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CID

GALLUP DE CENTROAMERICA

*FOCUS GROUPS
SALVADORANS LIVING IN POVERTY
El Salvador - August 1996*



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DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE FOCUS GROUPS*
AUGUST 20 - 21, 1996
SAN SALVADOR, USAID

8 to 12 participants per session
Approximate length of each was 90 minutes
Jutiapa, San Rafael Oriente, Huizúcar

PRESENTATION

- Expression of gratitude
- Objectives
- General guidelines

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?
2. What do you like the most about living in this community?
3. In terms of problems: Which is the principal problem that you have here in your community?
4. And why do you believe you have these problems?
5. And what can you do about resolving these problems?
6. In terms of the future, let's say the next 5 years: How do you see your future here in the community?
 - Where else have you lived besides this community?
 - Do you have family members in the United States? Do they send remittances?

II. OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION

7. If you think about savings: What does "savings" mean to you?
8. And when you think of resources--"pisto" or money--to meet your and your family's needs, where do you obtain them?
9. Are there banks, cooperatives, or savings and loan institutions in the community?
10. And what kind of relation do you have or can you have with these institutions?
11. If you have, or if you were to have, savings in cash, what would you do with that money?
12. And if you need, or were to need money to set up a business or work your land, how would you obtain that money?
13. Have you or someone you know tried to obtain loans, or credit here in the community?

14. Is it easy or difficult to get loans, open bank accounts, open savings account? *
15. In terms of roads and other services such as electricity, transportation for you or for your products, how is the situation here?
16. And if you want to purchase material, equipment, fertilizers, is it easy to find them? *
17. How easy is it to obtain land, either to purchase it or to work it?
18. When you think of "education", what do you think of?
- 18a. And when you think of "studies" what do you think of?
19. And if we speak of "training": what is that?
20. Here in the community, do you believe that education and training are important for improving your quality of life?

III. WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Now, let's change topics...

21. In general, how is the health of the people who live in this community?
22. And what is the principal health problem that you have here?
23. And if we think about our families and homes: what causes children and young people to become sick?
24. And what factors influence our ability to stay in good health?
25. How do you think we can avoid the most common illnesses here?
26. Who do you think should be responsible for the health of the members of the household ?
27. Do you think men should worry about their family's health?
28. The water that you drink: what type of water is it?
29. So...what is potable water?
30. When you need health care services, where do you go?
31. And who provides you this service?
32. Who do you believe should be the person responsible for the household's health?
33. Do you believe men should worry about the family's health?
34. And when you think of family planning, what do you think of?
35. As far as contraceptives are concerned, what methods have you heard of or are you familiar with?
- What do you do with the garbage?
- Do you have bathrooms in your home?
- Have you heard of AIDS?

IV. ENVIRONMENT

36. Have you heard people talk about the "environment"?
37. How important is that to you?
38. What kind of influence do the rivers, trees, and animals have on your life?

39. As far as the forests are concerned, do you use them for something, do you think they are important?

40. And what can you tell me about rivers, and rain?

41. Do you believe that today there are less forests, animals, rivers than ten years ago?

42. Do you do anything special to protect the natural environment around you? Like what?

43. And tell me, are your environmental surroundings important for your quality of life?

44. Let's talk about firewood: is there enough, will there be enough and do you do anything to ensure that you will have firewood in the future?

V. THE TRANSITION TO PEACE

45. What does "peace" mean to you?

46. And here in your community, is there peace?

47. And when you go out on the street to go to work, to travel or to spend free time with your family, do you feel safe?

48. In this community, are there problems with assaults, robberies, gangs, crime?

49. How are the families in this community? (united?)

50. And in general, is there peace at home, between spouses, between parents and their children, and between brothers and sisters?

51. Are you happy here or would you like to go and live in another type of community?

52. And, in thinking about your lives, and all the problems we've been talking about, do you think these could be resolved by going to live somewhere else?

53. In looking back on the period before the signing of the peace accords, do you believe that things are different now, or are they the same?

54. And what do you believe you can do to live more in peace?

55. Do you believe that peace will last in your community, in the country?

- Have you heard about a law that protects women against the men who mistreat them?

VI. SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

56. Do you work in this Municipality?

57. And the services you receive in health, education, commerce, where are they? Here or in another place?

58. Do you visit the Department capital? For what reasons primarily?

59. As far the elections are concerned, are you interested in them?

60. Did you vote in the past elections?

61. And if you voted, did it help to improve your quality of life?

62. What type of person is interested in holding public office here in your community?

63. When you think of the judicial system: what do you think of?

64. And the local government—specifically the Mayors—how much do they do to improve your life?

65. Do you remember who establishes the country's laws?

66. Do you participate in local groups that aim to help resolve problems and improve life in the community?

67. When you think of corruption, what do you think of?

—During the period of the conflict, what was life like here?

—Institutions: public, private, foreign, that have developed assistance programs. Which institutions? Which programs?

—What media do you follow to stay informed about the news, to know about what happens here and elsewhere?

INTRODUCTION

The qualitative phase of the study "Salvadorans living in poverty, primarily women, children, and youth" was conducted from August 20th through the 22nd 1996. This phase consisted of seven focus groups which were carried out in municipalities that were selected based on "experience and judgment", and by the three population strata in which the country is divided according to its rural index.

The focus groups were held in community centers in the municipalities of:

Jutiapa-Cabañas	Youth: 15-19 years of age Housewives: 20-49 years of age	93% Rural Population
San Rafael Oriente- San Miguel	Young adults: 20 - 29 years of age Housewives: 20 - 49 years of age Adults: 30 - 49 years of age	52% Rural Population
Huizúcar - La Libertad	Housewives: 20 - 49 years of age Youth: 15 - 19 years of age	78% Rural Population

The contract specified six focus groups, but because of the importance of the stratum of "housewives", CID decided to undertake an extra session with this group.

The sessions were directed by professional personnel, using a discussion guide that was approved by representatives of the "Program: Salvadorans who live in poverty, principally women, children, and youth in rural areas". The sessions also required the logistical assistance of a team of four people.

CID is grateful for all the support it received from Lic. Ana C. Mejía in the Strategic Development Office (SDO) and from the staff people who attended the various sessions. Their observations enriched the discussions and helped in meeting the objectives of this stage of the project.

- Jutiapa: María Rodríguez
 Julio Segovia
 Roberto Gaviria
 Michael Radman

- San Rafael Oriente: Roxana Oberlin
 Bill Hardwood
 Cintya Rahl

- Huizúcar: Patricia de Vieites
 Annie de Valencia
 Aracely de Majano
 José Carvallo
 Robert Barr

In general, the level of participation in the focus groups was acceptable, thus allowing coverage of the majority of the issues proposed. Although some groups were more dynamic than others—as was to be expected—the objectives were met throughout the process.

This report presents the results of this phase and includes:

- A Summary of the Methodology
- Important Findings
- Summary of the comments made by participants in each session
- Focus Group Guide

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I. METHODOLOGICAL SUMMARY

A. OBJECTIVES

1. To obtain basic information that will guide the development of a survey instrument to be used to gather quantitative data. The data will provide necessary input for the design of a program to meet the needs of the "Salvadorans who live in poverty, primarily women, children and youth."
2. To explore attitudes, knowledge and practices of specific population groups that could be used as targets, or "insights" on how to augment the coverage and benefit of the programs to be developed.
3. Within this context, to inquire about the following issues:
 - Opportunities and access to financial services and education
 - The health of women, children and adolescents
 - Awareness and management of the environment
 - Transition to peace
 - Sustainable democracy

The results provide a valuable information base for the design and preparation of the questionnaire that will be administered in the quantitative stage of the project. This survey will be applied to 1800 people: 1500 housewives and a representative (by age and sex) sample of 300 other people.

B. TARGET POPULATION

- The participants in the sessions form part of the target population of the Program, that is, residents of the municipalities, between the ages of 15 and 49, and residing in the "outskirts" rather than in the center of the municipality.

- Only people between the age of 15 and 49 were included in the study, because this range covered the younger age groups, in their productive years, when they are more likely to assimilate new values, behaviors, and lifestyles that could improve their quality of life.
- Each participant was screened with a short questionnaire to ensure that he/she met the prerequisites to participate in the focus group.

C. FORMING THE GROUPS

- A team from CID/Gallup coordinated the selection of the participants, with the collaboration and support of community leaders, who were referred to CID/Gallup by the mayor of the municipality.
- The team visited these participants to explain the objectives of the meetings and where needed, provided transportation between their home and the community center where the sessions were held.
- Basic requirements: participants could not be relatives, participation limited to one person per household in each group, as well as a diversity in age and place of residence. It is assumed that these participants were capable of sharing their experiences and speaking about the issues under study.
- Each group was made up of 8 - 12 participants, except in one case where 13 were admitted.
- In the case of youth and adults, both men and women participated.
- The length of each session was between 90 and 120 minutes.
- Permission was obtained from the group in order to make an audiotape of the session.

D. DISCUSSION GUIDE

- The focus groups were developed using a discussion guide, which was adapted accordingly to respond to the group dynamic.
- Team members found that participants had little knowledge of certain preconceived concepts or that they held different interpretations of them. These concepts included: education, training, forests, savings, health, sickness, corruption, and contraceptive methods. All these can be operationalized, but with a different terminology.
- In addition, other issues were included that came out in the course of the focus groups and were considered of interest for the study. The examples include:
 - Do they have family members who reside in the United States. Do they send remittances?
 - Have they heard of, are they familiar with, or have they attended an open town council meeting?
 - Do they remember or know of national or international institutions that have provided assistance to their municipality or to them personally?
 - Familiarity with the law that protects battered women
 - Knowledge of AID assistance program

E. LOCAL SUPPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

- As indicated, the first contact by representatives of CID was with the Mayor in the municipality, who from the first day, demonstrated interest and who oriented the staff so that they could get to know the community. The Mayor also helped to identify the people who collaborated with the recruitment of participants for the focus groups.

