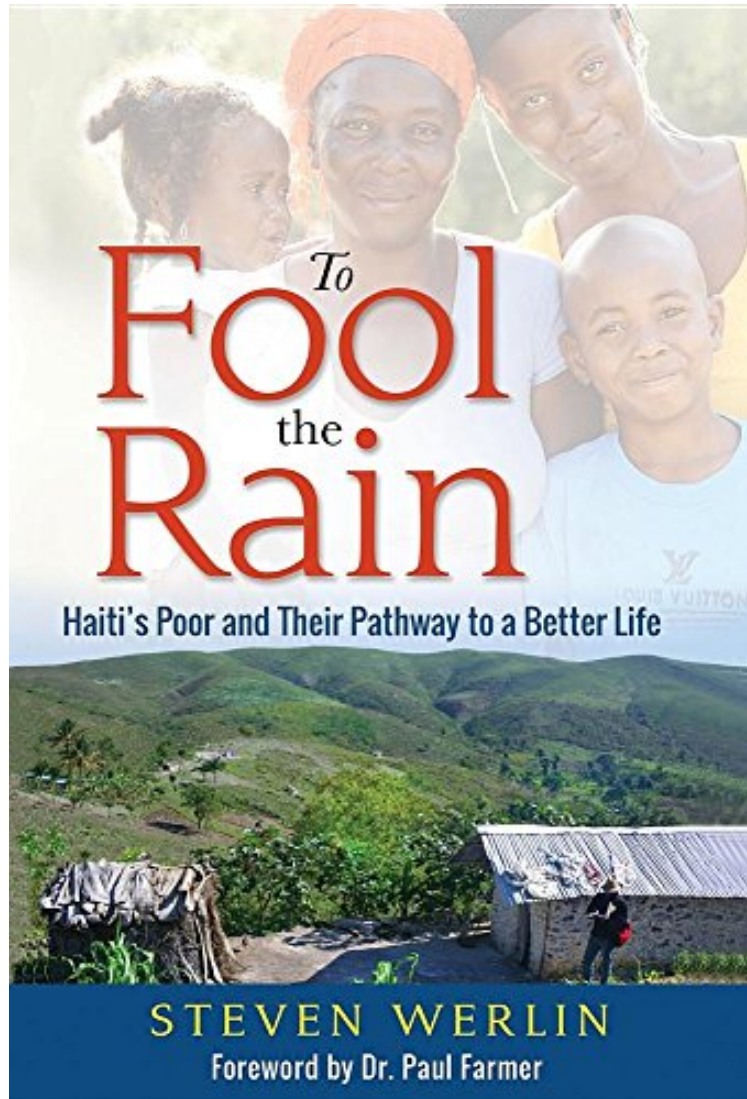


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## To Fool the Rain: Haiti's Poor and Their Pathway to a Better Life

*Steven Werlin*

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**Steven Werlin : To Fool the Rain: Haiti's Poor and Their Pathway to a Better Life** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Fool the Rain: Haiti's Poor and Their Pathway to a Better Life:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on Fonkoze's microfinance in Haiti...By Brian A. LovettDiana and I have been faithful supporters of Fonkoze for many years. My wife has participated in 35 - 2-week medical missions in Haiti. We have witnessed the establishment and growth of Fonkoze - and it's tremendous continuing success! We both feel this is a wonderful book describing some of their successes and the continuing

challenges involved with introducing Fonkoze to new communities, families, and individuals. We strongly believe Fonkoze is truly one of the few long-term solutions to help the people of Haiti and the author is providing very candid views of their programs and challenges. We recommend reading this book to gain an understanding why Fonkoze is so beneficial for the Haitian people. Brian Diana Lovett 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written story of how a proven method to combat extreme poverty was adapted to Haiti By Alex Counts Steve Werlin has an uncanny ability to see the world through the eyes of rural Haitian women struggling to overcome extreme poverty. In this book he not only tells their stories based on his years of work in this troubled nation, but also the methods and learnings from implementing a proven approach to helping them get on their feet. The program, called "Pathway to a Better Life" was adapted by an organization called Fonkoze from a successful program in Bangladesh. This is not just the story of marginalized women taking charge of their lives, but also how social innovations are transplanted and adapted. It is beautifully written, divided into 27 reader-friendly (short) chapters. It takes the reader on a journey that is ultimately hopeful but grounded in the reality of what it takes to make something work in a very harsh environment. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I can see how the people there love him as he loves them By Caroline Wischmann Having been to Haiti and visited with many of the struggling women there, I found "To Fool The Rain" to be so accurate and perfectly descriptive about what is happening. It is such a personal story and reveals his caring, sensitive nature. I can see how the people there love him as he loves them. It takes a special kind of person to give up so much of his comfortable life to dedicate it to helping such deserving people. A wonderful read.

To Fool the Rain thoughtfully chronicles Steven Werlin's journey with Fonkoze, but it is also the story of Fonkoze itself. Presented in vivid detail are the lived experiences of Mirlene, Micheline, Ti Rizib, Monique, Rose Marthe, Alta, and other Chemen Lavi MiyO participants, who have benefited in many ways from this remarkable program. As Werlin makes clear in To Fool the Rain, there is no single pathway to a better life. The stories of each of these women are the stories of Fonkoze: individual beginnings, challenges, and successes bound together by the themes that pattern life in rural Haiti. Lacking social safety nets, the poor in Haiti and elsewhere face ongoing and catastrophic cycles of poverty and disease. Fonkoze's pioneering work in solidarity with Haiti's poor has been a crucial step in disrupting such cycles. Fonkoze's model, particularly its Chemen Lavi MiyO program, offers a path to security and hope for marginalized women. - From the foreword by Dr. Paul Farmer

"In To Fool the Rain, Werlin limns pragmatic partnerships to end needless suffering, and gives encouragement and practical inspiration to all those who would seek to do the same." - From the foreword by Dr. Paul Farmer "I want to congratulate the staff and the thousands of CLM participants on their successes - and Steven Werlin for capturing not only the dignity of these women, but also the essence of how this program transforms lives." - Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson, BRAC "Werlin reminds us that the work of human development is ultimately about humans, and that we in government or the international aid community, in order to be more effective, must know and communicate with the people we aim to serve." - Gerald Oriol, Jr., Haiti's Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities "To Fool The Rain should be required reading for anyone who has either dreamed or doubted that a poverty-free world is achievable, or wondered what it would actually take to realize that ideal." - Alex Counts, Founder, the Grameen Foundation "In To Fool the Rain, Steven is able to capture so eloquently and respectfully, the day-to-day lives and struggles of these brave women. It is a prayer lifted on their behalf." - Garcelle Beauvais, Actress, author, and talk show host "From the Author" "The existence of extreme poverty is unconscionable. On one hand, ultra poor people around the world live miserable lives. On the other, there is a problem with a proven solution. I encourage people to read the book to look boldly at both sides." - Steven Werlin, Author of To Fool the Rain From the Back Cover "Werlin reminds us that the work of human development is ultimately about humans, and that we in government or the international aid community, in order to be more effective, must know and communicate with the people we aim to serve." - Gerald Oriol, Jr., Haiti's Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities