

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

**Fiscal Year 2010 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT
Single-Year Assistance Program**

**Awardee Name/Host Country:
SAVE THE CHILDREN, FEDERATION INC/GUATEMALA**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CMAM	Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition
COCODE	Guatemalan Development Committee
COS	Civil organization Society
FFW	Food for Work
GOG	Government of Guatemala
HH	Households
INE	National Statistics Institute
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture
MC	Mercy Corps
MFEWS	Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning
MOH	Ministry of Health
MUAC	Middle Upper Arm Circumference
MYAP	Multiyear Assistance Program
PDA _s	Personal Data Assistant
PROSANO	Food Security and Nutrition Program in the “Dry Corridor” of Eastern Guatemala
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SC	Save the Children Federation Inc.
SESAN	Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat of Guatemala
SYAP	Single Year Assistance Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1. INTRODUCTION: ANNUAL FOOD AID PROGRAM RESULTS

Save the Children Federation Inc. (SC) is implementing a Single Year Assistance Program (SYAP) called PROSANO (Food Security and Nutrition Program in the “Dry Corridor” of Eastern Guatemala). In partnership with sub-grantee Mercy Corps (MC), SC is providing support to three of the five departments of the “Dry Corridor:” Chiquimula, Zacapa, and El Progreso, located in a mountainous area with depleted soils, water scarcity, and recurring agricultural pest as well as disease issues. PROSANO is assisting 10,574 vulnerable families (approximately 63,444 total beneficiaries) living in 161 communities at high risk for food insecurity. The program started on October 1, 2009 and will end on March 31, 2010.

The goal of PROSANO is to reduce the impact of the current crisis and to help vulnerable households (HH) to more effectively *mitigate and manage future shock to their health, nutrition, livelihoods, and overall food security*. PROSANO’s main beneficiary groups are children under the age of 5, and pregnant and lactating women experiencing or at risk of malnutrition. PROSANO focuses on three main outcomes:

- (a) Increased household (HH) access to nutritious foods
- (b) Improved nutritional status of children from vulnerable HHs
- (c) Improved availability of nutritious foods

PROSANO made significant efforts to respond to the challenges of initiating operations in a region new to SC, the so called “dry corridor” of Guatemala. PROSANO started field operation in support of beneficiaries within the 25 days after the SYAP was approved. Activities included the recruiting and training of new staff on USAID regulations, renting and setting up 2 new offices (Chiquimula and El Progreso), and securing a 1,200 square meters (12,920 square foot) of warehouse space for commodities. Additionally, while waiting for SYAP commodities to arrive in Guatemala, SC coordinated the transport of existing SC MYAP commodities from Guatemala City to the SYAP warehouse (120 miles) in Rio Hondo. SYAP commodities arrived in March 2010 and the loan has been returned to SC MYAP stocks.

SC and MC coordinated with agencies, organizations and ministries to identify communities that were not receiving assistance from the Government of Guatemala (GoG) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This coordination included the input of Guatemalan Development Committees (COCODES), community leaders, local municipality authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) Ministry of Health (MoH) Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat of Guatemala (SESAN), Statistics National Institute (INE), Mesoamerican Famine Early Warning System (MFEWS) and the Red Humanitaria (UN Humanitarian Network). Communities were selected based upon their current involvement with other institutions, acute malnutrition and food and nutrition insecurity data obtained from SESAN, road access and conditions, and population size.

SC and MC have been able to respond to the emergency crisis in a short period of time and this has been acknowledged by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), MFEWS, MOH, SESAN, and MAGA as well as local and international NGOs. The program was inaugurated on November 18, 2009 by U. S. Ambassador Stephen McFarland and USAID Director Wayne Nilsestuen during an event that took place in PROSANO’s warehouse in Zacapa, Guatemala. GOG authorities and other PVO representatives were also present. The US Ambassador and USAID Director traveled to El Mojon Community in Chiquimula to provide the first food distribution to 99 households.

Increased HH access to nutritious foods.

