

Village Update

Nuevo Amanecer, Honduras



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Alba and Rita are two very enterprising women. With Agros' support, the two women have united together to make doughnuts to sell in Nuevo Amanecer and other neighboring communities. Within the first month of production alone, they have already generated \$42 of income. This has been very encouraging and motivational to the women, who plan on increasing their production. They also plan on inviting other women to join them, so that they can take advantage of the resources that are provided for production activities. "Now we can help our husbands bring in income," they beam with pride. "We are going to keep working and make even more doughnuts so that we can sell in the market in Jesus de Otoro."

Community Organization

Recently, the leadership team was reelected and is in the process of formation. To strengthen and development the leadership team, the community has participated in various conferences on conflict resolution, awareness, communication, and administration, among others. The leadership team is also being trained in administrative skills such as accounting and book keeping.

The community regulations and goals have been established and approved by the families. Each member of the group is aware of the norms and disciplinary measures that will help manage the community and guide decision-making throughout their process of development. In addition, each member is very clear of the core values they have established which will help guide their actions and decisions during projects.



The relationships with the newest members of the community from the Los Bordos group are strengthening, and some minor conflicts have been resolved through the leadership team and some Agros staff involvement. Weekly workshops on sensitivity,

meditation, and spiritual reflection are also supporting the community during this transition. Additionally, the families enjoyed attending a spiritual retreat about whole health of the body, mind and spirit where they heard reflections on spiritual health lead by various speakers. Weekly meetings where Christian businessmen share their testimonies are also enthusiastically welcomed by the community.

Housing and Infrastructure

The community is keeping busy in several different construction projects. Six temporary houses were built for the new members this quarter and housing improvements will be made according to each family's need. As of yet, while the permanent houses have water for domestic use, the temporary houses do not. The community is negotiating with the Water Department of San Antonio to expand the water system and provide water for domestic use to the rest of the families.

The families were able to successfully complete four composting latrines, three more are in the process of being built, and a final latrine will be finished at a later date. These composting latrines improve sanitation and health in the community, as well as provide an economic and organic alternative to expensive chemical fertilizers.

Finally, six efficient cook stoves were built and the project continues until each family has a stove. These cook stoves make a huge impact on the health of the families, funneling smoke out of the homes and preventing back injuries and burns. The efficient burning design of the stove burns less fuel, conserving the forest areas in the community.



Sustainable Economic Growth

Agros has been able to facilitate technical training in the community with partnership organizations such as Direction of Science and Technology and EDA.

This quarter, the families were excited to harvest and sell 1,500 lbs of beans from 4.3 acres of farmland, earning \$717. This project was supported by the use of an enterprise loan. In addition, the families worked together to establish a communal plot of 3.4 acres of corn and 1.7 acres of rice. On individual fields, farmers were able to plant a total of 17.2 acres of corn. The corn will be ready for commercialization in November.



Agros staff has provided members of Nuevo Amanecer with assistance and accompaniment in their plantain fields. Currently, there are three fields of plantains and through use of an enterprise loan, a fourth field will soon be planted. In November, the plantains will be ready to sell and in the meantime, the families are revising their production plans to include other projects to decrease their dependency on plantains.

As mentioned above, the group of women working to produce doughnuts and bread are very excited to be able to contribute to their household income. The project is not only helping their families' economic situation but is increasing their self-esteem.

Community Education and Training

The community has partnered with the Secretary of Health and MAP to support basic sanitation and public health through trainings in reproductive health, nutrition, decision-making, conflict resolution, keeping the floors clean and managing waste. Two health promoters have also received four trainings and are carrying out various diagnostics in the community to determine

the families' health needs. A clinic to measure the height and weight of each child under the age of 5 years was conducted in order to measure for nutrition indicators. The information collected will help the community assess the need for additional dietary supplementation.

The youth attended a sexuality and reproductive health workshop, and will be discussing this and other related topics soon, including how to productively make use of their free time.

Five of the children from the new families from the Los Bordos group in Nuevo Amanecer transferred and enrolled in the local school. An adult education program began, but due to a postponed arrival of education materials, the literacy class will begin next year.