

MASTER REPORT

Lakou Haiti

A national rural development initiative — model, programs, infrastructure, pilot, and funding strategy for self-sustaining Haitian communities.

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1. Executive summary

Lakou Haiti is a national rural development initiative that combines vocational training, regenerative agriculture, eco-village infrastructure, sanitation, renewable energy, and locally-owned enterprise into a single replicable model. The plan calls for 45 Lakou Demonstration Stations and 700+ community centers, anchored by a pilot at Lakou Colora that will employ approximately 1,000 people and reach financial self-sufficiency within 2–3 years.

2. The challenge facing Haiti

Youth unemployment

Over 60% of Haitian youth lack stable work, fueling migration and instability.

Food insecurity

Half of Haitians face acute food insecurity. Domestic production has collapsed.

Environmental collapse

Less than 2% of original forest cover remains. Soil erosion accelerates each year.

Water & sanitation

Most rural communities lack reliable potable water and basic sanitation systems.

Aid fragmentation

Decades of disconnected interventions failed to build lasting local capacity.

Weak rural infrastructure

Roads, energy, and housing gaps trap families in cycles of poverty and displacement.

3. The Lakou model

A **Lakou** draws from Haiti's communal land tradition — adapted into a modern, scalable development unit. Each Lakou integrates six pillars:

Land

Restored, productive, and locally-owned.

Training

Six-month fast-track vocational pathways across 7 institutes.

Water

Clean potable water and sanitation systems for households and farms.

Energy

Solar microgrids powering training, enterprise, and homes.

Housing

Eco-construction using local materials and durable design.

Enterprise

Locally-owned cooperatives and small businesses anchoring the local economy.

4. How it works

01 - Recruit & train

Youth ages 18–30 enter a six-month fast-track program in agriculture, construction, sanitation, energy, or enterprise.

02 - Paid fieldwork

Trainees earn while restoring land, building infrastructure, and producing food in their home regions.

03 - Launch enterprise

Graduates start cooperatives and small businesses, supported by Lakou capital and mentorship.

04 - Scale through hubs

45 demonstration stations and 700+ community centers replicate the model nationwide.

5. Programs & institutes

Agriculture & Ecology Institute

Regenerative farming, agroforestry, soil restoration, and seed sovereignty.

Eco-Construction Institute

Sustainable building with local materials, solar integration, and rural housing.

Health, Sanitation & Nutrition

Community clinics, sanitation systems, nutrition programs, preventive care.

Business Institute

Entrepreneurship, cooperative finance, market access, rural enterprise.

Research & Development

Applied research on Haitian crops, materials, water systems, and renewable energy.

Technology Institute

Digital literacy, agtech, telecommunications, and climate-smart infrastructure.

Sports Academy

Youth development, leadership, and community cohesion through sport.

6. Infrastructure projects

Pwojè Pyebwa — Reforestation

Planting 10M+ trees over 5 years to restore watersheds and soils.

Pwojè Dlo — Water systems

Potable water capture, storage, and distribution for households and farms.

Aba Fatra — Waste management

Community sanitation, composting, and recycling infrastructure.

Aba Fè Nwa — Energy access

Solar microgrids displacing charcoal and diesel generation.

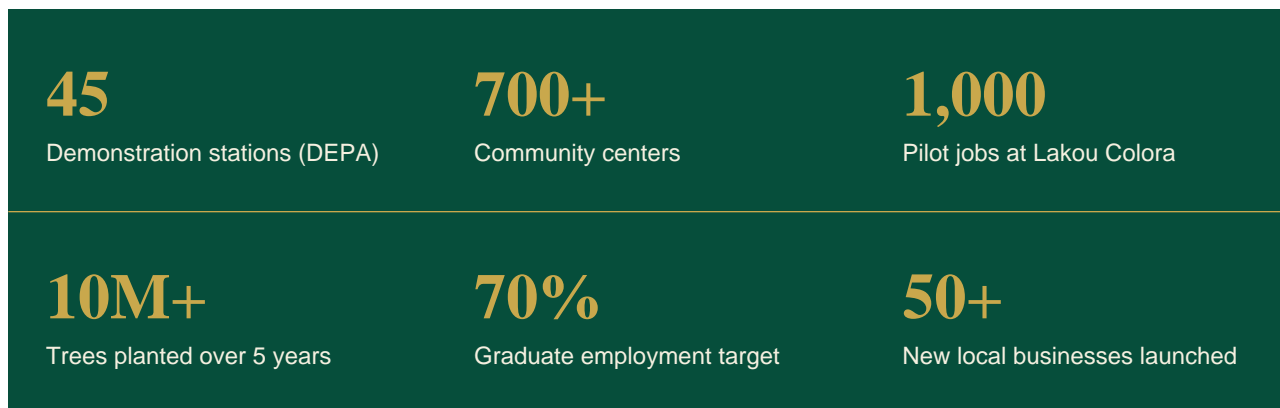
Pwojè Kay — Eco-housing

Durable, climate-appropriate housing built with local materials.

7. Pilot — Lakou Colora

The pilot is sited in Colora, Belladère. Existing strengths include arable land, road access, electricity, potable water access points, and engaged local leadership. The pilot will employ ~1,000 people and reach financial self-sufficiency within 2–3 years. See the Pilot Brief for full site analysis, jobs plan, budget, and three-year milestones.

8. Impact metrics & targets



Additional targets include 5,000+ residents benefiting from improved water and sanitation, 20–50 hectares of land restored at the pilot site, and an income trajectory from under \$1,000 to over \$12,000 per participating household over a five-year horizon.

9. Funding strategy

\$3.8M secured for the Lakou Colora pilot. **\$43.8M sought** for Phase One — a national network of demonstration stations and community centers. The funding mix combines grants, diaspora contributions, tuition, product sales, and enterprise revenue. Each Lakou is designed to reach unit-level financial self-sufficiency within 2–3 years.

Source	Phase One target
Catalytic grants & foundations	\$22.0M
Diaspora investment & contributions	\$12.0M
Government & multilateral partners	\$6.5M
Tuition, product sales, enterprise revenue	\$3.3M
Total — Phase One	\$43.8M

10. Governance & partners

Lakou Haiti is led by a Haitian-founded team of agronomists, educators, engineers, and development specialists, working in partnership with local government, diaspora networks, and aligned NGOs. Governance includes a board, a technical advisory council, and per-Lakou community oversight committees.

11. Risks & mitigations

Security & political volatility

Site selection, local leadership integration, and phased deployment reduce exposure.

Currency & macro risk

USD-denominated reserves, diversified funding sources, and conservative reserves policy.

Operational execution

Strong M&E; systems, transparent reporting, and seasoned implementation partners.

Climate shocks

Diversified crops, water storage, and resilient infrastructure design.

12. Appendix — definitions

Lakou

Traditional Haitian communal land arrangement; here, an integrated rural development unit.

DEPA

Lakou Demonstration Station (Stasyon Demonstrasyon Espasyo Pwodiksyon Agrikòl).

Community center

Smaller spoke connecting rural populations to a Lakou hub.

Phase One

First wave of national replication beyond the Colora pilot.

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