



**United States Agency for International Development
Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Food for peace**

**Fiscal Year 2010
Annual Results Report
Development Activity Program**

PROGRESA (Proyecto de Gestión Rural en Seguridad Alimentaria)

**Honduras/Save the Children
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List of Acronyms

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AIN-C	Integrated Child Attention – Community
ARI	Acute Respiratory Illness
BCS	Behavior Change Strategy
CHW	Community Health Worker
COHDEFOR	Honduran Forest Development Corporation
COSUDE	Swiss Cooperation Agency
CS	Cooperating Sponsor
DAP	Development Activity Proposal
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DCHA	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
DICTA	Dirección de Ciencia y Tecnología Agropecuaria
ESNACIFOR	Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Forestales
FAO-PESA	Programa Especial p. 1. Seguridad Alimentaria (Food and Agriculture Org.)
FANTA	Food And Nutrition Technical Assistance project
FE	Final Evaluation
FFD	Food For Development
FFP	Food For Peace
FFS	Farmer Field School
FHIA	Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Investigation
FINTRAC	US-based agricultural firm
FORCUENCAS	EU Watershed Institutional Strengthening Program
FY	Fiscal Year
GOH	Government of Honduras
HH	Household
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INA	National Agrarian Institute
INFOP	National Vocational Training Institute
IPTT	Indicators Performance Tracking Table
MARENA	Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
MCA EDA	Millenium Challenge Account Farmers Training Initiative
MEU	Municipal Environmental Unit
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	Ministry of agriculture
MOH	Honduras Ministry of Health
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
MCHN	Mother Child Health and Nutrition
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
PRACC	EU CA Regional Reconstruction Program
PRONADEL	National Local Development Program
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SAN	Food and Nutritional Security Coalition
SANAA	National Water and Sewage Services
SAP	Sustainable Agricultural Practices
SAPQ	Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire
SAG	Honduras Ministry of Agriculture
SC	Save the Children
SOPTRAVI	GOH Public Transportation Ministry
TA	Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	US Government
UMA	Municipal Environmental Unit
WMC	Water Management Committees
WFP	World Food Program

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FISCAL YEAR 2010 RESULTS REPORT

1. Introduction: Annual Food Aid Program Results

PROGRESA (Proyecto de Gestión Rural en Seguridad Alimentaria, in Spanish) is a 5-year (FY05-FY09) DAP funded by the USAID Office of Food for Peace with PL 480 Title II resources and implemented by Save the Children in Honduras. This report, prepared according to the FY09 Annual Results Report Guidance provided by FFP in September 2009, summarizes the implementation of PROGRESA's sixth and last year activities and describes achievements toward its program goal and objectives. In FY10 FFP PROGRESA's activities consist of a four month no-cost extension. The program closed on January 31st, 2010.

PROGRESA target population for this final portion of implementation (October 2009 – January 2010) was located in 95 communities and adjacent hamlets in 12 municipalities in the south-central departments of Francisco Morazán, Valle and Choluteca, experiencing poor health and nutrition, agricultural deficiencies and environmental challenges. PROGRESA achieved significant and sustainable benefits for this population and has served the following participants in FY10. (See Summary Request and Beneficiary Tracking Table for additional details, Attachment D.)

Technical Sector	Male	Female	Total
Health & Nutrition - Non HIV	15,031	15,646	30,677
Ag. / NRM - Non HIV	16,310	17,155	33,465

The overall goal of PROGRESA was to **Reduce Food Insecurity in Highly Vulnerable Communities in South-Central Honduras**. This was achieved through activities designed to reach three strategic objectives (SOs) and their related intermediate results (IRs), as outlined in the following framework:

SO1: IMPROVE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION	SO2: IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION AND MARKETING	SO 3: IMPROVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
IR1.1: Increased adoption of key MCHN practices, and utilization of key MCHN service	IR2.1: Intensified Basic Grain and Diversified Production Systems	IR3.1: Improved Natural Resource Management and Recovery
SUB IR 1.1 Improved Knowledge, Attitudes, and Skills Regarding Key MCHN Practices	IR2.2: Improved Product Management and Processing Practices	IR3.2: Improved Water Management
SUB IR 1.2: Improved Access to Quality Key MCHN Services at the Community Level	IR2.3: Improved Market Linkages	

Key assumptions made in the initial proposal have not significantly changed during LOA, except during the last part of FY09 and the first months of FY10 when significant socio-political unrest affected activities in Honduras, especially in Tegucigalpa. However, program activities continued, see FY10 DIP report, attachment B, for details. During the final four months, PROGRESA implemented the activities described in the approved Closeout Plan and FY10 PREP; following is a summary description of these activities.

