

BEYOND BORDERS

Annual Report 2026

Dear Friends and Partners,

A light of hope is shining in communities in Haiti even as the country is facing difficult challenges. Community members are taking action to end violence against women and girls, promote universal access to quality education, promote economic justice, and end child domestic servitude, a form of human trafficking and modern slavery. In their ongoing pursuit of wellbeing, these communities face obstacles erected by systems of oppression.

The crisis the Haitian community faces today is yet another devastating chapter in a long history of injustice. It reaches across borders, from escalating violence and displacement in Haiti to deportation and family separation for Haitians in the United States. These immediate realities cannot be separated from the longer history of oppressive forces—including foreign intervention and interference—that have influenced Haiti's political and economic landscape for centuries. For those living through this moment, the past is never very far from the present.



In the pages of this annual report, we hope you find inspiration, as we do, in another part of Haiti's historical legacy that is very much alive today: the people and communities who are challenging injustice and building the collective power to shape their nation.

As you read about their achievements, we invite you to consider the intentional work of movement-building. Movement-building is not a moment in time; it is an ongoing practice of learning to question, dream, and act together. It is a commitment to a vision of a world where oppression no longer exists, and where everyone chooses truth over comfort and justice over personal gain.

While the movements described in this report are leading the long-term work to end child domestic servitude, guarantee quality education for all children, end violence against women and girls, and replace systems of oppression with economic justice, this work is also relevant to the crisis of the moment. As families are displaced by gang violence or face deportation from the U.S., our partner communities draw on the relationships and networks built through years of organizing to welcome them, offer support, safeguard their children, and connect them with mutual care and solidarity groups—whether they are returning to a place they once called home or beginning a new life somewhere else.

And as the movements grow, so do the skills, knowledge, and collective power their members can draw on—beyond any single issue—to shape the future of the nation they seek to build.

In Community,

Smith Maximé and Coleen Hedglin
Co-Executive Directors



Ending Child Slavery

Stopping Child Exploitation Before It Starts

As in many other countries worldwide, too many of Haiti's children endure domestic servitude—a form of human trafficking and modern slavery. Supported by Beyond Borders' Model Community Initiative, communities are stepping up—leading crucial conversations, spotting risks early, and stopping exploitation before it begins.

A Survivor-Led, Grassroots Movement

Adult survivors are driving this grassroots movement, joined by other child rights activists and local leaders. Together, they are breaking the silence, liberating children from servitude, and organizing networks for advocacy, accountability, and community care.

Beyond Borders supports the movement by providing training and tools, sharing expertise in social work and psychological support, and helping children access foster care and essential legal and medical support when needed.

This year, we opened a new office in Tomond in Haiti's Center Department and launched new partnerships with 23 communities, beginning with our dialogue-based Education is a Conversation training series.

MOVEMENT GOAL: Children enjoy their full rights, including the right to a family and to live in security.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **36 new partner communities** joined the movement.
- **426 adult survivors** formed **18 Neighborhood Survivor Groups** for healing, solidarity, and activism.
- **149 children** received protection, care, and recovery services.
- **10 children liberated** from domestic servitude.
- **16 accredited foster families** strengthened and supported.
- **13,674 people reached** through public awareness and outreach.
- **15 Regional Network Coordination Committees** trained in governance and leadership skills to sustain the movement.
- **Elevated Beyond Borders' contributions** to the anti-trafficking movement through participation in the Caribbean Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the Freedom from Slavery Global Forum, and the Global Summit on Ending Human Trafficking.

> *Because of what I went through living in domestic servitude, I swore I would never give my children into servitude—ever. My Neighborhood Survivor Group helped me heal from what I lived through long ago, so my children never fall into the same situation."*
>
> **— Marie Joseph, Activist, Community Member, Mother, Survivor**

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **133 out-of-school children** newly enrolled in primary school.
- **120 children brought back** to classrooms after dropping out.
- **133 at-risk students given the support needed** to stay in school.
- **430 primary school teachers from 138 schools** trained in positive discipline, Creole literacy, and participatory teaching methods.
- **150 school inspection visits** to track quality across 111 schools.
- **13 Education Action Groups** strengthened on Lagonav Island, with 12 of them successfully raising local funds or supplies for their schools.
- **4 new Education Action Groups formed** in Tomond.
- **4 model schools** supported to train and inspire teachers across 70 network schools.

Coming to Titans National School is different. My teacher takes the time and has patience to work with me, and they don't use the stick to teach us. I feel like we learn so much better."

