

# Village Update

Trapichitos, Guatemala



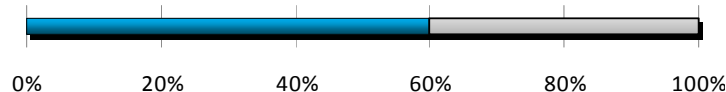
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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 2009)

Founded: 2000

**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:

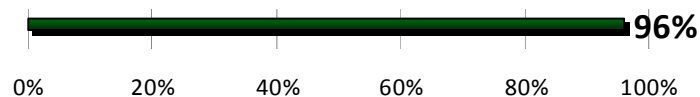
6 types of crops sold to provide income

100% of people have livestock

### Participation in commercialization of products:

86% 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:

86%

### Leadership Positions Held by Women:

42%

Due to the generosity and vision of Domingo, proud member of Agros Guatemala community Trapichitos, the rest of the coffee producers in the community are able to learn improved methods for production and conserve their natural resources. In partnership with Agros staff, Domingo is providing a section of his coffee fields to serve as a demonstration area for the farmers learning how to produce fermenting tanks. These tanks improve the quality of the coffee, save water during the production process, and prevent environmental contamination caused by the wastewater. Thanks to Domingo and the hard work of all involved, the families involved in the coffee project will be seeing improvement in production and their income soon.

## Community Organization

The leaders in the community participated in further training in the importance of and how to develop the rules and guidelines that help their community run smoothly. The leadership hopes to finish revising these guidelines, including each committee's mission and the member roles and responsibilities in the upcoming months.

A challenge currently facing Trapichitos is division among some of the leaders in the community. During the hydroelectric project taking place in Trapichitos, many have had hesitations regarding how their leaders have represented them to the hydroelectric company installing electric lines on the property. Some damage has been done to the forest area, for which the company has agreed to compensate. The community hopes that with the upcoming election to form a new committee in charge of sustainable management of the forest area, and the land title ceremony next quarter, all worries will settle.

A huge achievement for the families of Trapichitos has been the expansion of the existing elementary school to include five classrooms, a much needed improvement as the number of children in the community has grown significantly in the last few years. Now the children can learn in a more comfortable environment with more space. The next step for the community is to provide schooling for the students that have completed the sixth grade and wish to take to their studies to the next level. Community leadership is not stopping with their last success and is working towards furthering educational opportunities in Trapichitos even more.

## Sustainable Economic Growth

As mentioned above, a new interest awakened in the community's coffee farmers this quarter following a training on how to build a tank for fermenting coffee. Fermentation is the process that follows removing the coffee beans' outer layer of pulp and is before drying the beans on the patio. Beans are left in water in the fermentation tanks for 16-36 hours to remove the bean's slippery covering called mucilage. Using a fermentation tank, the farmers can improve the quality of their coffee, save water during the production process, and prevent environmental contamination caused by the wastewater.



Animal husbandry practices are very important in ensuring the health and success of the families' animal projects as well as the community at large. Over the last several months, the families are

participating in a series of three trainings to learn about preventing external parasites and pests that carry disease such as fleas, lice, ticks and flies. This last semester, the second training was held to provide follow up information in removing these pests and how to administer vitamins to improve animal health.

As the Community Bank in Trapichitos builds experience, the women are taking on more responsibilities in their banking and financial activities. Four bank leaders participated in a regional workshop this quarter to review the manual and the new responsibilities members gain as they complete more loan cycles. The bank members also received technical assistance, training, and accompaniment in their various small businesses.

### **Community Education and Training**

Nutrition has been a primary focus in community health over the last quarter as men, women and children learn about the importance of childhood nutrition, especially in the early years. Mothers are learning how to give their children medicine to remove parasites, a common problem that robs the body of nutrients, as well as how to provide healthy meals. For younger children, parents are learning the benefits of breastfeeding and how to pair milk with healthy, solid foods as their children grow. The last of three workshops was facilitated by a medical team from the Nebaj health department, providing more in-depth information for the participants to serve as examples and leaders for the rest of the community to follow.

Youth in the community participated in a workshop about drugs and sexual health this quarter. Two youth took away important information regarding healthy lifestyles, saying no to drugs, and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Teachers in the Ixil region participated in a workshop this quarter about ways to integrate recycling in their classrooms and communities at large. Each school received four multi-colored containers to easily identify and sort different materials, such as glass, paper, compost, and trash, and the teacher in Trapichitos will be passing these lessons along to the children for a cleaner, healthier environment.