After conducting the assessment described above and collecting information from SESAN, MAGA, MOH, World Food Programme (WFP), Cohesion Social (Social Cohesion), National Institute of Statistics (INE), Red Humanitaria and MFEWS regarding the intervention area, PROSANO then proceeded to compile and analyze the information in order to address needs and intervene in higher risk areas. Visits to the areas and interviews with community members took place to verify the intensity of the crisis. Communities were then selected and PROSANO implemented the following activities:

- (1) Arranged meetings with local authorities (Municipalities, community leaders, MOH regional office, SESAN and MAGA regional representatives, and COCODES) to explain PROSANO and to work together to deal with the crisis;
- (2) Agreements were made between PROSANO and community leaders to efficiently work together in identifying families within the communities to ensure children under five years old, lactating and pregnant women were reached. Other collaboration aspects include the provision of a place to conduct the nutritional census and food distribution, dissemination of information to all community members regarding PROSANO, and presence of at least one community leader during PROSANO activities took place in the community;
- (3) Established dates and times to conduct the Nutritional Census in the communities with the responsibility of coordinating beneficiaries left to the COCODES;
- (4) Conducted the Nutritional Census;
- (5) Analyzed data and selected beneficiaries;
- (6) Distributed food to selected beneficiaries on a monthly basis up to ten months;
- (7) Conducted a monthly monitoring measurement of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) and weight all children under the age of 5, and pregnant and lactating women;
- (7) Conducted specialized nutritional counseling;
- (8) Selected and trained *Madres Lideres* (Mother Leaders);
- (9) Selected and trained *Agricultores Lideres* (Farmer Leaders);
- (10) Conducted nutritional and health behavior change communication (BCC)
- (11) Provided nutrition and health education sessions for caregivers, training on hygiene, proper use of food rations in the HH, infant and young child feeding practices, breastfeeding practices, and agricultural activities;
- (11) Implemented the livelihoods strategy.

PROSANO conducted a nutritional census in identified communities to acquire information on the status of children under age of 5, pregnant, and lactating women. In the case of children, the information collected included the child's personal and family information, anthropometric indicators (height, weight, and MUAC), mobility; food rations reserves, and family, social and organizational participation. For pregnant and lactating women, data collected included the use of anthropometric indicators MUAC and Body Mass Indicator. Once data was collected, it was analyzed using Anthro World Health Organization (WHO) Program and MUAC to select beneficiaries. During these months, PROSANO identified and assisted **161 communities** at high risk for malnutrition and food insecurity. Nutritional censuses were conducted in Chiquimula identifying 362 cases of children, under the age of five, 117 pregnant and 380 lactating women all suffering acute malnutrition. Levels of 15-20 % Acute Malnutrition (WH -2Z-scores) have been found in children less than 5 years of age in several communities.

Due to the high rate of Acute Malnutrition, the UNHCR/WFP Guidelines for Selective Feeding Programs in Emergency Situations were used to help establish immediate interventions. PROSANO found that 12 communities in Chiquimula, 13 in El Progreso and 7 in Zacapa had a rate of 15-20% acute malnutrition in children under 5. In order to prevent a deterioration in the nutritional status of the population and to reduce the prevalence of acute malnutrition in children under 5 (reducing morbidity and mortality risk), SC submitted a request for blanket feeding to USAID, which was approved in March and May 2010. Food rations have been distributed immediately to the whole population of these 32 communities starting in April 2010 to prevent further nutritional deterioration.

PROSANO also found a 17% rate of acute malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women through the Nutritional Census using MUAC. This measurement identified that a total of pregnant women measured 1.3% and total lactating women measured 1.7% suffered SAM. According to FFP Strategic Plan 2006-2010, pregnant and lactating women are considered a target group for this program after a natural shock. The drought severely affected lower yields on corn and bean production resulting in low food reserves and lower income for vulnerable HH. Pregnant and lactating women are in a food insecurity situation thus PROSANO requested approval to USAID Mission/Guatemala to include them into the program. Approval from the mission was obtained and PROSANO has taken them on as additional beneficiaries. A total of **10,574 households** have been identified and assisted with a monthly ration of 58 lbs consisting of rice, pinto beans, fortified vegetable oil, and CSB. Each ration contributes to meet 27.6% of the total HH caloric needs (based on a family of six members¹). The total number of direct beneficiaries from food distributions from November 2009 to September 30, 2010 is **63,444**.

PROSANO used biometric software in the program monitoring and evaluation. Biometric software, was developed and used by SC, and is currently used by MC in Zacapa and El Progreso. This system is easy to install in a laptop, efficient, and automatically loads the family records using fingerprint technology to identify ration recipients. Data collected at the village level are backed up using SC central database servers allowing for network-based access to update information. The system has GPS technology to identify the location of beneficiary HHs as well as identifying families in need. Besides improving data collection, the system will support staff in providing immediate nutritional counseling to beneficiaries in need and less paperwork will be necessary, reducing cost and benefiting the environment. The biometric software was approved by USAID/Washington on March 25, 2010 and is currently functioning.

