



Batey Relief Alliance

Empowering Women in Agriculture

— Dominican Republic —



When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

PSALM 34:17



We are a Catholic ministry

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



Project Synopsis

Description

This project will empower marginalized women by providing the resources they need to start small businesses in farming and animal husbandry.

Purpose

To help deeply impoverished women support their children, establish economic independence and escape the crushing cycle of poverty.

Our Partners

Batey Relief Alliance.

Location

Monte Plata Province, Dominican Republic.

Cost

\$60,000 will provide 46 women with \$200 low-interest loans and in-kind items such as seeds, fertilizers and veterinary medicines. It will also cover the cost of skills training and technical support.

Highlights

- Many poor Haitian migrants move to the Dominican Republic in search of a better life. Unfortunately, they often struggle to find gainful employment and end up settling in rural slum communities called “bateyes.”
- The women in these communities are at a particular disadvantage. Cut off from education and economic opportunities, they lack the resources to improve their crumbling homes or send their children to school.
- By providing women with small-business loans, we can help them start small, lucrative businesses that will improve their standard of living and create a brighter future for their children.
- The women can either pay off their loans in monthly installments or in one final sum at the end of the 11-month loan cycle. Loans carry an interest rate of just 2%.
- Each beneficiary will participate in a facilitated networking opportunity with local buyers, as well as training sessions on relevant subjects that will help maximize their productivity and benefit.
- Local priests and nuns from the Catholic Parish of San Antonio de Padua will conduct six faith-based workshops that encourage faith in Christ and inspire newly empowered women to engage in acts of charity toward their neighbors in need. Additional trainings will center on the concept of “faith in action,” inspiring women to become servant leaders within their communities.





Lacking access to education and job opportunities, women in the bateyes face many daily hardships.

The Need

Desperate to improve their lives, many poor Haitians cross the border to the Dominican Republic with hopes of accessing better employment opportunities and ultimately working their way out of poverty. Unfortunately, their dreams are often dashed. They struggle to find gainful employment, and with little money for food and no way to pay for a return trip to Haiti, many end up settling down in rural slums called bateyes. Most of these families remain trapped in dire poverty for generations to come.

Life can be particularly difficult for women caught in these circumstances. Cut off from educational opportunities and forced to do odd jobs to make ends meet, they typically lead extremely isolated lives and lack the resources to repair their crumbling homes or send their children to school. Gender-based violence is tragically common in these situations as some women are forced to rely on unstable men for financial support. Economic dependence sets them at risk for domestic abuse.

Without intervention, these women will likely remain in soul-crushing destitution for the rest of their lives — just as many of their mothers and grandmothers did before them. But today, we can change their circumstances and transform their lives. Join us as we empower an innovative nonprofit working to free women in the Dominican Republic's poorest areas from their anguish. Together, we can break the bonds of poverty and offer new hope in Christ's name and for his glory!



Ministry Description

Established in New York in 1997, Batey Relief Alliance (BRA) takes a collaborative approach to meeting the most urgent needs of the poor and empowering them to improve their living situations. By working directly with beneficiaries, as well as municipal government, the Church and other nonprofits, the organization has earned international recognition for uniting communities and creating lasting change.

BRA's comprehensive program addresses a variety of urgent needs, including community development. With a special emphasis on empowering women, the organization's microenterprise program can strengthen entire communities by first strengthening the hands of those most vulnerable.

Through Cross Catholic Outreach, BRA wants to provide 46 women in the bateyes with low-interest loans, as well as the resources and training they need to start their own small businesses. Some of the women will raise chickens, pigs, goats, rabbits or cows. Others will grow crops, such as peas, bananas, cocoa and pineapple. Still others will perform a combination of these activities. As they turn a profit, women can repay their loans in either monthly installments or one lump sum at the end of the 11-month cycle. Loan repayments will be used to provide either additional loans for borrowers in good standing or new loans for new borrowers.

Over the course of a year, participants will attend at least one networking event to connect with local buyers, as well as monthly workshops on relevant subjects such as best production practices, business management, budgeting and saving, health and hygiene, and gender-based violence prevention.

Surely, God wants to provide strength for impoverished women. These women are longing to build a brighter future for their children and someday escape the squalor of the slums — but they need your help to take the first step!



You can empower women who will usher their broken communities into a new era of strength and dignity.



With your help, mothers will be able to earn a reliable living and send their children to school. Their strength will set future generations on the path to success!

Help Now!

Throughout his time on earth, Jesus ministered directly to the needs of women. He brought hope to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). He extolled the faith of the woman who touched the hem of his garment, knowing that his power would bring her healing (Matthew 9:22). Over and over again, he erased the pain and shame these hurting women had endured for years...

Now, we have a chance to follow in his footsteps!

Your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach will set women on the path to a brighter future. It will give them the autonomy they need to buy basic necessities and send their children to school. It will allow them to repair their dilapidated homes and provide a better life for their children. It will also give them a priceless sense of achievement and confidence, affirming their worth in Christ and their role in his perfect plan.

Join us in emulating the kindness of Christ. Lift the weary heads of marginalized women, and help them discover their God-given purpose. Your generosity today will transform their lives and create enduring success for future generations!

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

2700 N. Military Trail • Suite 300 • PO Box 273908 • Boca Raton, Florida 33427-3908

800-914-2420 • CrossCatholic.org

@CrossCatholic @CrossCatholic @CrossCatholic /CrossCatholic Blog.CrossCatholic.org

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