

No End in Sight...

Give families the supplies they need to stay healthy and productive!



Land. Hope. Life.

Fall 2020

It's a critical time for families living in extreme poverty. They always face myriad roadblocks on the journey out of poverty—and COVID-19 continues to further complicate that journey. There is no end in sight.

As we predicted in the spring, COVID-19's economic and political fallout is contributing to worldwide famine. The families you help in Central America are seeing the prices of food rise while their opportunities for income disappear.

These families need help. They need food to help them get by. They need protective equipment and health education to help them slow the spread of COVID-19. They need agricultural training and support to help them grow food for consumption and for sale. They need you to help them continue working toward prosperity in these challenging and frightening times.

As we all strive to navigate this new reality with grace, will you consider making a gift to help your brothers and sisters in Central America?



YOUR DONATION WILL GIVE FARMING FAMILIES THE FOOD, SUPPLIES, AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO STAY HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE!

Special Message

Deepest Gratitude from Alberto



I want to offer you my deepest gratitude. The Agros family has truly risen as a hero in these troubling times.

Our lives have been disrupted, but mostly we are fortunate to work—and social distance—in comfortable homes. That is not the case for many in this country and especially not for the world's poor.

I am so grateful that as quarantine, fear, misinformation, economic uncertainty, and political tension made living on \$2 a day harder than ever before, you chose to help families in need.

The gospel reminds us that in times of difficulty God motivates us to lift our sight and serve others: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). Thank you for serving those in need.

You have put others before yourself. You have responded to the scripture's higher calling and made possible a comprehensive and on-time COVID-19 response that profoundly helps Central American families living in extreme poverty cope through this crisis.

I hope you will find genuine appreciation and hope in these pages as you read more about the immense good your generosity has made possible. We are blessed and grateful for your trust and for your determination.

Alberto Solano
President and Executive Director

Got Milk?

Nutrition Critical in COVID-19 Response

As COVID-19 spread to Guatemala, it was immediately clear that a response plan would need to take into account the country's unique context: Guatemala has the world's fourth highest prevalence of chronic malnutrition. The Borgen Project reports that "in the highlands, 70 percent of children are suffering from starvation."

Because of the ongoing blessing of donors like you, Agros has launched a special project to get hungry kids a nutritious food often taken for granted in the U.S.: milk.

In rural Guatemala, milk is a luxury. Most families do not own cows because they require large plots of land and a significant upfront investment. It is also expensive to buy packaged milk and difficult to keep it from spoiling. Now, with COVID-19 travel restrictions in place, many families are unable to purchase groceries at all.



As part of Agros' COVID-19 response plan in Guatemala, your generosity provides hungry kids a glass of milk every day. The milk is delivered directly to their homes in remote, mountain villages by a small refrigerated truck. Without your support, these kids would rarely, if ever, have milk in their diets!

Alberto Solano, Agros' president, explains: "Delivering milk when there is no regular transportation, the roads are long, and distribution must be COVID safe is a logistical challenge. More importantly, it's a great blessing for the children." Thank you for helping kids in Guatemala escape hunger!



☐ **YES! In these difficult times, I want to help my brothers and sisters in rural Latin America stay healthy and productive as they strive toward sustainable prosperity.**

Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$15, which gives a hungry child milk for a week
- ☐ \$150, which gives a family seed to plant one acre of crops
- ☐ \$300, which transports medical supplies to help a whole village

Your gift provides Agros' holistic programs and supplies like these to families and communities in need!

*****Credit gifts are accepted online at agros.org/donate and over the phone at 206.686.3465.**



2225 4th Ave, 2nd Floor
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Even Hospitals Need Help

Your gift makes all the difference

When asked what the new COVID-19 reality looks like on the ground in Central America, Joel Martinez, Agros’ vice president of programs said, “We see hospitals and the health system collapsing, growth in rural and urban poverty, and more begging in the streets.”

In such a difficult time, your gifts have helped hundreds of families stay healthy and out of poverty!

