



BARAMITA

Guyana Village Proposal

INTRODUCTION

Baramita village is located in a remote northern region in Guyana and has a population of approximately 3,500 people. The cost of living in Baramita is three times higher than on the coast, as the majority of food and other items have to be imported in from it. Gold mines are the primary source of employment in the area, but with gold production being low this has resulted in extreme poverty for 95% of the community.

PROBLEM

Ninety-five percent of the population live in small makeshift tents constructed from plastic with no floors or sanitary facilities, offering no comfort or security for the families. Many families engage in subsistence agriculture of fruit, but vegetables are all imported due to the lack of agricultural tools and means to address pests on the crops. Food is scarce and families go hungry on a regular occurrence.

Baramita has a community health post, but there are many barriers in accessing health care. The main one being that 80% of the population live at least eight miles away and people are forced to walk three hours or more, as they don't have transportation. This makes it difficult to receive care and as a result malaria, malnutrition, skin infections, diarrhea and a lack of personal hygiene are prevalent in the community. The situation is compounded by the fact that human and household waste are dumped indiscriminately and there isn't a safe water source for the majority of the population.

While there is a primary school in Baramita, only 45% of the children attend it, as it's too far for children living in the outlying areas, parents keep their children home as they don't understand the value of education, and others take their children to work in the goldfields. A lack of financial resources means most children don't attend secondary school which is far away and requires them to board there.

There are many social problems in Baramita as alcohol abuse is at epidemic levels with the majority of the population, including children consuming alcohol. Domestic and sexual abuse of women and girls are also prevalent in the community. Guyana is listed within the top five countries in the world with the highest suicide rates and in Baramita the rate of suicide is increasing at an alarming rate being nine times higher than the national average. The lack of basic necessities and the extreme level of poverty within Baramita is resulting in a feeling of hopelessness throughout the community.

GOALS

The goal of this project is to promote social development in the community of Baramita through improved living conditions, easy access to skills training opportunities and sensitization programs.

The project will involve the construction of a two storey, 55ft X 30ft, wooden resource center, including sanitary facilities and a water component. Five sewing machines will be given to the resource center. Ten families will receive double unit houses with sanitary facilities and rain harvesting components.

OUTCOMES

Empower women and girls by providing skills training opportunities.

Improve living conditions through safe and secure housing for ten families. The addition of water and sanitation facilities in the home will improve their health and contribute to more productive hours in their day.

Reduce the use of alcohol and the rate of domestic and sexual abuse and suicides through sensitization workshops, discussing causes, impact and preventative measures.

IMPACT

This project will begin to provide some basic human necessities, helping to lift the community out of extreme poverty.

BUDGET

10 Houses with water & sanitation facilities	\$57,279.20
Resource center & sewing machines	\$47,986.33
FFPG monitoring & evaluation	\$ 4,160.34
FFPC administrative costs	\$10,526.55

PROJECT TOTAL: **\$119,952.42 (USD)**
\$161,935.77 (CAD)

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Food For The Poor Canada
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