

## Transforming a nation: One community at a time Sustainable water & sanitation for 31,000 people in Terre-Neuve

Terre-Neuve is one of the oldest communes in Haiti and is located approximately 24 km from the city of Gonaïves. Terre-Neuve is situated in a valley bordered by two mountains. Terre-Neuve is subdivided into three communal sections: Doland, Bois-Neuf, and Lagon.

Terre-Neuve has faced numerous challenges, most notably in Lagon, the 3rd communal section. In this region, there is only one source of water that is not nearly sufficient to supply the entire area.

This has created an environment of poor hygiene and increased risk of illness. Moreover, agriculture is significantly



impacted due to the lack of water resources. Both animals and crops struggle to survive in such a context, affecting the ability of subsistence farmers to provide for their families.

Rotarians in Haiti and in Michigan/Ontario are working together as part of the HANWASH Initiative, and are targeting Lagon as the first community to be served within the Terre-Neuve region. They are also working closely with the regional water authority OREPA and the mayor's office to ensure that all investments are locally led and sustainable over the long-term.



Project Location: Terre-Neuve Commune  
Host Club: Rotary Club of Memorial des Gonaïves  
International: Rotary District 6290  
Initial Project Budget: \$100,000 USD



# Rotarians in Action in Terre-Neuve

## What is life like in Terre-Neuve?

The main income-generating activity in Terre-Neuve is agriculture. Mangoes, peas, corn, millet, yam, potatoes, cassava, avocados, and figs are typical crops harvested by a Terre-Neuve farmer. In addition, gardening, cotton picking, and copper mining are other important sectors of the economy. Like many parts of Haiti, the region faces various challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, vulnerability to natural disasters, and limited access to basic services which can make daily life in Terre-Neuve challenging.



## How will this project benefit the community?

Providing a community-led safe water source for the population will transform their lives. One well can support 250 men, women, and children and places them in charge of their own water sources and sanitation sites. This supports healthy living, education, and long-term prosperity.

Rotarian-led investments such as these have the ability to completely transform a community and improve the overall quality of life.

## What are the steps to successfully develop a well in Terre-Neuve?

Community engagement is the first step to developing a successful drinking water investment anywhere in Haiti. For the last 12 months, our partners Haiti Outreach, locally elected authorities, and the OREPA have been working with Haitian Rotarians on this aspect. The next phase is to identify a site location for a water source and arrange the legal and contractual paperwork to secure permissions and initiate drilling. The entire project will require a capital investment of \$100,000 and once it is operational, ongoing expenses will be funded entirely by modest community contributions.

## What is HANWASH?

HANWASH is a partnership between Rotarians and the 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 drinking water and safe sanitation.

Rotarians, Clubs, and Districts, from anywhere in the world can participate actively in this innovative and impactful program and be a part of this story! For a list of contributors and partners,

**Your HELP is still needed!**

**Ongoing funding will be required to meet the vision of safe and affordable water and sanitation for all.**

## Grant Contacts:

Tom Schmidt [tomschmidt1516@gmail.com](mailto:tomschmidt1516@gmail.com)

Andre Wildaine [andrewildaine@gmail.com](mailto:andrewildaine@gmail.com)

Emily Leitzinger

[emily.leitzinger@hanwash.org](mailto:emily.leitzinger@hanwash.org)

Memorial des Gonaives

**Rotary**  
Club



**HANWASH**

Haiti National Water, Sanitation  
and Hygiene Initiative

**Rotary**  
District 6290

