

From Reunification to *Resiliency*

Part 3 of the Stronger Series:

Orphanages
are *NOT* the
answer!



OVERTURE
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING HAITI'S MOST VULNERABLE



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Key take-aways from Part 2 of the series: Orphanages are NOT the answer!

1. Barriers to a successful reunification include resistant orphanage staff, corrupt leaders, misinformed donors and other stakeholders complacent to the harmful orphanage operations.
2. In order for a successful reunification to take place, **the plan must address the physical, mental, emotional and financial needs of both the child and their family.**
3. **It's critical to involve parents, and even the community, in developing the plan for reunification and sustainability.** It truly does take a village to keep a child safe.
4. **Ensuring supportive resources like social workers, educators, community and government agencies are engaged in the reunification process is necessary** for success.
5. **Foster families are critical to the “reunification” process** when a child doesn't have suitable familial placement. We are investing considerable resources in building a strong network of foster families—a system that was nonexistent prior to our efforts.
6. **Investing in post-reunification family strengthening efforts enables families and communities** to provide the care and support needed for a safe and nurturing environment.
7. Along with children in orphanages, thousands of street children, incarcerated youth and kids trapped in domestic slavery and servitude are in **desperate need of families.**
8. If we are to ever end the orphanage system in Haiti, we must continue to invest in reunifying children from orphanages, strengthening families and communities, building the foster family system and serving all children.

Introduction.

Welcome to the third installment of our Overture Stronger Series: Orphanages are NOT the Answer. In our first booklet, we discussed the detrimental effects of orphanages on a child's well-being. In the second booklet, we sought to expand your awareness around the damages caused by separation and the complexities surrounding reunification. In this third booklet, we're focused on what it takes to successfully transform the lives of vulnerable children and families. Overture International has learned over the years that simply removing children from orphanages and reuniting them with families is not enough.

Our experiences have taught us that sustainable progress requires comprehensive support systems that address the root causes of family separation and community disintegration.

Once children are reunited with their families or placed with a foster family, only then can the journey toward stability and resilience begin. This phase is perhaps the most critical of all as it involves not only addressing the immediate needs of the children, but also ensuring that the family and community environment is conducive to **long-term well-being**. Addressing systemic issues is crucial for sustainable change. Corruption, dependency on foreign aid and mismanagement have plagued efforts to improve child welfare. By tackling these issues head-on, we can create a more reliable and effective system that truly benefits children and their families—and ultimately leads Haitians to independence and self-reliance.

“ I feel much more comfortable than when I was in the orphanage. I am making friends, and I can go to school or get water. I prefer family life because they treat me well. ”

— YOUTH PLACED WITH FOSTER FAMILY
AFTER LIVING MORE THAN 10 YEARS IN
AN ORPHANAGE

“ What touches us most is the bond that the child has formed with our extended family. She is developing strong ties with family members in the neighborhood. She is now an integral part of our community and has found her place. Overall, I would say that her integration has been successful. Some people even believe that she is my daughter. ”

— FOSTER MOTHER





Prayer for Haiti.

Heavenly Father, we come before you today with hearts full of love and compassion for the people of Haiti. Lord, we lift up this beautiful nation to you, asking for your divine intervention, peace and restoration.

Father, we pray for the people of Haiti, that you would pour out your blessings upon them. Surround them with your love and comfort, and grant them strength and resilience in the face of adversity. Protect the vulnerable, heal the sick and provide for those in need. May your presence be a source of hope and encouragement to every heart.

Lord, we pray for peace in Haiti. We ask that you would bring an end to violence and unrest, and replace it with your peace that surpasses all understanding. May the leaders of Haiti be guided by wisdom and compassion, working together to create a safe and just society for all. Unite communities in love and cooperation, fostering an environment where every individual can thrive.

Father, we pray for restoration in Haiti. We ask that you would restore what has been broken and lost. Heal the wounds of the past and bring renewal to the land and its people. We pray for the rebuilding of homes, schools and infrastructure, and for economic stability to replace scarcity. May your hand of provision and protection be evident in every effort to rebuild and renew this special country.

Lord, we pray for progress in Haiti. Inspire and equip the people of Haiti to pursue education, innovation and sustainable development. Grant them the resources and opportunities needed to build a brighter future.