— Makenson, 6th-grade student, Titans National School, Lagonav Island



Improving Access to Quality Education

Keeping Children in School and Safe from Harm

A safe, quality education provides children with a strong defense against child exploitation and abuse. Through Education Action Groups, Beyond Borders brings together educators, parents, faith leaders, and local government to find children who are missing school, remove barriers to attendance, and raise funds locally for supplies and tuition. Our team partnered with local school districts to expand school visits and performance tracking, holding schools accountable and improving classroom quality. This year, Beyond Borders began organizing new Education Action Groups across the municipality of Tomond.

As families fled violence on Haiti's mainland, Beyond Borders staff and Education Action Groups on Lagonav Island helped displaced families enroll their children in local schools.

Creating Safe and Inspiring Classrooms in the Local Language

In partnership with the *Matènwa Community Learning Center*, Beyond Borders transforms classrooms into safe, joyful spaces where students read and write in Haitian Creole, participate actively in their learning, and experience positive discipline instead of physical punishment or humiliation. Using a model school approach, teachers receive intensive training and ongoing coaching to create vibrant and engaging learning environments, prevent dropouts, and help all students succeed.

MOVEMENT GOAL: All children enjoy their right to a quality education.



Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

New Sparks of Change in Southeast Haiti

In communities across Lavano, in Haiti's Southeast Department, neighbors are starting an honest dialogue about power. Violence against women stems from an imbalance of power between women and men and from harmful social norms—but communities can transform these together. This year, Beyond Borders' Rethinking Power program began training activists and leaders to facilitate open conversations on gender equality and healthy relationships—with couples, among neighbors, in faith communities, and at public gatherings.[1] As this work unfolds over the next three to four years, communities will question harmful beliefs, raise awareness, support one another, and take collective action. Women's organizations and activist committees will continue joining forces across the region, with Beyond Borders' support, to build a stronger movement against violence.

Girls in Community

These same communities are also working to reduce violence against girls. Girls Clubs offer girls safe spaces to build confidence, explore their rights, form friendships, and develop skills in health, leadership, communication, and financial literacy. At the same time, Girls Club mentors, activists, and school staff work with parents, students, and neighbors to transform their communities into environments where girls' agency and leadership are respected and embraced.

Integrated materials and activities help remove social barriers, promote inclusion, and address the unique experiences of women and girls with disabilities.

[1] Rethinking Power combines the *SASA! Together* methodology, developed by Raising Voices in Uganda and adapted by Beyond Borders for Haiti; the *Power to Girls* methodology, created by Beyond Borders in response to community feedback; and *Safe and Capable*, a Beyond Borders toolkit integrating the inclusion and leadership of women and girls with disabilities.

MOVEMENT GOAL: Women and girls live free from violence and share power equally with men and boys.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **22 activists and leaders trained** to facilitate conversations on power, gender equality, disability inclusion, and violence prevention.
- **10 Girls Club mentors trained** to lead 10 Girls Clubs.
- **184 girls found belonging and learned about** health, rights, leadership, communication, and financial literacy.
- **34 school staff trained** and an 11-member committee formed to create violence-free school environments.
- **3,082 people reached** through community-led conversations.
- **Local partner COFHED trained and coached** to mobilize communities to prevent violence against girls and operate 16 Girls Clubs.

> ***"There are many things I used to do, yet I didn't think they were wrong. It was in Rethinking Power that I learned that this behavior is not good. I learned some things about myself during the feedback practice sessions, and I believe in myself and the abilities I have even more. Now I dare to dream big."***
>
> **— Noel Maïka, Girls Club Mentor, Lavano**

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **110 families** facing extreme poverty enrolled in the Family Graduation Program.
- **107 families received small business startups and livestock** to start earning diversified, steady income.
- **100% of families now have daily hot meals, with 91% achieving healthy nutrition levels.**
- **121 children under five screened** for malnutrition, with **22 children** restored to health so far.
- **Over 3.3 million gourdes (~$25,000 USD)** actively circulating in loans across nine VSLAs.
- **30 secure homes and 35 sanitary latrines built**, transforming family living conditions.
- **Over 523,900 gourdes (~$4,000 USD)** in land, labor, and materials donated by local neighbors.

