

2022

2022  
ROOTS OF DEVELOPMENT  
**ANNUAL**  
REPORT





## OUR MISSION

Roots of Development's mission is to support and promote a community-driven approach to development—an approach that is based on strengthening local capacity in order to improve the quality of life in marginalized communities.

We help communities acquire the skills and financial resources needed to manage their own development. The communities we work with choose, build, manage and maintain their own projects.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is of a world in which the very communities living in poverty are the ones leading the fight against it; a world in which impoverished communities decide their own future and manage their own development.

**Roots of Development was founded in 2007.**



**Development  
without  
Dependency**

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#DEVELOPMENTWITHOUTDEPENDENCY

# A Letter From Our EXECUTIVE

**EVERY YEAR, OUR ROOTS ON LA GONAVE GROW DEEPER.**

In 2022, despite inflation, violence, insecurity, and unrest in Haiti, our partner organization on the island of La Gonave, Rasin Devlopman, became a stronger and more effective organization. This year and the challenges it brought showed that our approach to development doesn't just work—it is essential, especially in places like Haiti. Rasin's all-Haitian staff faced the national crises head on, hand-in-hand with their community partners, ready and able to adapt to constantly shifting circumstances and the changing needs of the island.

Together, Roots and Rasin continued to pursue and support collective solutions to community problems. Thanks to you, we were able to do so efficiently and effectively, in spite of the national context. With Roots' help, Rasin has strengthened itself internally by adopting new systems and bringing on new staff. It has expanded its work by reaching new areas of La Gonave and directing its efforts toward new populations. Through the work outlined in this report, Rasin has solidified its commitment to the success and development of the island, for generations to come.

**EVERY YEAR, THE RIPPLES OF OUR IMPACT GO FURTHER.**

Our model of Development without Dependency® proves itself time and time again, and our global network of supporters is committed to the pursuit of sustainable, community-led development, both in Haiti and beyond. In 2022, we were lucky to welcome even more supporters into our Roots family, reaching further and higher than we ever thought possible.

In 2023, we will continue to expand our reach by helping Rasin Devlopman build the La Gonave Community Leadership & Development Center. The center will become a hub for community-led development and the symbol of a new era in sustainable development world-wide.

The accomplishments detailed in this report would not have been possible without your support, and we are truly grateful. We hope you will contribute to Roots in 2023 and beyond as we become a global leader in the fight for better, more respectful development.

Sincerely,



Chad Bissonnette  
President & CEO

# OUR IMPACT 2022

100%

Of Communities We Invest In Also Provide Local Funding.

1,738

People Added To Our Network

65,000

Population Affected By Our Work

\$163,000

In Grants Provided To Our Community-Based Partner

1,100+

Hours Of Training Provided  
To Community Members

200+

Community Leaders Received  
Capacity Building Training

21

Community-Led  
Projects

250,000+

People Reached With Messages About Development Without Dependency

5,500

People Directly Impacted By Our Projects



## Highlight On **HAITI**

2022 presented new challenges to our work in Haiti. In July, gang wars resulted in the deaths of over 200 people in only a week. In October, Prime Minister Henry did away with fuel subsidies, causing huge increases in gas prices and disruptions to clean water access. Twenty thousand people are thought to be at risk of starving to death, and cholera is widespread. These circumstances have led the International Crisis Group to name Haiti one of 10 conflicts to watch in 2023.

# Achievements In 2022

The realities of the ongoing conditions in Haiti had an impact on Rasin's ability to grow and support itself this year. Due to decreased travel to and within Haiti, they were unable to rent out their guesthouse space, decreasing their independently raised revenue. The crisis also had an impact on their ability to meet some of their project goals for the year. For example, the motorcycle courses for young women on the island that Rasin conducts had to be paused for several months as gas prices climbed to \$25/gallon on the island. Despite these difficulties, in many respects, this was Roots and Rasin's most impactful year yet—and you can see just how impactful in the following pages.





## GROWING RASIN'S INTERNAL CAPABILITIES

### FÈ RASIN PI FÒ AK PLIS ENDEPANDAN

Rasin Devlopman is an independent, Haitian entity that Roots of Development helped found in 2017. Rasin is Haitian-run and -led and is responsible for the community-led program on the island of La Gonave.

## 75% OF THE ISLAND SERVED

Expanded to an eighth communal section; programming and projects now reach **75% of the areas on the island.**

## 2 NEW PROGRAMS

Added two new programs: *Ankadre*, which focuses on youth populations, teaching them civic responsibility and social entrepreneurship through art; and an island-wide community forum on a consequential topic—this year, the forum covered La Gonave's first Communal Development Plan.

## 91% INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Facilitated a **91% increase** in the number of community impact and infrastructure projects undertaken across the island, for a total of 21 projects that directly impacted 5,500 people.

