



Batey Relief Alliance

Empowering Women Through Agriculture

— Dominican Republic —



And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19



Executive Summary

Description

This project will empower marginalized women by providing the resources they need to start small agricultural businesses and build hope for the future.

Purpose

To help deeply impoverished women escape the crushing cycle of poverty so they can support their children, draw closer to God and come together to enhance their communities.

Location

Guazumita and Triple Ozama, two rural communities in the Dominican Republic.

Cost

\$90,000 will provide 50 women with \$500 low-interest loans and necessary supplies such as seeds, fertilizers and veterinary medicines. Also included are program and personnel costs for providing skills training, ongoing support and spiritual formation.

Highlights

NEED

- For decades, poor Haitians migrated to the Dominican Republic and moved into impoverished communities called bateyes that originally formed around sugarcane mills.
- These rural communities have become some of the poorest in the country, with residents cut off from basic services and living in dilapidated homes.
- Women are particularly vulnerable, raising children in extreme poverty because they have no education or job skills.

IMPACT

- The ministry team will identify 50 women who are committed to receiving small loans and starting agriculture businesses.
- With proper training and networking events with local buyers, the beneficiaries will earn money to improve the standard of living for themselves and their children.
- A local parish will inspire the beneficiaries with faith-based workshops, and the ministry will train women to become servant leaders in efforts to improve their communities.



Women raising children in destitute rural communities need our help to emerge from poverty.



Rural families in the Dominican Republic struggle to make it through each day.

The Need: Families Without Hope

Sadly, dire poverty has ensnared rural families in the Dominican Republic for decades and is now worsening, leaving many children to grow up without hope.

Hope is essential to life, so church leaders in the country are heartbroken by the plight of these rural families. Too often, struggling parents see no way to improve their lives, and their children grow up having no concept of the God-given gifts they possess.

Their rural communities, called bateyes, formed throughout the 20th century as poor Haitians crossed the border into the Dominican Republic to take low-paying jobs in sugarcane fields. They had no legal rights, so they lived quietly in cramped and dilapidated homes that had no electricity or running water. Without documentation, the workers were treated poorly and had no access to better-paying jobs.

Their hopes and dreams were further dashed by a major hurricane in 1998 and a reduction in the country's sugar industry. Although their already substandard living conditions worsened, they did not have funds to return to Haiti and had no hope of a better life if they did return. As a result, families stayed in the bateyes and became trapped in generational poverty.

Life can be particularly difficult for women in these impoverished areas. 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, so women are forced to rely on unstable men for financial support. This 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 empower them with income-producing agriculture businesses that will transform their lives — and the lives of their children!

With your support, these women can break the bonds of poverty and experience the love of our Lord in their lives!



Give Generously and Transform Lives!

Excitement is building in the bateyes of Guazumita and Triple Ozama. The women there have lived without hope for many years, but our ministry partner — the Batey Relief Alliance — has visited the communities and prepared a plan that will change lives! Your gift will put that plan into action for 50 women, blessing 175 family members in all!

The women you help will receive \$500 low-interest loans and agricultural supplies so they can grow crops such as lemons, sweet potatoes and bananas or raise chickens and pigs. Initial training and follow-up advice are included, and a networking event will connect them with local buyers who are eager to buy crops and livestock, which will enable the women to start making sales quickly.

The ministry’s plan incorporates spiritual and community outreaches. Local priests and nuns will lead inspirational workshops on coming closer to God and serving neighbors in need. The ministry also will train 5 of the women in the Catholic principles of Faith in Action so they can become servant leaders in the community.



With our support, women can build hope for the future for the first time.

Your gift will enable women to build a future of hope for their families and communities!

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.

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