

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 2009)

Founded: 2005

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:

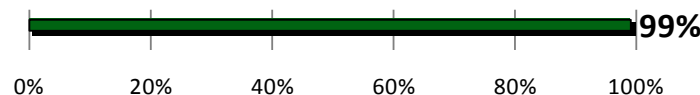
9 types of crops sold to provide income

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 0-100 meters from home

Presence of health promoters in community:

Yes

School-aged children attending school:

78%

Women in leadership:

54%

María, a member of Agros Guatemala community Villa Linda, is excited to be discovering some of her hidden talents after participating in three sewing courses with an outside organization. Facilitated by Agros, María was able to learn how to sew for the first time, and now is skilled in making several different types of clothing, including blue jeans, skirts, blouses, and girl's dresses. With the help of her husband, María was also able to purchase her own sewing machine, and is now busy sewing uniform orders from various institutions in the area. To expand her business, María hopes to soon learn how to make dresses for weddings and quinceñeras through an upcoming workshop as well.

Community Organization

The families in Villa Linda and Agros staff met this quarter to reflect on the community's values and vision. This is an important step in the values-based planning process which uses the community's values and vision to direct the development process.

Sustainable Economic Growth

A training was held last quarter to provide important information to the coffee producers and all the farmers in starting compost bins and worm-composting projects. Fourteen members from the community attended and hope to implement organic composting projects in their fields soon.



Twenty families harvested their coffee fields this quarter, and while still in process of drying and weighing the beans, expect about 1,500 pounds each, or \$1,266 total income per family. This will help the families to make a loan payment on their land. Ten families participated in an activity to improve the health and production of the coffee plants by applying lime to the base of each plant. This practice lowers the acidity of the soil, enabling nutrients to be more readily available to the coffee plant. In addition, two families planted 0.75 acres each of terraced coffee at a higher elevation in order to prevent erosion of the mountainside.

Thirty plantain plants were planted in individual parcels this quarter, with hopes to improve food security and generate additional income.

Sixty bamboo plants, a fast-growing plant that grows well in the Barillas climate, were transplanted to individual parcels this quarter. This reforestation project will greatly reduce soil erosion in these vulnerable areas as well as provide a sustainable construction material for the families.

The small livestock projects are going well in Villa Linda. This quarter the sheep project grew to nine sheep managed by five families with hopes to improve their diets, increase their income, and pass offspring to their neighbors. Five of the forty-eight pigs managed by eighteen families were castrated this quarter. All of the animals were administered vitamins and medicine to remove parasites to keep them healthy and productive, and seeds to plant pasture for the sheep and pigs were provided this quarter as well.

The tilapia project is growing in Villa Linda as four new tanks were built, totaling to nine fish projects in the community. The families

are currently raising 5,000 fish, constantly weighing the fish to determine how much food to provide. Two families took a first harvest of fish to the Barillas market this quarter as well, selling 400 pounds and generating \$965.

The thirteen women participating in the Community Bank received training and technical assistance. In September, the participants repaid their loan in addition to \$43 in interests and savings to complete their fifth loan cycle. Six women also had the opportunity to receive additional training in Barillas in business management and administration and meet women involved in other small businesses. The Villa Linda representatives learned about managing their Community Bank, opening up checking and savings accounts, creating a business plan, and other important skills. They also participated in an evaluation of a business they visited, learning how to evaluate their own projects to make improvements. When the women returned, the experience was shared with the others so that the entire Community Bank could strengthen their businesses.

Several women in the community are getting excited about an upcoming sewing workshop to learn how to make wedding dresses and other types of clothing. The materials have been purchased and the workshop will be held in the upcoming months.

Community Education & Training

Follow-up and support was provided to the community member in charge of Villa Linda's medicine and first aid supply. Together with Agros staff, the supplies were inventoried to ensure that everything was in stock and within the expiration date. Questions were

answered and the supply was restocked to ensure continual access to needed supplies.

Accompaniment and technical assistance was also provided this quarter to the two promoters in charge of the medicinal plant garden in the community. The gardens are being well-maintained and utilized frequently by the members of the community.

Materials and supplies were provided to the school in Villa Linda this quarter, supplementing the classroom with cards, markers, crayons, and other supplies.

Twenty-six youth and adults participated in the literacy course to learn how to read and write. Divided into two separate groups, each student passed to the next level, and they are excited to now have the skills needed for basic written communication.

Twenty members of the community attended a health training provided by a nurse from a local health center to learn about nutrition, family planning, personal hygiene, vaccinations and using the medicine in the community's supply.

A group of youth from Villa Linda participated in an educational field trip where they learned about the importance of reusing and recycling materials in their community. Traveling to a youth recycling project in Sololá, the group took new ideas to implement in Villa Linda to cut back on waste. Also while in Sololá, the youth took advantage of the time to meet with an academic director from the University of the Valley to learn about the various academic programs offered at the university.