## 4 PROJECTS INITIATED WITH NEW LOCAL PARTNERS

Initiated 4 projects with new community partners around the island, including: *CAPEELAG*, a local environmental group, replanting mangrove forests; *Magazen pou Lavi*, building a wharf in the center of Anse-a-Galets; *Graph plus*, constructing a medical clinic; and *Jen Twoujak*, building water reservoirs that will service 7 communities.

## 78% OF 2022 WORK PLAN COMPLETED

**Completed 78% of its 2022 workplan**, a number that was impacted by the severe situation in Haiti which hindered some activities on La Gonave. Put into action their comprehensive Monitoring & Evaluation system for the first full year. **Completed a 3rd year with a balanced budget**, and two years in a row with a surplus that has allowed them to invest and grow in the organization and its program.

## 2 NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Added 2 new staff members for a **total of 7, 100% Haitian staff members** and 5, 80% Haitian board members. After a widespread and formal recruitment process, Rasin added a full-time communications staffer in June of 2022, helping them further professionalize their communications with their networks and expand the number of people they reach with messages about their programming.

## 122K PEOPLE REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**In 2022, Rasin reached 122,214** people through Facebook (an 81.8% increase from 2021) and got over 900 new followers to their Facebook and Instagram pages. **Visits to Rasin's website went up 150%** compared to 2021.



## BUILDING THE CAPACITIES OF LA GONAVE'S LEADERS

### RANFÒSE KAPASITE LIDÈ LA GONAVE YO

**COMMUNAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
 Rasin, after formally completing the island's first official Communal Development Plan (*Plan Communal de Développement*) in 2021, held a three-day workshop in August, bringing together more than 70 leaders across the island to discuss the process of implementing the plan. Nine local elected officials attended the workshop, including the mayor of Anse-a-Galets.

# 77

HOURS OF CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR *VOLONTE POU CHANJMAN*

**VOLONTE POU CHANJMAN**  
 Rasin's 45 "Agents of Change" (*Volonte Pou Chanjman*) received 77 hours of training. The Agents of Change represent 8 of La Gonave's 11 communal sections. Trainings covered social change, social entrepreneurship, partnership management, and community health. 45% of the *Volonte Pou Chanjman* are women.

# 4

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

**LOCAL LEADERS**  
 Held 8 consultation meetings between local leaders and *Volonte Pou Chanjman*. Local authorities completed 4 Community Action Plans (*plans d'action communautaires*). 23 Local authorities participated in implementing Community Action Plans with the *Volonte Pou Chanjman*.

# 156

WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

**WOMEN LEADERS**  
 Rasin held 7 *Fanm Djanm* strong women's workshops (over 30 hours of training) on women's rights and empowerment, reaching 156 women. These workshops were led by the 25 women who were recognized and honored for their leadership in early 2021.

# INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF COMMUNITIES

## ENVESTI NAN DIVÈS SEGMAN NAN POPILASYON AN

### FANM K AP KONDWI

Rasin held 3 classes of *Fanm kap Kondwi* motorcycle training courses, reaching 48 young women, totaling about 1015 hours of instruction.

These classes help increase young women's ability to participate in the economy and boost their self-esteem. More than 75% of graduates report using a motorcycle at least once a month.



### REYAJI

Building on its success in 2021, Rasin held four *Reyaji* community dialogue sessions where community members engage on important issues and hear from local experts. These sessions covered how culture and cultural trends can play a role in development; the importance of sexual education for teenagers; how to choose a career; and learning to live with social etiquette and dynamics.



### ANKADRE

Rasin piloted a new program, *Ankadre*, targeted toward the youth of La Gonave. The project reached 20 adolescents (10 boys and 10 girls), teaching artisan skills and social entrepreneurship while also communicating the importance of civic responsibility and engagement. This project is run by two *Volonte Pou Chanjman*.



### PASE MAYET

37 Agents of Change participated in *Pase Mayet* knowledge-sharing workshops, reaching an additional 415 people. Through *Pase Mayet*, *Volonte Pou Chanjman* already trained by Rasin are able to transmit the knowledge and skills they have gained to other members of their communities.





### 5th Section (PR) - Gros Mangle

- Installation of solar street lamps (VPC-led)
- Mangrove forest planting & protection (Community Partner-led)

### 4th Section - Grand Lagon

- Installation of solar street lamps (VPC-led)
- Soft drink depot (VPC-led)

### 3rd Section - Grand Source

- Sale of clean water and beverages (VPC-led)
- Installation of solar street lamps (VPC-led)
- Backyard garden planting (VPC-led)
- Installation of solar system for medical clinic (VPC-led)
- Road improvements (Local Authority-led)

### 4th Section (PR) - Tipalmis

- Backyard garden planting (VPC-led)
- Installation of solar street lamps (VPC-led)
- Construction of medical clinic (Community Partner-led)

