

# Village Update

Villa Linda, Guatemala



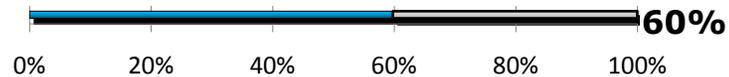
2225 4th Ave. 2nd Floor, Seattle, WA 98121  
[p] 206.528.1066 | www.agros.org

Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, to restore hope to the world's poor. The eight indicators below are measured on an annual basis and are now included in each quarterly Village Update.

## ANNUAL INDICATORS OF VILLAGE PROGRESS

(June 2010) Founded: 2005

**Development Level—Progress through the Agros Development Model. Direct support typically ends at 70% and 100% is reached when land loans are repaid.**



## Economic Indicators:

### Diversification of income-generating crops:

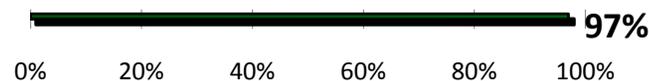
*5 types of crops sold to provide income*

*100% of people have livestock*

### Participation in commercialization of products:

*100% of people commercialize their products*

### Enterprise loan repayment rates:



## Community Indicators:

### Access to water for domestic use:

**100%** of families have water at 0-10 meters from home

*\*This goal has been revised from 0-100 meters to accurately reflect Agros' priority to ensure accessible water closer to the home.*

### Presence of health promoters in community:

**Yes**

### School-aged children attending school:

**80%**

### Leadership Positions Held by Women:

**54%**

The women in the Agros Guatemala community of Villa Linda are very active in supporting their families, and Marcela is no exception. As a member of the village's Community Bank, Marcela receives a portion of a group loan to invest in her chicken and pig business. Marcela decided to use her loan to purchase chickens and pigs. The chickens have since reproduced and she was recently able to sell the younger chickens. With her earnings, Marcela repaid her loan and set aside savings with the rest of the Community Bank. While Marcela is saving for the future, she is also able to contribute to her daily household income which gives her great pride.

## **Community Organization**

The leaders of three committees in the community received training this quarter to strengthen their work together as a group and help them coordinate activities in the community's annual plan.

## **Land Ownership**

As of December, two families in Villa Linda had completely repaid their land loan and four families have paid half of their land loan. With the 2011-2012 coffee and cardamom harvests, the remaining families will be able to make partial or complete payments on their land, moving them closer to their dreams of becoming land owners.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

This quarter two families designed and built a fish tank together. They will start off raising 100 fish. Two other families with an existing fish project hung a nylon covering over their tank to protect their 300 fish from predators. The tilapia project is very successful in Barillas as the demand for fish is high.

Coffee and cardamom are the two primary income-generating crops in Villa Linda. Each family manages approximately 1.7 acres of coffee and 0.85 acre of cardamom. After harvesting and selling nearly 60,000 pounds of the two crops combined, the families earn about \$3,625 each which goes towards repaying project and land loans and their household needs.



The animal husbandry projects are going well in Villa Linda. This quarter, Agros staff provided technical assistance to the families raising seven pigs and six goats. Additionally, five pigs were castrated.

Four families learned how to apply fungicide to their fruit trees to prevent common diseases.

Ten women are participating in the Community Bank and are presently in the seventh six-month loan cycle. This cycle, each woman received \$138 to invest in her individual business project. Each member receives technical assistance from Agros staff and this quarter participated in three meetings to keep their financial records in order.



The twenty families in Villa Linda received technical assistance and training in their coffee fields this quarter. Agros staff and the families applied fertilizer to a demonstrative parcel to show the productive benefits. Later, the families applied forty pounds of fertilizer on their own fields. The community is doing a good job keeping their coffee parcels healthy and clear of debris.

### **Community Education and Training**

The group of twelve students taking adult literacy classes in Villa Linda is very excited to have completed another school year. The class is on the third level of their studies—the equivalent of fifth and sixth grade. Some students will soon be receiving their sixth grade diploma and are very proud of their accomplishments. The students want to use their experience to motivate other members of Villa Linda to join

the class as well. Everyone received school supplies to facilitate their learning process.

The community's medicine supply was monitored this quarter. The leadership team has been caring for and administering the medicine to the rest of the families and recently expanded and made improvements to the space where the medicines are stored. After inventorying the supply, the community received new medicine.

Men, women and youth in the community participated in training sessions this quarter where they learned about health during pregnancy, the importance of gynecological exams and reproductive health.

