



CITATION

for Humanitarian Action

Solar Lighting in Martissant

Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

PhoScope

Nathalie Rozot



In the Martissant district of Port-au-Prince, informal settlements are home to about 50,000 residents. Falls in darkness cause many health casualties, and FOKAL – the nonprofit in charge of the area’s development for the government – undertook an electrification project that required lighting expertise.

The lighting proposition included off-grid lighting solutions on three distinct scales: streetlights for major streets and public areas; solar kits for pathways (normally intended to illuminate building interiors); and portable lights for inside and outside homes. The proposal was approved by FOKAL and residents, and sample products were purchased following diligent market research and analysis, product testing, and vendor vetting.

The community identified all locations and provided contractors. In the pilot phase, a dozen streetlights were installed in three playgrounds and one road, along with 30 pathway systems. A loan-based “Solar Library” was also launched with 30 portable solar fixtures for youth and children to borrow from the local library.

The initial budget furnished about 500 installed products altogether, through 2017. Vandalism is minimal and satisfaction ratings are high. The 2018 project expansion includes additional products and lighting workshops to support the knowledge and artistic needs of Martissant’s residents of all ages.

OWNER

La Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL)

Michèle Pierre-Louis, President

SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Concepteurs Lumière Sans Frontières (cLSF)

Isabelle Corten, President
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FOKAL

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David Dérosier
Rolando Etienne
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Centre Culturel Katherine Dunham (CCKD) Library

Islande Baptiste, Director

Residents

COGEBAT (utility)
and all project participants

“In areas like Martissant, our lighting expertise is like food — nutrition is more helpful than designer spices.”

— Nathalie Rozot