

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# Lakou Haiti

Building self-sustaining communities across Haiti through vocational training, regenerative agriculture, infrastructure, and local enterprise.

VERSION 1.0 - 2025

## The opportunity

Haiti faces interconnected crises — youth unemployment above 60%, food insecurity affecting half the population, less than 2% of original forest cover, and decades of fragmented aid that built dependency rather than capacity. Lakou Haiti is a national rural development model designed to reverse these trends by combining vocational training, regenerative agriculture, eco-village infrastructure, and locally-owned enterprise into a single replicable system.

## The model

A **Lakou** is a community hub that integrates land, training, water, energy, housing, and enterprise. Each Lakou recruits youth ages 18–30, runs a six-month fast-track program with paid fieldwork, and graduates participants into cooperatives and small businesses anchored in their home regions.

- **45 Lakou Demonstration Stations (DEPA)** distributed nationally
- **700+ community centers** connecting rural populations to the network
- Six-month **fast-track vocational program** across 7 institutes
- Graduate **employment target of 70%** within 12 months

## Pilot — Lakou Colora

The pilot is sited in Colora, Belladère — a community with productive land, existing utilities, road access, and engaged local leadership. The pilot will employ approximately **1,000 people** and demonstrate financial self-sufficiency at the Lakou level within two to three years.

### Headline metrics

<b>45</b> Demonstration stations (DEPA)	<b>700+</b> Community centers	<b>1,000</b> Pilot jobs at Lakou Colora
<b>10M+</b> Trees planted over 5 years	<b>70%</b> Graduate employment target	<b>50+</b> New local businesses launched

## Funding

**\$3.8M secured** for the Lakou Colora pilot. **\$43.8M sought** for Phase One — a national network of demonstration stations and community centers. Capital is allocated across training, infrastructure, enterprise seed capital, and operations, with detailed budgets per Lakou and public reporting.

## Partners we are seeking

- **Donors & foundations** — catalytic capital for stations and training
- **Diaspora investors** — direct capital and expertise from Haitians abroad
- **NGO partners** — aligned organizations integrating into the hub-and-spoke model
- **Government agencies** — public collaborators on land and rural policy
- **Technical experts** — engineers, agronomists, educators, clinicians

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