- The focus groups were held in the "community centers" in Huizúcar and in San Rafael Oriente. In both cases, CID representative cleaned the empty rooms and found tables and chairs that could be used for the sessions. The poor conditions of the centers reflect a lack of maintenance.
- At the end of the session, each of the participants received a gift from CID that consisted of a basket of basic supplies, as well as products used for personal hygiene. They included: rice, beans, cooking oil, tomato sauces, pastas, dehydrated soups, toilet paper, soap, and shampoo.
- During each focus group, refreshments and sandwiches were provided.
- The results of this stage reveal that, in principle, the "rural" factor affects and limits people's access to commercial centers and electricity. The problems that exist are common to almost all of the people, most of whom derive their income from agricultural activities. These problems include the lack of potable water, poor roads, and a shortage of educational centers. The most significant variations among respondents' opinions included his/her exposure to battles and violence during the era of conflict, where there was a greater military and guerrilla presence, and whether today there are more problems that threaten personal safety, such as thievery, gangs, etc.
- The other variable that leads to differences in opinion is age. Young people manifest greater expectations of having a "trade or skill" that will allow them to work. Adults are willing to emigrate, if they could, to a larger municipality or to the United States. The principal motivation to leave is the search for a level of income that will improve their quality of life.
- Housewives are more resigned to their standard of living and, in one way or another, seek to confront the adverse conditions surrounding them and attend to their responsibilities in the family, either alone or with a "partner or husband".

**Basic characteristics of the
participants in each session.**

Session #1: Housewives
 Session #2: Youth - 15-19 years
 Session #3: Housewives
 Session #4: Youth- 20-29 years

Session #5: Adults - 30-49 years
 Session #6: Housewives
 Session #7: Youth -15-19 years

Category	Session No.:						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	10	10	12	13	11	13	10
Sex:							
Male	--	6	--	6	5	--	5
Female	10	4	12	7	6	13	5
Age:							
15-17	--	9	--	--	--	--	6
18-19	--	1	--	--	--	--	4
20-24	--	--	2	6	--	4	--
25-29	1	--	--	7	--	3	--
30-34	1	--	4	--	7	3	--
35-39	3	--	2	--	1	1	--
40-44	2	--	2	--	1	1	--
45-49	3	--	2	--	2	1	--
Education:							
None	2	--	4	--	1	1	--
Primary incomplete	7	2	5	6	4	12	--
Primary complete	1	1	--	3	1	--	2
Secondary incomplete	--	7	2	4	3	--	7
Secondary complete	--	--	1	--	2	--	1
Marital status:							
Married	7	--	3	3	3	9	--
Single	1	10	2	5	5	2	10
Union	2	--	7	5	3	2	--
Occupation:							
Domestic labor	10	--	12	5	6	13	1
Day laborer	--	--	--	3	5	--	--
Farmer	--	3	--	2	--	--	3
Student	--	7	--	--	--	--	5
Others: salesperson, tailor, musician.	--	--	--	3	--	--	1

Category	Session No.:													
	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
Total	10		10		12		13		11		13		10	
<u>Type of meeting has attended within the last year in the Municipality:</u>														
Hasn't attended	8		10		5		10		10		13		8	
Town council	--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
Cultural	--		--		--		2		--		--		1	
Community: water	--		--		3		--		1		--		--	
Church	1		--		--		--		--		--		--	
School: children	1		--		--		--		--		--		--	
Politics	--		--		2		--		--		--		--	
Others: Indigenous people	--		--		1		--		--		--		1	
<u>Number of children who live in your home, by age</u>														
Less than 6 years old	5		--		6		5		6		10		--	
Age 6 to 12 years	9		--		8		6		8		5		--	
Age 13 to 17 years	4		--		7		--		--		3		--	
Age 18 years and older	3		--		1		--		--		--		--	
None.	--		10		--		6		1		--		10	
Average number of children	2.1		--		1.8		1.3		--		1.4		--	
<u>In the last year has had contact with:</u>														
	Y	No	Y	No	Y	No	Y	No	Y	No	Y	No	Y	No
Cooperatives	--	10	--	10	2	10	--	10	--	11	--	13	--	10
Savings and loans funds/ Banks	--	10	--	10	2	10	--	10	--	--	--	13	--	10
Health Center	8	2	3	7	10	2	2	8	1	10	9	4	3	7
Church	7	3	3	7	12	--	5	5	4	7	7	6	4	6
Training centers, schools	6	4	8	2	7	5	5	5	5	6	3	10	3	7
Local governments	2	8	--	10	4	8	2	8	2	9	4	9	--	10

II. GENERAL OVERVIEW

A. GENERAL

- Life in rural communities gives inhabitants some valuable rewards, but also creates a set of needs. These needs are related to a quality of life that conforms to other people's values who are not accustomed to living in these areas. These positions are much stronger in areas that were not directly affected by the armed conflict of the 1980s.
- Rural people enjoy life because they feel that they live in a "real community", where one can "barter" to obtain food, one can "purchase items on credit and pay the bill at the end of the pay period", one can borrow money if needed without incurring interest payments, one can go to a neighbor to ask for "rice in exchange for corn, beans, or sorghum."
- For young people, life keeps them content because they have "mountains, rivers and swimming holes" where they can bathe and enjoy outings with family and friends. They still feel a sense of tranquillity, not like in "San Salvador or Ilobasco," where thieves, gangs, pollution and poor air quality are the aspects of life that prevail.
- Rural life also causes some dissatisfaction among residents, which leads to frustrations, difficult living conditions, and desires to migrate to other population centers or to the United States.
- Youth express interest in studying, in attending an "institute" or in learning a "trade." They fear "thievery, and gangs"; they face a siege of drugs; their schooling is limited by insufficient transportation, scarce financial resources, the rainstorms that soak them during the walks of up to two hours to the

closest educational center, and the colds and headaches they get due to such exposure.

- Housewives and adults feel that they can go to the local health center for regular medical "check-ups" and for medical attention when they are feeling ill. They expressed concern about the lack of drinking water, the long walks required in order to draw water from the "well," and the need to go out with "the basket" in order to sell what they produce.
- Unemployment, and the scarcity of jobs, is perhaps the strongest "push" factor for all the age groups to leave rural areas.
- The other problem most people are concerned about is personal safety. There is fear of robbery, thievery, life-threatening assaults. Regardless of whether or not they have money, people are exposed to groups of gangs or corrupt people, drug addicts, "ex-guerrillas," all of whom are considered to have affected negatively on the community's peace and tranquillity. They believe that these people are "outsiders," who come from a nearby city rather than from the community itself.
- The constant increases in prices of the basic food basket also are affecting this population, no different than from the rest of Salvadorans.
- Despite the problems people cite, there appears to be an attitude of acceptance and a lack of awareness about what more can be done locally in order to address them. People assign the government a great deal of responsibility in resolving their problems: from providing assistance to "the single mother with many children," to the planting of trees, the construction of a recreation center, and the provision of food. It is possible that the paternalist measures that prevailed in the era of the conflict generated a sense of impotence or a lack of interest on the part of citizens. Some people even think that they lived better during the armed conflict because they received more aid, there were fewer thieves, and the army protected them.

- The mayor's office and the Salvadoran Investment Fund are cited as the institutions that have contributed most to community development. The HEBRON organization, the European Community, and UNICEF also were mentioned. A.I.D. is generally unknown, except for in a few instances, when it was mentioned in reference to its work in the field of education, specifically in the construction of schools and health centers.
- Because of the employment possibilities it offers, the United States is visualized as the ideal place to go in search of a better life. At the same time, they consider that people who receive remittances from family members abroad can live better.
- Alcoholism is a problem that came up in all of the groups. It is perceived as one of the principal causes of conflict in the home. "Drunk" men ("bolos) are considered to mistreat women and children and cause trauma in the family and the community.
- The radio is the most common medium used to access the news, educational programs, and information about local events. Television is more restricted due to the fact that there is no electricity. Newspapers also are mentioned with less frequency, possibly because of the population's low level of education or because of the nature of the supply of print media.

B. OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION

- Access to financial services is fairly limited, basically due to the bureaucratic prerequisites that must be met. In addition, banks and cooperatives are located only in the municipal or department capitals, which participants visit only sporadically and for special reasons.
- Most people are unfamiliar with financial transactions such as bank accounts, savings book, and loans.

- The concept and reality of "savings" differ among age groups. For young people, the concept is linked to money, especially among those who receive remittances from family members in the United States. They can have access to a savings book at the bank. In addition, for this group, savings is a "material good" that is maintained in case of an emergency.
- Savings among the adults is more linked to "consumer goods" they can use in exchange or barter, or that they can sell in order to acquire cash to meet an immediate need.

Savings are possessions such as pigs, chickens, corn, sorghum, beans, rice. Very few people have cash savings.

- Among older women, children are viewed as a form of savings, "because they will take care of them when they are old."
- Bank loans present additional problems, such as interest rates that are "too high" and the fact that they ask for certificates of land tenure. The experience in dealing with financial institutions is minimal, and is closely related to the individual's level of education.
- If they were to have a surplus of cash, adult women would use it "to establish a business, such as food or clothing sales" whereas men would use it in agricultural activities such as planting corn, beans, coffee, or sorghum, or in purchasing cattle.
- A problem that is common to all the groups is the lack of public infrastructure, such as roads and transportation, which is needed for personal mobility and for transporting their products. The roads are in poor conditions. People do not have vehicles that would allow them to sell their harvest; instead, they rely on carts, intermediaries, or they use their products to sell and exchange among neighbors and family.
- In the communities of San Rafael Oriente and Jutiapa it is more common for people to rent the land they use to grow their crops than in Huizúcar. They

consider it "expensive" but at least they have access to land. Generally, land ownership is difficult, and almost impossible. Those who own land have obtained it through an inheritance.

- The materials needed for production, such as fertilizers and pesticides, are less difficult to acquire. In each municipality, there is access to an "agroservice" commercial establishment.
- To obtain sophisticated medicines, a certain kind of clothing, or articles for the home, they go to the closest "city," which in the majority of cases is not the department capital.
- Electric power is available in the "center" of town, and is less frequently found in private homes.
- The concept of "education" refers to issues of courtesy and respect that shape human relations, rather than to a formative and informational process. There is little association made between education and a trade or, for that matter, any other means of achieving a role as part of the economically active population. Education means "to respect the elderly and children, to know how to listen, to give up your seat to someone else, to have amicable relationships, not to fight,..."
- "Training" is another concept that is linked to an immediate action, especially in the health field. People are "trained" in the care of a newborn child, in the importance of boiling water, and in proper nutrition. The information is received through short talks.
- Training is rarely conceived as a process or medium for learning a "trade." As a result, few people know about the training courses or workshops available in their communities.
- The "trade" or capacity to perform an activity is recognized and they feel it is important, even though there are few opportunities to learn a trade in their municipalities.

