

Village Update

Norwich, 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: 2002

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:

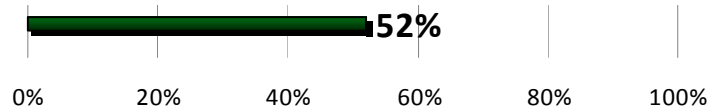
5 types of crops sold to provide income

100% 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:

100%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

67%

*Agros staff is currently reviewing Norwich's loan portfolio to restructure loans so that the families can repay, taking into consideration the drought's recent impact in the community.

This quarter Francisco (affectionately known as Don Chico), his wife Olivia and their six children are the examples of the Agros Nicaragua community of Norwich. This family has already paid off their land loan and holds the title to their land as owners. This huge achievement has not come without sacrifice, hope and faith. Chico and Olivia's children are all attending school, elementary and secondary school, in addition to helping their parents in the fields with their basic grain crops and cattle projects. In 2008, Don Chico had a successful harvest of rice, but this year due to the severe drought that hit the region, he lost his 1.7 acres of the crop. "We may have lost the rice, but we haven't lost hope. Together we can move ahead."

Community Organization

After a period of less active leadership due to the demands of work, the leaders in Norwich have turned over a new leaf, spending a good amount of their time involving more of the men and holding three community assembly meetings to discuss loan repayment and Agros' exit plan. The majority of the leaders are women, but more recently four men have stepped up their participation.

The families continue to demonstrate strong values of solidarity and generosity toward one another. When one family has water in their well, they share with the rest of the community.

Land Ownership

The families in Norwich show a great deal of love towards their land. These strong values are demonstrated in the families' commitment to repaying their loans. Currently, four families have completely repaid their land loans, and agreements have been made with eleven families that through the sale of some of their cattle the remainder of their land loan will be made.

Follow-up to the reforestation project will continue though a lack of water will make it difficult to irrigate the tree saplings.

Housing and Infrastructure

This quarter Agros staff supported the families in making repairs to the water reservoir in the community that provides water for consumption in Norwich. This has motivated the families a great deal although due to the drought, there is very little water in the

wells. Families have organized themselves to dig deeper in the existing wells in hopes of finding more water.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The families have begun preparing the land to plant vegetables again; demonstrating a great deal of faith due to the fact that last season's lack of rain caused complete loss of these crops.

Agros staff continues accompanying the families in their various productive activities, including sesame, rice and wheat production. With greater technical support, Agros is working to minimize loss of these crops due to the climatic conditions of the area.

Discussions and trainings in diversification continue in Norwich. Some families own a few cattle that provide milk, a source of year-round income and nutrition for their families. Other women are also working together to practice sewing in order to generate income through a potential textile business.

Community Education and Training

Due to regular discussions of the importance of hygiene, the families provide cleaning and maintenance of their composting latrines, preventing spread of disease. Families also are reminded of the importance of hygiene in their kitchens and homes to improve health.

Many families have become sick in the community, some due to the smoke and gases that have been released from an active volcano in the region. Agros and Norwich leadership have established a partnership with the local health center which is

prioritizing members of the community. Norwich's local health promoter is also available in case of an emergency in the village.

The school children have completed another academic year, and some students, due to their own hard work and their parents' personal sacrifice, are continuing to secondary school. The adult literacy class has also completed another year, in which four adults are learning to read and write through the Department of Education program in the community.

Women and youth participation in the community is strong, as women and girls participate in animal husbandry projects and a sewing group. Some older boys are working at a nearby sugar cane farm to help their families with additional income.

The families stay involved in gatherings to discuss relationships, family and life in general reflecting on applications from biblical passages. Currently the families are studying the book of Genesis and the creation story. The families demonstrate a high level of self-esteem, enabling them to move forward in their development journey and everyday lives.