

# FEJ OUR CALL TO ACTION CLIMATE CHANGE



## STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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In the face of the relentless challenge of climate change, our mission at Fondation Enfant Jeunesse (FEJ) is not only about providing immediate aid but also about fostering long-term resilience and sustainability within the communities we serve in Haiti, the USA, Canada, and Europe. Over the past 30 years, FEJ has been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change, impacting thousands of lives through comprehensive education, health, social, and economic programs. Our commitment to inclusivity and empowerment is unwavering, regardless of race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, or political association.

Our educational programs annually support 525 children, providing not just primary education but also basic medical care and nutritional support. In the realm of health, we have made significant strides with our community clinic facilitating over 7,000 patient visits a year, and extensive outreach programs that educate and support thousands in HIV/AIDS prevention, basic hygiene care, and the importance of clean water. Our social initiatives have brought clean drinking water and access to electricity to hundreds of families, while our economic empowerment programs have benefited over 500 women since 2007.

A cornerstone of our approach to resilience and sustainability is our investment in green building practices, as exemplified by the FEJ Children's Center. This initiative, undertaken in the aftermath of natural disasters that have recurrently devastated Haiti, stands as a testament to our belief in the power of resilient design. The FEJ Children's Center, aimed at constructing a model of sustainable and resilient construction, is meant to serve as a community lifeline in times of crisis.

The philosophy driving the FEJ Children's Center is grounded in the reality of Haiti's vulnerability to natural disasters, compounded by the socio-economic challenges it faces. By embracing LEED Platinum and WELL-certified standards, we aim to demonstrate that resilience is not merely about withstanding the immediate impact of disasters but about building a foundation that enables communities to thrive in spite of them. The project incorporates critical elements such as net-zero energy and water use, a robust structure capable of enduring seismic events, and facilities that ensure continuity of essential services during emergencies.

Our journey with the FEJ Children's Center has redefined our understanding of what a resilient building entails. It has underscored the importance of simplicity, durability, and maintenance ease in construction, ensuring that the buildings can serve their purpose without imposing additional burdens on the communities they are meant to support.

The impact of the FEJ Children's Center extends beyond its physical footprint. It has sparked a broader conversation about resilience, sustainability, and the role of architecture in addressing climate change. It challenges us to rethink our relationship with the environment and our approach to development, urging us to consider not just the immediate needs but the long-term well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

As we move forward, FEJ remains committed to our core values of service, inclusivity, and sustainability. We recognize that the fight against climate change is a collective endeavor, requiring the collaboration of communities, organizations, and governments worldwide. Through initiatives like the FEJ Children's Center and our ongoing programs, we aim to inspire action, foster resilience, and contribute to a sustainable future for all.

**Gina Ferrus CEO and Co-Founder, FEJ Global**

