



**CIP El Sauce School Garden Project
Photo Log**



- **School serving the children of the low income urban community of Sonsocate, Sonsonate.**
- **The only organic school garden in El Salvador**
- **Garden actively used in curriculum, 800-1,000 students/year benefiting**



Providing curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and activities for children vulnerable to gang recruitment



Project Scope

1. to expand curricular and extra-curricular education opportunities, and thereby thwart gang recruitment, for over 1,200 students in the low income urban community of Sonsocate, El Salvador through support of a school mini-farm;

2. to provide technical training for teachers, students and their parents in small scale organic agriculture, nutrition and food security, leadership and life skills, gender and interpersonal relationships and small business management principles, and



3. to provide supplementary food for the school lunch program.



**Fruit and vegetables produced are used in school lunch program, given to students and families
> 1,900 lb produced during life of CIP project, > 15,000 lb over life of project.**





More than 1,800 external visitors from 32 different organizations from El Salvador and Internationally, including annual visits from agriculture students from the national University, have come to learn about methods, how to set up similar gardens at other schools in El Salvador, etc. During the CIP program alone 408 visitors came to learn about organic school gardens.

The garden is primarily maintained by the head farmer funded by the project (Francisco), and groups of Grade 7-9 students (The Garden Club) due to the heavy manual work. Approximately 60 of the older students/year form this team.



- During the CIP program the grade 7-9 students learned leadership skills through assisting the teachers and mentoring the younger students when they have classes in the garden



Maintaining the garden has taken a lot of hard work by students and teachers









Supplies are shared by the students, including the boots! They learn responsibility and leadership, and are required to keep the tool room tidy!





HUERTO ESCOLAR

The Garden Club also learns entrepreneurship skills through selling some of the produce at local fairs







Originally the girls held back from participating, now they equal or exceed the boys' participation



View of the Garden 2018





Huerti Escolar El Sauce

**The garden
in the
curricula**





During the life of the CIP funded project, students from all grades had their education enhanced through classes in the garden. **During the CIP project 2,048 students received classes in the garden.** Over the life of the project 7,255 students have received classes in the garden

- the garden is an outdoor classroom, where fundamentals like math, English and environmental studies are being taught

Early years: learning colours, size, numbers, geometric shapes, insects, leaves, textures, types of salads, things to eat, motor skills handling flowers and clay



English classes use and translate specific words from the garden, the name of vegetables and the names of areas of the garden.





Science: Parts of plants, classes of plants and vegetables, plants that feed us, medical use of the plants and use in industry, close planting, how to cure seeds to preserve them, environmental issues, climate





Language: Writing poems dedicated to the environment
Art, music



Mathematics:
geometry, angles,
polynomials,
calculation of
areas,
measurements of
dimensions,

Metrics, volume
measurements,
agricultural
measurements





Thanks to the CIP project, a generous donation of materials from project agronomist Jamie Coutts, and help from a parent and students, we were also able to upgrade the teaching area in the garden, replacing the rotted wood supports on the original outdoor classroom area and building a “story corner”, a covered area where teachers can conduct classes outside and students can go to read.



The Story Corner, developed to enhance outdoor learning as part of the CIP program has been a huge success with many classes for primary school students held there and a favorite place of both students and teachers.



Francisco the Head Farmer at the Garden teaching a class of youngsters in the story corner



Project also supported by local law enforcement (in kind) as way to reduce gang recruitment





The local police have actively participated in school garden projects, developing a rapport with the students and have reported that the garden has a positive impact in the community





Female police constable
participating in one of the
classes



One of the community projects the students undertook during the CIP project was to plant trees they grew, in the boulevard in their community to make it a more friendly place





A key part of the enhanced programming made possible through the CIP funding was **implementation of special workshops for teachers, students and parents.**

The teachers workshops covered topics identified as important to them:

- Primary school teachers (22): critical thinking and use of art and the garden as tools for teaching
- Secondary School teachers (15): the theory of knowledge and learning and education policies

Workshops with teachers, parents and students:

- Self esteem (288 grade 7,8,9 students)
- Nutrition (97 parents and teachers)
- Entrepreneurship and “planning my future” (322 Grade 7,8,9 students)



The other critical activity that the CIP funding made possible was the

- formal documentation of the details of curriculum taught in the garden for use by future teachers and other schools who may want to implement a school garden





**UN Millenium Goals
Supported by this Project**

UN Sustainable Development Goal 1:
No Poverty. End poverty in all its forms
everywhere.

This project will contribute to the
target “build the resilience of the poor
and those in vulnerable situations and
reduce their exposure and vulnerability
to climate-related extreme events and
other economic, social and
environmental shocks and disasters”
through:

- Adapting sustainable agricultural
techniques, suitable for small scale or
home-based food-production, to
Salvadorian climate, soils and plant
species.
- Providing a small scale sustainable
agriculture demonstration and training
center for people in the region

