

Haiti

# Rebuilding together



Unifor  
Social  
Justice  
Fund

[www.unifor.org/sjf](http://www.unifor.org/sjf)



The SJF also makes a meaningful contribution to rebuilding and development efforts post-disaster, always with the lens of social justice and improving human rights.

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti was a humanitarian catastrophe, killing 160,000 people and displacing as many as 1.5 million others. When the 7.0 earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, it flattened entire neighbourhoods, striking a terrifying blow to already crumbling infrastructure. The earthquake also left many people with permanent disabilities which altered their mobility, making accessing public transit impossible.

The Unifor Social Justice Fund partnered with disability rights and development organization, Handicap International, to tackle the issue of public transportation for people with disabilities, living in Port-au-Prince.

**The project had three main components - building a tap-tap (public transportation bus) that would be accessible for people with disabilities, an accessible station and create greater awareness among transportation drivers, city planners and staff about the importance of accessibility measures.**

Handicap International held a several months-long contest among teams from local vocational schools to design an accessible tap-tap. The design had to be based on universal accessibility standards. For students, the project created the opportunity to gain real skills in the service of their community, while the contest raised awareness about disabilities and inclusion. The teams were supported with technical advice, including from Handicap International. Once a winner was chosen by the jury, work began immediately to put the concepts into practice and start adapting the tap-taps for the 'dignity bus.'

In collaboration with state officials and disability rights groups, a site was chosen for the accessible station and construction could begin. As part of the project, Handicap International organized and delivered awareness programs for transit drivers, city's managers and technical staff. The project also received strong support from the transit drivers' union.