Commodity distribution has been met with some difficulty due to lack of communities' safe warehouses, time constraints on training, planning and organizing community members in the assembly and distribution of HH rations as well as ensuring food safety. In response to these challenges, SC requested a budget modification to improve food distribution, which was approved on March 25, 2010. This new food distribution method allowed PROSANO to purchase two volumetric feeders for liquids and solids to pack food rations in plastic bags and containers, which will be placed in a large oxford bag that will have a nutritional message printed on each side to promote positive health and nutrition behaviors among caregivers within the communities. Bags were printed according to USAID branding policies. This

¹ Ongoing Nutritional Census Assessment conducted by SC and MC from December 2009 to March 2010. Results vary from original proposal based on SESAN September 2009 Report.

methodology allowed PROSANO to improve cost effectiveness, provide for food safety, and respond more efficiently in the context of emergency programming.

PROSANO conducted hands-on training at the HH level in proper use and food storage and delivered 4 workshops at community level with 148 community leaders participating. Also, PROSANO conducted follow up home visits to beneficiary HH. During these visits, PROSANO observed the following: all the families gladly accept and consume the commodities; there is no evidence of sales of the commodity seen in the community and local market; 95% of the families store commodities properly; 85% of the families recognized the origin of the commodities; and no beneficiary is paying or providing any other kind of contribution to obtain the commodities.

There were some challenges during food distribution in May and September. During the month of May, food distribution was suspended for 5 days due to Tropical Storm Agatha, as rivers overflowed and mudslides destroyed road access to beneficiary communities. During the month of September, intense heavy rains caused flooding and mudslides, destroying beneficiary homes, roads and making access to communities impossible. Flooding also affected the SC warehouse, but the damage was controlled immediately. After this event, the SC warehouse was fumigated for pest control as a preventive measure. The SC warehouse was closed for several days delaying the food distribution, but the stored commodities remained protected at all times.

Improved nutritional status of children from vulnerable HHs

PROSANO worked closely with SESAN and MOH and established a surveillance system at the local and national levels. This facilitated the timely identification, referral, and treatment of SAM in children under five at the nearest MOH facility and in accordance with the International Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) guidelines and protocols. Levels of SAM found in children, under the age of 5, are 0.7% and 9 cases of children suffering SAM with complications and 54 cases of children suffering SAM with no complication were referred to the nearest MOH facilities. In accordance with the new GOG law, Notification sheets were completed. PROSANO has continued monitoring these children and at this moment, 50% of these cases have recovered. SC/MC Health and Nutrition staff have completed weekly home visits to SAM affected children with no complications and to Moderate Acute Malnutrition Children every two weeks. A total of **272 *Madres Lideres*** (Mother Leaders) were identified and trained in malnutrition, health and nutrition, breastfeeding, infant and young children feeding practices, hygiene, safe drinking water as well as food ration use and preparation. These mothers received a food ration as food for work (FFW) for their support on the achievement of project objectives. A total of 268 ***educational trainings*** were conducted during food distribution to mothers and caregivers. PROSANO and MOH conducted educational campaigns on breastfeeding, infant and young children feeding in Chiquimula, Zacapa and El Progreso. These events were held during the “WHO World Breastfeeding Week” and included small training to parents, pamphlets, radio spots and banners.

From December 2009 to September 2010, PROSANO conducted monthly monitoring of malnourished children, pregnant, and lactating women in the 161 communities collecting weight, height, MUAC and Body Mass Index. SC has conducted CMAM training for 156 members of the surveillance team, as part of larger mobile MOH team that has been regularly visiting and supporting MoH facilities at the community level. MC will provide this same training in upcoming months. MC conducted training on use of WHO-Anthro Program for

nutritional diagnostics for children under 5 to 25 members from the Ministry of Health Regional Office in Zacapa and provided 75 members from the Ministry of Health Regional Office in Zacapa training on Nutritional Census Methodology and case referrals.

The MOH purchased RUTF and agreed to have PROSANO provide MOH local staff training on their use. This included conducting follow-up home visits and nutritional counseling as well as the monitoring of these cases. PROSANO conducted proper training and provided follow-up on an outpatient basis to children with acute severe malnutrition by using RUTF and nutritional surveillance protocols.