### 2nd Section - Petit Source

- Money transfer service initiative (VPC-led)
- Installation of community reservoir (Local Authority-led)

### 5th Section - Picmy

- Distribution of teaching materials (VPC-led)
- 3-day training for teachers and principals (Local Authority-led)

### Anse-a-Galets

- Construction of wharf/port (Community Partner-led)

### 1st Section - Palma

- Goat breeding initiative (VPC-led)
- Construction of toilet facilities at a school (VPC-led)
- Distribution of teaching materials to parents (Local Authority-led)
- Construction of water reservoir (Community Partner-led)



## COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECTS (INFRASTRUCTURE)

### PWOJÈ KOMINOTÈ (ENFRASTRIKTI)

In 2022, Rasin supported 21 initiatives throughout the island: 13 led by the *Volonte Pou Chanjman (VPC)*, 4 led by local authorities, and 4 led by community partners.



# The La Gonave Community Leadership & Development Center

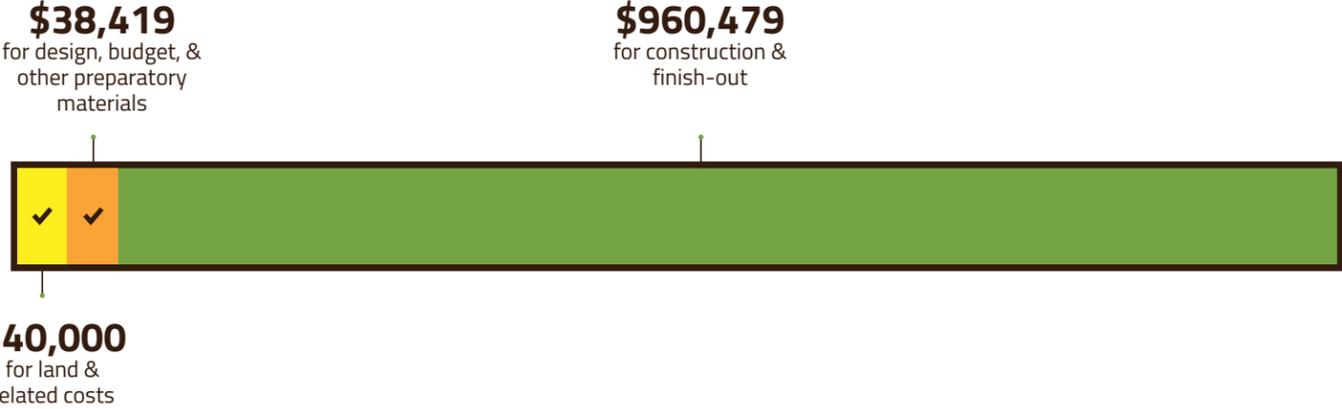
We are helping our partner in Haiti, Rasin Devlopman, build a permanent community leadership and development center on the island of La Gonave. The center will provide the island’s population (approx. 85,000 residents) with a meeting and training facility where local authorities can strengthen their management and leadership skills and communities can come together to plan and organize sustainable projects that improve quality of life on the island. The facility will also include a guesthouse and additional office space for rent, which will provide Rasin Devlopman with a sustainable source of revenue and greater financial independence. The La Gonave Community Leadership & Development Center will put La Gonave on the map as not only a place where development can work, but one that has a model to be emulated throughout the world.



**Rasin Devlopman’s decision to build on La Gonave sends the message that it is here to stay. It is taking root on the island and will grow wings, an act that is both innovative and fundamental.**

– Daniel Elie, Architect

## Project Budget: \$1,040,186

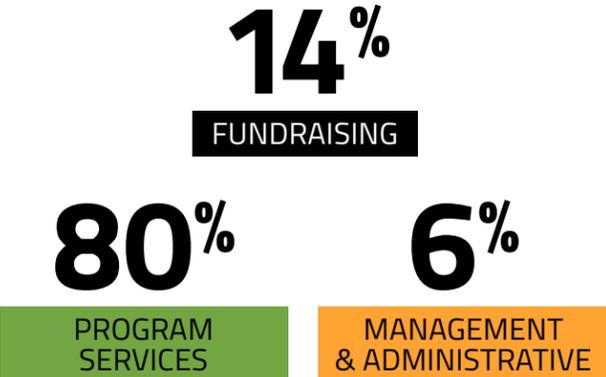
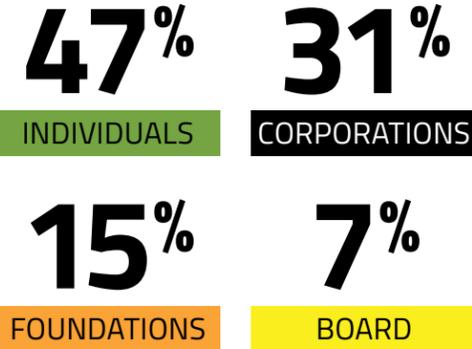
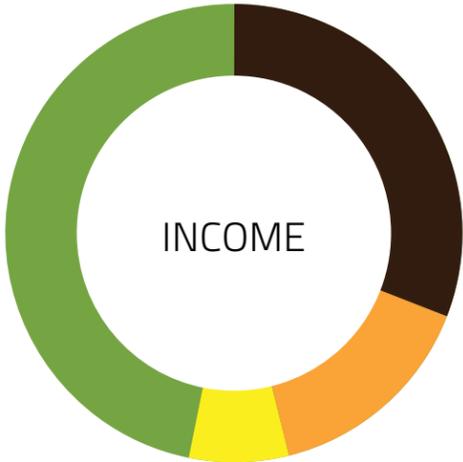


