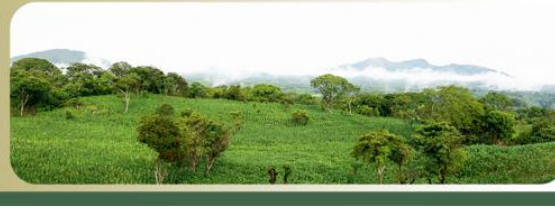


Village Update

San Diego, El Salvador



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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: 2000

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:

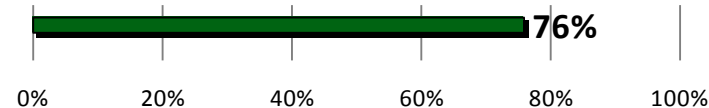
3 types of crops sold to provide income

50% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

60% 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:

A trained Health Committee is active in the community.

School-aged children attending school:

80%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

29%

Felipa has defined her life by three concepts: faith in God, hard work, and perseverance. These have seen her through many hard times, including paying off her land loan—she is now proudly holds the title to her land, and is the third in San Diego to do so! As a young family, Felipa, her husband, and two daughters lived a peaceful life, but once the war began this quickly changed. Felipa's husband left to join the conflict, leaving her behind to raise her daughters alone. Felipa remembers how quickly the war ended up at their back door and forced them to flee their home. Finding refuge in Honduras Felipa struggled there for four years supporting her daughters and waiting for the chance to return. In 1992 when relative peace was reached and Felipa set out to find a new place to build a future, she found Agros. Felipa worked hard on her land and washed clothes for people to earn an income. Her hands are calloused but her hard work has paid off—her family now owns their land and they have the assurance of a better future.

Community Organization

San Diego leadership and Agros staff assessed the damage caused by Hurricane Ida in November and found that community health and infrastructure were the most affected. Energy is being focused in these areas in hopes to improve conditions.

A community-wide evaluation took place this quarter to measure the impact of the Agros model in the lives of the youth, women, and men in San Diego. The results will provide invaluable feedback to continue improving the community development process.

The leadership in San Diego has navigated the process of becoming legally recognized as an ADESCO committee by the municipal government. This means that they can go straight to government agencies to ask for support in areas like agriculture, education, and social projects that benefit the community. They are now working on revising some of their bylaws to ensure gender inclusivity and once approved, San Diego will be recognized as a legal entity.

The leadership is also working to resolve a nascent challenge with illegal alcohol sales in the village, mediating the conflict and helping the involved members agree to discontinue sales.

Housing and Infrastructure

Many of the homes were affected by Hurricane Ida and the constant rains that followed. The excessive amounts of rain caused damage to roofs, floors and household belongings. Fifteen families benefited from an emergency fund set up to repair their homes.

Coordinating with the local municipal government, 2.5 miles of the main access road were repaired. Leadership is partnering with a nearby community in hopes of improving another 3.7 miles.

Land Ownership

Three families returned their agricultural land because they did not fulfill their land loan agreements. As a result, their land was reassigned to benefit other families in the community. Agros employs a rigorous process to help families succeed in repaying their loans. However, in rare instances, this may not prove possible and land is thereby reassigned to others in the community. This process is explained to all community members to ensure full understanding and confidence in how the Agros model works.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The main focus this quarter has been food security and marketing. Because of Hurricane Ida, the cucumber and bell pepper projects were completely lost. The three families participating in the tilapia project received technical assistance from Agros staff to improve the fishes' diet, grow the population, and identify new markets.

San Diego leadership is hoping to form a partnership with a fruit processing company, Agros Tropical, so that the farmers can secure steady buyers for their products.

Since the price of pork is very low right now, the three families participating in the pig project have decided to buy a boar and sell their two sows at a later date.

A plot of beans was planted by ten farmers to secure food for the coming months. Any leftover beans will be sold to partnering

organization Fomilenio. San Diego leadership has also requested use of a tractor from Fomilenio to expand their crop production. The tractor is being stored at neighboring Agros community La Esperanza and is shared by these families as well.

Community Education and Training

Due to the cold weather, hard rains, and constant humidity, the first emergency health activity took place last October to counter the various illnesses in the community. Seventy-eight people were treated and the doctors also provided check-ups and vaccinations to infants. These activities were accomplished through a partnership with a municipal medical team.

A second check-up was held in November offering general follow-up to everyone's conditions. Sixty-nine people benefited from this event as well as thirteen women who received a gynecological exam and cancer screening. A two-month old baby was diagnosed with anemia, a throat infection, and malnutrition and was taken to the hospital. The Red Cross blood bank was able to help her and the baby is now at a proper weight for her age.

The health promoters continue to supervise the proper use and maintenance of the composting latrines in the community to ensure good sanitation. In coordination with the Women's and Youth Committees, two clean-up activities took place this quarter, focusing on eliminating breeding grounds for mosquitoes that spread malaria. Involving the youth in these projects encourages community participation and leadership skills. Two teenagers have begun to sell fresh juice to the community in hopes to help with their families' basic needs.

A vacation bible school was sponsored by one of the churches in the community for the children of San Diego. Forty-two girls and boys attended and had fun learning, playing, singing, sharing nutritious food, and working on different crafts together. The children also attended a Children's Day celebration where they gathered with their families to spend a day together.



Thanks to leaders in the community, a partnering organization donated school supplies for twenty-nine children for the upcoming school year. Each child will be given a backpack, notebooks, pencils, and other basic materials. Priority was given to the families who have more than two children.

Members of the Women's Committee continue contributing to their families' incomes and improving family nutrition. As their own self-esteem improves and they grow as individuals, they serve as examples to the other women in the community.