

Empowering positive community-based action

FutureGenerations Haiti

FACT SHEET

WHAT WE DO

We train communities in civic education and leadership skills as well as map their successes to promote community development, sustainability, and enhanced livelihoods.

HOW WE WORK

We build the capacity and harness the energies of community groups.

IMPACT AREAS

- Youth empowerment
- Civic Education (community-based learning)
- Local innovation income generation
- Social mobilization
- Environmental protection



Cite Soleil uses their own community resources to promote local livelihoods.



Konbit Soley Leve, a youth-led social change movement in Haiti, marches in honor of Dessalines Day to celebrate the founding father of Haiti.

BACKGROUND

In Haiti today, clusters of communities are working from the following principles: they do not wait to be rescued or serviced by others; their neighborhoods do not make them, but they make their neighborhoods; and the greatest enemy of Cite Soleil is its reputation as a “Red Zone.” Categorized as the largest and most dangerous informal settlement in the Western Hemisphere, Cite Soleil is widely viewed as the greatest challenge to peace and security in Haiti. Most of its 400,000 population live in extreme poverty without access to public services and employment. Political turmoil, drug trafficking, and the legacy of violence and corruption of the Haitian National Policy have all played a role in perpetuating the misery of the people of Cite Soleil. Cite Soleil has existed for long periods effectively outside of Haitian state control.

The idea of lifting the veil of the “Red Zone” off the face of Cite Soleil is so strong it inspired gangsters to put down their guns and pick up shovels and paintbrushes. They are excavating their reputation. However, the consequences of their actions is the very objective of community violence reduction—through their actions, the communities are creating peace. They call themselves Soley Leve.

Soley Leve is a social movement founded in 2011 that unites a diverse cross-section of active civil society in Cite Soleil to transform “the red zone” into a “green zone,” a model for a sustainable future for Haiti. The mission of Soley Leve is to take action to make the citizens of Cite Soleil take their lives into their own hands with their own resources. Soley Leve does this through civic education, civic action, livelihoods creation, and environmental protection.

2012 MAJOR ACTIVITIES

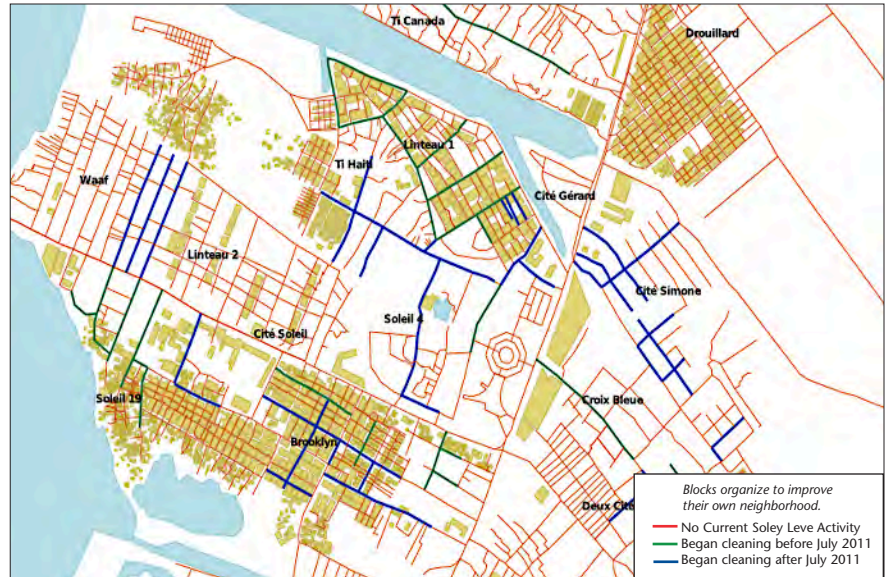
Research: Conduct 24 case studies of successes across Haiti to use as teaching and learning centers. These sites will help spread existing innovations and inspire future ones by building on successes and local resources.

Demonstrate: Build capacity through community action and learning centers that promote civic education and innovations.

Teach: Train local communities in the SEED-SCALE process of change. Civic Centers provide the leadership tools and mentorship necessary to sustain and scale up community innovations.

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This map highlights the Soley Leve movement in various neighborhoods throughout Cite Soleil.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Future Generations in Haiti are to:

- Strengthen the durability of the Soley Leve movement through mentoring the creation of a community-based change methodology, supported by SEED-SCALE training .
- Support the growth of the Soley Leve movement through training active citizens in Cite Soleil on this adapted methodology and have them implement community workplans.
- Promote innovative livelihood creation through the use of existing community resources.

SUCCESSSES

Notable Community Successes include (from June-December 2011):

- 102 documented examples of success in Cite Soleil (including civic action, civic education, livelihoods creation, environmental protection, and the rehabilitation of public spaces)
- Participation of 26 out of 38 blocks in Cite Soleil in weekly konbits in six months (see www.soley-leve.org for map)
- Reduced instances of violent crime and rape in neighborhoods where Soley Leve is active
- Mapped the locations for 32 solar panel street lights for BRABATT (Brazilian Battalion of MINUSTAH, the UN Mission in Haiti)
- Rehabilitation of Park de Prens (main park in Cite Soleil) from gangster territory into a football (soccer) field
- Creation and implementation of trash cans using available resources (first trash cans in Cite Soleil)
- Organized Cite Soleil-wide festivals: International Peace Day, Dessalines Day, and a Christmas Canoe Race