In all these things, Lord, we trust in your faithful love and mighty power. We place Haiti in your loving hands, believing that you will bring about a transformation that glorifies your name.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

From reunification to resiliency—Overcoming obstacles.

Decades of poverty, political unrest and inadequate infrastructure have adversely impacted Haiti's children, leaving many in orphanages, on the streets, in domestic slavery or in conflict with the law. Communities are fraught with systemic challenges, making the efforts to reunite children who have been separated from their families an uphill battle. In order to address the number of children in crisis, communities, government agencies and NGO's must play a key role in building a safety net that fosters family reunification and long-term sustainability.

While the systemic challenges highlighted in this section will seem daunting, Overture has introduced sustainable solutions across the communities it serves, demonstrating that, with the right strategic path and resources, it is possible to overcome these challenges. Solutions that strengthen families, foster positive community leadership and bridge collaboration with government institutions. The results? A brighter future for children and families alike, where independence, hope and stability are within reach.

For Haitian families, the obstacles to reach long-term stability and self-reliance are immense. They fall into three primary categories:

OBSTACLE #1

Community Infrastructure

Most Haitian communities lack the necessary infrastructure to support families. Functional schools, accessible healthcare, vocational training and social services are limited or nonexistent. Without these vital resources, families become dependent on external aid, creating an environment of hopelessness and resentment among community members, ultimately contributing to widespread instability and driving young adults to seek a sense of belonging through gangs and violence. When the basic building blocks of a self-reliant life are absent, the road to meaningful change becomes even more challenging.



SOLUTION

Strengthening Infrastructure with Social Services

The community must be able to provide consistent social service supports to keep families together in the long term. This begins with a thorough assessment of the family's needs (both current and anticipated), which serves as the basis for developing a comprehensive development plan that may involve collaboration with social workers, psychologists, healthcare providers, educational professionals and other relevant professionals. Sadly, for most Haitian communities, access to these resources is limited, if they exist at all.

Overture's approach fosters trust within communities by training and hiring local professionals to provide high-quality, culturally appropriate social services. Rather than importing non-Haitian aid, which often disrupts cultural understanding, Overture empowers local professional community members to build capacity within their own community, creating jobs and empowering neighbors to help one another.





OBSTACLE #2

Community Development

Sustainable community development is crucial for providing families with the necessary resources to thrive. Communities often lack strong, ethical leadership that helps its citizens live independent and self-reliant lives. Without guidance from supportive and informed leaders, many community members turn to aggressive and subversive figures for direction. While such figures may temporarily fill the leadership vacuum, they ultimately perpetuate cycles of corruption and violence, further destabilizing families and communities.

SOLUTION

Developing Communities for Resiliency

As previously stated, most Haitian communities lack even the most basic infrastructure to provide economic stability, dependable housing, educational opportunities, access to healthcare and employment opportunities. And because this has been the case for generations, Haitian communities lack the institutional knowledge and experience to build and sustain this infrastructure from scratch. Therefore, it is critical to identify and nurture strong community leaders who have the desire to advocate for their communities, mediate conflicts, guide initiatives and inspire unity.

Overture's efforts empower community leadership with the training and education they need to take responsibility for equipping their communities with basic services such as secure housing, access to education and healthcare and viable economic opportunities. When families have access to these resources and opportunities, they can better protect and care for their children, and ultimately contribute to the overall community's success. Real transformation requires collaboration and ownership.

Government Support

Government institutions often lack the resources or authority to fully support child protection, education, healthcare and nutrition. Although agencies like IBESR (Haiti's child welfare agency) are committed to fulfilling their mission, they can only do so when communities allow them the proper authority, respect and trust to do so. Collectively, these challenges leave Haitian families in a fragile state, struggling to care for their children while navigating a system that doesn't prioritize their independence or dignity.

Bridging the Gap with Government Institutions

Acknowledging the role government agencies play in systemic change, Overture collaborates closely with public institutions like IBESR (Haiti's child welfare agency). Overture works to strengthen communication and improve community-government relationships, ensuring essential welfare policies are implemented effectively. This partnership enhances child protection, education programs and broader family support initiatives.

