

Helping Moms Help Their Families

Students will learn how Haitian women in the CLM program help their families by learning new skills and building small businesses. They will explore what it means to be strong, brave, and a leader in their community.

Materials Needed:

- CLM participant stories See: [Steve Werlin's Blog](#)
- Large paper or whiteboard
- Drawing materials (paper, crayons/markers)
- “Empowerment Words” cards (brave, helper, smart, strong, leader, learner, etc.)

Lesson Plan (45 min)

1. Storytime: A Strong Haitian Mother (10 min)

Read aloud a short illustrated or simplified story based on a real or composite woman in the CLM program. Emphasize:

- What challenge she had (e.g., money, food, home)
- What help she got (e.g., learning to raise animals or sell food)
- How she helped her children and neighbors

Ask:

- What do you think made her strong?
- How do you think she felt when her business started helping her family?
- In what ways was she able to help her family?

2. Class Discussion: What Is Empowerment? (10 min)

On the board, write the word **empowerment**. Ask:

- What do you think that word means?
- What are ways people can be helpers in their families or neighborhoods?

Use “Empowerment Words” cards to guide the conversation. Let students pick a word that describes the woman from the story.

3. Art Activity: Picture of a Helper (15 min)

Students draw a picture of someone being empowered (e.g., the Haitian mother, their own mom, teacher, or themselves helping others). Under the picture, they write one sentence using an empowerment word (e.g., “She is a strong helper because she helps her family.”)

4. Share Circle (5 min)

Invite 3–5 students to share their drawing and explain their empowerment word.

5. Closing Reflection (5 min)

Ask: “How can *you* be a helper like the mom in the story?”

Students write or draw one small way they can help their family or friends this week.

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.





Jeanette Cress, a Bontik Sante owner, reaches for a product to sell to one of her clients.