# MEETING OUR NEXT CHALLENGES

- 1** Continue to help our partner organization in Haiti, Rasin Devlopman, fundraise for and construct the La Gonave Community Leadership & Development Center.
- 2** Use our influence as a cutting-edge leader in the field of international development to help usher in a new wave of sustainable development practices by sharing tools, expertise, and best practices with peers and supporters around the world.
- 3** Leverage the networks of more individuals, companies, and foundations within the Roots network to help us increase our fundraising efforts and scale our work.

# FY2022 FINANCIALS

Total Revenue:  
\$353,624



WE OVERSAW A 5% INCREASE IN REVENUE IN 2022.

## Our Top 2022 Institutional Sponsors

Winston Salem Elks Lodge

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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MINTZ

The Debley Foundation

Venable LLP

Latham & Watkins LLP

Davis Polk



Roots of Development is a 501(c)(3) organization that is audited annually by an independent CPA.



Roots of Development fights poverty in Haiti in a way that creates lasting, sustainable change. That is something that I value greatly because I'm not interested in investing in stop-gap measures or band aids that provide short-term, temporary "fixes." The underdevelopment and poverty challenges we face as a global community are truly systemic, and so our approach to solving them must be as well. And that's what Roots does so well. Roots builds real change from the ground up, focusing on people, especially women, and infrastructure projects. Year after year, I am so impressed that they are able to do so much, while overcoming so many roadblocks, literally and figuratively. When I give to Roots, I know my donation will go far and have the greatest possible impact. I'm excited to support Roots as it grows in Haiti and develops a greater presence in the global fight against poverty.

**- KATHY ZACHEM,  
ROOTS TOP BENEFACTOR**

# THANK YOU

We are pleased to acknowledge the following individuals who give generously in support of Development without Dependency.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Victorio &amp; Diane Hoskins</b>               | <b>Karen Hampanda (EFC)</b>                              |
| <b>Mark &amp; Jaime Summers</b>                   | <b>Ben &amp; Rebecca Knowlton (EFC)</b>                  |
| <b>Lars Liebeler</b>                              | <b>James Martin &amp; Doris Gordon (EFC)</b>             |
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| <b>Luc &amp; Alejandra Castera (EFC)</b>          | <b>Jenna &amp; Michael Willits (EFC)</b>                 |
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| <b>Jessica Desvarieux &amp; Jeff Chin (EFC)</b>   |  |

*Our Executive Funder's Circle (EFC) members advance the sustainability of our work by contributing a monthly donation of \$100 or more. To learn more about the Executive Funder's Circle, visit <https://rootsofdevelopment.org/recurringdonations>*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Rudy Brioché**  
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**Christopher Wells**  
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**Jenna Willits**  
Treasurer



**Luc Castera**  
Board Member



**Jean Francois Bauer**  
Secretary



**Brenda Huneycutt**  
Board Member

"The need for effective, sustainable development in Haiti has never been greater. Roots of Development's approach to development has sustainably improved the lives of tens of thousands of Haitians and has set a high bar for other organizations. That is why I support Roots and encourage you to do the same."

**- RUDY BRIOCHÉ,  
BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

# Roots of Development's 14th Annual Event

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Every year, diverse and influential guests, business and political leaders, gather in Washington D.C. to support Roots of Development and advocate for a more sustainable approach to development. The annual event is our most important fundraiser of the year, helping us raise a significant portion of the funds we use to carry out our mission every year. Our 2022 Annual Event was held at the beautiful District Winery in Washington, D.C., on November 2nd. Roots of Development honored Karine Jean-Pierre with the Max Pulgar-Vidal Award and heard from several special guests, including D.C. Attorney General and 2021 Max Pulgar-Vidal Award recipient, Karl Racine, and D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.



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“  
Everyone in this room knows there is much work that has to be done. The people of Haiti continue to face challenges, and we must remain committed to supporting them during this time. To ensure Haiti's success, we must stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Haiti.

– Karine Jean-Pierre



# Development without Dependency

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