Commitment to Long-Term Impact

Overture's philosophy rejects short-term, reactionary aid, which often causes dependency and inequitable outcomes. They've committed to substantial, consistent investment in Haitian communities, focusing on systemic solutions instead of quick fixes. Their long-term vision aims to achieve true independence for Haitian families, reducing external intervention over time.

Overture's work in Haiti has proven that sustainable community development is possible, even in environments burdened by systemic challenges. By addressing issues at their root and prioritizing the empowerment of individuals and communities, Overture has given Haitian families the tools they need to build hopeful, self-reliant futures.



Power in partnerships.

In Haitian Creole, “Anpil men fè chay la pi lejè” translates to “Many hands make the load lighter,” perfectly encapsulating the impact of Overture’s efforts. By addressing infrastructure gaps, nurturing community leadership and fostering successful collaborations with government institutions, Overture continues to implement models of service that will transform Haitian communities from dependency to self-reliance.

The kind of transformative work required to change the trajectory of Haiti is overwhelming in scope and opportunity. And while Overture International is all in and deeply invested in the efforts, we are not so bold (or blind) to believe that we can achieve success on our own. That’s why we’ve been intentional about identifying and inviting other organizations to partner in areas where they can contribute resources that move the work forward. We’ve engaged with Haitian governmental authorities, other NGOs and local communities to develop a network focused on mutual goals—**protecting children, strengthening families and empowering communities** that are independent and self-reliant.

One example of the power of partnerships is Overture’s participation in the Group for Social Protection of Children (GPTE) of southern Haiti. This group, consisting of local NGOs committed to child protection in Haiti, brings together like-minded organizations who provide unique, critical services (food, education, housing, healthcare, etc.) to set clear guidelines and expectations for how organizations should operate in Haiti. This collective group empowers IBESR, Haiti’s child welfare agency, to lead, and it validates their authority to do so. The group also holds IBESR accountable for upholding its own standards.



A recent example of GPTE in action occurred during the earthquake in 2021. As a result of the GPTE collaboration, IBESR was strategically positioned to provide invaluable post-recovery funding guidance to other fellow GPTE group members, ensuring all relief funds and resources were used properly and as intended, and that those with the greatest need were prioritized. This group's collective power limited the potential of corruption ensuring the children, families and communities in critical need were helped. Today, the GPTE collaborative empowers Haitians to determine who gets to participate in the development of Haiti. This is a critical step in producing an autonomous, self-reliant country.

In addition to GPTE, Overture also engages with many of Haiti's governmental agencies dedicated to protecting children and fostering development across the country. These agencies include the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education, IBESR, the Brigade for Protection of Minors (BMP), etc. While there are many challenges working with the Haitian government, the benefits of empowering them to overcome their own obstacles far outweigh the risks, and ultimately positions them for their best chances of success. Overture has become both a trusted ally in the child-protection space and an integral player in forming growing partnerships with agencies in southern Haiti.

There is power in partnerships! Even in a country as unstable as Haiti, collaboration and cooperation can and do make a difference. If there is any hope to transform Haiti, it must include Haitians in every process. We've already seen the power of partnership in action, and are confident that this is just the beginning.



Strengthening Families



Fostering child protection with loving families and open doors.

The family of Marie Solange and Benjamin Belizaire live in Dory, Haiti. They are working with Overture to become a foster family for special needs children, specifically those living with HIV/AIDS. They are part of an initiative to build Overture's Foster Families Program in collaboration with Haiti's child protection agency, IBESR. The family, motivated by their long-standing commitment to supporting vulnerable children, learned about the foster program through a care center for people living with HIV/AIDS.

“The family is committed to providing not just a home, but emotional, social and psychological support to help the foster child integrate and thrive within their family.”

Marie is a school principal with a deep compassion for children and eager to provide a loving home to a child in need. She is motivated by her belief that children raised without family support face significant risks and societal challenges. Her husband, Benjamin, shares her dedication, understanding the need for family care to prevent children who lack proper care from falling in with gangs, being handed over to orphanages or being exploited through slavery or trafficking. Both parents have experience welcoming children into their home informally and are anxious to take on the responsibilities that come with fostering.

The family is committed to providing not just a home, but emotional, social and psychological support to help the foster child integrate and thrive within their family. And Overture and IBESR will be with them through their journey to equip and encourage them for success. The family is determined to treat the foster child as one of their own, ensuring they are protected, loved and nurtured so they can one day reach their full potential and achieve the freedom of independence and self-reliance that God desires for us all.