As economies everywhere collapsed, your generosity gave families the essential foods, like rice, beans, and corn, they needed to stay healthy. And, as the emergency grew, your generosity expanded the response plan to include regional health care systems, impacting the lives of even more families.



YOU GAVE THREE CLINICS AND ONE HOSPITAL THE SUPPLIES AND EDUCATION MATERIALS TO PREVENT A COVID-19 OUTBREAK.

Thank God for your support! We found that many medical facilities in the regions Agros serves had none of the supplies they would need to prevent a COVID-19



FAMILIES IN SAN JOSÉ, NICARAGUA, RECEIVE MASKS, SANITIZING GEL, SOAP, AND COVID-19 PREVENTION TRAINING.

outbreak. Because of supporters like you, those facilities now have the supplies they need.

Your donations gave three clinics and one hospital personal protective equipment, medications, hand sanitizer, hand washing stations, thermometers, and oximeters. And you also provided hundreds of families with their own masks, hand sanitizing gel, and soap.

The distribution of these supplies was complemented with COVID-19 prevention training for each family and a general education campaign across the region. Your donations are keeping families healthy!

“[HOPE IS SEEING] AGROS PARTNERS WORK HARD IN THEIR FIELDS AND ACTIVELY PRODUCE VEGETABLES, PEAS, COFFEE, AND CARDAMOM.” – JOEL MARTINEZ

Because families are safe, they are also able to work. When asked what gives him hope, Joel said, seeing “Agros partners work hard in their fields and actively produce vegetables, peas, coffee, and cardamom.”

Your generosity makes hope possible! When you protect families from COVID-19, you give them the chance to plant the seeds for a better future. Thank you for being a hero to families in need!



Spring Planting Flourishes

Your generosity flowers into hope

In May, the farming families Agros serves needed your help getting the seeds, rototillers, fertilizers, and other services required to plant their fields. Because this year’s COVID-19 complications jeopardize their access to food, the call to action was especially urgent.

Thanks to your amazing generosity the planting season was a huge success! We’re happy to report that the seeds you planted are flourishing.

Because of your support, families in five Agros communities planted basic grains like corn and beans. According to Jose Luis Ramos, a partner in the Agros village of Nueva San José, Nicaragua, “The idea is that these crops will feed our families and a part, perhaps 30 percent, will be sold. The income from selling crops will buy other basic supplies like cooking oil, soap, and rice.”



THE CORN AND BEAN SEEDS YOU HELPED PLANT IN THE SPRING ARE NOW FULL-SIZE, PRODUCTIVE PLANTS.

Jose also reported that his crops are doing well. He said, “They are beautiful and have grown a lot. The plants are flowering. This gives us hope that we will have a good harvest,” adding that he is “very grateful for the support during the pandemic.”

Farmers across the Agros villages in Nicaragua have seen similar positive results. Rigoberto Salinas, an Agros agricultural technician explained, “90 percent of the bean and corn crops have developed well in the different

communities. Excess rain has had a minor impact, causing some leaves to turn yellow. However, we’re addressing this issue. Our corn is already in the *chilote* (baby corn) stage... and the beans are flowering and producing pods.”

“WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS [YOU] GAVE US. THEY WILL HELP US BETTER OUR CROP PRODUCTION. WE’LL HAVE MORE FOOD FOR LONGER, ESPECIALLY DURING THE COVID EMERGENCY.” – CRISTÓBAL GARCIA

Cristóbal Garcia, a partner in San José, Nicaragua, said: “We are grateful for the agricultural inputs [you] gave us. They will help us better our crop production. We’ll have more food for longer, especially during the COVID emergency.”

Families like that of Cristóbal and Jose are so grateful for your support! Thank you for giving them the seeds for a better future!

AS WE CONTINUE TO HELP FAMILIES LEAVE POVERTY BEHIND IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT THE VIRTUAL TIERRAS DE VIDA GALA!



TIERRAS de VIDA

SOMOS AGROS. SOMOS FAMILIA.

VIRTUAL GALA
Oct. 6 – 8, 2020

LIVESTREAM
Thursday, October 8, 2020
6:15pm – 7pm PT



Register for free at agros.org/TdV