

# Village Update

Villa Linda, Guatemala



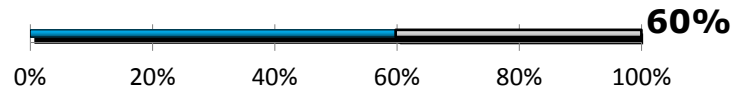
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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 (100% reached when community has paid off their land loans)



## Economic Indicators:

### Diversification of income-generating crops:

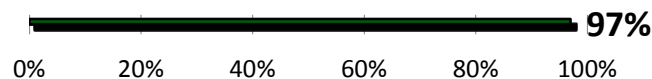
5 types of crops sold to provide income

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%

Mateo is a motivated member of the Villa Linda community eager to learn. For a long time, Mateo wanted to learn how to make and sell candles. With support from Agros, he attended a candle-making workshop and has since received five pounds of wax and made twenty-eight candles. Mateo is proud of his creations and looks forward to the two training seminars coming up where he can further develop his skills and one day start an enterprise of his own.

## **Community Organization**

Evaluations were conducted in the community this quarter. Through family surveys and focus groups, Agros staff and community members alike are able to reflect on the impact of the Agros development model in Villa Linda.

## **Land Ownership**

Two families made a land loan payment this quarter, totaling to \$3,730. These families are excited to be making progress on their payment and coming closer to their dream of becoming land owners.

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

A businesswoman in the community is receiving training and managing a sewing project using a sewing machine to take orders from other families in Villa Linda. Currently she makes aprons and blouses, among other garments, to sell for her family's benefit.

This quarter the Community Bank repaid their group loan amounting to \$1,590. Before starting their seventh loan cycle, these twelve women incorporated four new members. The group also traveled to their bank to update their account with the new members' personal information and elected a new secretary and treasurer.

As a new source of income, six men and women have begun making candles to sell in Villa Linda and in neighboring communities. Since many of these families live without electricity, candles are a reliable light source in the early mornings and evenings.

The twenty families growing coffee administered insecticides to areas that have been damaged by pests. Nineteen families were given materials to begin planting 500 new coffee plants on three acres of land. With training and assistance, participants are working to make new terraces, clear weeds and brush, prune existing plants and control shade with screens and shade trees.



Families involved in animal husbandry were provided with the opportunity to vaccinate their herds last quarter. Seven sheep, fifteen pigs and 134 chickens in the community were vaccinated and received vitamins to ensure their health.

Villa Linda's fish project is doing well. The four participants monitor and weigh sample fish from each pond each month before taking fish to the market to sell.



successful income-generating projects such as raising chickens and growing radishes, celery, lettuce and tomatoes. The youth felt empowered after the retreat and are now motivated to initiate their own projects.

Training sessions on preventative and reproductive health were held for the community last quarter. Topics included anemia, the food guide pyramid and healthy eating.

Families are doing their part growing medicinal plant gardens. In these plots, several different types of plants are grown to treat minor health problems.

First-aid kits were monitored to ensure they are adequately stocked. This effort, initiated by the health promoter and committee, will improve access to medicines and other supplies for the community.

### **Community Education and Training**

Three of the children in sixth grade were able to go on an educational tour to learn about the different options for continuing education in the municipality. The students were able to visit various locations and encouraged to continue their education through talks on the importance of continued learning.

Thirty youth and thirty adults participated in a workshop designed to help improve relationships and communal living in Villa Linda. Topics covered included living in community and different values such as love, peace, justice, responsibility, self-esteem and positive attitudes.

This quarter, youth from other Agros communities met to discuss various enterprise opportunities. Seven young men and women from Villa Linda attended and learned about

