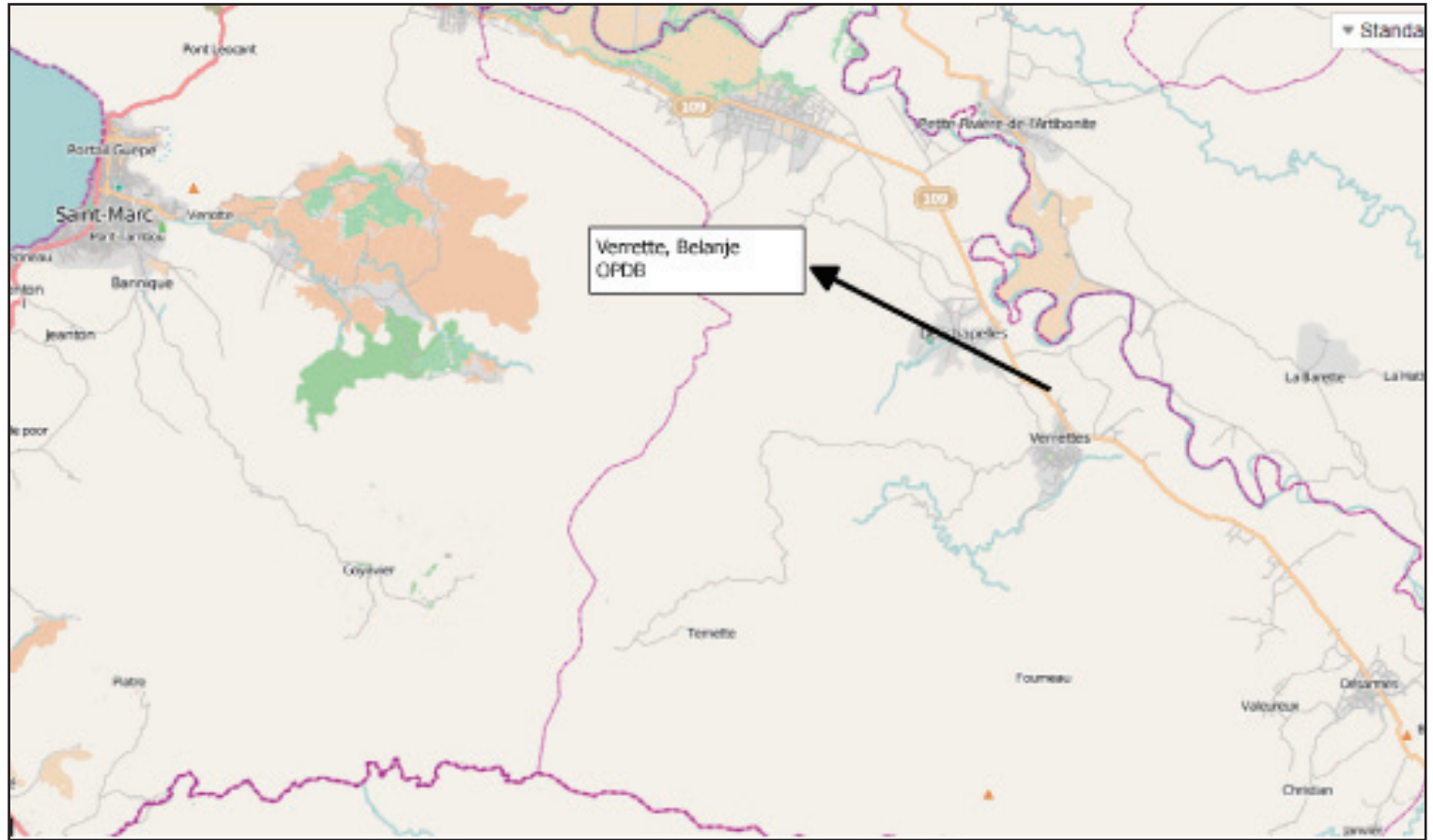


Belanje is a community in the Veret commune, on the road from St. Mark and Mirbalais. It has a dynamic organization that works in the agriculture and potable water sector, as well as a community runned soccer school that has come a long way.



What can other communities learn from Belanje?

- * Agricultural support for farmers
- * Vocational training for youth
- * Organization of potable water system
- * Community soccer school



History of the community

Belanje is a community in the commune of Verettes, on the road from St Marc to Mirebalais. The area is a fertile agricultural area, with the area being divided into 6 farms, on which there are 46 settlements. The community has a spring in the mountains above the farming area, and an irrigation canal for each farm.

Summary of the work

Belanje is a community, which is home to a dynamic organization that works both in supporting the area's farmers and managing a system of potable water for the community, and is home to an incredibly successful community-supported football academy. OPDP (Organisation of the Peasants for the Development of Belanje) has only existed since 2010, but it already has 187 members and works in many domains: it has a youth section, where it provides professional training for the young men and women of Belanje; a women's section, in which it provides trainings and organizes community service activities and financial solidarity activities; it has a construction sector, where they send youth to learn anti-seismic construction; and they have a farmer's section, who use konbit to clean the area's irrigation canals, and for which OPDP provides access to subsidized seeds, a roto-tiller, and a community marketplace.

Working in partnership with OPDP is COPDPPD, which is responsible for clean water in the community. They assessed the poor state of clean water and sanitation in the area and decided to write a plan to resolve it. They got the support of an organization called Helveticas Haiti, and were able to protect and capture a local spring and feed it into 2 cisterns and 5 community water points where they distribute clean water and collect community fees (10 gourdes a week) to maintain it. They are also currently building community toilets with Helveticas.

Belanje is also home to a community football academy which is supported by community contributions (and contributions from the farmer's cooperative), and is so successful that it currently has two of its alumni playing for Haiti's national football team.





What can other communities learn from Belanje?

OPDP has experience in each of the domains it works: for agriculture, it has developed a methodology of offering services to rural farmers and organizing in-kind payments in a way that all groups benefit. For its women's collective, it has experience organizing micro-finance groups. For its youth and construction sector, it has experience in organizing professional training, especially in anti-seismic construction. Its partner COPDPPD has experience in organizing community clean water systems, and the community soccer field has decades of experience in training young people in sportsmanship and civic education.

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