

Transforming a nation: One community at a time Sustainable water & sanitation for 15,000 people in Ferrier

The Commune of Ferrier is in north-eastern Haiti and home to 15,000 people, split between rural farmland, the town of Ferrier, and small villages like Bossus and Artaud.

Affordable, reliable and safe drinking water is not easily accessible, and the need is desperate.

Rotarians are working with the mayor's office and the government water authority to finance a professionally operated, pay-for-service, commune-wide water system.



By 2030, the first phase will serve 5,000 people, with initial demand of 60,000 gallons of water per day.

The total investment required may reach US\$2.5 million and will require many partners. As of January 2023, we have raised over US\$500,000 and are about to break ground.



Project Location: Ferrier
Commune
Host Club: Rotary Club
of Cap-Haitien
International: Rotary
District 5060
Rotary Grant #2123289
Initial Grant Budget:
\$530,555



Ferrier Commune: Water System

What is life like in Ferrier?

Ferrier is in north-eastern Haiti bordering the Dominican Republic. People earn a living through agriculture, livestock, cross-border trade, and small family businesses. There are a few paved roads and most people get around by motorcycle. There is no local high school, so kids go out of town to continue their education. This is low-lying land on the Caribbean coast and many groundwater sources are infiltrated by seawater, so folks pay for water from delivery trucks or fetch it themselves from unsafe sources. Where there are streams, people may use them for laundry and bathing.

How will this project change people's lives?

Delivering water to homes saves time and money having to find it elsewhere, and an adequate, safer supply keeps children from becoming dehydrated and sick. Residents will receive pipes to their homes with taps and pay a fee for that service which will be a fraction of what they pay now. This will free up income for other needs.

How has this system been designed?

In this first project, household connections will serve 445 people. Later, new pipelines will extend to reach 5,000 people in other communities. The modular design reduces risk and over time will reduce the per capita cost of the infrastructure. The capital costs are being covered by Rotarian donations while citizens bear the operating costs to keep it sustainable.

Initially planned near the ocean, studies showed groundwater was brackish and unsuitable so the site was moved further inland where a well will be built to access fresh water. Solar power will reduce energy costs and reliance on diesel fuel and keep the system running. Citizens, officials, and partners also meet regularly to discuss/ decide on long-term management, payment collection, and sanitation/hygiene plans to preserve the environment and protect health. This local governance and ownership are key features of all HANWASH investments.

What is HANWASH?

HANWASH is a partnership between Rotarians and Haitian government at national & local levels. Rotarians in Haiti and globally bring their voices, raise money, and volunteer their time to support the country's institutions to reach everyone with WASH.

22 Rotary Clubs, 16 Rotary Districts, and personal contributions allowed a successful start to the first phase of the US\$2.5 million water system. For a list of contributors and project partners, visit www.hanwash.org/ferrier

Your HELP is still needed!
Ongoing funding will be required to
meet the vision of safe and affordable
water and sanitation for all.

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