



SNAPSHOT

Helping Integrate Displaced Youth

USAID supports innovative programming for vulnerable community members.



Girls compete in a soccer tournament in St. Marc, an area that has seen large numbers of internal migrants.

“We chose this field because it is in a disadvantaged neighborhood; we chose to work with IDPs and girls so we could show them they have a place in our society; and, we chose soccer and music because they attract a crowd.”

*—Alciney Daccene
Secretary General
of CACI*

Telling Our Story

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June 2011 – An eager crowd gathered in a dusty field in St. Marc to watch as 16-year-old Joaderline Piprilus ran to score a goal for the Lady Lions. Bright and energetic, Joaderline is one of nearly 60,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who relocated to St. Marc after the earthquake.

The January 2010 earthquake destroyed countless Port-au-Prince neighborhoods, triggering one of the largest internal migrations in Haiti’s history. Desperate for new sources of work, shelter, and safety, many Haitians sought refuge in the provincial areas.

St. Marc is struggling to accommodate as many as 60,000 new inhabitants, half of whom are under the age of 25.

In an effort to help St. Marc embrace the influx of young people, USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) collaborated with Caravane d’Action Citoyenne (CACI) and the local community to host a soccer tournament for girls.

USAID/OTI, CACI, and community members formed eight teams in an area where many displaced families have settled. The activity encouraged participation among established residents and new arrivals, with a specific focus on girls aged 12 to 17.

The girls were coached in the sport of soccer, respect for rules, and teamwork. All the participants received prizes for playing in the tournament and, to reinforce the positive message, a trophy was given to the team exhibiting the best team spirit and fair play.

As the girls practiced their dribbling, community members took part in cleanup days and other cultural and socio-educational events connected to the tournament.

And while the tournament provided only a brief respite from the daily struggles the community faces, it represented one of the myriad activities USAID/OTI supports in St. Marc. All activities aim to foster community integration, build social infrastructure, and help integrate displaced youth into their new communities in the areas outside Port-au-Prince.

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