Strengthening families.

Stronger families are a critical element in protecting children and building stronger communities. Sadly, to Haiti's detriment, the family unit has been disintegrating for generations. Pressures from poverty, hunger, illness, natural disasters, political corruption and other forces have contributed to this drastic decline. It is no coincidence that as the family unit has crumbled over time, so too has the country of Haiti. Why? **The well-being, unity and active participation of a nation's people within their local communities forms the foundation of the nation's true strength.**

In other words, when a country's people are well-cared for and supported, the results are:

► Social Cohesion and Stability

- ▷ Strong, connected communities lead to **greater trust, shared responsibility** and **reduced conflict**, which are essential for a healthy society.
- ▷ Without strong community bonds, a country risks social fragmentation.

► Economic Strength

- ▷ A nation's economy thrives when people are **healthy, educated, innovative** and **engaged**.
- ▷ Local entrepreneurship, worker productivity and social support systems all stem from strong communities.

► Civic Engagement and Democracy

- ▷ A strong democracy depends on **active citizens** who vote, volunteer, advocate and hold leaders accountable.
- ▷ Communities that feel heard and empowered contribute to better governance.

► National Resilience

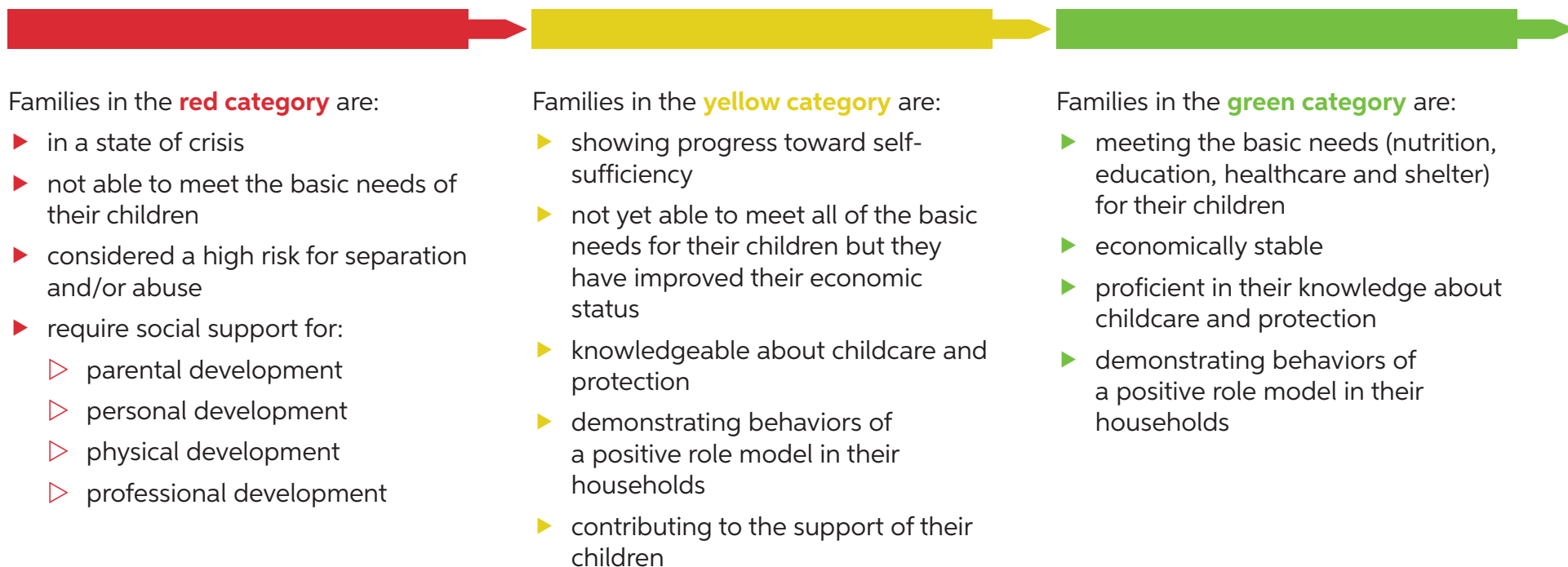
- ▷ In times of crisis (natural disaster, war, pandemic), it's the **people's solidarity, resourcefulness** and **mutual aid** that sustain the country.



