

Groupe d'Accord Solidarité Action (GASA), Desarmes



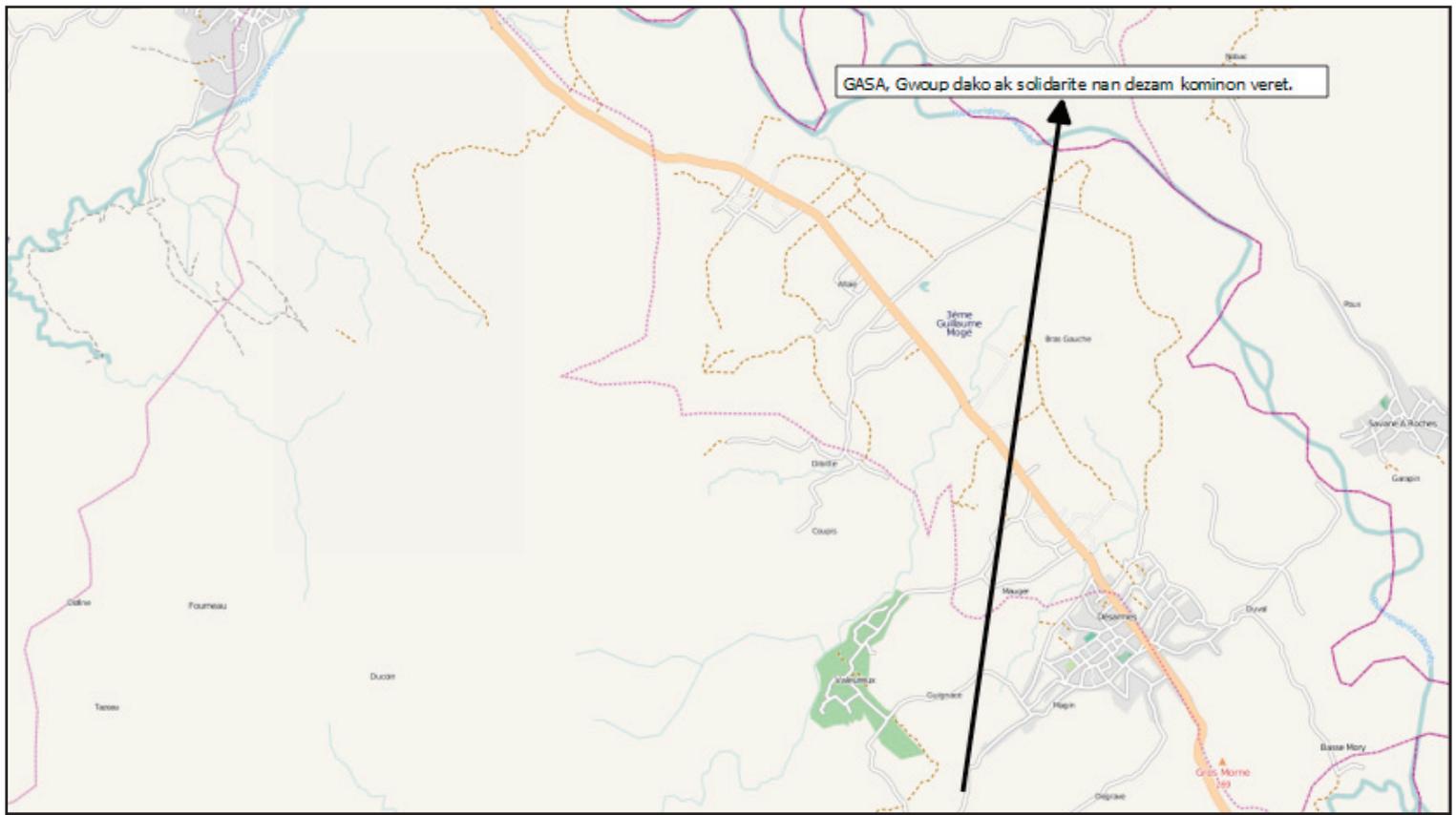
Department: Artibonite

Groupe d'Accord Solidarité Action (GASA) is a vocational training school in the town of Desarmes, located in the Artibonite valley. Since 2008 it has worked to train community members in a number of professional activities while accentuating business entrepreneurship and community development.



What can other communities learn from GASA?

* Using community resources to create a vocational training school



History of the organization

In 2008 a group of young university students returned to their hometown in Desarmes to establish a vocational training school by the name of Groupe d'Accord Solidarité Action (GASA). GASA established itself in the abandoned installations of a school that had ceased to exist. During the first few years, the founders of the school volunteered their time and invested their own money to offer a small number of vocational training courses. With time, the school opened their doors to more students and through a greater range of classes including plumbing, masonry, agronomy, and automobile mechanics.

Summary of the work

Every course at GASA combines a series of trainings on business management and mentorships for those students wanting to open a business. Additionally, the students are required to take a class on community development in order to reflect on strategies to contribute back to society.

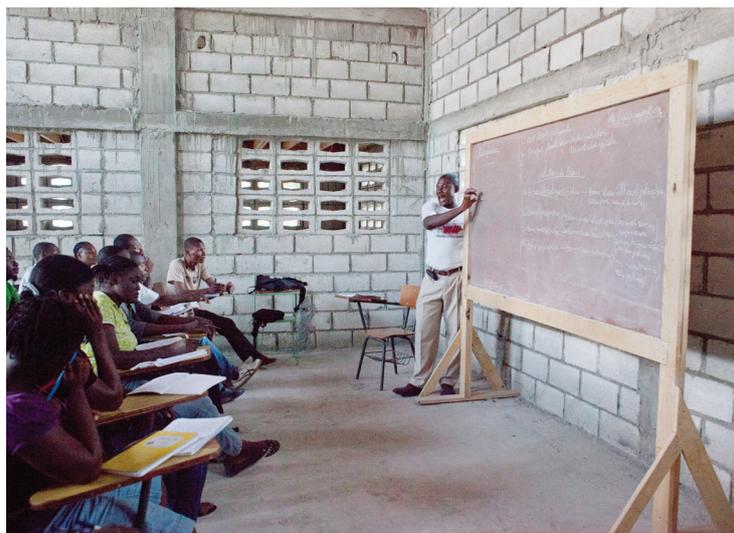
The GASA School believes strongly in practical learning. It counts with a 5-acre demonstrations garden with a transformation center and a building workshop where masons are exposed to anti-seismic building techniques.

GASA has only recently found support from a small number of partners that has allowed it to begin paying the teachers, which had previously worked on a voluntary basis.

What can other communities learn from GASA?

GASA clearly has a strategy for how to run a robust vocational training school using community resources, as well as a pedagogy that provides important tools to its graduates for their success in the job market.

GASA has also developed a curriculum that ensures that its graduates are conscious on the importance of giving back to their communities, something many centers of education throughout Haiti could benefit from.



Groupe D'accord Solidarité Action GASA



**Projet : Formation Professionnelle
et du Renouveau Economique de Desarmes**

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