- There is a willingness to attend courses where they will be taught a "trade", such as tailoring, dressmaking, the making of handicrafts, or masonry. They believe that there is a demand in their communities for these occupations.
- Young people lean towards other types of "trades." They think about going to an "institute," and specifically about attending courses in accounting, computers, and secretarial skills.
- The term "study" is associated with formal education in schools, institutes and universities. The great problem or limitation they find is that in their communities, most of the time they only have access to basic education -- that is, "elementary school and three years of secondary school." Since further schooling at institutes means that they would have to travel to another town, this option is limited to those young people with greater financial resources.
- The group consensus was that in order to improve quality of life one must have a "trade" that would facilitate employment or income generating activities in his/her home community or in another town.

C. HEALTH : WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Most participants claim that they are in a "good" state of health. Nevertheless, discussions that aimed to explore the concept of health reveal that health is perceived as the absence of serious illness: no strokes, no heart attacks, no surgery. By this definition, it is no surprise that in general people enjoy "good health."
- Sickness is the presence of more serious illnesses such as "hepatitis, headaches in women and youth, measles, strokes, cancer..."
- Further probing into the issue shows that situations that negatively affect health exist and are considered "common" among women, children and

adolescents. It is common for children to suffer from: diarrhea, parasites, colds, and bronchial disorders. For these types of ailments, people rely on the Health Center in their municipality, where they say they are well attended. They also use home remedies, in which the "curandera" (medicine woman) gives medicinal massages, etc.

- The "ailments mentioned are due mostly to the lack of hygiene in homes, to water that is isn't safe to drink, to malnutrition that occurs because of a lack of food or poor nutritional habits," to the continuous contact with domestic animals that get into the house, and to improper handling of garbage.
- Youth and adults complain about colds, headaches. They believe that many times the cause of their illness is the rain that drenches them when they go to the high school, when they go to bring water and when they go to bathe in the river.
- It is interesting to note that bronchial ailments were never associated with the smoke produced by firewood.
- People are clear on the steps they can take to prevent these illnesses: use better hygiene when preparing food, wash fruits, ensure that animals do not enter the home, eat a balanced diet, bury the garbage, boil the water or treat it with lye when it is unsafe to drink.
- The homemaker, the mother, is considered to be the person responsible for the health of the children and the family. The man is perceived as the provider, who should work to feed the family. Nevertheless, when it comes to health, a greater sense of shared responsibility among men and all family members is emerging. They believe that "everyone must take care of themselves, especially when the woman is alone and must work outside the home."
- Serious illnesses are treated in the closest hospital, as the local health centers do not have adequate medicines and supplies. This deficiency of

the health centers is a frequent complaint among participants. In addition, they must purchase expensive medicines in pharmacies, which in most cases, are located in another municipality.

- The health care workers who are most widely known are the doctor and the nurse. Health promoters are rarely cited, neither for their work at the health center nor for their visits to the home.
- It is common to go to the health center for preventive medicine. This is especially true of the "regular check ups for children," which they consider very important.
- Family planning is defined as "having the number of children that you can raise and take care of; spacing births." This concept was cited in all the groups. Only a couple of participants indicated that "it was bad to plan; planning is a sin." Although the concept of family planning is known, it is no guarantee that it is being put into practice, especially among young housewives and adolescents.
- "Contraceptive methods" are harder for participants to identify. Better recognition is obtained if it is mentioned as "ways in which to avoid having children." There is greater awareness of the concept, principally among adults, older housewives, and youth with a certain level of education.
- The methods that are most widely known are the pill, the "small device" (IUD), and the condom. People also cited sterilization in men and women.
- Two facts drew the attention of the session facilitators: the significant number of adult women who had been sterilized and the number of young women who were pregnant or already had between two and three children.
- The ideal number of children according to the younger participants (that is, the recommendation participants would make to someone like them) is between one and two and the ideal number of children according to adults is between three and four.

- AIDS is known as a disease that is acquired through "sexual relations among men, sexual relations with many women, infidelity within the couple, or becoming involved with the women you run into in life...." It is better known among people with a certain level of education, youth and adults. Housewives tend to know less or be unfamiliar with the issue. The preventive measures are focused on "staying away from bad influences" rather than on "safe sex."
- The lack of potable water, as indicated above, is one of the principal problems faced by communities and families. This situation affects all aspects of their daily life: from the costs of "having to go a long distance to the well to bring water in the rain, with the fear of being assaulted" to the need to go to the river to "bathe because there is no water at home."
- Although people are aware of the damage caused by not having access to safe drinking water, they do not always take the precautions they know they should, such as "boiling the water or putting in a few drops of lye or chlorine."
- "Solid waste or garbage" is another factor that affects the contamination of food, as the waste "draws the flies that later go to the food." It is fairly common to have a "stream or ravine nearby" where they can dump the garbage. Other people indicate that they "dig a hole and bury the garbage," although this solution is less frequent. Still others "burn" the garbage, during the summer months.
- Latrines are common in all of the households and people expressed little concern about this.

D. ENVIRONMENT

- The concept of "environment" is little known, especially among housewives. Those people who claim to have heard about it cite whatever they believe it to be related: "our surroundings, everything that is around us, rivers, animals,

people..." Since people are unclear about the meaning of the term, it is difficult to get a notion of how important it is in their lives.

- The "forests" is another vague term. What are forests? That was the question put forth by more than one participant. The residents in these areas, were more familiar with "the mountains, the hills, the trees." These concepts were important in various forms depending on the group:

Youth: the mountains, rivers, trees are pretty and important to them because that is where they go to play, to breathe fresh air, to bathe in the rivers, to kill small animals such as large lizards ("garrobos") and "cuzucos" with sling shots, and seek shade as they walk to school or into town.

Adults - Housewives: They are important because they help prevent the evaporation of the rivers, they give shade and life.

- Although they talk about the importance of having rivers, trees and wild animals, they do little to conserve the nature that surrounds them. They know that they should avoid dumping garbage in the stream because it will contaminate the fish they eat. This seems to be generally accepted as common sense, but at the same time people continue to dump trash in the stream.
- They know about deforestation and the effects of cutting trees and they know that it is not good, but they haven't been concerned about planting trees that can provide firewood. A few have planted trees from the Reforestation Program (mainly pine, eucalyptus, and cedar), most of them adults with children in school.
- People are more likely to plant fruit trees, such as anonas, mangos, oranges, and avocados, in their plot of land because they are considered as an investment that provides fruit for personal consumption and for sale.
- All of the participants cook with firewood. They collect it in the mountains. For housewives, firewood is an asset that they can sell when they need

money "people purchase firewood and each time it is scarcer and more expensive." Again, they demonstrate an understanding of the process of deforestation, but they have not thought about what they will do in the future when they no longer have trees to provide them with firewood. And when they are asked what they will do if they don't plant trees and they don't have firewood, the unanimous response is: "we will cook with gas, Tropicigas."

E. TRANSITION TO PEACE

- "Peace" means tranquillity. For adults, peace is more closely linked to the "absence" of war. They relate it to no longer fearing bombs, being afraid to be killed, or worrying about the arrival of the military or guerrillas. For youth, peace is more often linked to an air of "tranquillity" that means they can go out on the street without danger or remain at home without being robbed.
- Although they live in "tranquillity," it is affected by the delinquent acts committed by gangs or by thieves, principally in the municipalities that suffered most during the civil war.
- In general, among neighbors, there is "peace." People know one another, they help each other, and they look out for others. This lifestyle is altered when men arrive home drunk and hit their wife or their children. Then, there is no "peace" in the home.
- Thievery, gangs, assaults on "rich and poor," are more common in the municipalities which experienced more action in the era of the armed conflict. They believe that these problems are a result of poor "education" in the homes, the lack of employment opportunities, and the veterans who kept their firearms. People need more security and for a "justice to lay down the law." On a personal level, they feel that they cannot do much to resolve this problem.

- The youngest housewives and youth who reside in more rural areas are happy with their lives; they do not wish to move to other places.
- As noted earlier, the opportunity to find employment, and thus generate income, is a factor that motivates people to leave their town. This factor is stronger among youth with the aspiration to continue studying, adult women and adult men.

If they had work in their communities, they would continue to reside in that municipality: that is where they were born and have lived most of their lives. They enjoy the mountains, the animals and they like farming the land.

- Some of the participants claim that they lived better before the peace agreement was signed, when they felt more personal security and had access to the assistance programs of various institutions.

F. SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY

- Sources of employment, either as a salaried employee or self-employed, are more frequently available in the same municipality where they reside. For other more "sophisticated" services, such as specialized health care, technical education, high school "bachillerato" (diploma), specialized courses, they must travel to a larger municipality.
- People rarely visit the department capital and they do so only for extraordinary reasons, such as to visit a family member, go to the hospital, or make special purchases.
- They have an almost nonexistent relationship with local authorities. Yet, the mayor--the political figure of greatest importance and influence-- is well known among the participants. Nonetheless, they only go to city hall when they need their "identity certificate."

- Elections and the right to vote are considered "obligations." Everyone should vote, but people are not sure what they will get out of it or how elections will improve their lives. They believe that all politicians lie and offer too much, and then are unable to keep their promises.
- The presidential elections are important. But even more important are the mayoral elections. The mayor can build public works such as schools, roads, and health centers in the community. People vote, in the end, for the person they believe will do something.
- A mayor can be any person from the locality; he cannot be identified by any special characteristics.
- The deputies ("diputados") are "distant," they never come back to the community and people don't know them. There is very little association between lawmaking and the Legislative Assembly.
- A few people have heard of a "Town Council." They know that they have to go to the mayor's office to state their needs, that residents organize in "boards of directors" (the idea of organization or association is nonexistent) and that they can go to present their problems. Less clear to them is the issue of whether or not the requests can be resolved through this process.
- Educated youth and adults consider that by organizing, people can solve problems. It is achieved by "organizing a board of directors so that they can go ask." The concept of them working and organizing to accomplish a specific activity is nonexistent.
- "Corruption" is associated more with a lack of social values. Corrupt people are those "who live a questionable lifestyle, thieves, gang members, liars, drunks." In a few cases, mainly among youth, the concept of corruption was linked to "the actions of mayors when they receive funds for a specific project and then the project is not implemented."

