

# IDEJEN *Haiti*

Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative



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## **EQUIP3 Consortium:**

Education Development Center (Lead Implementing Agency) • Academy for Educational Development • Catholic Relief Services • International Council on National Youth Policy • International Youth Foundation • National Youth Employment Coalition • National Youth Leadership Council • Opportunities Industrialization Centers International • Partners of the Americas • Plan International Childreach • Sesame Workshop • Street Kids International • World Learning

### *Additional Partners:*

YouthBuild • EcoVentures International • Mercy Corps • Family Health International

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**Background** The Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative (IDEJEN), an EQUIP3 Associate Award, addresses the education and livelihood needs of a hard-to-reach segment of Haiti's population: youth ages 15 to 24 with little or no primary education. With little resources available to them, these young people face a daily struggle to survive and forge viable livelihoods for themselves and their families. The project was launched in 2003, and with an expansion in 2007, will reach an estimated 13,000 youth by 2010.

## **Project Objectives**

- Educate and train marginalized out-of-school youth to gain skills and competencies for successful socio-economic reintegration into society.
- Build the capacity of local community-based organizations as they implement educational and livelihood trainings for out-of-school youth.
- Work with and support the government of Haiti as it adopts policies and improves services for out-of-school youth.
- Deliver HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention messages to out-of-school youth.

## **IDEJEN's Impact to Date:**

- More than 2700 youth have completed the program
- IDEJEN works with more than 110 local Haitian organizations
- More than 20 technical curricula have been adapted in collaboration with the National Institute for Vocational Training
- 5500 youth are in training now and 4800 are in transition to sustainable livelihoods
- 89% of youth passed the government certified vocational training exam
- 78% of youth passed a literacy exam

**Activities:** The IDEJEN project uses an integrative combination of educational training and livelihood counseling to help youth forge their own way to economic self-sufficiency. Youth participants are from both urban and rural areas in eight geographical departments of the country. Youth in the program benefit from 12 months of basic literacy and numeracy instruction, life skills, and technical training, as well as 6 months of livelihood support services. These services include career counseling and mentoring in the areas of job placement, small business development, and assistance with transitioning to further education. Youth may practice their new skills through income-generating activities, internships with local business and entrepreneurship/small business development.