> *Because of what the program has done, I went from unfair loan practices to managing my own savings account and accessing credit. I am rebuilding my house, farming my land, and getting back to business."*
>
> **— Ciana Arthus, 7th cohort participant**



Economic Justice, Sustainable Livelihoods, & Food Security

Families Lifting Themselves Out of Extreme Poverty

Extreme poverty forces families into impossible choices, leaving children vulnerable to hunger, illness, and domestic servitude. In partnership with the Lagonav Association of Farmer Organizers (AAPLAG), Beyond Borders supported 110 families in their first year of the Family Graduation Program—our seventh cohort. The program tackles poverty from every angle by combining regular coaching visits, temporary cash assistance, livestock and small business startups, healthcare, and improvements to housing and sanitation.

Financial Resilience and Shared Community Ownership

To help families remain self-sufficient over the long term, participants join Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), where they save money, access small loans, and protect their households from financial shocks. Neighbors actively support this transformation—contributing land, labor, and materials to help build homes and latrines for families in need. This community-driven approach helps families move from daily crisis to long-term independence and dignity.

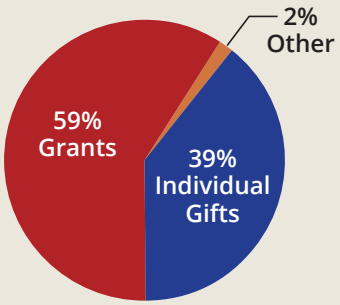
MOVEMENT GOAL: Families experiencing poverty improve their livelihoods and food security.

Financials

1 July 2025 through 30 June 2026

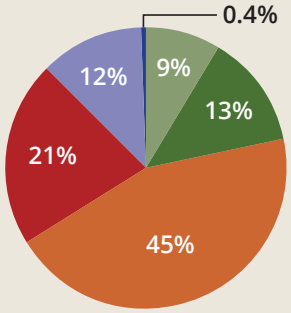
Revenue

Individual Gifts	$767,300
Grants	$1,157,467
Other	$30,792
Total Revenue	**$1,955,559**



Expenditures

Management	$197,067
Fundraising	$296,858
Model Community Initiative	$1,018,044
Rethinking Power	$482,879
Economic Justice	$273,420
Public Engagement	$9,987
Total Expenses	**$2,278,256**



Note: Our 2026 financial reports reflect an anticipated deficit. While standard accounting rules required many multi-year pledges to be recorded as revenue in previous years, cash received as those pledges were fulfilled helped to sustain operations this year. In the new fiscal year that started July 1, 2026, we are well on our way toward a surplus for the year.

As a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization (EIN: 23-2713126), Beyond Borders files Form 990 with the IRS annually. Our Finance Director works closely with our Co-Executive Directors and Board Finance Committee to ensure financial accountability. Our commitment to accountability is further demonstrated by achieving high ratings and seals for transparency and governance from leading third-party evaluators. Annual audited financial statements for prior years are available on our website.

Our Donors

Individual Donors

Beyond Borders' work is made possible by the generosity of our donor community and by the solidarity and support of allies and volunteers. We are especially grateful to our Leadership Circle Members, Family Sponsors, and Monthly Sustainers, whose multi-year commitments and recurring gifts help sustain the long-term relationships and community-led movements essential to lasting social change.

Grant Partners

We are grateful to the grant partners whose support makes this work possible, especially those whose multi-year commitments recognize that building movements and achieving lasting social change require sustained investment in relationships, trust, and collective action.

- The American Jewish World Service
- The Ansara Family Fund
- Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- The European Union
- The Flora Family Foundation
- The Gordon and Marjorie Osborne Foundation
- The Imago Dei Fund
- School Sisters of Notre Dame - Atlantic Midwest Province (including through a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation)
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- The Vista Hermosa Foundation
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- World Renew



Our Vision

Beyond Borders works to overcome poverty, prevent violence and abuse, and develop leaders in Haiti. We see in Haiti the seed for a new world, where:

- People overcome great challenges by learning to question, dream, and act together.
- Women and men find more power by balancing power equally.
- Families and communities thrive on foundations of trust and mutual respect.
- Diversity is seen as a sign of strength.
- All children grow up surrounded by people who love, nurture, and educate them.
- We all find deeper meaning in our lives by coming to value truth over comfort, sharing over having, and justice over personal gain.

Our Mission

Beyond Borders helps people build movements to liberate themselves from oppression and isolation. In Haiti and the United States, we are bringing people together for just and lasting change.

We support movements in Haiti to:

- End child servitude.
- Guarantee universal access to quality education.
- Prevent violence against women and girls.
- Replace systems that oppress the poor with systems that support dignified work and sustainable livelihoods.

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