



Did You Know?

World poverty is largely rural

- 75 % (900 million) of the 1.2 billion people in the world who live in extreme poverty (earning less than \$1 a day) live in rural areas.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, 63% of rural people live in extreme poverty.

Land ownership is the rural poor's best source of livelihood and opportunity

- Land is their principal source of income, nutrition, security, and status.
- Half of the rural poor—some 230 million households worldwide—lack either access to land or ownership the land they till.
- Those without land are almost always the poorest. In fact, a recent World Bank report, *India: Achievements and Challenges in Reducing Poverty*, found that landlessness is the greatest predictor of poverty in India—more than illiteracy or caste.
- “Secure land rights,” reports the International Land Coalition, “accompanied by other basic services and citizenship rights, can unleash the creative capacity of poor men and women to transform their own lives.”

Agros International is one of the only NGO's providing long-term credit to the rural poor to purchase land

- Through its Noemi Fund, a revolving loan fund, Agros manages a credit portfolio supporting the costs of purchasing land, housing, and irrigation for sustainable village development by the rural poor.

It takes a village to break the cycle of poverty

- The United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) most recent Poverty Report finds, “...most development practitioners now agree that poverty is not about income alone, but is multidimensional. The foundation of poverty reduction is self-organization of the poor at the community level.”
- Agros' own experience, in 37 village projects throughout Central America & Mexico, has shown that breaking the cycle of poverty in all its forms requires a long-term commitment to a multi-dimensional, sustainable model of development.

Agros builds villages from the inside out

- Agros works to transform lives and communities through a holistic, sustainable village development model that addresses the multiple factors that contribute to poverty.
 - Community Organization
 - Land Ownership
 - Housing & Infrastructure
 - Sustainable Economic Growth
 - Community Education & Training
- Here's testimony from Pedro Caba Escobar, an Agros village leader. “This project has been a blessing to my family. Now we have a house, running water, land to cultivate, an irrigation system, projects in animal husbandry, and my children are attending school...Of course not all is finished... with the hard work of all village members...we will develop a prosperous village that is the best inheritance for our children.”
- Agros builds long-term relationships between supporters/donors—including individuals, churches, and businesses in the U.S.—and villages of the rural poor in Central America. Lives are changed in both directions, narrowing the global gap between rich and poor.

Land Hope Life