



## THE BATEYES

In addition to the Mobile Medical Clinics short term teams work on many short and long term projects with the communities throughout the sugar cane plantation.

Of the 125+ communities in the region the majority of them are owned by a large sugar cane refinery. These bateyes are fairly well defined communities with churches and in some there are single room schools. None of them have running water, electricity, or sanitary waste facilities. They cook on charcoal or wood fires.

There are about 12 - 15 bateyes that are on private land. Living conditions there well below what we would say are normal, normal for the bateyes that is.

Some of these bateyes have been 'adopted' by American teams and they direct their resources towards improving the living conditions for these people.

One example is Batey 50, located about 20 miles north of La Romana. For the past several years we have been working with these people and

have built them a church, improved their drinking water supply, installed latrines, and are building a school for their children.

We are also building new homes to replace the most decrepit ones. Our plan is to replace 50 of the existing ramshackle rusted corrugated buildings with cement block buildings.

Our plans for this place span several years with a large financial commitment. Most projects are much smaller and are accomplished by a single team in 1 or 2 trips. Completing a school in Batey Brador is an example of an average project.

We are prohibited from improving the conditions by the owners of some private bateyes. In those situations we provide as much support as we can through frequent food and clothing distributions.

The families in batey 50 have renamed their community 'Esperanza' - Hope. Hope is the most precious thing we can bring to these families.