Group Sessions Summary of the discussions

POPULATION	SESSION #	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
<i>Housewives</i>	Session 1	10	Jutiapa
	Session 3	12	San Rafael Oriente
	Session 6	13	Huizúcar
<i>Young Adults / Adults</i> 20-29 years 30-49 years	Session 4	11	San Rafael Oriente
	Session 5	11	San Rafael Oriente
<i>Youth 15-19 years</i>	Session 2	10	Jutiapa
	Session 7	10	Huizúcar

Focus Groups
Salvadorans living in poverty
Housewives
August 1996

Session #1 Jutiapa	Session #3 San Rafael Oriente	Session #6 Huizúcar
	I. INTRODUCTION	
<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Well, here it is very calm; the only thing is that there are no sources of employment. -Everything is expensive and we don't have the means to buy them -It is calm, there are no gangs; it is pretty -We live well, by the grace of God, but there are a lot of crises -We in the Marias need electricity and everything is very expensive <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tranquillity, I feel good, it is difficult because I am alone with five kids -It is nice in the country, one can get used to it -I was born here. If one does not have money, one can look for a chicken and sell it <p>In terms of problems, what is the principal problem you have here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is no work and one despairs -There is work, but it is poorly paid -There is plenty of water 	<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <p>I feel tranquillity; we only have the problem of unsafe drinking water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is a project for December -I feel tranquillity, there are no gangs. -Here there are no gangs, but there is poverty as in other parts -Well, my husband works to bring home the food we eat -At ease, poor but tranquil <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -People treat each other well; we get along well -I was born here; I am from here - People are courteous and friendly -I feel good, I have my children and they help me. <p>In terms of problems, what is the principal problem you have here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sometimes there are people who fight and then seek a pardon -I don't have problems; I get along well -The issue always is water 	<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -This place is remote. -I feel happy, one feels encouraged -We live well, although there are roads that are useless <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A person feels better in his/her birthplace -We live quite removed from other people -It is removed from the street, the kids can feel at ease playing in the street <p><i>*All were born and lived in Huizúcar. *</i></p> <p>In terms of problems, what is the principal problem you have here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It is difficult to travel to the center of town, there are no conveniences, there is no water -There is a lot of delinquency; it has proliferated a lot -I like everything here; this is where I was born -Everything is very expensive -Com, beans, money doesn't last, everything is very expensive

Session #1 Jutiapa	Session #3 San Rafael Oriente	Session #6 Huizúcar
<p>And why do you believe you have these problems? -Money is scarce; the honorable Mayor doesn't worry about us. -I wish that us women had work. <i>*Only two receive remuneration for their work*</i> -Sometimes I iron, wash, look for firewood to sell</p> <p>What will happen when there is no more firewood? -Everything will dry up, we will have no more food to eat or water to drink <i>*Seven have planted trees*</i></p> <p>Regarding the future, let's say the next five years, how do you see the future here in your community? -I would like to see something that would entertain young people; that they learn to make things that they can sell</p> <p>Are you happy here, or would you like to live in another type of community? -I was born here, I'll stay here -I wouldn't like to go to another place <i>*All of them would keep living in their town*</i></p>	<p>-Delinquency -ANTEL's service is bad -Sometimes they cut the electricity and the rates are high -Things are very expensive -We are bothered by the fact that we have no bridges</p> <p>And why do you believe you have these problems? -The government is poor and does not give funds to fix them -The Mayors. -Lack of work -We don't organize to resolve problems</p> <p>Regarding the future, let's say the next five years, how do you see the future here in your community? -I see that I will die -Working to raise my kids -Things will improve because the elections are soon and people begin to offer things -Perhaps something will change</p> <p>Are you happy here, or would you like to live in another type of community? -I prefer to be here, I was born here. It is not as pretty in other places. -I would like go with my children to look for work -I would like to be more centrally located -Changing homes is to expensive; this place is fine.</p>	<p>-The delinquency (3). -The water is far away- <i>*All bring water from basins*</i> -Husbands help out -Sometimes we purchase water.</p> <p>And why do you believe you have these problems? -Young people don't like to work; they wait until you are gone to rob you -That is the way they are raised from the time they are small -There are a lot of people who don't like to work -Some of them study -Their parents neglected them -There should be more security on behalf of the PNC -Lack of employment</p> <p>Regarding the future, let's say the next five years, how do you see the future here in your community? -I would like it to improve, but that will be difficult because of so much delinquency -Everything is worse, we won't be able to buy anything -Things will not go down in price -The money is not enough</p> <p>Are you happy here, or would you like to live in another type of community? <i>*13 think they will live in the same place*</i> -Because of problems in the home, they are thinking of leaving or dying <i>*None has family in the USA*</i></p>

Session #1 Jutiapa	Session #3 San Rafael Oriente	Session #6 Huizúcar
	-One becomes accustomed to living in cantons -I would like to live in the center of town to have a small business	-In the canton there are people who have family in the US and who live well -My mother-in-law receives money from the US

Session #1 Jutiapa	Session #3 San Rafael Oriente	Session #6 Huizúcar
II. OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION		
<p>When you think of savings, what does that mean to you? -When I earn ₡25 I save ₡10, for a child's illness, or if not, I sell a chick. -We must save a little bit for tomorrow. -I save because we are building a house. <i>*Four have savings*</i> -I have a "tuca," a mare, and chicken -Chicken and turkeys -Chickens -A small piece of land I'm paying off</p> <p>And when you think of the resources--cash--required to meet the needs of your family, where do you get it? -From the small animals we have -Selling com. -I can hold off because there is nothing I can get in order to sell -We eat com, and every once in a while, beans. -I lend money -Think about what we are going to do, to seek a loan.</p> <p>Regarding the future, let's say the next five years, how do you see the future here in your community? -I would like to see something that would entertain young people; that they learn to make things that they can sell</p>	<p>When you think of savings, what does that mean to you? -To use one part and put away another -To think that we only have a short few days of life -Save in order to eat. -To have one part to eat and one to put away in the bank <i>*Only one has savings*</i> -I have animals (cattle); in a situation of dire need, I can sell them. -I have nothing. -I have small animals: chickens, cows. <i>*Only two grow crops*</i> -I only have my children. -They contribute to maintain my household, it is savings because I don't work, they maintain me.</p> <p>And when you think of the resources--cash--required to meet the needs of your family, where do you get it? -At the bank -If you have a ring, you can pawn or sell it. -Work. -I wash and iron clothes. -I purchase on credit at the store, then my children give me money. -My husband works</p> <p>In the community are there banks, cooperatives or savings and loan institutions? -Loans available at the Community Bank -We meet with them and they loan money so that we can buy and sell.</p>	<p>When you think of savings, what does that mean to you? -There is not enough money to be able to save -The basic food basket is too expensive -Sometimes the money is not enough to even buy food <i>*All cultivate land*</i> -I have a small piece of land my mother left to me</p> <p>What do you save? -I save with bananas and coffee. -Bananas can be sold and can be eaten. -We save little by little, because if we fall short of money, we can take some of that to buy</p> <p>And when you think of the resources--cash--required to meet the needs of your family, where do you get it? -I go to my parents <i>*Everyone borrows money*</i> -At the store you can buy on credit <i>*There is confidence that people will pay and be paid*</i> -We lend com to one another. -Beans -"Cubitos"</p> <p>If you have or had savings--in cash--what would you do with that money? -Purchase other things such as sugar <i>*Two would save it*</i> -Build a house</p>

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CID

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<p>Are you happy here, or would you like to live in another type of community? -I was born here, I'll stay here -I wouldn't like to go to another place</p> <p><i>*All of them would keep living in their town*-Among friends, anything, such as com.</i></p> <p>In the community are there banks, cooperatives or savings and loan institutions? -No there are not. <i>(all of them)</i></p> <p>And have you or someone you know ever tried to get a loan/obtain credit here in your community? <i>*All claimed not to know*</i></p> <p>Why haven't you applied for one? -We might be unable to repay it -They ask for deeds that demonstrate property ownership and we don't have any. -The deeds are a guarantee for the bank. -We wanted to obtain credit, but were unable to.</p> <p>In terms of roads and other services such as electric power, transportation for you or your products, how are things here? -Here, we sell them to a middleman who sells the products in Ilobasco -He purchases corn for ₡15 and sells it for ₡18 to ₡20 <i>*Four participants sell com*</i> -At harvest time you can't sell everything; you have to save some to sell when the price is higher.</p>	<p><i>*Only three have applied for loans at the Community Bank*</i></p> <p>Why haven't you applied for one? -I am scared. -My husband always works. -I used to take out loans in the loan houses</p> <p>In terms of roads and other services such as electric power, transportation for you or your products, how are things here? -Bad, buses don't operate from the cantons. We must rely on carts or travel by horse (bareback). -The bus to San Salvador charges ₡500 -Here in San Rafael, thanks to the help of the U.S.A., there are plenty of buses -Where I live, the only way to get the products out is by cart</p> <p>And if you want to purchase materials, equipment, fertilizer...are these easy to find? -They are easy to find. -We go to Usulután. -They do sell fertilizers here. -We to Tránsito to bring it</p> <p>How easy is it to acquire lands, either to purchase or to farm? <i>*Only three sow their own crops*</i> -I've found land near my house; I rent it <i>*Two sow their crops on their own land*</i> -It is easy to find land -It is very expensive here; we live in Cuchitril and it is difficult</p>	<p>Have you applied for loans? -Yes, to purchase fertilizer for the maize field -It is the way to be able to maintain the maize field -My husband requested one for a plot of land and it took two months</p> <p>Was it difficult to obtain the loan? -No it wasn't difficult for the fertilizer because the committee is the one who deals with the bureaucracy and we just sign the papers -My husband applied for it in Cuscatlán</p> <p>Why haven't you applied for loans? -I am alone and don't have the resources to pay it back -There is no way to pay it back -There are no easy terms of payment because money is scarce.</p> <p>Do you have electric power? <i>*No one has electric power*</i></p> <p>And if you want to purchase materials, equipment, fertilizer...are these easy to find? -In the Agricultural center ("Agrícola") in San Salvador. -They sell these here but they are more expensive -Sometimes they are hard to find -I go to La Libertad every two weeks to buy -I go to buy every month -I go to sell and purchase -It is easier to go to San Salvador -In Huizúcar you can purchase what you need the most</p>

