

## Village Update

San Diego, El Salvador



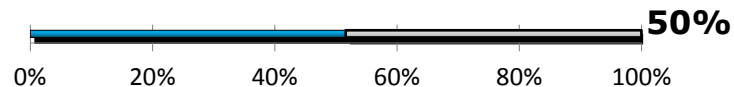
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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: 2000

**Development Level:** Progress through the Agros Development Model (100% reached when community has paid off their land loans)



### Economic Indicators:

#### Diversification of income-generating crops:

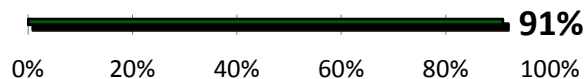
**1** type of crop sold to provide income

**91%** of people have livestock

#### Participation in commercialization of products:

**91%** 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:

**71%**

#### Leadership Positions Held by Women:

**60%**

Entrepreneur, wife, and mother of four young daughters, Xiomara is a shining example of the potential of women. Raised in Honduras in a refugee camp during a time of political unrest, it was not until after the violence subsided that Xiomara could return to El Salvador. She and her husband Ángel were one of the first families to move to San Diego. Initially, Xiomara spent her days working at home, but eventually decided to attend workshops to learn how to use credit and begin projects on her own. Motivated by earning \$100 with the first sale of chickens, Xiomara has now established a successful chicken project and opened a general store in San Diego. She is a confident, enterprising woman whose motivation has inspired three other women to join her in the chicken project and follow her footsteps.

## **Community Organization**

Leadership in San Diego is attending trainings to strengthen their organization and leadership abilities so that they can take on a more active role in partnering with outside organizations to meet the community's needs. Trainings have covered topics such as organization, roles and functions and bylaws. The leaders have been legally recognized by the local government which is helpful when forming partnerships.

Last quarter, working with a local pastor, leaders facilitated a donation of construction materials to restore the Tenango church that was bombed during the conflict in El Salvador.

Leadership arranged for women from San Diego to meet with women from Agros community Nuevo Renacer to share their experiences. Forty-eight women shared successful enterprises and food security projects they have pursued to benefit their families.

## **Housing and Infrastructure**

Families are discussing the possibility of improving their irrigation system. Tubing problems have inhibited the supply of water to their fields, preventing them from reaching their full productive potential.

Floors in seven homes were repaired over the past few months to prevent water from entering the homes and improve the hygiene and health of the families.

## **Land Ownership**

To promote land stewardship, leadership is coordinating reforestation projects throughout the community. Materials

were provided to San Diego's youth, who are motivated to plant trees in and around the community.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

All twenty-eight mothers in San Diego attended five meetings last quarter outlining the basic structure of a Community Bank. Women receive a group loan to invest in their individual businesses. Over time as they put aside savings, they build capital to later use to lend out loans to others as a self-sufficient bank. The women expressed interest in getting started in the upcoming months.

The majority of farmers in San Diego are growing corn and beans for food security and commercialization.

Two groups of families involved in tilapia projects have recently begun to sell their fish within the community and to neighboring areas. Participants hope to see stable income for their families from this project.

Three women raising chickens received technical assistance last quarter. 600 birds were vaccinated in an effort to reduce the risk of illness among the flock.

One family in San Diego has begun breeding pigs as an economic initiative. After selling two fattened pigs they were raising, the family built a pen and purchased two young females and one male to begin the project.



### **Community Education and Training**

Members of the Health Committee inspected the twenty-eight composting latrines to ensure they are being used, maintained and kept sanitary in order to improve health in the community.

Partnering organizations and a local hospital have been hosting ongoing trainings on emergency care. Three members of the Health Committee attended this three month seminar, equipping them to take control of and address needs of the community in an emergency situation.

The Health Committee hosted a nutrition workshop attended by twenty-eight mothers. Women learned how to prepare meals in a sanitary way and the importance of a healthy diet, especially for children and the elderly.

An extensive community clean-up took place in San Diego last quarter. Fifty women and children collected trash and recyclables from community areas and homes. Trash piles can easily become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-carrying pests. The Health Committee also fumigated areas prone to mosquitoes.

The Health Committee coordinated a children's clinic. Supported by partnering organizations and a local hospital, thirty-five children received medical attention for respiratory, intestinal and flu-related illnesses. Three children with serious health complications were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Twenty-two youth and adults are working their way through a literacy class in San Diego. Though classes are currently on hold as the instructor is on maternity leave, another instructor is being trained and they hope to restart the class soon.

Health promoters and the Health Committee hosted several meetings for the youth last quarter. An average of twenty-one youth attended each meeting on alcoholism, values and the importance of education.

Women in the community attended two empowerment workshops over the past few months. The twenty-eight in attendance learned about the important roles they play in their homes and community and discussed ideas for getting more actively involved in community activities.