



LA GONÂVE
= HAITI =
PARTNERS

Hunger on La Gonave

Monthly Newsletter November 2025

On the small island of La Gonave, the landscape struggles to feed all of its residents. Now, refugees from the mainland are escaping a violent situation and seeking safety on La Gonave. Travel restrictions and people moving to the island apply pressure on a fractured local economy.

Food is one of the biggest problems on the island. There is not enough fertile land, so most food comes from mainland Haiti. Shipping routes are dangerous—people are rerouting to different ports to avoid thieves. Just a few days before Hurricane Melissa passed, a sailboat carrying supplies to La Gonave was intercepted.

Luckily, Melissa did not do any significant damage to Haiti. However, the rainy weather left communities on the island without any sun, so there was no solar energy, no electricity, and no internet. The market continues to function as usual, but prices are skyrocketing.



The market in Anse-a-Galets after Hurricane Melissa



Market vendors selling produce grown on La Gonave

Many refugees are coming from Montrouis, a town on the mainland north of Wahoo Bay Resort. Bandits forced many families to abandon their homes. The refugees that St. Francis has received come from St. Paul's Episcopal Church there. Most of them do not have family on the island, but they have no choice other than to leave Montrouis.

One family enrolled their two children at St. Francis school because they don't know when they will be able to come back to their home.

The way through these unforeseen challenges is to continually build resilience. Access to emergency relief funds, as well as improving self-reliance in the long term, helps La Gonave navigate ever-changing circumstances. \$4,492 in emergency funds were wired to La Gonave this week to help. They will be used in one of two ways: The parish will select 100 families/widows across 10 communities and give each of them 5,000 Gourdes (\$38). Alternatively, they will use the money to purchase food like rice, peas, and oil to send to those selected.

With families struggling to keep stomachs full, free lunches are so important. To counteract supply issues, Pere Vil is buying lunch supplies in bulk. They are stored in Anse-à-Galets and trucked out to schools in the other 10 communities. They mainly order rice, beans, and cooking oil. When possible, the two parish gardens supplement with crops like cassava, plantains, corn, and sweet potatoes.

School lunch prices have spiked. Last school year, it cost \$3.06 to feed a student for a month; this year, the cost is \$3.84, resulting in an additional \$18,000 needed for the year.



A truck loaded up to deliver all this good food!

For the 2025-26 school year, there are a total of 2,260 students enrolled across the 11 schools in the parish. Enrollment numbers have grown from last year, and there are two first-grade classes that need an extra teacher because there are too many students.

Free school lunches alleviate food costs for families. For many students, these meals are the only reliable ones they have. With all of the struggles facing La Gonâve right now, our partnership is working hard to make sure thousands of students will continue to be fed a hot, nutritious meal each day.



Oil and rice bought in bulk



Lunch time in Trou-Jaques

Our Annual Fund campaign begins November 24th with a goal to raise \$75,000. Annual Fund gifts provide flexibility to help in the areas of greatest need that exist on La Gonâve. Over the next six weeks, we'll share special content on Instagram and Facebook; your likes, follows, and shares can have a huge impact on the campaign's success. As 2025 comes to an end, please consider making a gift to support our amazing partners in Haiti!