

SUSTAINED IMPACT

Sustainability Study of Tomoyo Irrigation Project - FH Bolivia

Tomoyo Project

FH Bolivia began a USAID-funded food security program in Tomoyo in 1993. In 1997 FH started a massive project to bring irrigation to 400 families. Impacts on production, income and malnutrition were remarkable at the project's conclusion in 2008. Tufts University/USAID held a sustainability study in 2011 where they found that many of the results in Tomoyo persisted.

Purpose

FH returned to Tomoyo in March 2017 to document evidences of lasting and holistic changes of the project five years after FH's exit, discern factors that contributed to sustainable outcomes, and validate FH's community graduation measurement methodology.

Study Design

Tomoyo and a nearby community not served by FH were studied to compare their levels of hope in the future, care for others, and leadership capacity.



Study Findings

A 2008 final evaluation of the Tomoyo irrigation project showed the following impressive results in physical well-being:

- 687 hectares under irrigation which extended the agricultural season from 6 to 11 months
- Chronic malnutrition decreased from 59% to 18%
- Gross annual income increased from US \$268 to \$2,065

The Tufts University/USAID impact sustainability study of the food security program that funded the Tomoyo project repeated the evaluation in 2011 and found that:

- Chronic malnutrition continued to decline in FH zones





Towards a Sustainability Framework

In 2016 FH introduced a set of measures to determine appropriate exit times and built them into its evaluation system. This system is operational and will continually be refined.

FH's Community Graduation Criteria



Sustainability studies, such as this one, test the permanence of community progress once it is deemed ready to graduate. FH plans to conduct further studies in the near future to support the development of a sustainability framework to inform future program designs and revise graduation criteria.

- Community health workers continued to be active
- Communities were maintaining their water systems
- Agricultural income decreased, though remained considerably higher than at the beginning of the program

Holistic and Lasting Changes

FH's 2017 sustainability study explored how the project's physical well-being results impacted the people in Tomoyo holistically.*

- Securing irrigation changed their landscapes, incomes and consequently their outlook on their children's potential
- They experienced fewer maternal deaths
- Care for others - increased solidarity through sharing resources, collaboration, reduced abuse and violence, and improvements in gender roles and relationships
- Emergence of hope - improved sense of agency, self-esteem, vision and planning for the future
- Perceived a greater involvement of God in their lives
- Church leaders were involved in community leadership
- Formalized community organization was sustaining the financing and management of irrigation system



* Final study report will be available at the end of May 2017.