



SUCCESS STORY

Konbit: Haitian Women Empowering Haitian Women

Konbit's goal is to increase the number of local development partners influencing and achieving significant and sustainable development results in Haiti, who are accountable to their constituents and who are able to effectively compete for and manage resources.



For Women by Women Fair



Phaidra Laraque, Monique Manigat and Tim Valda Jean



Christine Jacques, Evelyne Chéron, Sabine Manigat, Alice Nkunzimana, Régine René Labrousse and Gaelle Rivière Wulff

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

The number of women-owned businesses is increasing worldwide, and Haiti is following the trend. Today, more and more Haitian women are occupying higher-level decision-making positions in the workforce. Haitian women do not often have the opportunity to share their experiences or exchange best practices in building a successful career and navigating a traditional patriarchal society. In addition, young women new to the workforce seldom have the opportunity to interact with successful women in a mentorship role.

On 29 March 2019, Konbit organized a *Business Link – For Women by Women* event to showcase women's dynamic initiatives in the work place and community. This event provided a space for deep discussion around key themes affecting women in Haiti, from cultural and historical references to practical everyday challenges.

Twenty women-led businesses attended this event and showcased their wares and services at booths set up for that purpose. Service oriented companies like FHADIMAC, ProUniq and GECA presented their offerings alongside crafts and food producers such as Sandilou, F&F Foods and Myabèl. This convivial atmosphere inspired networking and comradery.

Concurrent panel discussions were held on four main themes: Women in Politics, Women in the Private Sector, Women in the Non-Profit Sector and Self-Assertiveness in the Workplace. Men and women alike attended these two-hour sessions with well recognized panelists and moderators, experts in their respective fields.

Self-Assertiveness in the Workplace was led by Phaidra Laraque and Tim Valda Jean and moderated by Monique Manigat.

"The best way to break gender stereotypes is to educate our girls and boys to have respect and compassion."

—Phaidra Laraque, Psychologist.

Panelists Evelyne Bernard Chéron and Sabine Manigat joined the panelists in Women in the Private Sector (Regine René Labrousse, Gaelle Rivière Wulff, Alice Nkunzimana and Christine Jacques) in a lively debate on subjects relating to women's role and place in Haiti's social and economic development.

"We should always remember that while there is a universal element common to women's experiences, our culture has had a distinct and profound impact on women in Haiti."

—Sabine Manigat, Sociologist.



SUCCESS STORY

Konbit: Haitian Women Empowering Haitian Women



Nadine Louis, Margaret Lubin and Sahita Pierre-Antoine

Sahita Pierre-Antoine moderated the panel on Women in Non-Profits with Margaret Lubin and Nadine Louis.

“It is equally important to educate both staff and local communities on women’s rights and gender issues. Institutions have to ensure that their employees have the right tools and knowledge to integrate gender equality in their work.”

—Sahita Pierre-Antoine, Gender Specialist.

Feedback from the For Women by Women event has been resoundingly positive and encouraging. Clearly, there is a need and desire for deep and meaningful conversations on the challenges inherent to evolving gender roles and responsibilities in Haiti.