

Village Update

Nuevo Amanecer, Honduras



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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 2009)
Founded: 2004

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:

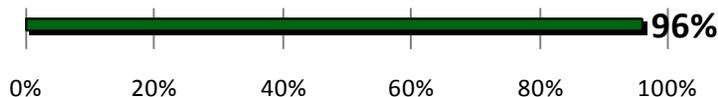
5 types of crops sold to provide income

70% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

70% of people commercialize their products

Enterprise loan repayment rates:



Community Indicators:

Access to water for domestic use:

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

Presence of health promoters in community:

Yes

School-aged children attending school:

84%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

14%

Rafael, 56, his wife Rita, 51, and their six children live comfortably in their home in Nuevo Amanecer, but this was not always the case. Before partnering with Agros, Rafael and his family moved from place to place seeking work and a better life, but were unsuccessful. At one point, Rafael found work as a security guard while living in Los Bordos, a shantytown outside of San Pedro Sula, but due to crime in the area, they felt unsafe. While searching for another option, Rafael and Rita learned about Agros and soon decided to leave the uncertainties of the city for a life on the land. Today, Don Rafael works with two of his children in their plantain field. Before, Rafael never thought he would have the opportunity to own his own land. "I won't take ten years to repay my loans, I will pay them much sooner." His confidence, skill, and dedication are an inspiration to the entire community.

Community Organization

Several leadership positions in Nuevo Amanecer are up for election. As a democratically-governed community, families make nominations and vote to choose leaders that are rotated regularly according to the community's bylaws. Leaders and community members alike receive leadership development training to encourage leadership participation from everyone.

Land Ownership

The families worked with the Agros staff to divide the communal productive land in the community into individual family parcels in order to create a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility for each family, and to make better use of the property in individual or smaller group projects. The parcels have been measured and divided and the families are feeling very motivated.

Housing and Infrastructure

Through partnership with health organization, MAP, five families have a filter connected to their water supply in their homes. The families hope to install filters in each house.

Several hundred meters of piping were purchased for the water system in Nuevo Amanecer. With this extra piping, water from the system can be directed to irrigate the productive parcels in the community. Irrigation is essential for providing farmers year-round sources of employment.



Sustainable Economic Development

All seventeen families in Nuevo Amanecer are actively working in their respective projects, putting into practice various improved methods they have learned from Agros staff and partnering organizations. These productive projects provide stable sources of income families to repay land loans and provide for their other basic needs.

Nearly fifteen acres are being used to grow plantains, the main income-generating crop in Nuevo Amanecer. Each family manages a 0.8 acre parcel of plantains in different stages of development using credit through Agros to increase production. About five acres were harvested and are being sold in the local market, including 40,000 pounds of high-quality plantains. Everyone has been able to repay the project's loans from the harvest's profits.



Fifteen families have sufficient food after harvesting their basic grain fields. Each family has approximately 500 pounds of corn and beans to ensure food security until next season. Preparation has already begun for the next planting.

A 0.4 acre plot of watermelon has been sown and several families are growing yucca on a smaller scale in their backyard gardens for consumption.

Community Education and Training

Families traveled to neighboring community, Guatateca, to receive medical attention during a public health clinic held this quarter.

Nuevo Amanecer has sixteen school-aged children who attend school in neighboring community San Antonio. All the children are excited to pass to the next grade at the end of the year in July. As

the community grows, leadership will work with the local government for the community's own school building.

The Health Committee is hard at work promoting healthy hygiene habits among the families to foster improved health in the community. Children were reminded of proper use of the latrines and how to wash their hands. Adults learned about the "Healthy Home" campaign which educates basic steps to prevent the spread of illness. Four trained promoters visited homes to demonstrate techniques and share colorful campaign posters.

Children's weight continues to be monitored in order to detect early signs of malnutrition. Nutrition has improved in the homes as parents implement techniques they learned for preparing healthy meals high in protein and other nutrients, such as those including soy.

The seventeen families in Nuevo Amanecer meet regularly to strengthen their organization and unity by discussing and receiving training in values, self-esteem and conflict resolution. Spiritual formation, practicing their values and support from two local pastors, including a youth pastor, has also improved relationships among the families.