

Progress Report to

IAMCO

on

Mary's Meals, Haiti

15th February 2007



Mary's Meals

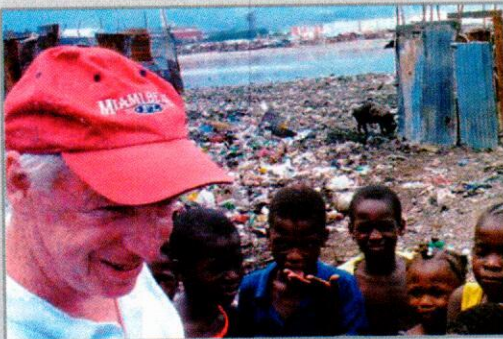
Summary

Following Scottish International Relief (SIR)'s field visit to Haiti in September 2006, a proposal was submitted to I AM Co to feed 4,500 children in 7 campus locations of the Becky DeWine school in Cite Soleil. SIR has achieved this aim through its partner organization Hands Together, an American NGO based in Haiti.

\$171,000 for Mary's Meals in Haiti was provided by I AM CO in October 2006, received on October 25th 2006 by Hands Together via wire transfer. At 15th February 2007, \$81,000 of the total has been expended. This report is a record of the activities that we have been enabled to carry out through this funding.

Scottish International Relief in Haiti

SIR's initial visit to Haiti witnessed at first-hand the violence and appalling conditions of Cite Soleil, and confirmed the need for education and nutrition for the children in the slum as a whole. The violence and conditions in Cite Soleil have chased away almost all NGOs and charitable organizations, with the exception of Hands Together and Medecins sans frontieres. Hands Together is the only organization in the slum carrying out any kind of educational and nutritional program, and were thus ideal partners for Mary's Meals to work with. Conditions are exceptionally difficult, with sporadic gun fights between gangs and peace-keeping forces, as well as high levels of poverty, abuse and deprivation on every level throughout the slum. School for these children represents security, a hope of a foothold out of poverty, and with Mary's Meals, it also means freedom from hunger and an escape from malnutrition which is rife in the area. It is SIR's intention to remain in Haiti to assist in the country's long-term development through making education and nutrition accessible to the poorest children.



Fr Tom Hagan of Hands Together



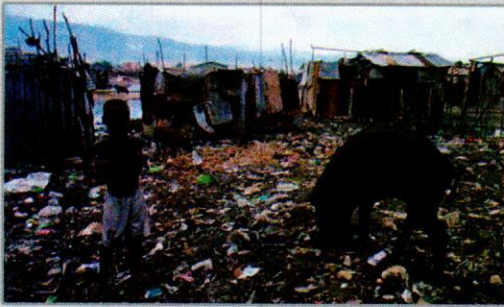
Serving Mary's Meals

SIR's Future Work in Haiti

The grant from I AM CO has been a valuable part of SIR's budget for Haiti in 2006/7. SIR has also launched appeals and rallied support from its funding base in Scotland, and has used these funds for the establishment and expansion of Mary's Meals in rural Haiti.

After assessing needs in rural and urban Haiti and subsequently carrying out pilot projects, SIR highlighted a number of priority areas for expanding our work: first, to continue with the provision of aid in the form of school feeding for children in Cite Soleil, as a social safety net in crisis conditions; second, to expand our existing programs in the rural areas of Haiti (beginning in the diocese of Hinche), since it is largely the desperation of rural poverty that causes families to flee to slums like Cite Soleil. Our long-term aim is to spread Mary's Meals to decrease the symptoms of poverty such as lack of food, inability to send children to school, that presently drives many people to seek the cities in hope of improvement. As this urban hope is most often a sad deception ending in worse poverty, it is essential to make rural life yield more of the opportunities that people are forced to seek elsewhere. This will help tackle some of the problems of Cite Soleil at the root, by alleviating the conditions that force people to the slums.

To help us achieve our long-term plans in rural Haiti, SIR is sending a Scottish volunteer experienced in Mary's Meals to Haiti for one month from April 2007. She will assess the needs of our various partners, help us implement our long-term strategy, and investigate cost-effective ways of procuring and transporting food to the rural areas. At present, food is more expensive in the rural areas, meaning that Mary's Meals can reach more children if there is a way to lower the cost of food. The visit of SIR's volunteer will allow us to plan our strategy more effectively.



Cite Soleil

Conditions in Cite Soleil

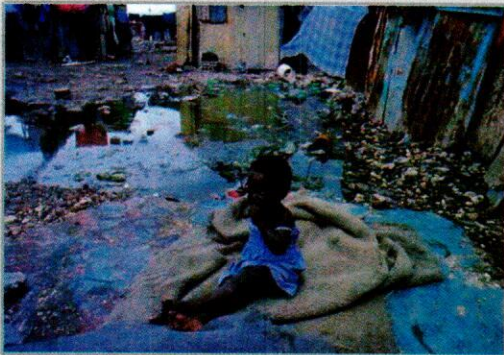
Cite Soleil is filled with violence and instability, created by the tension between the Haitian police, the UN forces and local community gangs. Access in and out of the slum is severely limited and the level of human misery and suffering is beyond description. Children are traumatized from constant gunfire, hunger, disease, parasites, rats, and there are very few organizations operating under these conditions.

