

# Village Update

Villa Linda, Guatemala



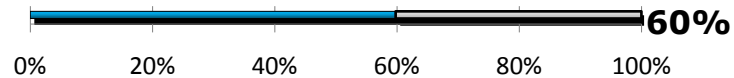
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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 2010) Founded: 2005

**Development Level**—Progress through the Agros Development Model. Direct support typically ends at 70% and 100% is reached when land loans are repaid.



## Economic Indicators:

### Diversification of income-generating crops:

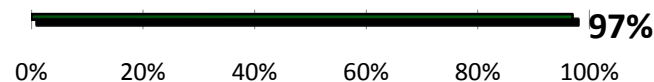
5 types of crops sold to provide income

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 0-10 meters from home

*\*This goal has been revised from 0-100 meters to accurately reflect Agros' priority to ensure accessible water closer to the home.*

### Presence of health promoters in community:

Yes

### School-aged children attending school:

80%

### Leadership Positions Held by Women:

54%

## Land Ownership

Two families worked to plant 100 soursop tree starts in a tree nursery this quarter. Plastic bags were filled with potting soil and seeds were planted in each bag. When the seedling matures, the trees will be transplanted to the community's land to prevent soil erosion.

## Sustainable Economic Growth

Ten women are participating in the Community Bank in Villa Linda. The women are now in their seventh loan cycle with

the bank, investing their funds in a variety of small businesses. The women met three times this quarter to update their bank records and make loan and savings payments. Additionally, the women learned important skills and principles in business management and administration, including the use of commercial documents such as receipts, invoices and acts.

Four women and one man participated in a candle-making workshop this quarter to learn how to make yellow and white candles. These candles are used both in the families' homes and to sell for income. Profits from the sales of the candles that were made during the workshop will be used to purchase new materials for those that hope to start their own candle business.



Two women from Villa Linda and others from the neighboring Agros community, Nueva Primavera, participated in a workshop to learn how to make pork and lamb sausage. The participants were happy to learn

something new and put their new skills to practice in order to help contribute to their household income.

Seven families participated in a training session on preventing and treating diseases common for coffee plants. Twenty families received ten pounds of granulated fertilizer and participated in a demonstration on using a backpack sprayer. Two families participated in an activity to improve production in their coffee parcels where they learned how to prune and remove leaves from the existing coffee plants. One family is experimenting with land terracing and recently terraced and planted coffee on 0.5 acres.



Two families in the community are rebuilding a greenhouse. They will grow jalapeño peppers and tomatoes in a more climate-controlled space to diversify and improve production.

A meeting was held to organize families that are interested in establishing their own tilapia projects. Currently there are five families in the community that have had a profitable experience selling fish for the past three years. Eleven families participated in the meeting and each family has begun building their tanks to raise approximately 350 fish each.

Families raising animals in the community vaccinated forty pigs and thirty sheep this quarter.

### **Community Education and Training**

The twelve students participating in the literacy class in Villa Linda are all in the third level, equivalent to fifth and sixth grade. The students feel very motivated to continue studying as their own parents were not able to provide this opportunity to them. The class received three dictionaries and school supplies such as pens, pencils, folders and a chalkboard. Graduation is in November.

Sixth grade students in Villa Linda participated in a field trip sponsored by the Agricultural Formation School, a program of the Ministry of Agriculture. The purpose of the activity was to share about the school that provides a three-year course in agricultural production and technology. The participants also visited the school's farm that includes areas demonstrating activities in forestry, fruit trees, vegetables, corn, rabbits and cattle.