During the months of March and June, PROSANO reported an increase rate in malnutrition for children under 5. During the month of March, the severe acute malnutrition rate increased to 1.3% from 3.7% rate identified in February due to depletion of food reserves in the HH and lack of unskilled labor in the area. This rate was reduced in the following months due to PROSANO intervention activities. During the month of June, the levels of SAM increased by 2.3% due to gastrointestinal diseases such as diarrhea and respiratory diseases causing children to enter into the malnutrition stage. These diseases were related to start of the rainy season causing rivers to overflow and contaminating water resources, lack of proper excreta disposal and proper sewage systems in the communities. The program conducted trainings on safe water use and hygiene, communities, which SC believes contributed to a decrease in the SAM rate to (1.4%) during the month of August. Trends remained stable in September, however, the rate is expected to decrease in October because water borne diseases will decrease as the rain cycle starts to end.

During the months of June to September several tragic deaths occurred among newborns and infants in the Chiquimula area. In June, SC reported 11 deaths: 1 miscarriage, 1 preterm birth, 2 newborn deaths, 1 infant, and 2 children all with SAM that were not taken to the nearest MoH facility. 4 children died due to diarrhea and respiratory diseases. In July, SC reported 7 deaths: 2 newborns due to malnutrition and 5 children due to acute diarrhea syndrome and liver infection. In August, SC reported 3 deaths: 1 preterm birth, 1 acute renal insufficiency disease and 1 acute respiratory failure. In September, SC reported 9 deaths: 5 newborns and 4 children under the age of 5 due to diarrhea and respiratory disease. SC reported all of the cases to the Ministry of Health authorities.

Due to the high incidence of malnutrition and deaths that occurred during these months, the Departmental Committee on Food Security (CODESAN in Spanish) requested a meeting with all NGOs working in the area to unify alert and warning systems on the nutritional situation in the area and to develop strategies to effectively care for the malnutrition cases in communities. SC designed and conducted a training course on Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and delivered it to local and international NGOs and MOH staff. Educational posters are being printed and will be delivered in October to all Nutritional Recovery and Stabilization Centers as well as the Public National hospitals in the area.

SC is providing 400 water harvesting tanks to HHs that do not have access to safe water for health, hygiene and sanitation purposes. At this moment, 250 harvesting tanks have been built in El Durazno and El Barrial, Chiquimula communities

Improved availability of nutritious foods

Once communities were selected, the PROSANO livelihoods team began assessments on road access and agricultural conditions (such as soil and water quantity/quality, household

assets (land, water, and animals), maize and bean yields) and food availability. PROSANO implemented an intensive livelihoods strategy to accelerate the reestablishment of beneficiaries' livelihoods and self-sufficiency, taking into consideration the seasonal calendar (rainy vs. dry season). The strategy included (1) the selection of *Agricultores Lideres* (2) implementation of a train-the trainer program (3) distribution of livestock, micro-irrigation systems, tree seedlings, and other inputs to vulnerable HH, and (4) distribution maize, bean, vegetable seeds and tree seedlings to vulnerable HH. During these months, PROSANO selected and trained **137 *Agricultores Lideres*** (Agricultural Leaders) in improved corn and bean production, family gardens, establishment of cassava, yam, pineapple, papaya, and native plant cultivation (chipilin, chaya, hierba mora, tomatillo, and loroco), poultry production, agro forestry practices and soil conservation techniques. These *Agricultores Lideres* received a monthly food ration as FFW for their support on the achievement of project objectives. They trained other community members through Campesino a Campesino (farmer to farmer) methodology in horizontal transfer of knowledge which provided an opportunity to promote Agricultural Best Practices among community member to apply them in their own crops.

In April, food reserves in the region were depleted and sporadic sources of income were detected. SC provided 6,000/ 18 week laying hens to 1000 vulnerable HH that were identified through nutritional indicators. Each HH received chicken feed and 6 hens that produce 5 eggs a day each. This provided each family with approximately 210 eggs per week for HH protein consumption to improve their nutritional status. SC trained these HH in animal health practices, native chicken-feed production and poultry management.

SC also distributed Certified White Corn ICTA B-7 and 420 HH with Bean ICTA LIGERO drought resistant seeds that were planted during May (corn) and July (bean) to 938 HH. During these months, the corn and bean seedling showed normal development. However, due to the heavy rainfall during the months of August and September, the first corn harvest was destroyed and the second corn harvest and first bean harvest have shown fungal diseases. At this time, the corn and bean is expected to yield 50% less than normal and food production and will probably last only until January 2010. FFP/Washington has authorized a no-cost extension for PROSANO until March 2011. The no-cost extension will help SC provide further assistance to vulnerable HH and allow continued monitoring of the food security situation. However, PROSANO will leave these families in the critical highest point of the hungry season according to MFEWS calendar and probably the most vulnerable HHs will fall back into the food insecurity cycle.