Overture's work to strengthen reunified families is a top priority because we believe strong families create stronger communities, and stronger communities ultimately create a resilient country. Our family strengthening initiatives take root through an individualized three-year support plan. These plans begin with a thorough assessment and evaluation into each family's unique needs and the best approach to meeting these needs. Once the plan is developed, Overture and our partners consistently monitor and evaluate the family's progress, adapting the plan as the need arises.

The support plan progress is tracked using a Red—Yellow—Green evaluation system. For families to reach the green level, communities must have resources and services that enable them to progress to independence. This means building stronger communities that provide access to services, support, resources and opportunity.

EVALUATION TOOL



Empowering Communities



A proven method: The Overture Social Support Model.

To strengthen families and their communities, we implement our **Overture Social Support Model**, which offers a sustainable solution by addressing systemic issues through community-based social services, infrastructure development, and long-term investment. By empowering communities to become self-reliant, this model has helped create stable families and safer environments for children.

Activating the model occurs in five unique steps focused on working with local leaders to identify the needs of the community and equip parents with skills and resources to raise their children in a healthy and secure environment. **By providing support and training to parents, this approach leads to more sustainable and long-lasting solutions.** And with a focus on equipping community members with the education, skills and resources they need to overcome daily obstacles, the model's Five Pillars—Empowerment, Education, Nutrition, Healthcare and Infrastructure—serve as the building blocks to a stronger Haiti. A country free from generational dependence and moving toward self-reliance and autonomy.

The Social Support Model proves that sustainable change begins within the community. By empowering Haitians to invest in their families, infrastructure, and leadership, we're paving the way for a brighter future—not just for the children of today but for generations to come.

SOCIAL SUPPORT MODEL





The Model at work: Activating impact. ■■■

The community of Dory was devastated by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the region in 2021. Prior to the earthquake, the community was already experiencing deep, generational poverty and had only plywood and tin shelters as homes, along with poorly built schools and other structures. The earthquake caused significant damage to most of Dory's buildings.

After the disaster, the people of the community rallied together, and with the support of Overture, they responded by building stronger, more resilient structures. The recovery efforts included a plan to construct the Dory Domes Community Center, which would be used for emergency shelter, storage and community gatherings. Here's how the Social Support Model was activated:

- ▶ **Step 1: Establish Community Partnerships:** Following the first step of the model, Overture established community partnerships by working closely with local leaders and agencies to develop the plan for building and utilizing the Center in the best interest of the community. This collaboration empowered the community to take ownership of the Center and to lead the construction and implementation of the domes.
- ▶ **Step 2: Assess, Plan and Goal Set:** The second step of the model, which includes assessment, planning and goal setting, helped ensure that the center's services were aligned with the specific goals and needs of the community. This ensured the community had the necessary skills, knowledge and resources to foster long-term sustainability.
- ▶ **Steps 3 and 4: Coordinate Local Services and Implement Essential Service:** Through the third and fourth steps of coordinating local services and implementing essential services, the Dory Dome Center was constructed using local materials and labor, which not only bolstered the local economy but also provided valuable job training for the workers involved. The center is now fully operational, offering essential programs like leadership training, healthcare and educational support, in line with the five pillars of Overture's SSM—nutrition, infrastructure, empowerment, education and healthcare.
- ▶ **Step 5: Evaluate Results:** As part of the fifth step of ongoing evaluation, the Center activities, use and effectiveness is monitored to ensure its effectiveness in meeting community needs and fostering self-reliance.

This holistic approach ensures that the Dory Dome Community Center will continue to play a critical role in protecting children, building stronger families and furthering transformational progress in Haiti.

Results in action: the Dory Domes Community Center.

A hub for child protection, family strengthening and community building

The lessons from the deadly 2021 earthquake remain fresh in our minds. History proves that it is not a question of IF but WHEN the next disaster strikes Haiti. The Dory Domes not only provide a safe, disaster-resistant space that is crucial during natural emergencies like hurricanes, earthquakes and floods, but the domes also play a pivotal role in our ability to implement our proven Social Support Model, allowing families to have access to crucial social services at all times.

