

Village Update

Luz del Mañana, Nicaragua



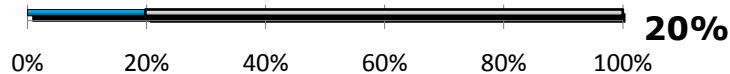
2225 4th Ave, 2nd Floor, Seattle, WA 98121
[p] 206.528.1066 | www.agros.org

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 seven 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: 2009

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:

9 types of crops sold to provide income

93% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

21% of people commercialize their products

Community Indicators:

Access to water for domestic use:

36% of families have water at 0-20 meters from home (100% have water within 100 meters)

**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:

80%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

36%

The four families of Luz del Mañana who have joined together in a cattle-raising project are excited about the success of this enterprise. They started with three cows and five calves, and have had several cycles of selling and purchasing cattle. Today, they have a total of four cows and 19 calves! In addition, they have completely paid back the loan provided to them to start this project. These families have great hopes that they will continue to succeed in the cattle business and earn enough to begin repaying their land loans.

Community Organization

Recently, three more families were selected to join the community. With their addition, the community will be complete, numbering 25 families.

Agros has provided training for the leadership in how to be both good leaders and servants to the community. The leaders are doing a good job of fulfilling their roles and resolving conflict among the families. Also, the families of Luz del Mañana continue to grow in their organizational skills and unity.

With the development of the next fiscal year's village plan, Agros staff have been visiting individual family homes, helping them assess their values and goals, and using them as a basis of their own plans for next year.

Land Ownership

This quarter the families' land loan payment plans were finalized. Over the next year, they will strive to earn enough income from the commercialization of their crops to make their first payments. Two families have already made an initial payment.

Since the land occupied by Luz del Mañana has suffered from deforestation, community members are committed to replanting trees to restore the natural environment and prevent soil erosion. They have planted several varieties of tree seedlings for this important project.

Housing and Infrastructure

Each of the 22 current families have completed the construction of their homes. Priorities for the new fiscal year, which began July 1, 2011, include completing composting latrines and improved stoves for all the homes and constructing a community center to serve as a place for meetings, training workshops, celebrations and other events.



Clean water systems are an Agros priority for each home.

The families are eagerly awaiting the installation of irrigation, planned to cover 43 acres. They hope to see its completion in the next quarter so they can grow crops year-round to help increase their level of income and food security.

Sustainable Economic Growth

Together, the families are cultivating about 26 acres of corn, as well as 14 acres of plantains, 1.5 acres of green peppers and smaller areas of squash. Two families took out loans to cultivate nearly two acres of watermelons.



Two families are diversifying their crops with juicy watermelons.

Agricultural training this quarter focused on managing corn crops and treating common diseases of corn and other vegetables.

Agros staff regularly visit each family's parcel to make recommendations. In particular, families are instructed about the advantages and proper application of fertilizer, something that few of them have had experience with. Recommendations are recorded in writing. One copy is kept by the family and another is kept in a central file for the staff's future reference and ongoing guidance.

The four families raising cattle are experiencing great success. They have already paid back their loan for launching the enterprise, and their head count has increased by 200 percent.

During the summer, a group of women began a cooking business for income generation. The women cooked food to sell to tourists traveling to nearby beaches. Agros helped them succeed in this enterprise with training about sanitary food preparation and good customer service. Other groups of women are planning to start such projects as raising chickens and planting family gardens.

Community Education and Training

This quarter, a doctor from the regional health center visited the community for medical check-ups. The doctor also gave presentations on environmental hygiene and preventive health. As a follow-up, a community health promoter organized a community clean-up campaign to collect garbage and eradicate breeding grounds of disease-carrying mosquitoes.

The two designated health promoters continue to undergo training sponsored by the center to learn more about issues that affect community health and to increase their knowledge and skills.

The weight and height have been recorded for several of the community's young children. The doctor will monitor growth as these numbers are regularly updated, to ensure children are receiving the proper nutrition to reach normal physical development milestones.

This quarter, the village formed an education committee to manage school materials for children in primary and secondary school. Agros provided the committee with various learning materials to add to the community resource center.

A group of young people have taken on the responsibility of administering the educational resource center as well as the communal medicine/first aid kit. These responsibilities are teaching them important business practices and instilling in them a greater commitment to the community.

Adult literacy classes are continuing in the community, and this quarter, Luz del Mañana celebrated the end of the school year and successful graduation of the children to the next grade.

The families are dedicated to developing their spiritual lives and regularly attend Bible studies to nurture their faith and guide them in their daily lives.