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<p>-I sometimes sell beans. -I sometimes sell firewood. -I sell pigs and chickens. -I tell the man that I want money, when I need it. -I sell beans.</p> <p>And if you want to purchase materials, equipment, fertilizer...are these easy to find? -Yes, in Iobasco -Or here in the agroservice store</p> <p>Where do you sow your crops? -In the countryside. -On a rented piece of land, you have to pay. <i>*All of them rent the lands*</i></p> <p>How easy is it to acquire lands, either to purchase or to farm? -It is easy to obtain lands. -But you have to pay -The owners of the lands are from town.</p> <p>When you think of "education", what do you think of? -Educating your children -Educating your children, making them tough -Think of ourselves as well, and give them guidelines for way they should act and develop</p> <p>And if we talk about "training", what is that? -To take the children to the clinic <i>*They don't know the meaning of the term*</i></p>	<p>-It is difficult because of the lack of money -It is nice because one collects the money in one shot</p> <p>When you think of "education", what do you think of? -Respect for other people -Greet everyone -Send the kids to school -Learn a trade -Should begin at home and continue at school</p> <p>And if we talk about "training", what is that? -To prepare your sons and daughters for the life we're living by keeping them up to date/informed; they should go to the university -Here there are no facilities, only in Tránsito -I attended a dressmaking academy -The indigenous gave seminars on flower arrangements/ -Now, they are giving one on cabinet making; it is given by PAEVA <i>*Only two know of PAEVA*</i></p> <p>Here in the community, do you believe that education and training are important to improve your quality of life? -Training would be good for my children -To keep them entertained <i>*All of them would attend courses*</i></p>	<p>Is it easy to get land? -It is easy if you have money -I don't know where to look -They are sold but are very expensive</p> <p>When you think of "education", what do you think of? -To listen to the person who is speaking -To educate our children -Education is provided in the schools</p> <p>And if we talk about training, what is that? -To teach something we ought to learn -Any type of training -Maybe we have little knowledge <i>*Only two have heard about training courses*</i> -I heard my cousin say that he was attending a course on nutrition -I have heard about them, but don't know what they teach or what you learn</p> <p>Here in the community, do you believe that education and training are important to improve your quality of life? -It is important because we are adults and make mistakes -Yes we can train ourselves -By learning how to raise our children we train ourselves</p>

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<p>Here in the community, do you believe that education and training are important to improve your quality of life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yes, sometimes you need someone who can advise you -Yes, they help some -It is important, because it is a way of educating people outside the home -There would be more progress <p>Do you have electric power?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yes, we do -No we don't -That is important so that the town looks nice 	<p>What is "study"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To go to school and learn -Studying would improve us -Study as much as you can <p><i>*All of them send their children to school*</i></p>	

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III. HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN		
<p>In general, how is the health of the people who live in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We live well, we get along just fine. -Almost no one gets sick -Illnesses are more common in children -They develop chest colds -And they tend to suffer from stomach ailments <p>And if we think about our homes and families, what are the factors that can cause children and youth to get sick?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Flies and mosquitoes -The children only play on the ground and they are in the midst of all the animals -Many homes are dirty; kids need to be in a clean environment <p>How do you believe we can avoid the most common illnesses here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -One thing is cleanliness, and carefully preparing the food we eat -Clean tablecloths -Wash children's' hands before they eat -Keep the children clean, don't neglect them <p><i>*Only two know of talks that are given on how to care for children*</i></p> <p>Who do you think should be the person responsible for the family's health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The mother and the father <p><i>*All parents are concerned about the health of their children*</i></p>	<p>In general, how is the health of the people who live in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yes, we have good health; here we go to the Health Unit -When my daughter has a cold, I take her to the government clinic, the service is good. -They have gone to the clinic for check ups. -When they are sick <p>What is the principal health problem you have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Colds -Fever -Diarrhea -Bronchitis -Parasites -Measles -They are visiting homes and giving talks about how to treat food <p>And if we think about our homes and families, what are the factors that can cause children and youth to get sick?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Air and water pollution -There is a plague of mosquitoes -The nests are made in the coconut shells -They don't wash their hands <p>How do you believe we can avoid the most common illnesses here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keeping the kids clean <p><i>*Seven dump trash in pits*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I burn it -I dump it in the stream -When it rains the water carries trash to the river and pollutes it 	<p>In general, how is the health of the people who live in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Good, the doctor always comes -Only sometimes there is no money -Sometimes there are no medicines -They give you the prescription so that you can buy the medicine. <p>What is the principal health problem you have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fever -Colds - Mouth sores -Diarrhea -Cough -Youth almost never get sick -The women suffer from headaches -When you bend down, you become dizzy and black out <p>And if we think about our homes and families, what are the factors that can cause children and youth to get sick?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They don't wash children's' hands -The children pick up fruit that are on the ground and don't wash them -Food is not prepared well <p>Is it related to water?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It is from a well, we have to boil it. -I treat it with chlorine -Sometimes I boil it sometimes I treat it with chlorine -When I go out, I drink unboiled water

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<p>Do you have drinking water? <i>*All of them have drinking water*</i></p> <p>When you require health care services, where do you go? <i>*All go to the town clinic*</i></p> <p>And who is the service provided by? -A male doctor -The nurse and a secretary -And a female doctor</p> <p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of? -That we won't have many children -There are talks on this subject given at the clinic -And they tell us the benefits -They tell us we should not have many kids</p> <p>As far as contraception, what methods have you heard of or are you familiar with? -There are many -A shot -Pills -There are condoms</p> <p><i>*All of them have latrines*</i></p>	<p>Do you have drinking water? -Sometimes the pump breaks down and we have to purchase from other wells whose water is not as safe to drink -We filter the water from the well -I boil it or treat it with a drop of lye -We have been without drinking water the entire year. <i>*Four have been visited by Health Promoters*</i></p> <p>Who do you think should be the person responsible for the family's health? -The mother -I am the one responsible -The two parents: mother and father -Everyone</p> <p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of? -I have never planned. -To have more children once the current children are older <i>*Nine have heard about family planning*</i> -At the Health Unit</p> <p>As far as contraception, what methods have you heard of or are you familiar with? <i>*Seven are sterilized and one plans*</i></p> <p><i>*All of them have latrines*</i></p>	<p>Garbage -Creates a fly problem, the flies land on the food -I burn it; I throw it far away or I burn it -I dump it in the coffee fields -It should not be thrown in the river because it becomes polluted -That is where we bathe -When it rains, the water carries the garbage to the stream -I don't live near a stream</p> <p>Who do you think should be the person responsible for the family's health? -The men work and we care for the children -The mother -For those who have husbands, the men work and the wives care for the children -The men have to help with child care -He helps me without my asking for help</p> <p>When you require health care services, where do you go? -To the clinic of Huizúcar, but sometimes there are no medicines -We try to cure people at home -The doctor and the nurse</p> <p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of? -Planning the family, not having children -That is not good, it is a sin to kill children -To have fewer children now that everything is so expensive</p>

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		<p>As far as contraception, what methods have you heard of or are you familiar with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The men plan -The couple talks it over and plans with pills -A shot and condoms -Sterilization and the little device (I.U.D) <i>*Only one plans*</i> -In the clinic, they gave us talks on this <p>Ideal number of children Two (5) Three (7) Four (2)</p> <p>AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the radio and on television you hear that it is something bad and that it is killing people -It is transmitted only if you go around with many men -It is important to be faithful to your partner

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IV. ENVIRONMENT		
<p>Have you heard talk about the "environment"? <i>*Only one had heard about the environment*</i> -One program says that we must take care of the Lempa river so that we don't have a shortage of water</p> <p>What influence do rivers, trees, and animals have on your life? -If it wasn't for water, we wouldn't exist -That is why we plant trees here -The tree is life for us, it gives us oxygen -A colonel came to give a talk and will bring trees to plant -It is the most important thing for the air</p> <p>As far as forests are concerned, do you use them for something, or do you believe they are important? -Many trees have dried up -Now there are fewer animals <i>*All of them cook with firewood*</i></p> <p>Why do you plant trees? -So that we won't run out of firewood -To exploit the wood -I can plant them in a small piece of land -At the edge of the street -If we do away with our trees, within five years we won't be able to handle the heat -If there are no trees, there are no birds</p>	<p>Have you heard talk about the "environment"? -It is heard over the radio -Environment is everything: water, air</p> <p>What would we do without rivers? -Trees ensure that there is water -We would have more pollution if it weren't for rivers and trees -The trees are nice, they provide shade -Because of the trees, we can breathe fresh air <i>*Ten have planted trees*</i> <i>*All of them cook with firewood*</i></p> <p>Where do you get your firewood? -They chop the tree and let the wood dry -They sell it in several stores -The environment is being destroyed</p> <p>And if you no longer have access to firewood? -I'll go out to look for it -I will buy a stove -We can't do anything without firewood</p> <p>Do you something to protect nature? -Schoolchildren have planted trees -Tree cutting is prohibited -Haven't done anything</p> <p>Are there animals? -"Tacuacine" -Pigeons -"Cusucos" -Rabbits -"Taltusas" -Snakes</p>	<p>Have you heard talk about the environment? -The environment is what surrounds us—according to the radio—it is the air we breathe</p> <p><i>*Thirteen have not heard about the subject*</i></p> <p>Importance of rivers and animals -The river is used for washing -It is important to burn the garbage -Trees should not be cut down -If there were no rivers, we would die -Important for bathing and washing -They provide shrimp and crabs <i>*All of them bathe in the rivers*</i> <i>*All of them cook with firewood*</i></p> <p>Who plants trees? What kind? -I have planted jocote, for shade or for fruit -The trees ensure that water is abundant -I planted cedar -I haven't planted -Oranges, mangoes, avocado, cedar -Mango and anona trees -Fruit and shade trees -Something that can be eaten, the chamiza can be used for fire -If the tree is dry, I cut it down to use for firewood and plant another</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Have become extinct -The people eat them -In times of war, they killed them -They also eat snakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We plant trees, if the branches dry we use them as firewood -There are fewer animals because of the cutting of trees <p>Do you have forests?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Here we only have small mountains

