

Village Update

Xeucalvitz, Guatemala



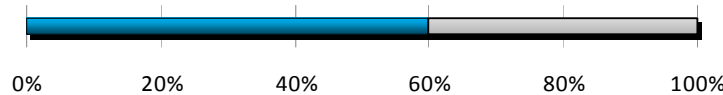
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Agros uses 20 indicators to measure the impact of our work in Agros communities. Indicators measure predetermined outcomes, such as improved access to water, that are hoped to be achieved through Agros' work and make up the greater vision of Agros, 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: 2004

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:

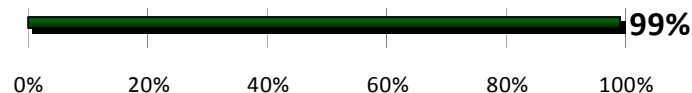
8 types of crops sold to provide income

100% of people have livestock

Participation in commercialization of products:

84% 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:

92%

Leadership Positions Held by Women:

23%

Elena is a very active leader and model in her community of Xeucalvitz. As the mother of four, she extends herself to serve as the Community Bank Secretary, in addition to her small business and household responsibilities. Elena is a collaborative woman who searches for opportunities to work with others in order to benefit her community and family. Currently, Elena is working hard to generate income to ensure that her daughter can continue her studies and enter high school.

Community Organization

A significant achievement for the community this quarter has been the expansion of the local elementary school, financed by the

hydroelectric company. The families are very excited that there is now enough room, five classrooms total, for all of the students to learn in a comfortable environment.

One of the major challenges in Xeucaulvitz has been fostering teamwork and unity when carrying out various community projects. The families hope to renew their efforts in working together in order to benefit the entire community.

This quarter the leadership in the community participated in a training to ensure that each committee has their mission, regulations, and leadership roles and responsibilities clearly defined. Each committee has created or revised these internal guidelines and is looking forward to the positive impacts this will have on their ability to carry out community projects.

Sustainable Economic Growth

As the two Community Banks in Xeucaulvitz build experience, the women are taking on more responsibilities in their banking and financial activities. Seven 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. In addition to receiving technical assistance, training and accompaniment in their various small businesses, the women also paid off their current loan cycles. The twenty-two women in Group A completed their tenth cycle paying off \$4,235 and twenty-two women in Group B finished their eighth cycle repaying \$3,509.

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.



Agros staff is working with the families in Xeucaulvitz to diversify their community's production through vegetable, animal and coffee projects. Currently, the families are caring for 40,000 coffee plants that will soon be transplanted to their fields in order to expand the existing coffee project. Through trainings and hands-on demonstrations, the participants are learning how to prevent pests and ensure healthy growth.

Due to the steep hills on which the coffee fields are planted, a new interest awakened in the community's coffee farmers this quarter following a training on how to build tanks for fermenting coffee. These tanks prevent spillage of the wastewater produced during coffee processing into the community's water sources. Additionally, fermentation tanks save water and improve the quality of the coffee.

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. Three 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 Xeucalvitz will be passing these lessons along to the children for a cleaner, healthier environment.