SC has implemented 160 vegetable gardens to 160 families and established 6,000 agro forestry plants in the communities. Cementos Progreso, a well known company in Guatemala, recognizes SC work in the dry corridor communities, and donated 1,000 forestry trees to SC communities. 117 families benefited by SC's repairs to their irrigation systems. SC conducting the following training: 15 modules with poultry livestock training for 327 beneficiaries and 20 hands-on-trainings on Agro forestry Systems and Corn production for 438 beneficiaries. SC implemented 11 *Centros de Enseñanza Aprendizaje* (Teacher Learning Field Area) in Jocotan and Camotan in Chiquimula. This field area is located in beneficiary's agricultural property, where small plots are being planted and improvements to agricultural production are being promoted through the teaching of Best Agricultural Practices to all community members and beneficiaries. These trainings have become very popular in the area and have improved several agricultural productions in the area.

PROSANO monitored corn and beans prices and results have shown that the prices have kept constant in its area due to high import of Mexican corn and beans.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

PROSANO has been coordinating with Red Humanitaria (UN Humanitarian Network) since October 2009 regarding conducting the baseline survey. The results have been shared with local, national, and international stakeholders.

PROSANO has reached and exceeded many targets: The program initially proposed 10,000 HH, but reached 10,574. PROSANO also proposed reaching 60,000 beneficiaries, but exceeded this target to reach 63,400. On Madres Lideres, the target was 170, and PROSANO reached 272. In addition, PROSANO aimed to reach and train 75 Agricultores Lideres but reached 137. PROSANO conducted different training sessions and courses on health, nutrition, agriculture and a rapid livelihoods strategy implementation in the intervention area.

The no-cost extension until March 2011 will enable SC, sub-grantee MC and other stakeholders to continue helping families in need, especially since the drought and severe rainfall reduced corn and bean yields by 50%. Food rations will last until January 2011. This will also allow for continued trainings and technical assistance to develop skills to prevent and manage child malnutrition. PROSANO will support and help the vulnerable HH to face the upcoming hunger season in 2011 according to the MFEWS Calendar.

Save the Children in Guatemala
PROSANO (SYAP) Program -
Master M&E Matrix

Goal: Mitigate the impact of the current crisis and help vulnerable families to more effectively mitigate and manage future shocks to their health, nutrition, livelihoods, and overall food security

Indicator	Description of Indicator	Baseline	Progress October 09-September 10
Number of beneficiaries from food insecure households that received direct food assistance.	Number of beneficiaries from food insecure households that received direct food assistance. Absolute Value	0	63.444
Number of households that received direct food assistance	Number of households that received direct food assistance. Absolute Value	0	10,574
% decrease of identified cases of SAM among children (0-23.9 months and 24.59.9 months)	Number of identified SAM children (0-23.9 and 24-59.9 months) /Total number of monitored children (0-23.9 and 24-59.9 months) X 100. Percentage Value	0.48%	1%

% of cases of SAM (red MUAC) with complications referred to a hospital or stabilization center	Number of SAM (red MUAC) with complications referred to a Hospital or Stabilization center/Total number of identified SAM cases with complications X 100. Percentage Value	0%	100%
% of mothers and caretakers that know at least 2 signs of malnutrition in children	Number of mothers and caretakers that know at least 2 signs of malnutrition in children/ Total number of surveyed mothers and caretakers X 100. Percentage Value	0%	20%
% of children aged 0-23.9 months recovered from SAM (red MUAC)	Number of children aged 0-23.9 months recovered from SAM (red MUAC)/ Total number of monitored children aged 0-23.9 months X 100. Percentage Value	0%	50%
Number of households implementing improved food production activities	Number of families implementing improved food production activities Absolute Value	0	2846
% of beneficiaries reporting adoption of promoted livelihood practices	Beneficiaries (farmers) reporting use of at least half of promoted practices/Total number of beneficiaries reached X 100: Percentage Value	0%	42%
Average # of months of adequate household food provisioning	Sum of months of adequate HH food provisioning for each HH Interviewed /Total Number of HH Interviewed. Absolute Value	0	6

2. SUCCESS STORIES

Biometric System:

SC designed, developed and launched a new biometric system to conduct monitoring and evaluation in the PROSANO intervention area. This biometric system is easy to install in a laptop, efficient, and automatically loads participating family records using fingerprint technology to identify ration recipients. Data collected at the village level are backed up using SC central database servers allowing for network-based access to update information. The system has GPS technology to identify the location of beneficiary HHs as well as identifying families in need. This system has collected data on beneficiaries avoiding duplicity, enabling MCHN staff to provide immediate nutritional counseling to beneficiaries in need, supporting the Logistics team in food rations preparation, and reducing the paperwork load and making the process more environmentally friendly. This system generates immediate report results from any community, family and individual beneficiary. The biometric system allows transparency avoiding human errors in data collection and food distribution. This biometric system is currently functioning and is being used by both SC and Sub-grantee MC.