Session #1 Jutiapa	Session #3 San Rafael Oriente	Session #6 Huizúcar
V. TRANSITION TO PEACE		
<p>What does "peace" mean to you? -Peace means to live in tranquillity and get along well -To be united -No sorrows; the kids leave the house and return safely -We feel happy to be at peace -To live in tranquillity with husband and children -To live well at home and with the neighbors</p> <p>And here in this community, is there peace? - Yes, we now live in peace -We all get along well -We don't have problems</p> <p>And when you go out on the street to work or travel, do you feel safe? <i>"All agreed that they do."</i> -We no longer feel afraid -In Ilobasco, there isn't much of an urge to go out, because of the fear that they will rob you and leave you without the fare for the return trip home -My mom lives there and says that at night it is very dangerous</p> <p>How are the families in this community? -Here, they don't hit women -We live well</p> <p>And could all the problems we've talked about be resolved by living in other places? -They would not be resolved</p>	<p>What does "peace" mean to you? -Tranquillity, happiness, one can go to sleep peacefully -Tranquillity, without anguish -I don't feel that there is peace, there is a lot of thievery</p> <p>And here in this community, is there peace? - Yes, there is peace - Depends on the place where you live.</p> <p>And when you go out on the street to work or travel, do you feel safe? - There is a sense of fear, not like before when we were afraid of the war. Now we fear deceitful people ("mañosos") -Now they follow/monitor ("vijear") you to steal your money. -There is no peace; there are many deceitful people ("mañosos") -I live peacefully. I know that I have nothing, that they can't steal anything from me</p> <p>How are the families in this community? -In my home, everything is fine -There are no families. -In my home, I feel fine, and the neighbors do to -I live peacefully because I go wherever I want and now one says anything -There are problems -I have a neighbor who hits them and the law does nothing</p>	<p>What does "peace" mean to you? -Peaceful relations with the neighbors, getting along well with the community -To get along well with people, help each other -Now, there is less killing. -That we would have less delinquency</p> <p>Did you have problems with the war? -Yes, it frightened us. People left their homes. -I was young and we came to live in the town -We left and came to Huizúcar</p> <p>And here in this community, is there peace? -Among us, yes. But there are young people who are out on the streets. -Sometimes the gangs are on these roads -During the festival time, about 22 men come to town.</p> <p>And when you go out on the street to work or travel, do you feel safe? -We go out, but with fear -They hit you because you do not give them money</p> <p>Law that punishes the man who mistreats/abuses -Yes, I have heard. -You can complain if the husband hits you. -You can file the complaint in the court. -There is a special place where you can file a complaint. -Yes, and for those who punish children as well -I know that we all have rights</p>

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<p>-During the war, we left for nine years and my husband worked in construction. Then, like now, we were always short of "pisto" (money).</p> <p>In thinking about the period before the signing of the peace agreement, do you think things have changed or to they remain the same?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We are better off than we were during the war -We no longer have to flee -There was no transportation -And no one ever came here -Before, there was no Health Unit. <p>And what do you think you can do to live more peacefully?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I would like to exercise a trade and stay here - One can keep working to get ahead - I can't learn because nothing sticks in my mind <p>Do you believe that peace will last in the community, in the country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God willing, yes. 	<p>-You shouldn't let them hit you</p> <p>-I don't give in, if they hit me, I hit back</p> <p><i>*Seven have heard of the law that protects the woman*</i></p>	<p>-I heard it over the radio</p> <p>-On the news and on television</p> <p>In thinking about the period before the signing of the peace agreement, do you think things have changed or to they remain the same?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perhaps the same -Delinquency has worsened -Everything is expensive -Some time ago, it wasn't as expensive -There are no more deaths, but everything is expensive <p>Did you receive aid in the time of the war?</p> <p><i>*No one received aid*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Before, it was less expensive.

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VI. SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY		
<p>Do you work in this Municipality? <i>*All of them work in this Municipality.*</i></p> <p>And the health, education, and commercial services that you receive, where are they located here or in another place? -They are good, all the children are in school. -To go out to buy, you have to go to Ilobasco. -It is difficult to go. -The fare costs ¢8 on Saturdays and ¢10 on Sundays -Round trip</p> <p>Do you visit the department capital? For what principal reasons? -I do not go <i>*All of them go to Ilobasco*</i> There you can buy everything for the home. We go every month or two, when there is money. -For us, the most important items are lime and salt.</p> <p>Elections -The mayoral elections are in March. -And the deputy elections as well.</p> <p>For what reason do you vote? -Because it is a duty. They do nothing for you. If you work, you eat. If you don't work, you don't eat. -I didn't vote. I don't have an id. card from here. -You always try to find a good mayor for the town. -It makes no difference it is one or the other. - One votes for them because of what they offer, once they are in office, they don't keep their promises.</p>	<p>And the health, education, and commercial services that you receive, where are they located here or in another place? -All of them here in the center of town -They don't sell food that is made here. -In seeds, everything is sold.</p> <p>Do you visit the department capital? For what principal reasons? - I went to make purchases - I went to visit an aunt <i>*Only four had never been to the capital*</i></p> <p>Did you vote in the past elections? <i>*Nine voted in the past elections*</i> -It is custom to go. -I only stain/mark the ballot.</p> <p>For what reason do you vote? -Custom/habit -To have a better future -Because of propaganda -It is a right; out of fondness for the process and in the hope that things will improve</p> <p>Did your living standard improve? <i>*All of them claim that it did not.*</i></p> <p>Will you vote in the next elections? -Yes, I will vote -I am a supporter of a political party -Me too.</p>	<p>Elections - The mayor and the deputies will be elected in March -Yes they voted -Yes I think I will vote -My duty is to say that I come to town, whether or not I'll vote, I don't know -As citizens, it is our duty to vote</p> <p>Does the situation improve? -No, it does not improve. -They offer and then don't keep their promises -They say if we vote things will get better, then they don't keep their word -I get out of my obligation -You can vote for one or the other, it makes no difference -It is a law.</p> <p>For whom is it more important to vote for? -It is the same -For me, things do not improve. They can leave the same one in office. -Calderón Sol promised to lower prices and instead he raised them -It is the same for one or the other to win. -The Mayor has helped to fix the streets.</p> <p>When you think in the judicial system, what do you think of? - If someone hits another person, they take them to court. <i>*They don't know*</i></p>

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<p><i>*They consider that the mayoral election is more important*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Without authority, "the mafiosos" or deceitful people would come -The deputies don't live here -We don't have confidence in the Mayor <p>What kind of people want occupy public offices here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The judge, the secretary -The people from ANTEL -The mayors are from the town -All of them are alike. <p>Do you remember who makes the country's laws?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The human rights, everything is shown on T.V. <i>*No one knows*</i> <p>Do you participate in community groups that work to resolve problems to improve conditions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In the clinic, when the children are sick -For us, this business with boards doesn't work -Here the CIDEP comes from Ilobasco -The people from the European Community are giving a course on tailoring and dressmaking that lasts five months. -People from DEM and UNICEF always come to talk with the Mayor 	<p>Are there elections coming up?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The elections are in March -For Mayor and for Deputies <p>Do you remember who makes the country's laws?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Assembly -The Supreme Court of Justice -The President -All the above together <i>*Eight of the participants don't know*</i> <p>Do you participate in community groups that work to resolve problems to improve conditions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There are committees that lobby the Mayor so that certain problems are resolved -They do the same where I live. <p>When you think of "corruption", what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Deceitful people -Deceitful people and gangs -Those who embezzle funds that should have been invested in projects -In town hall, they only invest half of the total given to them <p>Institutions that help them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A.I.D. = Health - F.I.S. (Social Investment Fund) = Assistance to schools and help with building wells 	<p>Is their equality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -They treat some people very poorly and take them far away. Others they set free, and they give them money. <p>Do you remember who makes the country's laws?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government (2) - The Assembly (1) <p>What institutions have developed something?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan International helped us with school supplies - EBRON <p>When you think of "corruption", what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In these times, delinquency -The young men who bother people <p>Have you heard people talk about A.I.D.?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yes, I have heard of that with those three letters -We don't know what they do <p>Do you participate in community groups that work to resolve problems to improve conditions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -By forming a board of directors you can achieve things. -We have tried, but no one is interested. <p>Town Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have been invited to one, but have not had the opportunity to go

Session #1 Jutiapa	Session #3 San Rafael Oriente	Session #6 Huizúcar
<p>When you think of "corruption", what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I don't know what it is. -They say that this Mayor is corrupt. -He does something bad. -He is a person who does not respect others. -A person who does not do things well, who doesn't behave -When money is given to a mayor for a certain project, and he keeps the money and does nothing <p>When you think of the judicial system, what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*They don't know*</i> -It should be something that can help you. 		<p><i>*All have heard of them*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In my town, there is a board, and two people from that board attend them -Anyone who wants to come is welcome -I haven't come because I can't leave the children alone -My husband has come <p><i>*None of them has participated*</i></p>

Focus Groups
Salvadorans living in poverty
Young Adults - Adults
August 1996

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
I. INTRODUCTION	
<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is little work, things are expensive -I feel good, optimistic, although there are things that we are lacking -There is no water, but I feel happy -There is no work -Everything is expensive but we are fine. -In the midst of so many problems, I feel good because I am with my family. -Good, we are encouraged. -Good, but everything is expensive -I feel good but there are needs, the roads are in bad shape -One cannot go to the municipality -There is no drinking water. <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I like to work in the countryside -The environment, it is peaceful -There is peace, I am with my family -I am with my family, we are at peace -The environment is pleasant, they like it, there are trees 	<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The environment, there isn't a lot of smoke, there is fresh air, we have schools -The environment offers rivers, reserves, water and our town is only an hour away from the capital -It is tough, I travel 1:30 to arrive, I don't like it much, it is too far -It is kind of nice, and a healthy environment -The school is close to me, and there are no problems, it is near the street -The environment, all the people are friendly, the only problem is that there is no water - It takes 15 minutes to bring water - There is no pollution, and there are soccer fields close by <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I like everything, there is electricity, water nearby and a school. -School is far away from where I live, it takes me a long time to get there, I go on foot -The environment is deteriorating, we will suffer more with the water -Water is crucial for life

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Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<p>In terms of problems: which is the principal problem you have here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is too much thievery, one cannot go to bed at ease - Water -Energy -Source of employment -Bad roads -Prices are high and money is scarce -Health care is in the process of being privatized, everything is money <p>And why do you believe these problems exist?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of companies, lack of work and because of that there is thievery -Few sources of employment -There should be workshops where young people can learn how to work -There is a shortage of work and some people take the easiest way out - We should unite efforts and go talk with the Mayor about these problems -There is a problem with drugs <p><i>*Four have attended a town council meeting*</i></p> <p>And what can you do to resolve these problems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Join together so that we won't have to go without anything -Form a community board -Unite and talk with friends about establishing a clinic 	<p>In terms of problems: which is the principal problem you have here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I like everything. -It is difficult to go to the market, the streets are ugly -There are no buses, you have to walk -There is no water -Electric power only on the principal streets -Poorly lit at night -The microbuses are in poor conditions, they don't work well <p>Do you know people who use drugs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yes, I know some, but they are not my friends - Yes, I know some. -I know a few who drink and smoke <p>Is that a problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -For me, it isn't. -It doesn't draw my attention. -Some of my friends like it, but not all of them. <p>And what can you do to resolve these problems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Several neighborhoods have formed boards, that is how they obtained electricity. -Central boards should help, or take advantage of the open council meetings <p><i>*Only two have heard about the town council meetings*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -They never have them here.

