

# Village Update

El Edén, Nicaragua



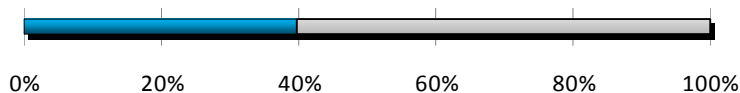
2225 4th Ave, 2nd Floor, Seattle, WA 98121  
[p] 206.528.1066 | www.agros.org

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: 2006

**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:

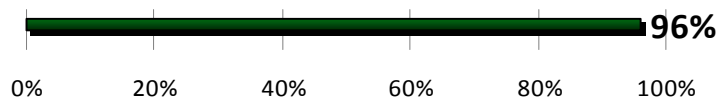
*6 types of crops sold to provide income*

*62% 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 0-100 meters from home*

### Presence of health promoters in community:

*Yes*

### School-aged children attending school:

*75%*

### Leadership Positions Held by Women:

*20%*

Jairo and Marta have suffered a great deal in their lifetime without access to land or training in sustainable agricultural practices. They now have a two year old son, and their biggest dream is to be land owners so that their child can have the security and prosperity that land provides. When Jairo and Marta joined the Agros Nicaragua community of El Edén, they were very poor, but came with a strong desire to work and to learn. Now they know how to grow diverse vegetables and feel very grateful for this opportunity they have with Agros. Despite the difficult rainy seasons they have experienced, they are not discouraged and keep their faith in God.

## Community Organization

The leadership and community members alike in El Edén have demonstrated positive leadership skills and development. Some members of the community have received training in leadership development from the local government, showing the investment the municipality is making in the community. Additionally, workshops such as project evaluation, legal recognition and creation of bylaws have been held in the community. In the last three months, the families all participated in a working session to revise their bylaws and have them reviewed and approved by the local government.

## Land Ownership

Families also have been cleaning up the green spaces around the community to prevent wildfires that are common in the dry season. By removing excess brush and undergrowth in their fields and forest areas and improving the fences, they are minimizing risk of fire and damage.

## Housing and Infrastructure

The families have been busy making repairs and performing general maintenance on infrastructure in their community this quarter. Work on the community center is 80% complete, pending only repair of a few cracks in the walls. The access road is being maintained, removing large rocks and filling potholes that have formed due to heavy rains. A long section of the road from Yucul was repaired by the local government as well. Lastly, the new and second water reservoir in the community, complete with collection and distribution tanks, a filter and tubing leading to the families'

homes, has been completed, ensuring that the water system in El Edén is ready in time for the coming dry months ahead.

## Sustainable Economic Growth

The families are in the thick of harvesting their coffee fields, working hard to harvest enough to repay their coffee loan. Despite the economic and climactic challenges, the families have been able to repay all of their loans this quarter by selling their coffee to the exporter and taking their peppers, milk and other individual vegetable harvests to the market to sell.



The farmers in the community are very pleased to have completed a training series with partnering organization PROMIPAC. As a

result of the trainings, the families have a strong grasp on pest management and use of various products to improve the quality of their production of diverse crops. A challenge for the community has been access to adequate irrigation to grow vegetables. The families hope to obtain a water pump in order to expand the irrigated areas in El Edén.

As mentioned above, the effects of El Niño and the global economy are taking a toll on the profitability of the families' projects as prices for farming inputs sky rocket and products sell for less in the market. For this reason, the families will not be taking out additional loans this quarter and Agros staff is working with the families to establish creative and strategic plans to improve the situation, including installation of water pump to increase irrigation. With additional irrigated land, the families hope to grow more vegetables that sell for higher prices in the market.



## Community Education and Training

Mothers in El Edén participated this quarter in a nutrition training to learn the importance of a diet rich in vitamins and minerals to ensure their children's proper growth and development. Twelve women planted squash in their backyards as a result of the activity. Other health trainings have included topics such as hygiene and general cleanliness. Youth lead a clean-up activity where trash was collected around the property and road.

Adults and youth alike participated in primary and preventative health trainings, including a discussion on prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. The local health promoter in El Edén continues to receive training to offer as a resource to the families in his community.

The preschool children continue attending classes and are supported with school supplies. Four children have been promoted to the next level.

Agros staff and the community have noted the gradual long-term change occurring in the families as they learn the importance of their participation in the overall development of their community. With time, the families are also learning to improve relationships among one another and strengthen unity in order to avoid conflicts and grow spiritually. Youth in El Edén organized a Christmas party for the community to celebrate the end of the year and everyone's accomplishments.