

# PROFILE FROM THE FIELD



## Elmita Sully

### Fonveret, Haiti 2009

Three years ago, Elmita Sully felt her life was moving from day to day. She had no direction. She had a small food business that could never make a steady profit because the interest rate she had to pay to the local “loan shark” was so high. “One day, my friend and neighbor, Telamise, told me about Fonkoze, “At first, I did not trust it, but her business was growing and mine was going down .” Elmita decided to give Fonkoze a chance and today, she says “ Fonkoze continues to produce miracles in my life.” At 41 years old, Elmita has 8 children ranging from ages 8 to 21 (with 2 sets of twins).

One of the miracles she refers to is the Fonkoze Literacy Program presently functioning at the Fonveret branch. Elmita never

learned to read and write and only had vague notions of how to run her business. “It was so degrading not to be able to sign my name on my children’s school papers. This past September, I started taking the health module in the education program and at

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the same time was taught how to write my name.” She laughed when she said that her writing is nothing to brag about, but “ I am writing for the first time in my life.” Elmita’s children are happy to help their mom succeed and continue to help with her writing skills. Her children are all attend-



ing school, the oldest helps with the little commerce that has grown to include cosmetic products and clothing. “ Having finished the health module, she has now moved on to the business module, “Fonkoze is lighting my way, I see so much clearer now.” Elmita now recruits other family members and friends to join Fonkoze, “ I tell them not to be embarrassed about their illiteracy, there is too much to learn, it’s never too late”.