Support for Strengthening Sustainability Process

Monthly TA meetings with Municipal liaisons to strengthen 12 municipal offices and monitor inclusion of food security approach in Municipal strategic planning

In FY10, 41 TA visits were made to Municipal Liaisons Persons (MLP) of the 12 municipalities located in the area of impact, with the purpose of monitoring Municipal Work Plans' activities and ES implementation. Minutes documenting agreements were prepared and signed. TA was provided for the incorporation of food security issues in Municipal Strategic Development Plans (PEDM). In one of the municipalities, specifically Orocuina, one person was replaced as liaison, however, after receiving the necessary briefing to assume liaison functions. It is important to mention that all Mayors recognize the importance of conducting regular reviews MLP's municipal plans implementation by sector.

Monthly visits to community organizations focused on food security interventions

Twenty eight visits were made to selected communities to monitor the continuing operation of community organizations after the official closure of the Project in September 2009. In the various organizations visited, a great deal of motivation and commitment for ensuring the sustainability of transferred activities (phase over) was observed.

It is important to emphasize that AIN-C groups visited are working, monitors continue with the monthly weight control activities, and groups have maintained their numbers of participating mothers. Moreover, some local groups of producers are managing PRS funds with Municipal authorities and credit unions for the development of productivity projects and agricultural infrastructure.

Two workshops with municipal liaisons to strengthen their capacity in municipal management focused on PRS food security activities

Nine advocacy events aimed at strengthening the capacity of MLP were carried out. These events also involved participants from the communities, representing the areas of health, food processing, agriculture, and natural resources, so that the need to access PRS and other funds managed by institutions with presence in the area would arise from the community itself. More than 256 people participated in these events.

Monthly TA visits to advise Municipal Governments on PRS resources management aimed at food security interventions, including development of profiles for PRS funding

Transparent, effective and efficient PRS resource management is vital for municipalities to continue receiving such funds. For this reason, 22 TA visits were provided to review the progress in implementing PRS decentralized funds, emphasizing project profiling, management, and budgets closure. Likewise, priorities were set on food security activities to be reflected in PEDMs. All mayors recognize the importance of emphasizing food security in the use of PRS

funds. In the Municipality of Reitoca's a Basic Grains Reserve has been created, with PRS funds. This reserve started operating in January, 2010, in the Municipal warehouse, where FFP distribution commodities were previously stored. Basic grains will be purchased by the Municipality at the local level, contributing to local economy.

In coordination with UNDP, through the Observatory of the Millennium Goals office, the Agency for International Cooperation (ACI), the Federation of Private Development Organizations (FOPRIDE) and Child Fund, monitoring of the impact of 2009's Socio-Economic and Political Crisis was carried out in 6 municipalities. Results were socialized in January, 2010 and steps to improve the situation discussed. The process included community volunteers and candidates running for the mayor's offices from different political parties in each municipality.

Representatives of community organizations of the Municipalities of Langué, San Francisco de Coray, Nacaome, and Valle participated in the work groups to analyze the situation of food security, in coordination with the Observatory of the Millennium Goals office.

Two workshops with candidates for Mayors and Corporation on strategies for continued FS interventions

Three meetings were held with Mayors, Municipal Liaisons, and Municipal Corporations members elected for the 2010-2013 period, involving a total of 34 persons (27 men and 7 women) in order to socialize the Sustainability Strategy of PROGRESA, prioritize coordination, and promote the continuous incorporation strategies to reduce food insecurity in their municipalities.

Final socialization of Project results - public meeting

In January, 2010, PROGRESA results were socialized during two public events with the participation of Municipal authorities (outgoing and incoming), as well as other local authorities. Participants recognized the work of PROGRESA for food security and highlighted their commitment to continue efforts in this area, both at the community and the municipal level.

