

Village Update

San Diego, El Salvador



Agros
INTERNATIONAL

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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:

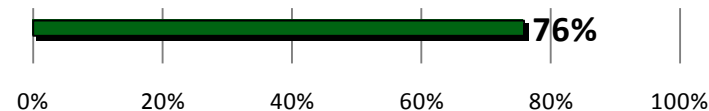
3 types of crops sold to provide income

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%

The families in the Agros El Salvador community of San Diego are very excited to have their project proposal for paving the main access road to their village approved by the local government this quarter. After attending a meeting with twenty-five other communities in the region, the road leading to San Diego and neighboring Agros community La Esperanza was one of the fifteen communities that were selected. Due to the proactive participation of the community's leadership, the families will now have an improved road for transporting crops to the market and walking to school. Work has already begun and the families are excited to participate in improving access to and from their community.

Community Organization

The leadership in San Diego, including members of the Men's, Women's, Children's and Youth Committees, met together this quarter to create the annual village plan for their community. Here

they prioritized goals and various projects before presenting a draft to the entire community for review. This strategic three-year plan will help guide the community in their development process.

The leadership in the community also reviewed their bylaws, ensuring that the rules and regulations that govern San Diego remain relevant to the community's needs.

Housing and Infrastructure

This quarter, the families installed water tanks to begin construction on an irrigation system. Irrigation systems provide a way for farmers to grow diverse vegetables year-round.

When Hurricane Ida hit El Salvador last November, many of the homes in San Diego were affected, especially roofs and floors. With emergency funds and help from volunteer organizations, the families most impacted were able to make necessary repairs.

Sustainable Economic Growth

With support from the Millennium Development Fund, six farmers in San Diego were able to purchase seeds and other agricultural supplies to plant tomatoes. They have future plans to grow jalapeño peppers as well.

The two pig projects in San Diego are going well. The first group has been busy working on a system to safely remove waste water from the stalls. These three participants also received training in vaccinating and providing healthy food for their animals. The second group of four recently built a pen to house three pigs, two females and one male. They hope that the pigs will soon start

reproducing. Everyone is benefiting from the technical assistance about hygiene and caring for the pigs in a healthy and safe way.

Producers in San Diego also received training in keeping financial records to keep track of costs, margins, and revenues of the products they sell. Having a historical record of such information is helpful in organizing their businesses and making important business decisions.

Six families divided into two groups are making headway in their tilapia projects. Both groups received materials to build tanks to raise the fish and provide protection against birds and other predators. The first group is off to a good start with 836 baby fish and the second group is excited to begin selling their 2,000 fish to neighboring communities and in the San Martín market to provide income for their basic needs.



Various chicken projects also continue to develop in San Diego. After nine birds died during the rainy season, the families built an

enclosed structure to protect them from rain and sun. Chickens also were vaccinated. A group of three women have started another chicken project and with their husbands' help, have cleared out an area for their thirty-six birds.



A group of women met four times this quarter to form San Diego's first Community Bank. Once established, this bank will provide opportunities for women to begin their own enterprises through a group loan. After several cycles, the group will use pooled savings to begin providing loans to other members of the community and area, starting their own community bank. Participants are also learning business skills such as how to manage credit effectively.

Community Education and Training

Seventeen women participated in an educational workshop coordinated by the Health Committee about nutrition and their families' health. During the workshop, the women learned the

importance of incorporating fruit and vegetables into their diets to provide essential vitamins and minerals. Many families have backyard vegetable gardens producing bananas, *chipilín* (a local leafy green vegetable), plantains, berries and yucca.

Through a partnership with an outside dental clinic, fifty men, women and children received dental exams, cleanings, extractions, treatments and important dental hygiene training. Participants learned how to care for their teeth to prevent decay, and extreme cases were referred to the hospital in Suchitoto.

Results were shared with thirteen women who received a gynecological exam last quarter. Women with infections received treatment and understand the importance of clinical exams.

Boys and girls in San Diego worked together this quarter in a community-wide clean-up. During this activity, the children learned about the importance of hygiene while collecting trash and recyclable items to improve cleanliness and prevent the spread of disease in the community. The children are also learning about the value of art in life. Nine children are participating in a school art project learning the basics of drawing and painting.

The youth are participating in classes about personal development, learning about their potential and value to their family and community. These classes instill positive values and ethics in the children and future leaders.

A group of women held two meetings this quarter on equal rights and gender equality. These women hope to participate in more active leadership roles in community development, not just at home. With support from Agros, women and men are learning how to work together for a positive future.