

June 2022

Report of the MUSOs in Mapou, Grangozye, Anba Pichon, & Anwo Pichon.

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MUSO is a Haitian microfinance initiative that stands for “Mutual Solidarity.”
In 2016, Love Haiti financed the training and startup of several MUSO groups in Southeast Haiti. Since then, we have continued to support and engage with these groups as they collect, loan, and distribute local Haitian money to help with local Haitian needs.

MUSO is known as a micro finance service that’s been set up in many remoted locations in Haiti for about 10 years, the cycle of a **MUSO** is about 10 or 12 months according to the rule of the members. Each **MUSO** has its own rules in regards to managing a cycle. Some **MUSOs** choose to meet every week or every fifteen days, the members are the rule providers, each MUSO is lead by a community with 7 or 9 trustworthy men and women in each community, they are responsible to give a report in every meeting when they are with the members.

The main philosophy of the **MUSO** is making sure that at the end of each cycle every member is able to find their money with interest in order to realize something bigger than their expectations, and throughout the cycle they can manage their own money for things like: making businesses, paying school fees, breeding livestock, buying properties, building houses, etc.

Some **MUSOs** just started their new cycle, and they are progressing with the shares, loans, and any other things that can help the **MUSOs** to stay alive through different communities. Let’s see how they are moving forward through the table down below.

MUSO group name	Mapou: Ann Deside	Grangozye: Tet Kole	Grangozye: Tet Ansamn	Anwo Pichon: Kole Zepol	Anba Pichon: Chanje Lavi
Money currently in MUSO's collection	115,000 HTG (~\$1,150 USD)	57,500 HTG (~\$575 USD)	508,600 HTG (~\$5,086 USD)	1,520,500 HTG (~\$15,205 USD)	355,000 HTG (~\$3,550)
# of loans lent out	22	24	176	114	76
Amount lent out in loans	460,000 HTG (~\$4,000 USD)	125,500 HTG (~\$1,091 USD)	1,650,000 HTG (~\$14,348 USD)	3,258,450 HTG (~\$32,584.50 USD)	651,000 HTG (~\$6,510 USD)
Timeframe	approx. over the last month	approx. over the last 1.5 months	approx. over the last month	approx. over the last 9 months	approx. over the last 8 months

Approximate reported loan totals for MUSOs in June 2022

of loans: 237

Valuation of Loans: ~ \$22,931 USD

According to the rules, to be a **MUSO** member you should be known and be part of the community where the Muso is for years. **MUSOs** are independent, from what the members of the MUSO say; MUSO comes a bit too late in the communities, it is little bit out of nowhere, it is not known by many. Their satisfactions about MUSO are very positive, it is hard to find words to explain after each loan cycle how the life of the members are being improved day by day. MUSO is a weapon that is helping the community to fight against their remote locations and poverty. Their testimonies about the loans are very interesting. Because of MUSO, most parents access resources to provide for their families. Before MUSO entered the county of Belle-Anse, less children had access to school, but now with MUSO's loans more parents are able to take their children to school. Through the loans, members get access to open their businesses, work their gardens, build their houses, and raise animals like goats, cows, pigs, etc. Some photos of the MUSO's members are witnessed of their progress in a multitude of ways with loans down below.

A NOTE ON OUR EVALUATION AND THE EXCHANGE RATE

The exchange rate and value of the Haitian Gourde compared to the US Dollar is changing (and usually depreciating) at a rapid pace. Because these reports cover loan collections and disbursements anywhere from 1-12 months ago, we are averaging our USD approx. at 100 HTG to 1 USD for this June 2022 report if the timeframe provided is over 1.5 months. For the timeframes that are 1.5 months and under, we used the June 2022 conversion average of 115 HTG to 1 USD. We also did additional calculations to find an approx. amount of what each of these reported groups loaned out in the month of June as seen in the June totals above.

This is Madam **Edith** one of the members of the “Tet Ansanm” MUSO. She took a loan of 75,000 HTG (~\$750 USD) last year, she invested the money in making business and purchasing livestock. With help from the low interest rate on her loan, she also managed to buy a motorcycle to help more with her activities. The motorcycle is able to transport things fast and easy everywhere she wants according to what she says. MUSO is something completely out of this world. Nowadays MUSO is her testimony to everyone.

She was able to quit taking loans from banks with exaggerated interest rates, and she feels free and fair enough to boost her life with what MUSO has already done for her.



This is Misye **Michot** the president of the MUSO “Tet Kole” in Grangozye. He received a loan of 1,000,000 HTG (~\$10,000 USD) in last October, with that money he was able to buy a piece of land where right now he is planning to build his own house and use a part of the land to have a garden yard. From his mouth, he said the land that he bought comes up with a lot of impact throughout the community where he is living because people thought he would never be able to buy something like this land to build his house on, because of that a lot of people want to be part of the MUSO.

To talk about the needs/complaints of the MUSO groups, it is going to be a bit too long but this is what they complained about:

- a) Their first thing would be about increasing the amount of money that the members hope to be able to loan out, therefore they are usually short of the money requested. Furthermore, the committee of the leaders chosen by the members has explained that the money cannot be collected fast enough as they would hope in order to satisfy the MUSO members with their requests for larger loans.
- b) They do not have the necessary equipment. For the MUSO to be functional it needs some equipment such as: a copy machine, papers, banknotes, boxes, pens, pencils, verbal process notebooks, keys, etc. They communicate that it is such a problem for them when they start a cycle it is always difficult to get access to those things.
- c) They do not have their own sites; physical places/buildings to meet in. Usually where they gather is not their sites, sometimes they deal with this difficulty to meet on time, and due to the insecurity crisis in Haiti they cannot meet just anywhere.
- d) Saving and storing the money in the community is a huge problem because when the cycle is about to be done they are gathering the shares and the loans, and those usually become too much to save in just a house or in a building in the community, they don't have a bank where they can put the money. They hope one day that MUSO can have its own facility.

Because of the independency of the MUSOs, they have to deal with many challenges. One of the biggest challenges is not receiving the repayment of loans on time due to the economic crisis Haiti is facing. For the time being, all major economic activities are concentrated in Port-au-Prince. Right now no one is able to make it to Port-au-Prince because of the insecurity situation. Some members take loans without having a plan of what they are going to do with the money, in that case some just waste the money and it becomes an issue when they are asked to pay it back. Even though some members are very understanding of this, others are not. It's always complicated to find a way to deal with those situations.

They would suggest if it could be possible for **COLLEGE CHURCH** and **LOVE HAITI** to provide trainings for the members to know more about the loans. If they are taking any loans, they must have a plan what they are taking them for, how to manage them, and how to pay back the loans, the committee would very much appreciate that a lot.

N/B: MUSO startups are being requested in many other locations including in Grangozye, Mapou, anba Pichon and anwo Pichon. They are especially being requested in Grangozye. Right now there are officially 4 groups in Grangozye, 2 in Mapou, 2 in anba Pichon, and 3 in anwo Pichon.