

Village Update

San Diego, El Salvador



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: 2000

Development Level:



Economic Indicators:

Diversification of income-generating crops:

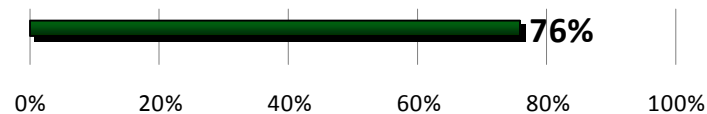
3 types of crops sold to provide income

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%

Women in leadership:

29%

Don José, a member of San Diego, is a man who loves to tell his life story, one filled with hardships, adventure, love, and perseverance. As he recalls the trials he has faced, he first mentions his love, Noemí. "I admire my wife who has helped me in the good times and in the bad times." He recalls when they, along with their five children, would go hungry for days no matter how hard they worked. He recalls the days he worked as a day laborer when there was no place to sleep. "You have no idea how hard it is to not even have a shack to lay your head down in... Those times *will not* come again," he stresses, "because I have been blessed to be in this community where we all move ahead with our families. When I first arrived to San Diego that is what I promised myself, that we would move ahead. I didn't want my children to be hungry anymore." And that is exactly what Don José has done. He is involved in the chicken, basic grains, and livestock projects and Noemí is

involved in a small handicraft business. Between the two, they have improved their house and can feed and clothe their children. "We are saving enough to pay off our land," states Don José. Noemí adds, "Just thinking about receiving our land title makes me nervously happy—and more so imagining Skip Li coming to the ceremony—I haven't seen him in years!" José has his own vision the day they receive their title, "I want to throw a party and invite everyone to come and eat with us to celebrate that wonderful day!" José's family has proven to be a strong example in the community as they work in unity to one day repay their loans in full and own their land.



Land Ownership

150 sapodilla fruit trees were planted to begin what the community wants to turn into an ecological park, an idea inspired after attending trainings on the environment and

stewardship. The trees will protect the soil as well as provide a source of nutritious fruit.

Housing and Infrastructure

Five miles of road were repaired that lead from San Diego to the nearest town in conjunction with the local government. The improvements will hopefully last during the approaching rainy season.

The families worked together to install showers and sinks in order to host more activities, events, and visits in the community center. The center is being well-maintained and put to constant use and the families are excited for this new improvement.

Sustainable Economic Growth

A new chicken project has begun in which six women are participating with 100 new baby chicks. With the help of Agros staff, the women were able to treat their birds and learn how to properly feed them. There are now a total of three groups raising chickens in the community, all of which are selling the eggs and meat locally, adding protein to family diets and generating an additional income for the participating families.

Individual vegetable gardens were expanded in twenty homes this quarter. Now, these families count on cucumbers, carrots, watercress, radishes, tomatoes and parsley for additional food and financial security, as some crops are sold on a small scale in local markets. A collective crop of chili peppers also began this quarter, with three families producing on 0.43 acres.

Eleven families are involved in raising livestock, participating actively in trainings to learn how to feed and properly treat the

animals for illnesses. Agros staff provided technical assistance and accompaniment as the families learn to administer vaccines and other medicines and how to provide a nutritious diet for the herd.

As many farmers become more involved in different initiatives, a need to expand existing irrigation systems to supply the additional crops has surfaced. This has become a goal and will be worked on in the near future.



Community Education and Training

The Health Committee has focused on ensuring the cleanliness of the composting latrines in the community. Informative discussions were held on how good hygiene helps prevent illnesses such as the swine flu, colds, skin problems, and lice.

The Women's Committee was restructured in a recent general assembly meeting with the community. Understanding the importance of team work, the committee has already

participated in workshops on solidarity, communication and organization to strengthen their work in the community.

Using the \$50 raised at local soccer games, some of the women have begun a community bank modeled after formal banks to provide loans to other members of San Diego, mainly women.



A group of women from San Diego were able to participate in meetings with the Network of Commercializing Women where they exchanged ideas with others and improved their products. The participants were also invited to sell their crafts at a local venue that displayed work from the region. This event, along with activities with other Agros villages, has greatly motivated the women of San Diego to continue their efforts in helping themselves and their families.

Through the use of arts and crafts, the younger children of San Diego have been taught about basic values. These activities take place afterschool and are meant to support learning in the home.