Photographer: Elmer Barillas SC Livelihood Coordinator.
Description: Manuel Fuentes, SC M&E Officer using the biometric system during food ration distribution in Jocotan, Chiquimula on July 21, 2010.



Photographer: Manuel Fuentes, SC M&E Officer
Description: SC Technicians using the biometric system during food distribution in Camotan on July 2010

Volumetric Dosifiers

SC designed two volumetric dosifier machines for grains and liquids. This equipment packages 300/ 18 lb bags per hour (rice, pinto beans and CSB) and 600 liters of vegetable oil per hour. This equipment has allowed PROSANO to provide immediate assistance to the emergency in the area, delivering more than 10,000 58 lbs food rations more quickly to communities in need. Guatemala is prone to natural disasters due to climate change, thus the equipment allows SC to be prepared and rapidly respond to emergencies caused by any disaster.



Photographer: Simon Marroquin, SC Administrator Coordinator.
SC Warehouse Operators Yefry Larios, Edgar Ramirez and Edgar Lalin working on the grain volumetric dosifier.



Photographer: Simon Marroquin, SC Administrator Coordinator
SC Warehouse Operators Edgar Portillo and Rafael Garcia Working on the liquid volumetric dosifier.

Barter of Recycled Waste

Large amounts of empty grain sacks and oil bins are the by-product of packing food rations. Instead of being discarded in landfills, these sacks and bins are exchanged with recycling companies for chickens, certified animal feed and new metal roof sheets. This barter has enabled SC to reach more beneficiaries with the same budget.



Photographer: Elmer Barillas; SC Livelihoods Coordinator
 Elmer Barillas distributing 18 week chickens on June 6, 2010 to vulnerable families using barter for recycled waste



Photographer: Elmer Barillas, SC Livelihood Coordinator
 Gladys F project beneficiary explains water shortage to SC Chief of Party Maria Ester Bucaro, SC PROSANO Deputy Manager Saul Gomez and USDA/FAS Agricultural Counselor Robert Hoff, visit conducted on August 11, 2010 in Chiquimula



Photographer: Olga Fuentes, MCHN Coordinator
 Gladys F with family and Elmer Barillas, SC Livelihood Coordinator, receive metal roof sheets in order to install rain water harvesting tank, seen at the back of the picture Chiquimula October 2010.



Photographer: Olga Fuentes, SC
 Water harvesting tank built in Gladys F home as well as other 250 homes by SC (additional 150 to be built next trimester).

3. LESSONS LEARNED:

1. SC/MC good relationships with local authorities (municipalities) have been key in the successful launch of PROSANO. Local authorities have helped to determine complementary activities to avoid duplicating activities of other organizations.

2. The good relationship established with the MOH regional offices has ensured successful implementation of the nutritional census. During nutritional census activities and monthly monitoring of child, lactating, and pregnant women a MOH official is on site. All data collected and the analysis is sent to the MOH for follow-up of most urgent cases.

3. SC has increased sub-grantee MC staff capacity to meet USAID regulations, implement livelihoods activities, monitor and evaluate programming, implement CMAM and BBC strategies and conduct and report on the Nutritional Census. MC is using, at no cost, SC's Biometric System.

4. Hands-on-training is a good methodology for teaching purposes in food preparation as well as livelihoods training. This method is easy to apply and beneficiaries learn quickly and transfer knowledge to other community members. Improvement on child nutritional status has been observed in communities after trainings have been conducted.

5. The heavy rainfall during May-September, far more than expected and compared to other years, delayed project activities in certain communities due to landslides and overflow rivers causing road damage. PROSANO was able to address these problems in coordination with COCODES, Madres Lideres, and Agricultores Lideres, to streamline food distribution and other activities so that time delay was not significant.

4. ATTACHMENTS

C. Standardized Annual Performance Questionnaire

D. Tracking Table for Beneficiaries and Resources

I. Completeness Checklist