The development of the Dory Dome Community Center is a direct application and physical embodiment of this Social Support Model, serving as a hub for local community engagement and the provision of essential services.

The Dory Domes Community Center was completed in 2024 and stands as a beacon of hope for the community and surrounding areas. It is more than just a series of buildings—it is a lifeline for:

- ▶ Child protection activities
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Family strengthening
- ▶ Social and economic development

The completion of the domes project has been a success, but the journey is far from over!

“The creation of this center sends out the message that, while at times the community may need support and guidance from outside, this support and guidance needs to be channeled so that it can protect children, support local development initiatives led by community members and thus enable the community to develop its own potential in all sectors. The Dory Domes project is a successful model for how collaboration and empowerment can literally transform a community.”

— WEJIMS SAINVAL, OVERTURE SOCIAL WORKER DURING THE DOME'S INAUGURATION



Strengthening families to protect children from orphanages.

The family of Bétina Ylopcy (mom, dad and four children ages 2-12 years old) live in Dory and are taking full advantage of the programs and resources offered by Overture and IBESR to help them strengthen their family and protect their children. The family is a great example of how community-based support through the Social Support Model can protect children and prevent children from being placed in orphanages, ensuring they grow up in loving, stable environments despite economic hardships.

The family, headed by Bétina, faces considerable socio-economic challenges. Living in a small, two-room house damaged by the 2021 earthquake, Bétina supports her household, which includes her children and grandchildren, through various trades, including selling corn and raising livestock. Despite these challenges, the family is committed to keeping their children at home, firmly believing that a loving family is essential for protecting their children and helping them grow into healthy, self-reliant adults.

The family is grateful for the training they have received on child protection and development, which reinforced the belief that placing children in orphanages often leads to neglect, abuse and trauma. They now advocate for family-based care, noting that parental affection and guidance are irreplaceable and crucial for a child's well-being.

As a result of the Dory Domes Community Center, Overture and IBESR are able to offer vital services to the community, including child protection training, psychosocial support and educational programs, which have significantly impacted the family's perspective on raising and caring for children. Bétina and her husband credit this partnership with helping them understand the importance of keeping children within their biological families, even when facing financial hardship. Benita's family is grateful for how Overture and IBESR are empowering their family to overcome socio-economic difficulties, helping them keep their children safe and their family together so they can continue to work towards independence and self-reliance.



“The Community Facilitation Center is, for us Dorinois, a cornerstone of development. It is also a clear signal of development for the community, which was deprived of everything in terms of infrastructure. It inspires us with great hope. With this center, we believe that other good things will come to the community, just as they are needed. And it’s the first time the community has benefited from such a large-scale project from an organization.”

— **PIERRE JOSEPH, PRESIDENT, DORY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**



“The services offered by the center are well received by the community. People keep using the center. For example, the level of public participation in the training activities we carry out exceeds our expectations. Recently, we programmed a training activity for parents. When we thought that many parents wouldn’t come because they wouldn’t leave their activities, on the contrary, the number of participants was higher than expected. The service team had to go and borrow pews from a church to add to the seats provided by the center. This is just one example of how much the population appreciates this community-endowed service center.”

— **LUCKSON CADELY, CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER, DORY DOME FACILITATION CENTER**





“This center is a big step towards the advancement of society. I know that this center mentors children and parents, and helps parents to live in a caring way with their children, especially those they take in [who are not from their families]. So, this center is a great asset to the community.”



— MARIE SOLANGE, PARTICIPANT, FOSTER FAMILY TRAINING AT DORY DOME COMMUNITY CENTER

Why strong communities matter.

When a community is weak and under-resourced, it is impossible for the citizens who make up the community to thrive—no matter how strong they are as individuals or families. But when communities are strong, children are better protected and families remain intact because they have the infrastructure and basic services essential to achieve true independence and self-reliance. That’s why strong communities are absolutely critical.

