



MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

The first mission trip to La Romana was a medical team that arrived in April of 1985. The 33 doctors, nurses, dentists, and support staff visited ten bateyes and provided care to more than 10,000 people. When in La Romana the leaders of this team assured the late Jean Luc Phenord that they would return, and many other teams from the US would be willing to come, but there would not be a significant improvement in health in the cane farmer communities unless a clinic or hospital was established in the region.

From this advice the vision of the hospital was developed and we have continued mobile medical clinics to this day.

We started with visits to only 20 communities. Through the years, as the number of teams increased, this has grown to more than 125 today. Each year we add more communities as they are created by the sugar cane company.

Each team consists of Doctors, dentists, and nurses from the hospital along with American volunteers. These teams of about 20 professionals visit one batey a day and will deliver health care to 100 - 150 children, women, and men.

For many of those that come to a clinic a health check up, 30 days of vitamins or prenatal vitamins, and AIDS or TB scanning is all they need. For children we include a treatment of Piperazine medication to rid them of intestinal worms. Teens receive consultations on teen age pregnancy and mothers are offered family planning information.

Mobile clinics also support Batey Health Promoters in approximately half of the communities we visit. These Promoters are trained in basic 1st aid and are qualified to administer some medications for hypertension or insulin for diabetics.

From time to time early clinics would see babies and young children with illnesses that could lead to death. At that time there was little that they could do. Today, with the water filter program and Promoters it is unusual for this to happen. If a critically ill person (baby or adult) is found they are transported to the hospital where they receive life saving care.

Mobile clinics provide care to more than 125,000 people living in bateyes and rural communities.