. An important aspect of this work is to recruit young people to be “peer educators” who can take the prevention message to 20 or more of their friends. This year, 26 new peer educators have been trained.
- Support community volunteers to conduct classes for 591 students in Grades 5 through 12 about responsible sexual behavior that protects them from diseases such as HIV and AIDS. Additional sessions were conducted in the community for 190 young people who are learning how to prevent HIV and AIDS.
- Provide parents and caregivers in 29 families with training on HIV and AIDS. Through the course *Mother, Father, Children, Let's Talk*, conducted by community volunteers, parents have gained the confidence to talk with their children about responsible sexual behaviour and how to protect themselves from HIV and AIDS.
- Provide medical assistance and school supplies to 170 orphans and vulnerable children in the community.
- Conduct immunization campaigns that are protecting 1,927 children between the ages of 12 to 24 months from common, life-threatening diseases and 476 infants received diphtheria shots. In addition, your gift helped provide 1,647 children with vitamin A supplements and deworming treatment for 2,570 children, interventions that will improve nutrition and reduce illnesses in children.
- Protect the health of mothers and infants by training 32 midwives who have helped to provide prenatal care for 2,367 women. To provide mothers and children with continuing support, nine women's groups were established

where 332 mothers are learning and sharing information about health, hygiene and nutrition that promotes healthy child development.

- Provide treatment to help restore 1,302 malnourished children and provide oral rehydration treatment to 420 children affected by cholera.
- Provide hygiene training and hygiene kits to 80 youth and children.
- Support community members to form two water management committees that will promote hygiene, maintain the water points and protect the clean water sources for their communities.

### **Agriculture and Economic Development**

Your gift to World Vision helps the people of COBOCOL to manage their natural resources so that farms can be successful. In addition, you are helping individuals to start non-farming businesses that provide sustainable income for families. With your help, the community has been able to implement soil conservation structures that protect 200 hectares of sloped farmland from erosion. During the year, five savings and credit associations have been formed, which provide farmers and entrepreneurs with access to loans to grow businesses and the ability to earn interest on savings. As a result of your support, 120 farmers have been able to grow and sell more produce and increase their household incomes.



**The children are happy to participate in planting tree seedlings that will protect and preserve the community's soil.**

We are grateful for your support of the people of COBOCOL as they build businesses and strengthen economic opportunities for everyone in the community. In the past year, your gift has also helped to:

- Plant 45,000 tree seedlings in the community to preserve the soil and 15,000 fruit trees, which will establish orchards that produce food and income for the community. The long rainy season enabled more trees to be planted than expected. In addition, 21,000 fruit trees have been grafted to

expand the orchards. As part of this process, 17 young people have received training on grafting techniques and are beginning to use these skills within the community.

- Protect a local spring and expand the existing irrigation system to include 5 more hectares of crops.
- Train 120 farmers in water management, soil conservation and more efficient farming practices
- Provide seeds and farming equipment to 200 families so that they are now able to grow vegetables that provide nutritious food and a source of income.
- Support the formation of a farmer's association and the construction of a shared storage space to protect their harvests.
- Provide training to 80 animal breeders in animal feeding, care and reproduction. As a result, 100 additional head of cattle were added to community herds. In addition, 10 breeders received specialized training and are now able to provide veterinary care for breeders in the associations in each of the four communities.
- Supported the growth of the savings and credit associations, increasing deposits from \$10,368 to \$12,411 over the reporting period.
- Distributed 125 pigs, 125 goats and 1,250 chickens, which provide nutrition and income for the most vulnerable families in the community

### **Community Organization and Organizational Reinforcement**

Your partnership with World Vision and the people of COBOCOL has been instrumental in establishing community associations through which residents can work together and take responsibility to develop their community. To date, 26 community associations have been formed through which 600 families are gaining greater economic resilience as they tackle common challenges together. The community associations provide a structure for communities to plan and supervise development activities and to advocate government for services and resources to support their goals to build a stronger community. In the past year, your gift has also helped to:

- Support the participation of 873 association members and community leaders in the annual community assembly.
- Establish 4 new community associations that have been recognized by the local government.
- Trained 9 association leaders in management of community organizations, decentralization principles, economics, negotiation and fundraising.

## Lives That Have Been Changed by Your Gift

### Shalene

Shalene, 16, heard about World Vision's sewing workshop at her school, and since joining hasn't missed a single day of work. "I am very interested in sewing because if something happens and my parents can't support me I can earn an income. I've been coming since November," she says. "I've learned to make skirts, and tops. Right now they're just for myself because I'm not good enough to sell them yet."



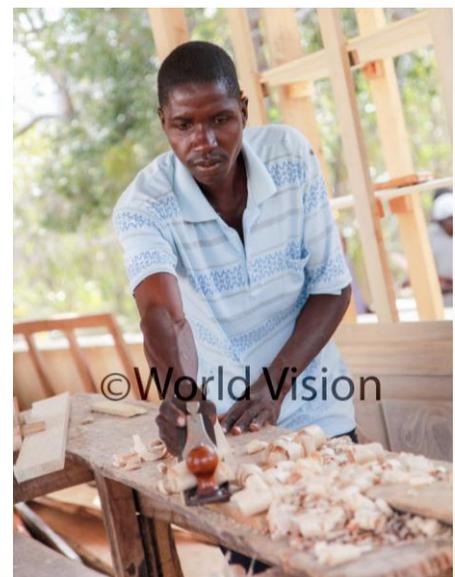
**Your gifts make it possible for Shalene to learn vocational skills as well as complete her studies at school. She now sees new possibilities for her life.**

Studying in Grade Eight, Shalene loves learning English. She hopes one day that will help her go to university in Canada or the United States. "Based on what my dreams are I think I'll need to leave to continue my studies but then I'll be back," she says.

Shalene would like to help other children have the opportunities that she is only beginning to realize. "My dream is that kids don't have to struggle like I do, to go to school, for example, because it is not easy for me," she explains. "I would like Haiti to have paved roads, nice schools, opportunities for children to go to school. If it is God's will, it will be possible."

### Jean Pierre

"Thanks to this [vocational carpentry] centre, I just made two coffins that I sold for 30,000 Gourdes [about \$CDN 730]. From my childhood, I have been working the land; it is the first time in my whole life that I have such an amount and it only took two months. With this capacity that World Vision has given to me, the future of my family is more certain."



**With the skills learned at the vocational centre, Alpha believes he can support his family.**

## Alpha

Alpha, 24, works at World Vision's carpentry workshop in COBOCOL, Haiti. With the skills you are helping to provide, Alpha and the other young men can help rebuild a broken nation and earn the income they need to escape poverty and become self-sufficient.

"I come here every day. I come to learn, and to work," says Alpha, "this is what I want to be doing, for my future. I think there's an opportunity for me to get somewhere — as a carpenter, I see myself succeeding."

## Thank You

We are deeply grateful for your gift that empowers the people of COBOCOL to work together to address the development challenges they face. Your partnership builds hope for the future by protecting the health of children and providing them with access to quality education. Your gifts also help to restore the environment and make it possible for farmers to support their families and contribute to a growing economy. Your investment in COBOCOL offers community members the tools and structures they need to build a community where children can thrive. Thank you again for your generous gift.