



PHASE 1: DISCOVERY

Walk with Guazumita

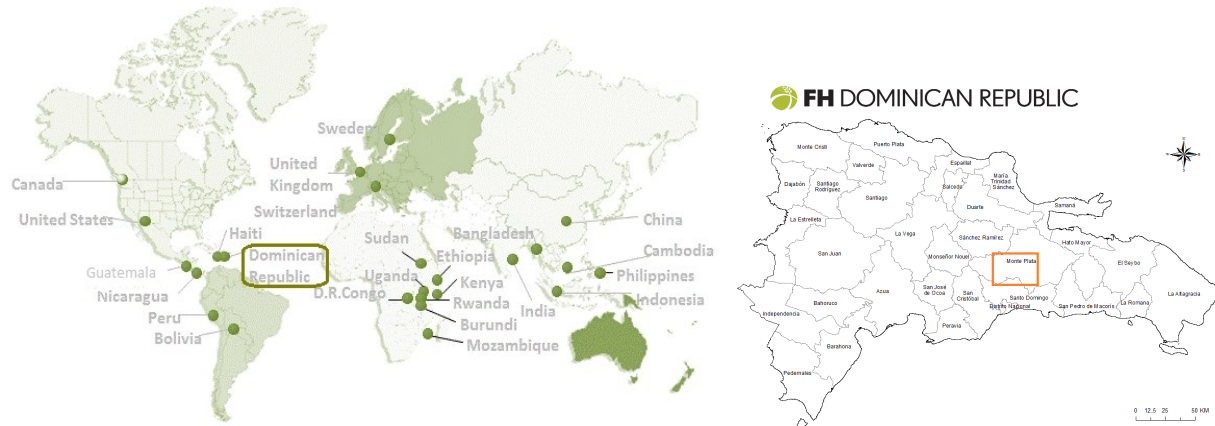
An invitation for your church to partner and inspire hope.



When you partner with Food for the Hungry (FH) Dominican Republic, you'll inspire hope in the most vulnerable people in Guazumita to overcome the barriers that hinder them from reaching their God given potential. In this community children do not have adequate education. They don't have access to basic school supplies. Many are pressured to drop out of school to help earn money for their families. Lack of nutrition, contaminated water, and poor sanitation contribute to poor health. Your partnership will bring much needed hope and help to these children and their families.

GETTING TO KNOW GUAZUMITA

Guazumita is located in the Monte Plata Region which is about an hour (60 km) northeast of where our Santo Domingo office is located.



Most people work as day laborers, and about 20% have small plots of land where they grow and harvest a variety of crops. The main agricultural products are cocoa beans, cashews, and cassava root. Some farmers are able to sell a small portion of their produce in order to meet their day to day needs. Others work on the bigger farms (mostly cocoa or dairy farms with secondary crops like plantains) in the area. Those who are not farmers may work as a motorcycle or taxi driver, bakers in Santo Domingo, or in retail in the nearby towns. Most of the women work as maids (cleaning houses, washing clothes, cooking and taking care of children) in Santo Domingo or nearby cities. Daily field workers make the equivalent of US\$6.00 per day, on average, but only during harvesting season. According to Central Bank statistics, those who work in the service industry make about \$2.50/day.

DISCOVERING PROMISE

Dominican children are fearfully and wonderfully made. Your church can help these vulnerable children live up to their God-given potential. By partnering with FH, together we will walk alongside families, church leaders, and community leaders to create solutions for overcoming life-threatening poverty. Imagine the possibility of seeing a community working together and growing into a people that experiences all that the Lord has to offer. Guazumita has many people who are ready to become “agents of change” in their community and to work towards a better future.



PARTNERSHIP FOR A HOPEFUL FUTURE

Despite only being in the first two years of partnership with Food for the Hungry, the community leaders are very receptive to the philosophy and eager to learn new ideas and skills. FH has started providing training for the community leaders and established a volunteer group to monitor the healthy growth of the children under five years through a monthly weighing session. Part of FH's intervention has been focused in the following areas:

Health and Nutrition

- Growth monitoring sessions with children under 5 years old.
- Training sessions for volunteer mothers regarding health topics.
- Cascade groups that share the topics learned in their neighborhood circle.
- Follow-up visits to pregnant women to let them know the 19 practices to live better.

Institutional Strengthening

- Training sessions for community leadership and Church leaders with topics to strengthen their capacities and therefore be better leaders in their community
- Follow-up visits to community leaders.
- Reinforcement of the materials for training.

Education

- Developing reading skills, and fine and gross motor skills with first grade children.
- Delivery of educational material to school children.
- Delivery of school supplies for students.
- Deworming days for all students.
- Visits to families to reduce school dropouts.

Families from Guazumita have been working hard alongside Food for the Hungry, their local churches, and local government to develop their community and eradicate water borne diseases; however, they are still needing support to meet the basic infrastructure needs of their community. Your organization can work alongside the community to fund the following projects, which have been identified as critical for the community's development:

- Provide access to drinkable water
- Build a Community Center
- Build/Improve sports facilities
- Sanitation units (Latrines) for all the families

HAND IN HAND WITH THE LOCAL CHURCHES

There are local churches present in Guazumita. However, your partnership will help strengthen these local churches' capacity to better disciple their congregation. You will help the church to grow its vision for the community and carry out their development in new ways.

GOD'S WORK FROM START TO FINISH

God is at work in this community; He has opened doors for the involvement of FH and your church. And God will continue to be faithful to this community long after FH and other partners exit. In fact, FH believes that healthy community development begins with an exit strategy. Goals must be set for when community members will be able to continue their own development without outside help.

We anticipate that this community will no longer need to rely on our partnership by 2027. Your church and organization can commit to walking a portion, or this entire journey with Guazumita through child sponsorship, short-term teams, special projects and prayer.