Health

Monthly TA to volunteers and community health committees to consolidate AIN-C groups operations

In total, 78 TA meetings were held with monitors to strengthen their organizational capacities and therefore their sustainability. Also, five strengthening workshops were received by 134 female monitors and 15 male monitors on how to graph, provide counseling, complete children's lists, develop indicators, and conduct home visits.

Monthly TA meetings with Municipal Health Liaisons of the 12 Municipal Offices, to consolidate their relationship with community health committees

Thirty-two TA visits were made to the Municipal Health Liaisons in relation with their Work Plans and to consolidate their relationships with CHWs. During these visits the importance of the monthly delivery of community health indicators to the Secretary of Health was reinforced, and the Municipal Health Liaisons were encouraged to join in the activities being organized in each municipality around the World Day against HIV/AIDS.

Monthly follow-up to AIN-C community indicators incorporating the Municipal Health Liaison

In total, 42 monthly visits were made to MOH's Health Centers together with Municipal Health Liaisons for the purpose of verifying that at least 90% of AIN-C send community reports. The local Health Center consolidates a community's reports with their own which then serves as a municipal report. In this way communities contribute to the new Public Health data collection strategy.

Bi-monthly meetings with the Secretary of Health staff at the local and central level to provide follow-up to Agreements established for operation of AIN-C groups.

Twenty-two meetings were held at decision-making level of the Secretary of Health to ensure a smooth transition of AIN-C groups operations in the 12 municipalities in PROGRESA's impact area. Agreements on the following topics were reached: assign personnel (promoter, nurse) to carry out visits to AIN-C groups and community health committees; inspect growth and development card for children under two years when the mother requests health care attention at MOH health centers; provide monitoring from the municipal level and TA according to specific needs of CHWs; and invited CHWs to attend all meetings in their nearest health center.

Coordination with MEUs and SANAA to monitor Water Management Committees in terms of organization, fees, water quality, and protection of water sources.

A total of 31 coordination meetings were held with WMCs and MEUs, aimed primarily at sound management and protection of water sources, organizational strengthening, fee collection, and water quality testing. SANAA has made several visits to PROGRESA's impact area and meetings were held the Choluteca SANAA's regional offices to inform about PROGRESA's activities and SANAA's role in follow-up.

Agriculture

Monthly meetings with local producers to consolidate their organizations regarding organizational, administrative, and technical issues, and provide coaching to their operational plans

Eighty-four technical assistance meetings were held with groups of producers providing TA on basic accounting records management for an adequate administration and transparency in the organization as well as the permanent applications of their bylaws.

Monthly TA to Municipal Corporations and their liaisons for management support to producer groups

In order to strengthen PROGRESA's impact sustainability, 32 meetings were held with municipal Agricultural Liaisons Persons and Municipal Corporation staff, during which follow-up TA was provided in order to review Municipal Action Plans related to the agricultural area. In January, 2010 two regional events were carried out to inform and prepare the new Municipal Agricultural Liaison Persons to carry out their activities in coordination with local producers.

Monthly accompaniment to local producers groups in the execution of their plans for production, processing, trading, and strengthening of market alliances with the participation of the municipal liaison

Processing groups received 40 TA visits in order to monitor their plans and provide advice, particularly around raw materials needs and pricing strategies. In addition, accounting records were monitored to ensure sufficient operational capital, which enables the sustainability of future operations.

In summary, it was found that all plans have activities aimed at the groups' organizational consolidation, and proper management of resources for productive projects.

Four meetings with local and municipal producers for Cooperation Agreements' management and coordination of competitive agricultural production with USAID-funded RED-FINTRAC, MCA EDAS, and other stakeholders in the project area.

In three municipalities of southern of Francisco Morazan, agreements were signed with RED – FINTRAC to support 30 producers with the potential to produce bananas, pepper and onions, which have irrigation systems and are motivated to work with this initiative.

Other institutions with presence in the area such as CHF, Ayuda en Acción and World Vision, are already conducting coordination activities with PROGRESA's beneficiaries for the implementation of productive projects. Socialization meetings were held with the technical staff of these institutions to achieve a commitment to support producers and provide continuity to PROGRESA's activities.

