

Village Update

Villa Linda, Guatemala



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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: 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:

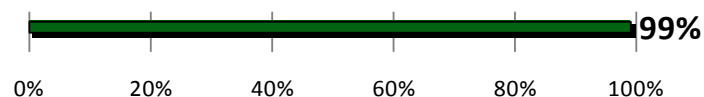
9 types of crops sold to provide income

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%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

54%

Rosa is an enthusiastic member of the Agros Guatemala community of Villa Linda, and has been a member of the Community Bank since it first began three years ago. Rosa has participated in many workshops and trainings to support her business endeavors and has especially benefited from the time with members from other community banks in the region. Looking at the success of her two businesses, raising chicken and pigs, one would not imagine that Rosa's first project resulted in thirty-five chickens that died of sickness. Now, Rosa vaccinates her animals every three months and is proud to share that she has \$134 in savings as a result of her hard work and dedication.

Sustainable Economic Growth

To diversify their production, three families in Villa Linda participated in a training from the Ministry of Agriculture in growing tomatoes. The training was a hands-on learning experience that encouraged the participants to try something new.



All twenty families are actively involved in their primary crop—coffee. There are about 26 acres of coffee, and several families recently planted about 7,000 new coffee seedlings to expand production. With training and technical assistance from Agros staff, families also pruned older plants to improve production. This past harvest resulted in 6,000 pounds of coffee, and the families hope to quadruple production next season. Plans are also being made to coordinate with neighboring Agros communities in Barillas to form a coffee collective and secure a better price for their crops.



With the construction of three new tanks this quarter, five families are now managing one tilapia tank each, totaling approximately 1,600 tilapias in the community. Families are receiving training and accompaniment as they care for their fish including changing the water and cleaning tanks. If everything goes well, they hope to sell a total of 1,200 pounds of fish and earn \$3,000.

The families in Villa Linda received training in planting 0.3 acres of cardamom, a profitable crop in the region. To date, 90% of the crop is developing well.

Every three months families administer vaccinations to their chickens to keep them healthy and disease-free. This quarter was no different; 104 chickens belonging to the twenty families were vaccinated.

The twelve women involved in the Community Bank are happy participating in their sixth loan cycle, providing \$1,500 for their various businesses. This quarter six members met with women from four other community banks in the region for a workshop on business management to discuss challenges and new ideas for success.



Two women in the community are excited to be improving their businesses through access to credit. One recently purchased a sewing machine, and hopes to expand her clientele with the efficiency a machine will provide. The other used funds to purchase chicken wire to expand her hen project.

Community Education & Training

Assistance was provided to the health promoter in charge of the first-aid kit and medicine supply in the community, including help inventorying and monitoring sales. Thanks to these supplies, families are at ease knowing that any minor injury can be taken care of right away.

Agros staff coordinated several health trainings with a local nurse, including nutrition during pregnancy, prenatal development and preventing childhood anemia.

School materials such as pencils, paper, markers and others were provided to the children of Villa Linda. With sufficient materials for everyone, students will be able to actively participate in their classes. This past quarter, ten preschool children also received materials to help them as they learn to read. The materials correspond with the school's curriculum and aim to promote literacy at an early age. Mothers organized a clean-up schedule to ensure that the school building is being attended and maintained.

Twelve youth and thirty children learned about the difference between compostable and non-compostable waste this quarter. With this understanding, they will be more conscientious examples to the rest of the community in keeping areas clean.

The literacy group in Villa Linda is doing well, especially for the fifteen students in the 5th-6th grade equivalent—they hope to continue their studies beyond the elementary school level and on to secondary school!