

# Haiti IDEJEN



## Background

The Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative (IDEJEN) addresses the education and livelihood needs of youth ages 15 to 24 with little or no primary education. The project uses an integrative combination of educational training and livelihood counseling to help youth forge their own way to economic self-sufficiency. Participants benefit from 12 months of basic literacy and numeracy instruction, life skills, and technical training, as well as 6 months of livelihood support services, including career counseling and mentoring in job placement, small business development, and further education. Youth may practice their new skills through income-generating activities, internships with local business and entrepreneurship/small business development.



## Impact

Helping youth find pathways to sustainable livelihoods:

- More than **11,000** youth have completed the program.
- IDEJEN has worked with more than **200** Haitian community-based organizations.
- More than **20** technical curricula have been adapted in collaboration with the National Institute for Vocational Training.
- **74%** of youth from the most recent cohort passed the government certified vocational training exam.
- IDEJEN responded to the 2010 earthquake by delivering food and supplies and engaging youth in rebuilding their communities. In the months following the earthquake, IDEJEN youth cleared rubble and trash through a hygiene and sanitation program, in addition to other activities. Today, they are participating in reconstruction efforts by building temporary shelters and latrines and providing hygiene and cholera prevention information in their communities.





By 2010, the program served more than 13,000 youth across Haiti.

## My Story: Manoucheka

After her mother died, Manoucheka was forced to drop out of school. "My father could not afford to pay for school tuition," she explained. "When my mother was alive, my life was much better. She struggled to take care of us and was working very hard to help me. When she died, my life changed completely."

In Haiti alone, thousands of teens are like Manoucheka: out of school and living on the streets, in domestic servitude, or with families too poor to provide them an education. Manoucheka's own life quickly unraveled as she followed a path familiar to girls living in poverty, from dropout to vagrant to teen mother.

But Manoucheka had begun to find a way out. With her two-year-old daughter enrolled in school, she participated in the IDEJEN program and completed the basic education and technical training component. "My main motivation to come to this center came from the belief that I could learn technical skills and have basic education classes," she says.

Manoucheka landed an internship at a food market, where she received mentoring in business skills. When she finished the program, she planned to get a job at a grocery store. Ultimately, she hopes to own her own supermarket and become an employer for other young people like herself.

Visit: [www.idejen.org](http://www.idejen.org) for more information.

## The IDEJEN Model

The 18-month program includes:

- **Basic Employability Training:** Participants master essential work readiness skills through basic education, life skills and technical education.
- **Accompaniment Phase:** Participants gain work experience and receive guidance and mentorship as they follow the tracks below:
  - An **education track:** either enrolling in formal primary school, or continuing technical training for a second level of certification
  - An **employment track:** either joining the workforce immediately or pursuing an entrepreneurship opportunity

Youth may choose to pursue opportunities under a single track, or under both the education and employment tracks. For example, many youth enroll in formal school while undertaking an employment opportunity.