MCA EDA is starting the production of bananas in two communities of the Department of Valle, specifically Moraicito and Agua Zarca, with 8 PROGRESA producers. Agreements were signed with EDA in January 2010.

Monthly accompaniment to community infrastructure committees in the execution of their plans for maintenance of implemented infrastructure works

A total of 69 meetings were held with community infrastructure committees to emphasize the importance of continuing to use the tools provided to them by PROGRESA in road maintenance (although most of this equipment is nearing the end of its useful life). The importance of making arrangement with municipal authorities for accessing PRS funds and developing maintenance projects with the community staff who has gained experience PROGRESA's training was also emphasized.

Monitoring and Evaluation

PROGRESA's ES was implemented as planned, with a progressive withdrawal of resources (phase down) from selected program activities. Depending on various factors, activities were transferred (phased over) to organizations, communities or individuals that will remain in the project area or withdrawn (phased out) without turning responsibilities over to other entities. Selection of the phasing over or the phasing out approach depended mainly on the nature of activities. Interventions that require continued activity and an entity to take responsibility for oversight of the activity suggest a phase over approach. Interventions that create permanent changes in communities and do not require the ongoing provision of services or resources were suitable for phase out.

Administrative Issues

During FY 10 project administration concentrated on closeout activities and preparation of information for the elaboration of the final report and final audit.

A final audit report of all PROGRESA funds used in Honduras took place, see Attachment H. (NOTE FOR REVIEWERS: this audit report will be provided by SCH when completed by the auditors, around the first half of April 2010. Contact person for this information will be Edith Rivera edithrivera@savethechildrenhonduras.hn tel +504-2399212 and 2395051)

Systematization

Five documents on systematization were prepared in the areas of health, agriculture, natural resources (establishment of plots for producing fire wood), processing and marketing and local development strengthening. Copies of the documents are being delivered to the communities, new municipal authorities, state secretaries, and other support entities in the impact area. A small number of the reports are being reserved for future use in food security promotion.

In general, the four month no-cost extension granted to PROGRESA by FFP was extremely useful to increase sustainability by ensuring adequate time for a smooth transition of food security activities to newly elected authorities resulting from Honduras November 2009 Presidential Elections.

LOA Impact

Program impact was measured in the FE by a reduction in chronic malnutrition rates of children 24-59 months of age, the average number of different types of crops grown among target farmers HHs, the average numbers of food groups consumed and % of families with diversified diet. An external Quantitative and Qualitative FE was carried out in FY09, based on a Scope of Work developed using FANTA guidelines and was completed for the three Title II CSs in Honduras (Adventist Development and Relief Agency ADRA, Save the Children and World Vision). The FE full report was attached to PROGRESA's FY09 Annual Results Report.

Commodity Management

All commodity storage and distribution was completed and reported in FY09, there was no commodity management nor monetization during FY10.

Expenditures

Please see FY10 Expenditures Report, attachment E.

In terms of LOA performance there is a minor, total under expenditure of 13%, mostly due to the well known sociopolitical unrest experienced in Honduras from June 28, 2009 to the end of PROGRESA. All line items are under spent except Monitoring/Evaluation.

The GOH renewed SC's tax exemption for FY10 and no USG funds were used to cover taxes for PROGRESA's implemented expenses, during this reported period and during LOA (a minor, temporary exception was detected and corrected in FY09).

Closeout Plan

PROGRESA's activities in FY10 closely followed the approved Closeout Plan. There are no outstanding issues to report.

Use of FY09 formats

Please note that FY09 formats were used for the following attachments to this report (FFP FY10 formats are not yet available):

Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire (SAPQ), Attachment C
Tracking Table for Beneficiaries and Resources (TTBR), Attachment D

In these attached documents FY09 protected cells were filled with FY10 information.

2. Success Stories

Barreal Centro Food Security Progress

PROGRESA is designed to increase access, availability, and utilization of food and decrease vulnerability to shocks that threaten livelihoods. An outstanding example of integrated results achieved is found in Barreal Centro, located in the municipality of Orocuina, with a population of 796 including 160 children. Here PROGRESA's activities include health and nutrition, water and sanitation, agricultural production and processing and land recovery.

