

Village Update

Nueva Esperanza, Nicaragua



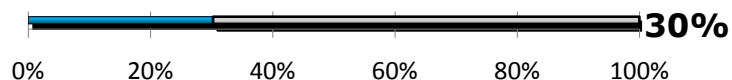
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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: 2008

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:

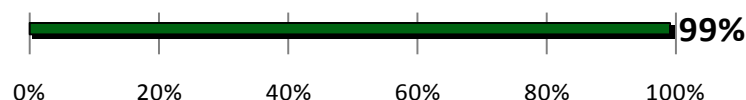
8 types of crops sold to provide income

58% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

36% 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:

94%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

44%

Cristina and Glenda recently took a brave step. They started an enterprise that they had no former training or experience in – breeding tilapia. They also took on the challenge with the commitment that they would not neglect their other responsibilities.

They have worked hard on this project, learning all they can, as fast as they can. They have organized a schedule to share the feeding and care of their fish. And though they have faced some difficulties, they continue with their determination to make this business a success.



Cristina and Glenda's fish project is progressing well, and soon they will sell the fish to help improve their family's economic situation.

Community Organization

This quarter, a new leadership board comprising seven members was elected by community members. For the majority of those elected, three of whom are women, it is their first time to play a leadership role in the community. The staff is helping these new leaders develop good management skills and teamwork based on the community's established values and goals.

One of the first jobs of the new leadership was to spearhead an evaluation of the previous year's annual plan and to develop a new one for the next year, which started July 1. Some of the goals for this fiscal year are to conduct gender equality workshops, construct a community center and install improved stoves in each home.

Unfortunately, one family decided to leave Nueva Esperanza this quarter. Four families applied to take their place. After a rigorous application and interview process, three of the families were determined to be eligible for community membership. A drawing was held, and the winning family has moved into the community. They are happy to have this great opportunity to work toward land ownership, and they already feel accepted by the other families.

Land Ownership

Income from the past coffee harvest allowed the families to pay the interest due on their land loans. They also paid back the loans they were provided to cultivate the recent cycle of coffee.

The community is practicing good environmental stewardship. They are not cutting down trees, and the agro-chemicals they are using to prevent diseases in their crops are not harmful to the environment. They also have been trained in how to handle empty chemical containers to protect the community's water supply from contamination.

Housing and Infrastructure

The community is proud to have completed construction of the new school. Now their children have a safe and pleasant place to learn.

In addition, this quarter families improved their houses by constructing floors. The construction of composting latrines, water storage containers and wash basins for each home was also completed.



The children are thrilled with their new school.

Sustainable Economic Growth

This quarter, families tended to their coffee fields, removing weeds, cultivating their seedlings and preparing the ground for new seeds.

In addition, they managed their fields of beans and corn, which are being grown primarily for their own consumption and food security. To help extend their crop and income diversity, some families are also cultivating small areas of passion fruit and banana trees, chayote, and other fruits and vegetables.

Agriculture trainings this quarter focused on such coffee cultivation topics as seed selection, establishing seedbeds, dealing with the effects of humidity and keeping the ground nutrient-rich. A representative from the organization Bio-Agrolat provided some of the training and visited each family's land parcel for one-on-one guidance.

Each family was also provided fertilizer and a fungicide, as well as an application pump, to help ensure a productive new coffee growing cycle.

Community Education and Training

Sixteen women had gynecological exams this quarter. It was the first time they had ever undergone this screening. They demonstrated courage in overcoming their fears and anxieties about taking this important measure to ensure their health.

Community cleaning days were conducted to improve environmental hygiene, and training in sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS was provided.

Leadership is working with the Ministry of Education to obtain a teacher for the adult literacy classes, since the former teacher left the area. Agros has already provided the supplies and learning materials, and it is hoped that a new teacher can be found and classes resume soon.

The youth are managing the community's school supplies store. They are providing a great service to the families that purchase low-cost supplies for their children's and learning how to run a business at the same time.

Spiritual development is important to the families, and they continue to conduct devotionals before the start of each work day.