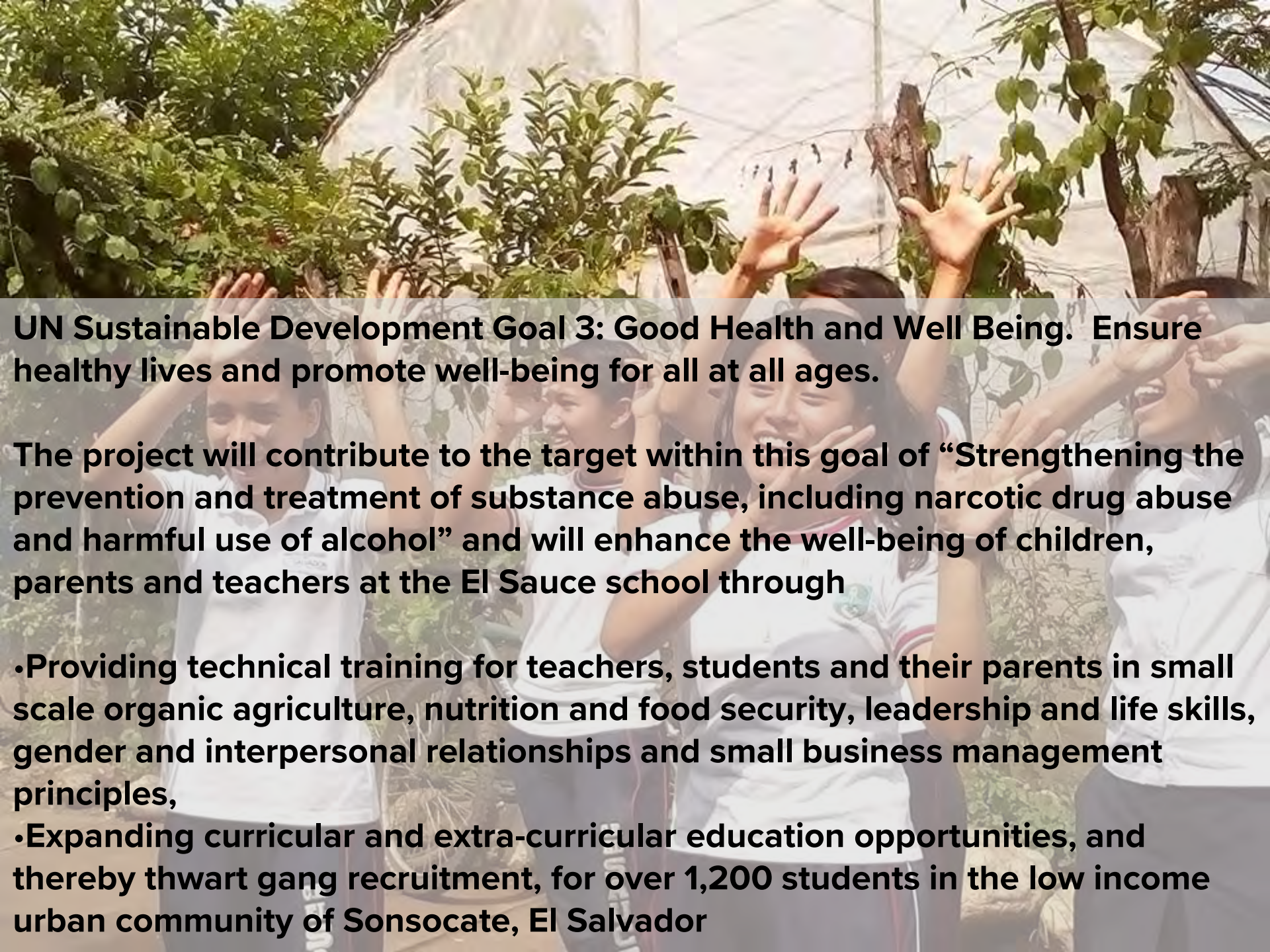


UN Goal 2: Zero Hunger. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The Project will contribute to this goal through

- Adapting sustainable agricultural techniques, suitable for small scale or home-based food-production, to Salvadorian climate, soils and plant species
- Providing a small scale sustainable agriculture demonstration and training center for people in the region, thereby enhancing their food security
- Exposing the students at the school to a working farm environment where they can assist with planning, planting, weeding and harvesting.
- Providing supplementary food for the school lunch program and workshops on nutrition





UN Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

The project will contribute to the target within this goal of “Strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol” and will enhance the well-being of children, parents and teachers at the El Sauce school through

- Providing technical training for teachers, students and their parents in small scale organic agriculture, nutrition and food security, leadership and life skills, gender and interpersonal relationships and small business management principles,**
- Expanding curricular and extra-curricular education opportunities, and thereby thwart gang recruitment, for over 1,200 students in the low income urban community of Sonsocate, El Salvador**

UN Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education. Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

The Project will contribute to this goal through

- Broadening classroom teaching opportunities for professors at the school, through provision of a safe outdoor learning space.
- Providing technical training for teachers, students and their parents in small scale organic agriculture, nutrition and food security, leadership and life skills, gender and interpersonal relationships and small business management principles,
- Expanding curricular and extra-curricular education opportunities, and thereby thwart gang recruitment, for over 1,200 students in the low income urban community of Sonsocate, El Salvador



Un Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The Project contributes to this goal through

- active encouragement and involvement of the girls attending the El Sauce School to participate in all mini-farm activities and training and
- the inclusion of training in gender issues in the enhanced extra-curricular training proposed.





UN Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Production and Consumption. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The Project will contribute to this goal through its sustainable agriculture component

- Adapting sustainable agricultural techniques, suitable for small scale or home-based food-production, to Salvadorian climate, soils and plant species.**
- Providing a small scale sustainable agriculture demonstration and training center for people in the region**

A POEM TO THE GARDEN BY Ronald Pacheco

Grade 9 (translated from Spanish)

Goodbye my beautiful garden, I will leave you
happy

Seeing you flourishing,
My head held high, because from you I have
learned so much of nature

You always will remain in my mind like the
remembrance of the scent of fresh picked
veggies that

Have just been picked or planted, the purity of
the wind and sunrays.

That refreshes and illuminates our everyday, life
working the land that every day gets even
better.

I always will remember the smile of those that
work every day to make you even more
beautiful and protect you, my dear and
unforgettable garden. !!!

THE TRANSFORMATION NEVER STOPS





Thank you again