**Session #5
San Rafael Oriente**

- We no longer have work
- I wish there were work available

In terms of the future, let's say the next five years, how do you see your future here in the community?

- To feel encouraged and be able to work, that is most appealing.
 - To work in order to take care of my children
 - To work because one is poor and that is what the future holds for us
 - I have the hope that things will be better and that we can establish the basis for a better quality of life for my children
 - Depends on the government, maybe they will give assistance
- *All of them have always lived in this department.**

Are you happy here or would you like to live in another type of community?

- *All of them would stay in the community if they had a job.**
 - It is better to have work here.
 - You can get along fine here, but one must try to better oneself.
- *Only two have family members in the USA**
- The people who receive money live well.

**Session #4
San Rafael Oriente**

-I have heard them mentioned, but I know nothing about that.
In terms of the future, let's say the next five years, how do you see your future here in the community?

- Try to get ahead with projects that bring benefits.
- Work because I am sure that I won't study anymore.
- I like to draw, I would like to be something.
- I like drawing, I like art.
- I would like to make it to the National Symphony.
- I am thinking of continuing my studies, I am taking a course in computers.
- If the financial situation allows it, I would like to keep studying
- Learn a trade, I don't understand mathematics
- Keep studying
- Do something in a workshop

Are you happy here or would you like to live in another type of community?

- My parents say that they are leaving, I will go with them
 - I wouldn't like to go there, they have pollution
 - I am used to living here
 - Yes, I would like to leave, there are very bad roads
 - My father wants to leave, I don't.
- *Five say that they have family in the USA**

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
II. OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION	
<p>If you think of savings: what does savings mean to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To save money in case a child gets sick -Deposit money in a bank -Savings is progress -We earn only enough to put food on the table -For the future, for my children's schooling -For a future need -To save is to have something in the future, for our children -There is no place to save -You can have things, such as homes -A piece of land, where you can build a home -Save for a piece of land for my children -To have cattle is savings -A pig -I have chickens -I have a "curreo" or pig -A cow -Chickens -Chickens and pigs <p>And when you think of resources --"pisto"-- to meet your family's needs, where do you obtain them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I sell any small animal, that is a resource -We sell any small animal we may have -I work in the lawyer's office -From work or sales -From savings <i>*Only one has a steady income*</i> -We sell our work 	<p>If you think of savings: what does savings mean to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To purchase something for me -Put money in the bank and take it out when you need it -Keep something put away for a future necessity -To save energy -Sometimes it is necessary for an illness -You can save water -Rice, beans -Mom puts it in the bank <i>*Four participants save in a bank*</i> -My father sends it to me from the US. -Every once and a while they send us money and we can put some away <i>*Three of them are studying computer-related fields in San Salvador*</i> <p>Loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In Huizúcar there are no cooperatives <p>Who owns the house where you live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It is rented (<i>only two rent</i>) -It belongs to my father -It belongs to my mother -It is an inheritance <p>What crops do you grow?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corn - Vegetable gardens - "Husquilla"

**Session #5
San Rafael Oriente**

- From the daily earnings
- One works in the fields
- I have to work
- I can ask friends for a loan - Or some family member
- I ask for a cash advance
- *All of them loan money among themselves**
- Without interest
- That is a favor
- They loan corn, beans and firewood

In the community, are there banks, cooperatives, or savings and loan institutions?

- Here there are no loan possibilities
- There is a cooperative in Piedra Azul
- It is not easy, sometimes they lend money sometimes they don't
- *Three had applied for loans**
- The interest rate is high in the cooperatives
- You pay a rate that is three times higher and they ask for guarantors
- Sometimes they ask for things, such as a title deed
- I went and they asked for a title deed; I don't have one
- I applied for one and they gave it to us with a title deed in my father's name
- The paperwork is time consuming and expensive.

If you had savings--cash-- what would you do with this money?

- Work in the fields
- I would sow corn and beans
- I would establish my own business

**Session #4
San Rafael Oriente**

- Papaya
- Vegetable garden and oranges
- Coffee and oranges
- Coffee and mandarins
- *They go to the market to sell the fruit****When you think of "education", what do you think of?**
- It is something you must acquire in order to know how to behave yourself.
- To help other people
- To have education everywhere
- To greet.
- To know how to listen
- To not interrupt when someone is talking.

And if we talk about training: what is it?

- It is a meeting where something is taught
- Short talks about health
- They teach people how to do their work
- They say how to do things
- They instruct in order to move ahead
- They help people to achieve their objectives

To study

- Prepare oneself for the future
- Secure a future

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<p>-A sales stand -Set up a store <i>*Seven would work the land, the rest would go into business*</i> <i>*Five have visited banks*</i> -The closest bank is in Tránsito, it is the Agricultural Development Bank</p> <p>And if you wanted to purchase materials, equipment, fertilizers, is it easy to find these? <i>*All of them consider these products easy to find*</i> -In the agroservice centers -They sell them here and you can get everything <i>*Only two of them have a small piece of land to sow*</i></p> <p>How easy is it to obtain land, either to purchase or to farm? -It is easy to find -The difficult part is the money needed -It costs ₡650 for a block ("manzana") of land per year</p> <p>When you think of "education", what do you think of? -Educate children, do not hit them -Make sure that they study and that they are well behaved -Educate them at home -Send them to school, have food, don't send them to the streets -That they don't learn to steal -Teach them good things</p> <p>And if we talk about training: what is it? -To learn something new -To learn a trade</p>	

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To learn sewing, ironing, washing - Teach them to work <p>Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Studying is a way of correcting children -To learn the things that can be useful in live - One can educate them and once they see the sacrifice involved, perhaps they will help <p>Here in the community, do you believe that education and training are important for improving your quality of life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes it would improve - There should be progress - More sources of employment - Some workshops so that there will no longer be drug addicts ("marijuanos") - More sources of work so that there will be good things 	

**Session #5
San Rafael Oriente**

**Session #4
San Rafael Oriente**

III. HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In general, how is the health of the people who live here in this community?

- Not good, not bad
- Yes, they do get sick
- Principally the children

And what is the principal health problem you have here?

- Child malnutrition
- Dengue fever
- Diarrhea
- There is a lot of garbage
- In the hospitals, there are no medicines
- Malnutrition
- Fever
- Colds
- Chicken pox
- Measles

Water/Health - Relationship

If you drink good water, you are healthy *(all are in agreement)*

And if we think about our families and homes, what factors can cause our children and youth to become sick?

- There are a lot of flies
- Many mosquitoes
- The lack of drinking water
- A lot of garbage on the street

In general, how is the health of the people who live here in this community?

- Healthy
- It is good
- There are no problems

And what is the principal health problem you have here?

- Colds
- Diarrhea in children
- Vomiting
- Mouth sores
- Measles
- Chicken pox
- Fever
- Cough

And if we think about our families and homes, what factors can cause our children and youth to become sick?

- Malnutrition
- Poor nutrition, sometime they eat only once a day
- The food they give them is insufficient
- The mother doesn't care for them properly
- They don't wash the pacifiers well and they don't wash their hands
- The kids move around on the floor a lot of the time
- Mothers don't wash the children's hands
- The rains can give you a cough
- When we run errands we get wet

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<p>What do they do with the garbage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We burn it -During the winter, I dump it in the stream (<i>seven of them do it</i>) -During the summer, they burn it. <i>*All of them have letrines*</i> <p>How do you think we can avoid the most common illnesses you have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining standards of cleanliness - Covering food - Covering the toilet bowl - Washing your hands before eating <p>When you need health care services, where can you go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To the clinic in San Rafael - They provide a good service there - There is a doctor, a nurse - There are about nine <i>*Five participants have gone to the Health Unit in the last year*</i> - When we get sick we go to a pharmacy - To the hospital in Ulatán - We use healers <p>Whom do you believe should be the person responsible for the family's health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mother - Everyone - The mother and the father - One spends more time with the kids. 	<p>Whom do you believe should be the person responsible for the family's health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The parents - Each person is responsible - The mother - The parents - The community <p>How do you think we can avoid the most common illnesses you have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take care of children - Ensure that they don't go around dirty - Ensure that they are well fed - They should not eat dirty food <p>The water you drink, what kind of water is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have to prepare the water well - The water is from the basins <i>*Only four have drinking water*</i> - They treat it with chlorine - We cover it well - Sometimes, mom will treat it with chlorine <p>When you need health care services, where can you go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To the military hospital - To the clinic - The clinic - The Blancos clinic <i>*Three go to the clinic in Huizúcar*</i>

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not having many kids - Given the situation today, it is better not to have many children - Have the children that you can feed. <p>As far as contraception is concerned, what methods have you heard about or are you familiar with?</p> <p><i>*All of them have heard about contraceptive methods*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pill - Shot/Injection - Little device - Condom - Natural method - Sterilization (<i>three have been sterilized</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If it is serious, they go to the hospital - They are cured at home <p>Who works in the clinic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nurse - Doctor - Health promoter <p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the way in which one should have only the number of children whose needs can be met; if you can't meet his/her needs, you should not have the child. - Not to have babies to close together - Take measures so as to not be "filled up" with kids - That is for both mothers and fathers <p>As far as contraception is concerned, what methods have you heard about or are you familiar with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shot/Injection for the man - Condom - Pills - First, you have to think about how you are going to care for your children - The little device

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**Session #5
San Rafael Oriente**

**Session #4
San Rafael Oriente**

AIDS

- Disease caused by sexual relations
- Disease that has no cure
- It affects men who go to brothels and then infect their wives.