Mary's Meals through Hands Together continues to feed and educate the children, even during the worst violence. In times of greatest unrest, when teachers cannot come to work and students cannot walk to school, dry-food distributions are arranged in all 7 neighborhoods that contain a Hands Together campus. If this was not done, children would certainly die from health problems and malnutrition.

Attempts to provide school feeding in Cite Soleil must necessarily adapt to the highly volatile and unpredictable situation in the slum, so although provisions would ideally be distributed on campus and as part of the school day, exceptions have often been made, and the provision of dry rations has ensured that children were not going hungry in times of most severe violence.

The entire population of Cite Soleil suffers dangerous levels of malnutrition and severe hunger. Dry food distribution could thus be easily increased to meet the general need, but the primary purpose of Mary's Meals remains the aim to provide healthy meals for children in the school environment. The volatility of Cite Soleil makes it hard to predict how many children can make it to school in times that are most violent, meaning that the numbers of children fed in school fluctuates. However, various studies indicate that:

"... children living with conflict, or displaced by conflict, [are] target groups for improving education opportunities ... 50% of children who do not attend school are estimated to live in countries in crisis or emerging from conflict. Such children are among the poorest in the world." (Department for International Development, 'Education, Conflict and International Development', 2003)



Mary's Meals Haiti

Although Haiti is one of the least hospitable places on the planet, conditions which forbid children to go to school condemn them to further poverty. Due to this, Mary's Meals and Hands Together will continue to provide meals in schools when possible.

Mary's Meals in Cite Soleil

Hands Together through Mary's Meals operates a daily canteen for the Becky DeWine school and its 7 campuses, with 4,500 students located in the slum of Cite Soleil. From October – January 29, 2007, funds allocated for Mary's Meals in Cite Soleil were used to purchase all the food necessary to provide a morning breakfast – usually a soup of bullion, bread, vegetables, or spaghetti and juice etc. As of February 1st, because of complications and the inability of local staff to grasp the breakfast concept and to the difficulties of procuring daily the bread and fresh produce on the local market, a menu of rice and beans and sauce was reverted back to. Hands Together has absorbed any additional costs of cooking (eg, cost of propane and employment of staff) and distribution.

Food is prepared by the kitchen staff of 14, (2 of the campuses have full kitchens with propane burners) and then transported in 5 gallon buckets to the 5 remaining campuses in the slum using the Hands Together jeeps, trucks and staff drivers. Kitchen workers and drivers are natives of Cite Soleil and some of them have children in the Becky DeWine school system. The students must clean up the dishes after they have eaten. Participants of Hands Together's vocational scholarship program assist with order and food distribution.

Other Projects Run by Hands Together

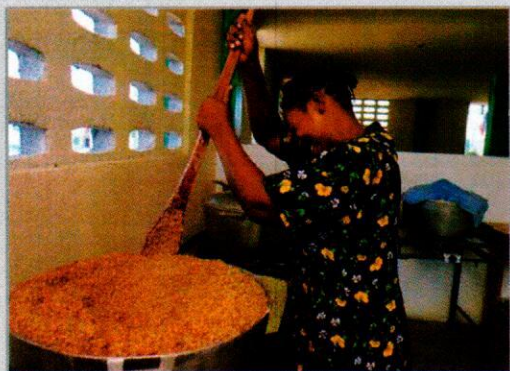
Hands Together receives funds from BND (Bureau de Nutrition et Developpement), and Mary's Meals to carry out feeding and nutritional projects. There are two separate intakes of students throughout the day, who receive one meal per student per day. Funding from BND provides food for morning students who attend the morning canteen, while Mary's Meals feeds the afternoon students and associate school partner students. Associate school partners are neighboring schools with no ability to provide meals and they link themselves to a Hands Together campus. There are hundreds such small schools filled with children who never receive a daily meal. There is scope for expansion through working with these associate schools. Hands Together expects their afternoon session to grow by at least 3,000 students as they network with more associate schools.

Successes and Challenges

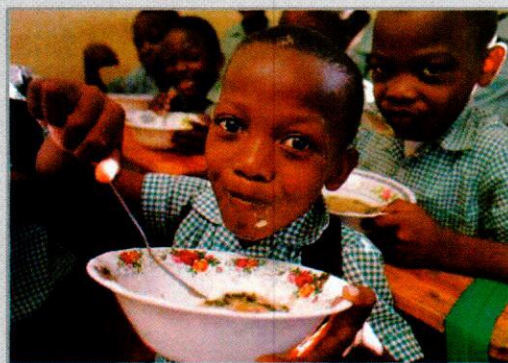
Mary's Meals has been reported to be a perfect fit for Hands Together's Becky DeWine school, and all of its educational efforts in Cite Soleil. Since Hands Together's food preparation and delivery mechanism is in place, they can easily turn the funds from Mary's Meals into food for hungry students.