In Barreal Centro, 100% of pregnant women and mothers with young children less than two years of age are participating in at least one monthly weigh monitoring session, which includes training and counseling if needed. These activities, as outlined in PROGRESA's Exit Strategy, are continuing after the phasing out of incentive food rations. The behavior changes of mothers and caregivers have resulted in 68% of children with adequate growth trend (+3% above LOA target).

A milestone for the community was the construction of new potable water and sanitation system in 2008, which provides safe drinking water to each household. The system benefits a total of 136 families and has contributed to dramatically reducing waterborne diseases, especially diarrhea in children less than five years old, as reported in the external final evaluation, with a reduction from 36.6% at baseline to 23.1%. Each household now also has a pour flush latrine.



PROGRESA trained a Water Management Committee to ensure operation, maintenance and administration of the potable water and sanitation system, which has collected Lps 97,920 (US\$5,150) in water fees with zero delinquency in families' monthly payments, showing the communities' commitment to system sustainability.

With PROGRESA's technical assistance a successful agricultural processing rural agribusiness - the EAC (Small Rural Enterprise) Nuevo Amanecer - was started. This small enterprise managed by four women produces barbecue sauce made of mango pulp, English sauce (Worcestershire style) based on tamarind, and a spicy sauce made out of local hot peppers. Based on a needs assessment, all members received training from PROGRESA to carry out their own market study and analysis, indentifying local and regional markets, where their products expanded to new clients and are now well accepted. They were also successfully trained to keep appropriate financial records and perform cost analysis. EAC Nuevo Amanecer's members are grateful for the increased income from locally processed agricultural products. In 2008, a total of 15,600

units of 16 ounces of sauce were produced and sold for Lps. 353,600, resulting in a net income of Lps. 166,192 (approx USD8,750), a very significant earning level for rural Honduras.

During Hurricane Mitch in 1998, Barreal Centro's most fertile land by the Orocuina River was flooded and topsoil was eroded, leaving behind only rocks and sand. PROGRESA provided training and technical assistance which enabled the building of 850 meters of stone wall (using the same stones carried by the river) which allows the deposit of fertile lime during the rainy season. Gradually, five Manzanas (1 Mz = 7,000 square Mts.) of land were recovered benefiting seven farming families. Currently, these families cultivate Jamaica flowers, cassava, lemon, mango and basic grains in the recovered land. The families have teamed up and in 2010 will build an irrigation system for the recovered land. Antonio Flete, one of these local farmers, is very impressed and grateful "I never imagined that this land could be useful again, because what we had left was pure stone". Other infrastructure improvement activities included improvement of 4.7 Kms of community access roads, 600 meters of stone pavements and a culvert.



Through project activities, Barreal Centro's leaders and members have acquired innovative knowledge, self confidence and skills. These combined with improved infrastructure and opportunities agricultural production and processing opportunities are available, they express their commitment to continuing the community firm steps to sustainable progress. (all photos by Walter Ruiz, Save the Children)

3. Lessons Learned

Municipal Liaison Persons effectively promote Food Security sustainability

As envisaged in PROGRESA's proposal design, Municipalities played a significant role as local partners along the five years of implementation and are considered key actors for impact sustainability. All twelve participating Municipalities were technically strengthened by SC, along with input from other institutions with presence in the program area, to effectively access Poverty Reduction Strategy funds (PRE), incorporate in a substantial manner food security issues in their Municipal Strategic Plans (MSP), allocate funds in their Municipal Investment Plans (MIP) and assume ownership of PROGRESA's activities. Development of the Exit Strategy in Year 3 - with TA from FANTA and TUFTS University - revealed the need to have Municipal Liaison Persons (MLP) by component area (health and/or agriculture). Despite their good will to contribute, the multiple responsibilities at a strategic level did not allow municipal authorities to respond properly to communities' basic food security needs. Therefore, PROGRESA's helped identify and appoint one or more MLP in each Municipality to act as a link between the communities and municipal authorities. MLPs participated in a variety of events and were provided technical assistance to prepare Operational Plans that would coordinate activities between municipal authorities and community organizations. The MLPs proved to be an important, effective link at a time of transition from one administration to another, as new Municipal authorities took over in Honduras on January 25, 2010, to increase municipal level of interest and capacity to deal with food security issues.