



## Member Profile

The CLM Program entered Silianise Orvius' life at a very opportune time—when she was eight months pregnant with her second child. For many ultra poor women in Haiti, pregnancy and childbirth render them extremely vulnerable—not only physically but also economically. The physical demands of childbirth and motherhood hamper livelihoods activities and accordingly, the family's income.

Even before she became pregnant, Silianise's economic activities in her community of DeKasye were limited. She made some attempts at small commerce but it never amounted to much. And so, she, her

husband, and her four-year-old son struggled. They lived in a rough hut covered with an old pearl millet thatch roof, and they did not have a latrine. They often went hungry.

The challenges she and her husband faced were not new to her. Silianise's mother died when she was 13 months old. Life was not easy growing up. She did receive some support from relatives and was able to complete a few years of primary school, when she learned to read. Fortunately, she never stopped practicing and at 24 years old, she can still read and write.

Silianise's dogged determination has already helped her to make strides in the CLM Program. At the outset of the program, she was caring for her newborn son, so her husband attended trainings in her place. Together, the two of them have since begun construction on a two-room house; they have completed building a latrine; and they are caring for two goats and a pig they received through the CLM Program. These livestock will serve as a new income generating activity for the family.

Silianise says, "I can see my life changing each day I wake up... CLM has given me the push I needed to work to get myself out of [poverty]; I love CLM."