

Voices of Resilience

Haitian Women and the Path to Empowerment

Objective:

Students will explore the stories of Haitian women in the CLM program, understand the concept of self-empowerment, and analyze how it creates systemic change in families and communities.

Materials Needed:

- CLM participant stories. See: [Steve Werlin's blog](#)
- Whiteboard/chart paper
- Student journals

Lesson Plan (45 min)

1. Hook (5 min)

Ask: "What does *empowerment* mean to you?"

Write answers on the board.

2. Mini-Lesson: CLM Program Overview (10 min)

Briefly introduce the CLM program using the summary and images provided at the end.

- Run by Fonkoze in Haiti in partnership with Mercy Focus on Haiti
- Helps ultra-poor women gain financial independence and life stability
- Provides vocational training, home building, education, and confidence coaching

3. Story Circle: Haitian Women's Voices (15 min)

Break students into small groups. Give each group a woman's story to read (real or composite). Ask them to identify:

- What challenges she faced
- What support she received
- What steps she took to empower herself
- The impact on her family/community

Each group shares a 2-minute summary.

4. Reflect & Connect (10 min)

Ask:

- What does *resilience* look like in these stories?

- How did empowerment ripple out beyond one woman?
Students write a short reflection in their journals connecting this to a time they saw or experienced personal or community empowerment.

5. Close (5 min)

Exit ticket: Write one sentence about how the Mercy value of **standing with women** is reflected in the CLM story.

MFOH's CLM Program Summary & Images of Graduates

Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM), also known as Pathway to a Better Life, is a comprehensive approach to eliminating acute poverty. CLM reaches out to those on the margins of society. Throughout the 18-month program implemented by Fonkoze and funded by Mercy Focus on Haiti, case managers support clients as they learn to run a small business, repair their homes, and access health care and education services. Participants develop both their capacity and their confidence until they have their own functioning microenterprises.

Mercy Focus on Haiti was introduced to CLM in 2015. In 2017 the first group of 200 women we sponsored began its journey along a pathway to a better life. Caseworkers and the regional leaders identify ultra-poor families, interviewed the women, and prepared them to participate in the program.

Throughout the program, participants learn how to run a small business, repair their homes, access health care, and send their children to school.

The women are given the tools listed below and guidance in how to use them:

- assets to establish two income-generating activities, e.g., goats, chickens, merchandise to sell
- materials to build a modest home with a sturdy roof and floor, and a latrine
- a small cash stipend that allows them to purchase food for the first six months
- access to free healthcare and training on how to use it
- Confidence-building, enterprise management, and life skills training

The requirements for graduation are:

- The family is “food secure”
- There are two income-generating activities
- The participant has an active savings account
- The participant’s children are able to attend school
- The participant has confidence in her abilities and a plan for her future.





