

Village Update

Batzchocolá, Guatemala



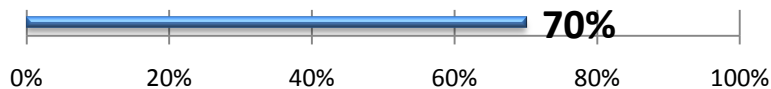
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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: 2004

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:

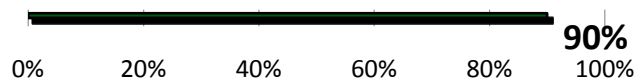
8 types of crops sold to provide income

90% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

95% 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:

88%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

21%

"My mother went away – but not God," says 19-year-old Catarina. Catarina was forced to take on the untimely responsibility of head of household after her father died and her mother abandoned the family. Today, Catarina cares for her younger brother and sister and together, the siblings work hard to provide for themselves on their land in Batzchocolá.

Recently, the siblings planted corn and beans. They also raise chickens to provide for their needs. Catarina is known for her "can-do" attitude and her strong work ethic, which serves as a great example to the other families in the community.



Catarina (right) and her sister use organic fertilizer to prepare the land for planting beans.

Community Organization

Fifteen community leaders were trained this quarter in the “how-tos” of forming and participating in agricultural associations and cooperatives.

Also, since the term of office of several of the community’s leaders ended, new leaders were elected to take their places.

Housing and Infrastructure

The hydroelectric project is in its final stages of construction, and the community is very excited about a future with access to electricity.

One recent setback suffered in this project has been the destruction of some of the water pipeline by landslides. As soon as replacement pipes are obtained and placed, posts are set and electric lines are strung, the project will be complete.

According to Agros staff, the community has been tireless in bringing this project to completion, and their effort is “admirable.”



Children enjoy a hearty soup made from vegetables grown in the garden at their school.

Sustainable Economic Growth

To avoid having to pay the ever-increasing costs of commercial fertilizer, families are encouraged and trained by Agros staff in the production of worm compost and the use of natural fertilizers like animal manure.

Most recently, these organic fertilizers were used by families as they planted their bean fields, reducing the amount of commercial fertilizer required.



This farmer is producing organic "lombricompost," an alternative to commercial fertilizers.

Thirty families are also saving money through their gardens, in which they grow a variety of vegetables, including cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and onions. They are able to provide a varied, nutritious diet for themselves without having to purchase produce from the local markets. And they are able to sell any surpluses they have.

Also this quarter, assistance was provided to the 16 partners of the community bank, which is in its eleventh credit cycle. At monthly meetings, members are mentored and encouraged to keep their commitments of timely loan repayment.

Community Education and Training

Workshops on preparing nutritionally balanced meals were provided to women in the community.

Batzchocolá, Winter 2011 Update

In addition, one mother was selected to attend training in early childhood development. She then shared her training with the other mothers of young children in a series of three workshops. Twenty-three mothers and 25 young boys and girls in the community participated in the training.

The facilitator was also given a kit of supplies and educational materials to use in her training workshops. She says that in spite of being a mother for 18 years, she is learning new things that help her take better care of her 11-month-old daughter.

Sixteen women participated in literacy classes, in partnership with the government agency CONALFA, which provides the teacher. Agros provides attendees with materials and support in their learning.

Several of the youth in the community were also provided training in the basic principles of finance. Topics included the key elements of business, calculating costs and gains, and the concept of supply and demand.

Several members of the primary leadership committee were provided awareness education and training in conservation of the environment and natural resources. Their eyes were opened for the first time to the dangers faced by the environment and the importance of taking practical steps to protect it.



Proud growers of a beautiful cabbage crop!