



WATER CATCHMENT SYSTEM ON LA GONÂVE ISLAND

HAITI
COMPLETION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Compassion child development centres on the island of La Gonâve – especially those in the Gros Mangles area – struggle to access safe water sources. They are frequently exposed to droughts, which severely impacts the harvesting of crops and the health of those living in the area. Because water is scarce, the community has no options with regards to the quality of the water they drink, meaning water-related illnesses such as typhoid, cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea are rife. Compassion has already installed reverse osmosis water purification systems at nine centres in Haiti, including two on the island of La Gonâve, despite these efforts, many centres are still without safe water.

Gros Mangles Child Development Centre on La Gonâve is one of these centres. The children registered there often have to go without water, especially during the dry season. The island is made up of hard, impervious rock, and there isn't an aquifer near enough to the surface from which to access water. This means digging wells is extremely difficult, and renders water provision expensive. Because of this, the church has been unable to provide the 296 children it serves with safe drinking water.

This RESPOND intervention has constructed a cistern that connects to a water catchment system, to collect and store rainwater at Gros Mangles Child Development Centre. The children are able to access safe water even in the dry season and after receiving training on hygiene and sanitation, the incidences of waterborne illnesses have decreased.

ACTIVITY REPORT

INTERVENTION	Water catchment system on La Gonâve island
LOCATION	Gros Mangles Child Development Centre
RESPOND NUMBER	HA-018896
BENEFICIARIES	296 Compassion-supported children and 150 adults
FUNDING	£21,838
START DATE	April 2016
COMPLETION DATE	September 2017

There were two main objectives at the heart of this RESPOND intervention; the first was to provide the 296 children at the centre with increased access to safe water during curricular and extra-curricular activities, by installing a rainwater catchment system. The second was to give the children hygiene awareness training, to teach them the importance of being responsible when using water – whether purifying it, storing it safely or using it to wash hands. After the training, the incidences of waterborne diseases at the centre have reduced significantly.

The implementation of this intervention was as follows:

December 2016 – January 2017

Before construction work for the cistern could commence, the field office, the church partner and the contracted engineer signed a construction contract. Once this had taken place, the engineer hired construction professionals to erect the iron pillars, mix the cement and build the walls. Members of the local church were assigned tasks such as carrying water, building blocks and cement, and any other work that didn't require expert knowledge. It took a collaborative effort from the centre director, pastor and engineer to ensure the right tasks were assigned to the right people.

Members of the local church prepared the land on which the cistern was to be built. The cistern foundation is built at ground level as opposed to underground and so this work was carried out by people familiar with this procedure.

February - March 2017

The walls were completed [using concrete] and so was the upper part to cover the cistern [using metal]. The plumbing was also completed and there are now pipes running from the water catchment system to the cistern and from the cistern to the water purification system.

April - May 2017

Unfortunately, the contract for the trainer lapsed before any training had taken place, this was due to a change in the training schedule. However, the health specialist performed sessions for the children at the centre and the following topics were covered:

1. How to preserve the quality of water.
2. How and where to store water.
3. How water should be used wisely in order to avoid wastage.
4. The importance of hand washing.
5. How good usage of water can help reduce waterborne diseases.
6. The risks of drinking and cooking with non-treated water.

100% of children are now aware of the importance of the proper use of water resources. 90% of the interviewed children identified at least two risks of drinking non-treated water.



Iron preparation for the construction of the cistern.



Construction work taking place [above] and a view of the cistern having been built above ground [below].





The newly built cistern from a different angle.

IMPACT

This intervention has been a blessing to the community. Before this intervention, people had to travel by boat to a different region so as to purchase purified water. The centre now has a cistern due to the support received from Fairway Training Ltd. Additionally, the centre has received a water purification from its partner church. Initially the system was thought to serve 296 children but by the end of the intervention, 742 are set to benefit instead.

The following impact has been made:

- ❖ 100% beneficiaries can access water during centre activities.
- ❖ 100% beneficiaries use the system to drink and cook meals.
- ❖ The community has access to the water system.

As the water purification system was installed, there was no need to distribute tablets as initially proposed.



The purification system donated by the centre's partner church.

INTERVIEWS

My name is Jean and I have been living in this community for 16 years.

What was your life like before the intervention was implemented?

Before this cistern, which is also linked to a water purification system, we used to get water from the well and sometimes drink it when we were thirsty. The consequences of this were that some people used to get cholera.

How has your life changed now that this intervention is complete?

Our life has changed since the construction of this cistern and the opening of the water purification system. We have direct access to the water. It is close and purified. This has been helpful for our health - we don't get sick easily anymore and cholera has significantly decreased in the community.

What will this change mean for your future and the future of your family?

Because we now have this water available, this will help us economically; we don't have to spend a lot of money buying water. We will use the money saved to buy other things to meet our basic needs.

What lessons have you learned from this intervention?

I can see that through this church, God has blessed this community. We see that there are people who are thinking of and care for us.

What would you like to say to those who provided the financial support for this intervention?

I want to sincerely thank all those who contributed in providing funding and support for this activity. May God bless them and their families.

My name is Sherly, I have been the centre director for seven years.

How have the lives of the affected beneficiaries been changed since the intervention's completion?

Now we are grateful that our children can enjoy potable water. This intervention provides storage for our water. They don't have to worry anymore about whether or not their thirst will be quenched. This has changed the way they play and do activities in the child development centre; they are no longer in a hurry to leave the centre when the water is gone.

How has this intervention benefitted the church and community?

This is amazing to see that the community receives this intervention as water from heaven. Because water is an essential of life, they can't live without it. Now, finding water available so close makes a great difference for the members of the church, the beneficiary children and also the people of the community. We now have a greater storage capacity that helps us to have water to serve the community. Even people who live further from this community come on their motorcycles to buy water from us.

How has this intervention affected your ability to minister to the beneficiaries?

We were already a beacon of light in the community for the child development centre we have, now this has only been amplified by this intervention. The community has more reasons to come to the church. By providing water for the body, we will continue to have more opportunity and an open door to provide water for the soul.

What would you like to say to those who provided the financial support for this intervention?

I want to thank God and I want to thank those who provided the funds to fund this intervention. May the Lord continue to bless them as well as their families. Thanks to all the people involved in this endeavour.

BUDGET

ITEM	AMOUNT THE CENTRE RECEIVED	*LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	AMOUNT SPENT	DIFFERENCE
Land	£493	£493	£493	-
Water	£129	£129	£129	-
Catchment system building	£17,470	-	£17,471	-£1
Administration	£4,368	-	£4,368	-
TOTAL	£22,460	£622	£22,461	-£1

*Although the centre does not have the necessary funds to complete the rainwater catchment system alone, the church has provided the land for the intervention and collected and moved the water needed for the construction. All Compassion RESPOND interventions include a local contribution, to encourage ownership by the local community.

FINAL REMARKS

Thank you, Fairway Training Ltd., for your continued support, your ongoing commitment is changing the lives of so many children through the interventions you've funded. As a result of your latest support, this community will be spared the negative impacts of accessing unsafe water, allowing them to spend the little money they have on education and other essential needs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Preston on 07830 791 899 or at MarkP@compassionuk.org.