One of the main reasons Haiti has struggled for generations is because of its dependency on foreign aid. This is a direct result of the need for each individual to focus inwardly on their own survival with little energy to think about the greater good. When children are protected, families are kept together and members have access to housing, food, education and the ability to earn an income, this leads to stronger communities. **And when communities are strong, citizens are no longer merely surviving.**

When communities are equipped and empowered through projects similar to the Dory Domes Community Center, they have the means to:

- ▶ Hold community gatherings
- ▶ Store emergency supplies
- ▶ Support families in crisis
- ▶ Protect children and prevent family separation
- ▶ Provide emergency shelter
- ▶ Help to alleviate food insecurity through feeding programs
- ▶ Teach critical social and economic empowerment skills
- ▶ Develop a localized social service system where social workers, protection agents, healthcare professionals and disaster response agents are accessible to all community members.

But in order to continue the positive impact of our community strengthening initiatives, your unwavering support and investment in their ongoing development through partnerships with local and national Haitian-led agencies is vital.



The next chapter: Continuing community-building.

Overture and our friends in southern Haiti would not have been able to complete the Dory Dome Project and other similar initiatives without the generous support of our donors and partners.

As we move forward and continue to focus on community building to strengthen families and build a stronger Haiti, we must continue to provide funding to ensure that these community centers can fulfill their role as a critical resource for the region. Funds will be invested in:

- ▶ **Operational costs to keep the Domes and other community centers functioning and maintained.** Even though the buildings developed by our teams in Haiti are storm-resistant and have held up well through natural disasters, the Haitian climate is unforgiving and requires continued maintenance.
- ▶ **Programmatic funding for education, healthcare and job training initiatives.** Education and training is at the heart of our work—designed to empower and equip Haitians to protect their children, stay together as a family and gain their own independence. Funding these programs is a significant part of leveraging these community centers to build a stronger Haiti.
- ▶ **Emergency preparedness, ensuring facilities are stocked and ready when disaster strikes.** If we've learned nothing else about Haiti, we've learned that the next disaster/crisis is right around the corner. Over the last couple of years, the community has seen the true value and importance of being prepared for emergencies. They have been able to respond as a community and not be dependent on outside aid, building a sense of self-determination and unity.

The communities we partner with in southern Haiti are committed to taking charge of protecting their children, keeping their families together and building a stronger Haiti. With your continued support, we can help them continue this transformational work.

“The center represents a great thing for the Dory community, especially for the children who are growing up, giving them access to social culture. We're starting to do a lot of work with these children, who are the nurseries and young people of the community. This work is socially oriented. We teach them to live together in the community; we provide training for these young people, these children, and other beneficiaries of the community. At last! For these beneficiaries, the center represents a school, especially for the growing nurseries.”

— MARIE TIODATH, MEMBER, DORY COMMUNITY PROTECTION COMMITTEE



Read the entire series.

ORPHANAGESARENOTTHEANSWER.ORG



What's next.

Thank you for taking the time to read this final publication in our Orphanages are NOT the Answer! Stronger Series. If you've made the investment of your time to read the entire series, we hope you've come to agree with us that Orphanages are NOT the Answer in Haiti. But we hope your investment does not end here. **We encourage you to join us in working to end the orphanage system in Haiti by building stronger families and communities that can and do protect and provide for their children.**

We know there is no easy solution to achieving this goal, but Overture and our community members are not afraid to do the hard work and are committed to equipping and empowering Haitians to build independent, self-reliant lives, families and communities. Here are a few steps you can take to help make this vision a reality!

- ▶ **Invest in Haitians helping Haitians:** Only support organizations who are investing in the Haitian people, rather than those that use outside aid providers who take the hit-and-run approach.
- ▶ **Support organizations that practice partnership:** Understand whether or not the organizations you're supporting in Haiti are committed to building and leveraging partnerships to achieve the greatest possible impact.
- ▶ **Fund sustainable development:** Invest in organizations that focus on community-wide development that leads to more sustainable and impactful outcomes.

If we can all commit to taking these steps we can truly empower Haitians to transform their families, communities and country from dependence to self-reliance, and ultimately end the orphanage system. Because, and let's all say it together—**"Orphanages are NOT the Answer!"**





ORP-HANAGES

We encourage you to join us in working to end the orphanage system in Haiti by building stronger families and communities that can and do protect and provide for their children. We know there is no easy solution to achieving this goal, but Overture is not afraid to do the hard work and is committed to equipping and empowering Haitians to build independent, self-reliant lives, families and communities.



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PO Box 16045, High Point, NC 27261
+1 336 870 5723
info@ooihaiti.com

www.overture.international