



Friends of  
**IFOSuD**

International Farmers' Organization  
for Sustainable Development



Photo taken from Washington Post article.<sup>6</sup>

## IFOSUD'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As of April 22nd, Haiti has performed 642 tests, has 62 positive cases, 4 deaths, and 2 recoveries.<sup>1</sup> They have 100 ventilators for 11 million residents, reports the New York Times.<sup>2</sup> Haiti reported its first positive COVID-19 test on March 19th, followed by a health emergency nationwide. Schools, universities, all places of worship, and all ports of entry (air, land, and sea) were closed.<sup>3</sup> On March 27th Reuters reported, "The director of one of Haiti's top hospitals was kidnapped on Friday, prompting staff to refuse to take in new patients in protest."<sup>4</sup> On March 31st it was reported that doctors and hospital staff were refusing to come to work, saying they did not have the supplies or PPE they needed.<sup>5</sup> Haiti renewed its state of health emergency for another month on April 19th. Everything will remain closed, but they will reopen the factories at 30% workforce. They also declared a food emergency and are encouraging short cycle crops. It was also expressed that the citizens think the government is lying to them about the disease being in the country.<sup>3</sup> Along with unbelief are strange methods for keeping yourself safe from COVID-19. John Draxton heard firsthand one of the nationwide rumors: find a hair in your Bible, boil it in water, and drink the water. Then you will be safe.

We will probably never have accurate COVID-19 data for Haiti, however we do have an incredible team on the ground. IFOSuD is very aware of the community's attitudes and its needs. Josue sees an incredible opportunity to help physically and spiritually. He says, "As God still reigns, and his love never falls asleep, what He promises us remains true forever. Hence we should remain obedient to God's promises while respecting his rules established by human authorities." He understands that for many people, staying at home and ceasing all economic activity is *voluntary suicide* because they will starve at home. Many don't have close access to clean drinking water and no soaps. IFOSuD has the desire to conduct awareness campaigns across all IFOSuD communities, acquire and distribute hygienic kits and food kits, distribute evangelism brochures specific to this circumstance, and acquire and distribute audio Bibles. Josue says, "A message of hope is what the population is waiting for! Let's bring a pluri-dimension of Hope to the hopeless!" What an incredible Gospel outreach opportunity!

*"A message of hope is what the population is waiting for! Let's bring a pluri-dimension of Hope to the hopeless!"*

- Josue Cesar, IFOSuD president

Already IFOSuD has distributed over 100 kits while sharing the hope of the Gospel message! IFOSuD has also continued working with our farmers in planting and harvesting, attempting to continue to provide food for the communities as the Prime Minister of Haiti is encouraging. Already this April IFOSuD has assisted farmers in planting corn, okra, and sweet potatoes. It is vital that we continue to support agriculture during this food emergency. Please, support Friends of IFOSuD at this time as we continue to fund these activities through the general funds.

# First Graduation in Jeremie!



On March 15th, 27 graduates from Paroty, Haiti graduated! This is the first IFOSuD graduation in the Jeremie area. The graduates proudly wore the new green and gold graduation gowns purchased for IFOSuD.

It was a grand celebration, but it came with great difficulty. The country was experiencing increased gang activity. Travel was very dangerous, and kidnappings were on the rise. However, the Lord provided safe passage for the IFOSuD team to Jeremie.

Hundreds of friends and family of the graduates attended. They joined together worshipping the Lord and hearing the Gospel message. We can gladly report that Fito, a graduate of IFOSuD and IFOSuD farm employee, finally accepted Jesus at this event!! We are so grateful for what the Lord has been doing in his life, and now he will be a great witness to his friends and family!

The area of Paroty was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew and is still recovering. Many families have not even been able to repair their roofs yet. IFOSuD has interviewed several families and is trying to work with them to see how to help them in this dire situation. Continue to pray for the staff and the beneficiaries as they deal with such stressful and serious concerns. Pray that God grants IFOSuD wisdom and even funds to complete the roofs and share the Gospel message with these families.

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ would be shared and received during this time.
- IFOSuD would be able to continue reaching out and assisting beneficiaries and communities during the lock down.
- The health of IFOSuD staff and communities.
- Good weather yielding bountiful harvests.
- FFH program would begin to take shape.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm\\_campaign=homeAdUOA?Si#countries](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm_campaign=homeAdUOA?Si#countries)

<sup>2</sup> Marsh, Sarah and Paultre, Andre. "Haitian Source Says Three Deportees From U.S. Have Coronavirus." Reuters, April 20, 2020, [www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-haiti-deportation/haitian-source-says-three-deportees-from-u-s-have-coronavirus-idUSKBN222217](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-haiti-deportation/haitian-source-says-three-deportees-from-u-s-have-coronavirus-idUSKBN222217)

<sup>3</sup> Geffrard, Robinson. "The State of Health Emergency." Le Nouvelliste, April 20, 2020, [lenouvelliste.com/article/215043/letat-durgence-sanitaire-sera-renouvele-pour-un-mois-supplementaire-en-haiti?fbclid=IwAR2aymtQxSnYOAeANo976JFEoD-VvcLPSeHoN-aSnvr5wKHT9Rxj8m-8OGs](http://lenouvelliste.com/article/215043/letat-durgence-sanitaire-sera-renouvele-pour-un-mois-supplementaire-en-haiti?fbclid=IwAR2aymtQxSnYOAeANo976JFEoD-VvcLPSeHoN-aSnvr5wKHT9Rxj8m-8OGs)

<sup>4</sup> Paultre, Andre and Sanon, Robenson. "Haiti hospital chief kidnapped amid coronavirus emergency." Reuters, March 27, 2020, [www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-haiti/haiti-hospital-chief-kidnapped-amid-coronavirus-emergency-idUSKBN21F011](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-haiti/haiti-hospital-chief-kidnapped-amid-coronavirus-emergency-idUSKBN21F011)

<sup>5</sup> Lemaire, Sandra and Vilme, Matiado. VOA News. March 31, 2020, [www.voanews.com/science-health/coronavirus-outbreak/haiti-doctors-flee-state-run-hospital-avoid-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR0eJY6WqXbNcq9JSkirEjOWrcQKWOFXCP\\_LhktZGo3WpVVVoDVb6QEULD8CM](http://www.voanews.com/science-health/coronavirus-outbreak/haiti-doctors-flee-state-run-hospital-avoid-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR0eJY6WqXbNcq9JSkirEjOWrcQKWOFXCP_LhktZGo3WpVVVoDVb6QEULD8CM)

<sup>6</sup> Constable, Pamela. "Haiti Has a Tragic History of Disasters. Will Covid-19 Be Next?" The Washington Post, April 24, 2020, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/haiti-has-a-tragic-history-of-disasters-will-covid-19-be-next/2020/04/24/d7b5320a-849d-11ea-81a3-9690c9881111\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/haiti-has-a-tragic-history-of-disasters-will-covid-19-be-next/2020/04/24/d7b5320a-849d-11ea-81a3-9690c9881111_story.html)