The greatest difficulties and challenges come from the unstable conditions and violence, as well as from the difficulty of creating a responsible and cohesive staff team. Thankfully, with Fr. Hagan's dedication and presence on the ground, it is possible to work through these things and keep things on track to ensure that the children benefiting from Mary's Meals have a source of hope they can rely on.

The need for school feeding remains desperate in the local area, and as Hands Together expands their afternoon canteen, it is expected that the number fed from this premises will go over 4,500 children per day.



Preparation of Mary's Meals



Mary's Meals - a daily meal in school

Budget Update

Hands Together reports that although the situation is volatile and exact forecasts are hard to make, their budget is sufficient to reach the target number of children at the present time. Hands Together will contact Scottish International Relief if insecurity in the area dramatically increases, to either approve increased distribution of dry rations or to return some of the funds which had not provided meals on campus. Scottish International Relief is satisfied with the progress of Mary's Meals so far in Cite Soleil, and we shall receive a further update following the visit of our volunteer from Scotland.



Preparation of Mary's Meals

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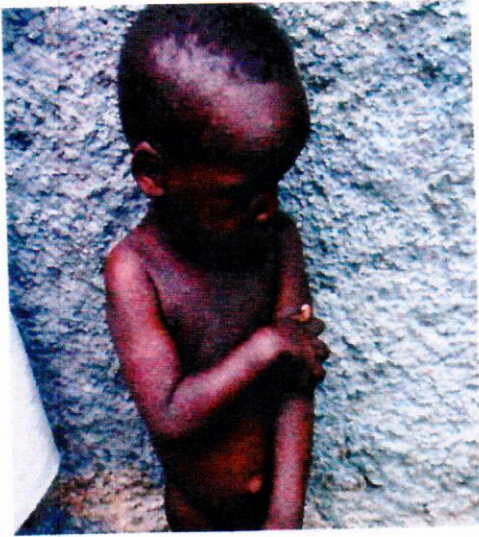
Mary's Meals Haiti

Mary's Meals Summary Information

October 2006- February 15, 2007

Month	Children Fed – total meals (one meal per child per day)	Amount allocated or received	Comments
October 25, 2007		\$171,000	Wire transfer received from Mary's meals for 1 year of funding.
October	78017	$(78017 \times .18) = \$14043$	Breakfast meal daily
November	78020	$(78020 \times .13) = \$14,043$	Breakfast meal daily
December	40842	$(40842 \times .13) = \$7,312$	Breakfast meal daily
January	47033	$(47033 \times .13) = \$8,466$	Breakfast meal daily
February 1-14	17290	$17290 \times .23) = \$3976$	Afternoon Canteen rice beans, sauce
October – February	4 Dry food distribution sessions during violence and breaks	$4 \times \$8290$ (140 sacks of rice, 50 sacks beans, 50 cases oil each session) $= \$33,160$	Rice, beans, oil to families of school children during extreme violence when school was closed.
		\$81,000	

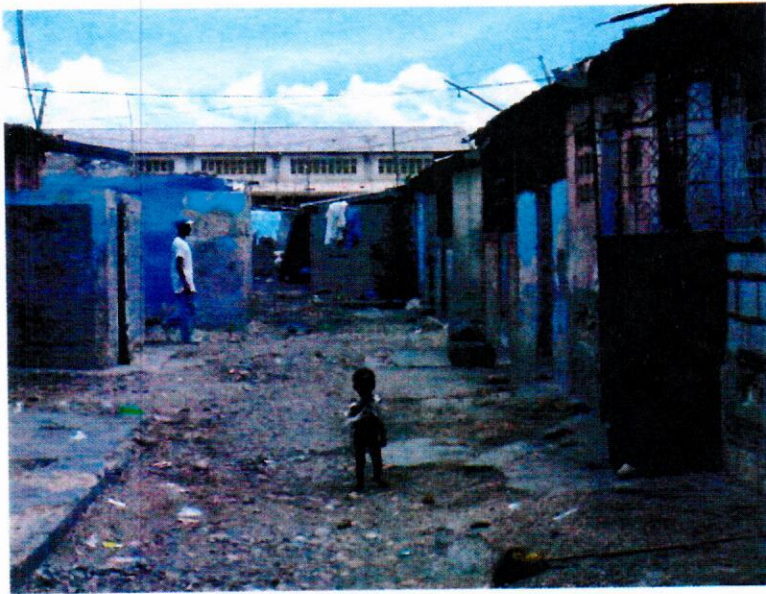
Please also see spreadsheet attached for months November – January.



-a child's upper body covered in a rash, a symptom of malnutrition



Hope for Haiti's children- IAMCO's donation of \$10,000US feed the children of Hinche



A child stands next to his home in City Soliel



- not a tourist attraction, but food for the hungry. These mud pies are mixed with spices and eaten by those desperate for food.



- the children of Haiti