



SUCCESS STORY

ACME and USAID/Haiti Celebrate 10 Years of Success in Microfinance

After 10 Years, the Haitian economy benefits from expanded microfinance services



ACME

Angela Pétiote – one of ACME’s most longstanding clients - has grown her Port-au-Prince-based business with microloans from ACME for the past 10 years.



DAI

Léoma Jorel – one of ACME’s newest clients in Fonds-des-Negres. ACME’s expansion into rural areas began with 3 branch openings in 2007, the most recent in this rural area of Southern Haiti in December 2007. ACME plans to open 3 additional rural branches in 2008, (Aquin, Cabaret and Hinche).

ACME’s recent 10 year celebration highlights USAID/Haiti’s 10 years of support to Haiti’s microfinance sector. Founded in 1997, ACME has become a leader in the Haitian microfinance sector, with a client base of 20,169, of which 69% are women, and a total portfolio of \$23.2 million as of December 2007. Its list of achievements is even more impressive when considered against the background of Haiti’s economic and political instability during this period. ACME is one of Haiti’s leading MFIs as well as a defining example of USAID/Haiti’s role in building Haiti’s robust microfinance sector and in encouraging growth and geographic expansion.

In 1997, ACME launched its activities with a \$350,000 loan capital grant from USAID/Haiti’s PRET program (Programme pour la Relance de l’Economie en Transition, 1995 -1999). PRET also implemented critical technical support and training to ACME’s nascent operations. The close relationship continued under the USAID/Haiti FINNET project (Financial Services Network for Entrepreneurial Empowerment, 2000-2006). FINNET provided a variety of infrastructure, technical and training inputs. Demonstrating its capacity to develop sustainable operations, ACME established a reputation of transparency, independence, and best practices.

Currently, ACME works closely with the USAID/Haiti MSME project (Support to Haitian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 2006-2009), focusing on activities that are key to its vision and future. ACME was also awarded a \$100,000 grant from Haiti MSME’s Product Innovation Fund for the development of four rural branches, part of its program to achieve nationwide coverage.

ACME’s expanded vision for the future rests faithful to its mission - helping the micro and small enterprises of Haiti. Ten years of USAID/Haiti’s support to ACME, and the entire microfinance sector, has created a cadre of strong institutions. The support also ensures continued financial service availability throughout Haiti.