



Executive Summary

Making the Case

To build a healthy society, one inevitable factor is a strong middle class. Regrettably, this portion of Haiti's population is disappearing significantly for various reasons—political instability, economic degradation, and the mass departure of its best and brightest. Another trend which has proven to be problematic towards Haiti's pathway to development is international aid. By design, aid is an act established by donor countries and institutions to carry out positive socio-economic changes and outcomes for disadvantaged populations. Indeed, Haiti has experienced progress in some sectors. However, job growth and development remains inadequate with unemployment fixed at 40.6%.

The socio-economic divide continues to widen in Haiti. With news of the United Nations' expected departure coupled with the silent exodus of non-governmental organizations, one can only wonder what long-term strategies Haiti has in place to uphold stability and stimulate development through this transition and beyond. For a certain period, aid has conveniently served as a buffer. In the long run, evidence shows this approach to be unsustainable. In consequence, the Haitian government has started to move forward with some key strategies. In particular, it announced in April 2013 that it would launch a center for entrepreneurship which would serve as a small business administration resource center. At present, the Haitian Ministry of Commerce and Industry is working on fulfilling its promise.

In effect, innovation is driven by those in the private sector. In spite of all the existing challenges Haitians face, passionate leaders and visionaries use their creativity and innovative thinking to seize opportunities others do not. The people of Haiti embody an entrepreneurial spirit. Unfortunately, many cannot advance to the threshold of a formal business because basic opportunities and resources are inaccessible and the process can be arduous. Furthermore, Haitian innovators lack the space where they can further create, cultivate, and reinforce their enterprise. If development is to take place, the private sector cannot wait for the government to lead. Rather, innovators must undertake the role and lead by example. Respectively, Innovators for Change seeks to adopt a private sector solution to construct a comprehensive ecosystem which fosters change through entrepreneurship that results in sustainable solutions, job creation, and development.

Who are we?

Innovators for Change (IFC) aims to act as a catalyst for transformation, innovation or disruption in Haiti's development framework by harnessing the talent, vision and ideas of innovators to create sustainably effective enterprises.

Haiti is filled with hundreds of thousands of micro-entrepreneurs, Small-Medium-Enterprises (SMEs) and not-for-profits—both formal and non-formal—in need of accompaniment in leadership, organizational and technical development, or back-office/business outsourcing solutions.

Moreover, individuals or organizations including social innovators, high net worth investors along with faith-based, community-based and large socially-driven groups may also require local expertise to



Innovators For Change

strengthen their effectiveness and productivity in the advancement of Haiti's development while reinforcing their brand's reputation as an organization for excellence.

Specifically, IFC accompanies its clients in developing intelligent strategies to make the most sensible decisions when it comes to starting up a business, engaging in all forms of investments, designing and executing projects, human resources management, organizational priorities and partnerships.

Likewise, IFC does all the leg work and due diligence in helping those interested in starting or contributing to a social cause in Haiti to gain a comprehensive understanding of the landscape and of their partners' leadership and capacity all while providing a transparent and seamless experience.

What do we offer?

IFC offers two depository of services: *Innovators Ecosystem* and *Innovators Emporium*.

Innovators Ecosystem

The Innovators Ecosystem's objective is to foster a healthy and vibrant business environment for innovators to succeed. It delivers services tailored for the Haitian population demanding mentorship, consultation, training and research in leadership, organizational and financial management, technical skills development, studies in market trends and penetration, back-office/business outsourcing solutions, knowledge exchange, and advocacy to influence public policy affecting the sector.

Innovators Emporium

The Innovators Emporium provides custom solutions for local and global enterprises to implement initiatives that translate into meaningful opportunities to create sustainable partnerships, viable jobs, and stimulate development. These services include business and organizational evaluations, finance and project audits, bid and grants procurement, market and field research, collaborative investments, public relations and communication, and crisis management.

Rachel Pierre-Champagne, Founder and CEO