

PROFILES FROM THE FIELD



Fonkoze CLM Client in Central Plateau of Haiti

April 2011

This is Octalia Lalane. She joined Fonkoze's Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM) program in November of 2010. CLM is Fonkoze's program for the poorest — women with no productive assets and not yet ready for microcredit. Octalia is a single mother of four, who prior to becoming a member of CLM owned no productive assets of any kind. In fact, none of her children went to school and the family basically survived on a couple of lemon trees in the back of her small shack.

Nine months into the program, Octalia is a new person. She now owns 6 goats, 2 of which are pregnant. She has 12 chickens and all 4 of her children are attending school.

With the guidance and sup-

port of her case manager, Octalia started a small trading business with 1,500 gouds provided to her. Today, the business is already worth 2,000 gouds and growing quickly. She has 5,000 gouds in her savings account, something she never imagined she would own. 5,000 gouds is the equivalent of about \$125.

She had a pig who died, she sold the meat and was able to recuperate 2,000 gouds. She plans on replacing the pig.

Octalia and her children are eating at least 2 meals a day, she follows the advice given to her by her case manager very closely and is learning how to read and write.

When asked what her dream is, Octalia quickly says " I

want to successfully complete all the 100 items on the CLM accomplishment list before graduation, and I want to be good at all of them".



Photo credit: Darcy Kiefel for Fonkoze