



Vitafood Meals for the Hungry

— La Romana, Dominican Republic —



If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

ISAIAH 58:10



Executive Summary

Description

This project will send nutrient-rich Vitafood meals to nourish hungry families living in seriously impoverished communities.

Purpose

To reduce hunger and improve the health of at-risk children and families.

Location

La Romana, Dominican Republic.

Our Partner

Fundación Hospital El Buen Samaritano works to provide medical and nutritional support for thousands of patients each year through its hospital in La Romana and its mobile clinics in surrounding communities. It is also working to support a vast network of aid organizations throughout the Dominican Republic by distributing urgently needed resources.

Cost

\$120,000 will ship six 40-foot containers of Vitafood at \$20,000 a piece, providing **1,632,960 meals**. *Every dollar sends 14 meals!*

Highlights

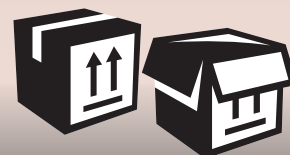
NEED

- The World Food Programme (WFP) reports that more than 40% of the Dominican Republic's population lives below the poverty line, with 10.4% living in extreme poverty.
- About 28% of Dominican children under the age of 5 suffer from anemia (WFP).
- Poverty is most severe in the country's **230 bateyes** — communities built on sugarcane plantations to house workers, many of whom are Haitian migrants and their descendants.

IMPACT

- Cross Catholic Outreach has been given access to millions of nutrient-rich meals called Vitafood — we just need the funds to ship them to feed the hungry!
- With your help, we can ship six 40-foot containers of Vitafood to Fundación Hospital El Buen Samaritano, our ministry partner in the Dominican Republic.
- Once our partner receives the shipments, it will distribute the meals to local church outreaches, nonprofits, social work centers and families living in the bateyes.
- **Altogether, these shipments will provide about 1,632,960 meals for the hungry!**

HOW It Works



Vitafood donated to
Cross Catholic Outreach



Vitafood shipped to distribution
partner Fundación Hospital
El Buen Samaritano



Vitafood distributed to
local feeding programs
that serve hungry families





The Need



Living in a batey, Ramona Felix (left) and her family have often eaten sugarcane to satiate their nagging hunger.

At first glance, the two countries on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola may seem like night and day. Haiti is known for financial gridlock, while the Dominican Republic has a growing middle-income economy. One is plagued by civil unrest. The other enjoys relative stability. Haiti struggles with the effects of deforestation. The Dominican Republic is known for its lush green countryside.

Catholic priests and lay workers are aware of these dramatically different images, but they work with a more complex reality: a poverty that exists without clear borders. In that sense, the two countries are intertwined.

Even though the Dominican Republic's reputation is characterized by resorts and pristine beaches, many of that country's farmers survive without basic infrastructure such as running water or paved roads, and they struggle to feed their families. Then there are the Haitian migrant workers who spill across the border looking for opportunity, but find little more than a different form of poverty and the toil of the sugarcane industry. Most of these families live in *bateyes* — collections of broken-down shacks adjacent to the fields where workers labor from dusk till dawn, cutting cane by hand with machetes. The reward for their efforts: the equivalent of a few dollars for a full day's work.

As they battle challenges caused by a lack of income, infrastructure and community resources, some poor households are fortunate if they can provide just one meal a day. The communities surrounding the city of La Romana are an example of this. Many of that area's children and families suffer from the devastating effects of malnourishment. Without proper meals, their ailing bodies cannot recover, children cannot develop properly, and families can easily fall prey to a crushing cycle of poverty.

In response to this crisis, trusted ministry partners like Fundación Hospital El Buen Samaritano are working to share the Lord's compassion with hungry families in dire need of nutrition — ***and you can play an instrumental role in their merciful mission.***

Join us today and provide hearty meals to the Dominican Republic's struggling families through Cross Catholic Outreach's Vitafood program!

What Is Vitafood?

Vitafood is the generic name for all of Cross Catholic Outreach's specially formulated meal packs designed to meet the needs of the malnourished. Though we receive Vitafood from different sources, each source develops the Vitafood with a rice, potato or lentil base, a protein (usually soy or beans) and key vitamins to energize, strengthen and improve the health of malnourished children and families. Vitafood is sealed in airtight packets not only to maximize shelf life, but also to fit the maximum number of meals into shipping containers bound for developing nations.





Give Generously



Each dollar you donate can ship about 14 meals to help feed hungry children in the bateyes.

To combat hunger in the Dominican Republic, Cross Catholic Outreach has a simple but effective plan: Vitafood.

Vitafood meal packs are loaded with vitamins and minerals and specially designed to meet the needs of the malnourished. Because Vitafood is donated to us, we only need to cover the cost of shipping to help these meals reach the hungry. **Your generosity can make that happen!**

With your help, we can ship six 40-foot containers of Vitafood to **Fundación Hospital El Buen Samaritano**, our trusted ministry partner in the Dominican Republic. The foundation will then distribute the shipments to local church ministries, outreaches, social work centers and individual families living in the bateyes. **Altogether, these distributions will provide 1,632,960 meals!**

Please — reach out with God’s love and answer the urgent prayers of hungry families today.

Nourish bodies and souls by sending nutritious meals in Christ’s name.

Our Mission

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

Good Stewardship

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.



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, 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