How to prevent it?

- Be faithful to your partner
- Don't get involved with just anyone

The number of children a person should have

One (3) Two (6) Three (1)

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CID

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
IV. ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Have you heard talk about the "environment"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is what surrounds us - We have to take care of the environment -We have to reforest in order to purify the air <i>*All of them heard about it over the radio*</i> <i>*Four of them heard about it on TV*</i> <i>*Five don't have electric power*</i> <p>How have rivers, trees, and animals influenced your life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One is benefited by the rivers - To wash - If you eliminate the trees, the rivers dry up - In the cantons there is no water - The trees give fruit - They help to filter the air - To rest in a hammock <p>Are there animals? What kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Garrobos" (large lizards) - Iguanas - Armadillos - Birds - Now, there are more than before. During the war, they ate them - From what I have read, I gather there are few. The vagabonds 	<p>Have you heard talk about the environment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mountains is where there are almost no trees left - In the forest, the trees are abundant - Here, we have forests, trees and hills <p>What importance do these have for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For breathing fresh air - For playing in the mountains - For mental relaxation - For going out and relaxing - For the conservation of fauna, all animals, so that they won't disappear - For water conservation -If there are trees, there is water <i>*All cook with firewood*</i> <p>Where do you get the firewood?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From the trees, when they are dry -Sometimes we purchase it - We go out and look for it <p>What will you do when there are no more trees?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If we don't have trees, we cannot live - We would use Tropigas

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<p>go out to hunt "garrobos." - They kill them with sling shots. - There are fewer, they are scarce -Now, there is a lot of tree cutting</p> <p>Do you do something in particular to protect the nature around you? Like what? - Plant -Take care of them so that the songbirds come to sing. -Take care and plant -Take care of the little animals, they are the ones that brighten the environment <i>*All have planted trees*</i> <i>*They plant: capulin, jocote, mango, coconut, avocado, and zapote*</i> -They provide shade and fruit <i>*All use firewood to cook*</i> -The firewood is expensive, \$2.00 the cut of firewood - I look for it in the coffee fields - We use coal - The FMLN has farms and they have cut trees, they sell it - For me, the widespread cutting of trees is a problem - I don't know what we would do without the firewood -Look for "chiribicos" (kindling) - With "olotes" (dried ear of corn) - Corn stalk/cane -We sow to harvest and eat, not for firewood</p>	<p>Have you planted trees? What kind? <i>*All of them have planted, but none have planted to obtain firewood*</i> - Fruit trees - Laurel -Anona -Oranges Eucalyptus -Cypress</p> <p>What do you do with your garbage? - We burn it or bury it -We bury it -Sometimes we burn it or bury it -Yes we have little animals -Parakeet -Oxen -Dog -Cat and dog -Cat -Chickens -Chickens -Turkey</p> <p>Are there animals in the forest? -Deer -Rabbit -Armadillos -My friends kill them. - I don't.</p>

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
V. TRANSITION TO PEACE	
<p>What does "peace" mean to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Liberty, everyone has rights -During the war, we were isolated -Tranquillity, go to sleep peacefully -Freedom of speech -To not be sick <p>And here in this community is there peace?</p> <p><i>*All of them consider that there is peace.*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We don't have anything, but we live a tranquil life <p>And when you go out on the street to work, travel, do you feel safe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is a bit of insecurity because of the "mañosos" -That emerged after the peace accords -That is due to the lack of employment -The peace is within our homes, but when you go out on the street, you have to be very careful -Now, there is a great deal of delinquency <p>How are the families in this community (united)?</p> <p><i>*All of them consider that there is unity*</i></p> <p><i>*All of them have heard of the law that protects women*</i></p> <p>Do you believe that the peace will last?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No, not if the problems we have continue -In theory there should be equality, but in practice there isn't -The war was a business -There are many gangs 	<p>What does "peace" mean to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To get along with everyone -To be happy with the family, to be a good friend -To be good to oneself and to our peers <p>And here in this community is there peace?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is a lot of violence due to the gangs -Because of the thieves -Sometimes they leave, but then they return <p>In this community, are there problems with assault, theft, gangs, crime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The gangs induce you to take up bad habits - They came out as we approached a stream and then stole my friend's watch -I have met up with thieves who are locals -In the hills there are gangs, they stop buses to ask for money <p>How are the families in this community (united)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For short periods of time, there is unity. -Where I live, everyone lives in peace -Some don't -There are disagreements/troubles within families -There are problems with alcoholism -Once they are drunk, they are capable of doing anything

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There are a lot of thieves on the street -They said that there would be sources of employment -Everything has been privatized -I don't believe the guerrilla will return -This is among civilians 	<p>Law that protects women? <i>*All of them know about it*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Here there is no compliance because the man can terrorize the woman -Here women hit men <p>In thinking about the period prior to the peace, do you believe things have changed or are they the same?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I live better now, before there was fear -Better now, before my mother wouldn't let me go outside -Now, what affects us are the gangs

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Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
VI. SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY	
<p>Do you work in the Municipality? <i>*All of them work in the municipality*</i></p> <p>Do you receive your health, education, commercial and other services here or in another place? - Sometimes we have to go elsewhere to find a medicine - It is common to go to other municipalities - You almost always can find them here - Food can be found here - Here they sell fertilizer</p> <p>Do you visit the department capital? <i>*Seven have gone to the department capital*</i> - I accompanied my mother when she went to the hospital - To challenge a team - My wife was in the hospital - I went for a medical appointment - To sell cigars</p> <p>Did you vote in the past elections? <i>*All of them voted and will vote in the upcoming elections*</i></p> <p>And if you voted, did it help to improve your standard of living? - Didn't help - Voting is a duty (<i>all shared this opinion</i>)</p>	<p>Do you visit the department capital? - When it is necessary - I have gone to visit my aunt and uncle - No. - Yes, to pick up a payment - I go to pick up what my father sends me - To take a vacation - To visit my grandmother</p> <p>Are there elections? - They are coming up - They are in March - To elect the mayor and the deputies</p> <p>Will things change? - Everything is the same, they lie - They make promises that they do not keep once elected</p> <p>Is it worth your while to vote? - Yes, although they don't translate their talk into action <i>*None of them have faith in promises*</i></p> <p>Are you thinking of voting? <i>*All of them are thinking of voting*</i> - Perhaps, if they fix the streets - It depends on the candidate's personality, and whether or not he is responsible; that will influence my decision to vote</p>

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Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<p>What motivates you to vote?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One thinks that we will be better off - Campaign promises <p>What types of people would like to hold a public office here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It could be anyone <p>Do you remember who makes the laws in the country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Supreme Court of Justice - The Assembly (<i>three share this opinion</i>) - The Deputies <p>Are all people equal under the law?</p> <p><i>*All of them claim that they are not equal under the law*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The wealthy can achieve more than the poor <p>When you think about "corruption", what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People who sell themselves for money - A person who has no morals, who doesn't respect the law - Not complying with the laws - It is more common in public offices <p>Institutions that operate assistance programs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They say that the USA, Germany, Europe have them - The FIS is building walls - World Vision - The "gringos" help the Earth Bank - The government helps <p><i>*Three have heard of A.I.D.*</i></p>	<p>Who is more important: the Mayor or the President?</p> <p><i>*The majority cite the Mayor*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both of them - For me, the president <p>What types of people would like to hold a public office here in your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am unaware - Those who are concerned about the canton <p>Do you remember who makes the laws in the country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The president - The Assembly (<i>six of them shared this opinion</i>) - The Ministry of Justice <p>When you think of corruption, what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That nothing is of interest to the person - Bad things that they do - Things without reason - They don't bring good things to us - The gangs - Person who makes promises and then doesn't keep them <p>Institutions that operate assistance programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Padrino Plan - EBRON - They work like the community committees; it is aid from Holland, Italy and USA - FIS

Session #5 San Rafael Oriente	Session #4 San Rafael Oriente
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They build roads, schools, athletic fields - They meet with the community and help with the construction of rural roads <p>Do you participate in the community groups that help resolve problems and improve conditions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For drinking water - We form committees - They have participated in activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EBRON comes from Guatemala and helps with school supplies and medicines <i>*No one has heard of A.I.D.*</i>

Focus Groups
Salvadorans living in poverty
YOUTH
August 1996

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
I. INTRODUCTION	
<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a good atmosphere, except for the difficulties due to the lack of work - You have to go elsewhere in order to work - The place is nice, but in order to finish the "bachillerato" (high school diploma) you have to go to Jutiapa; here we only go up to ninth grade -A lot of poverty, everything is more expensive, we don't have enough money - It is nice - I feel good here, you don't see gangs, nor armed groups; we live peacefully -Here it is fine, there are no thieves <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is peaceful, unlike other places - People must collaborate with you, but sometimes we don't have money - It is cool, and there are no gangs as there are in San Salvador 	<p>In general, how do you feel about your life in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I feel bad because of the work situation and the water - I feel good, the town is cheery; I sell cooked "yuca" (cassava) and it sells well; I am happy. - A bit cheery, the townspeople can't find work but they are alive -I work at home; that is why I feel bad, it is not really home -I am from Santa Clara but live here, sometimes there is no work -The major problem is water; I know how to sew so I can earn some money - I feel happy, I have been raised here <p>What do you like the most about living in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We always have food; although we always have work, there is no water - It is cool, you can find work for a few days -It is brighter/cheerier -It is nice, the town is not like a canton -I like everything; we celebrate here

**Session #2
Jutiapa**

In terms of problems, what is the problem that you have here in your community?

- Poverty, everything is expensive
- Poor people don't have enough to buy things
- We work with my father, working the land, we don't have problems
- The "bolos" (drunks)
- Because we are poor, we often don't have enough to eat
- Sometimes only have enough for the tortilla
- We have everything
- There are many children and drunks on the streets

And why do you believe you have these problems?

- Because of the saloon
- They use one month or two weeks just to drink
- Because of the problems unique to this generation
- There is no work available (*four share this opinion*)
- There is no possibility of continuing to study (*four share this opinion*)
- I am going to finish eighth grade
- I need work

And what can you do to resolve these problems?

- Work (*all of them agree with this*)
- Near San Salvador there is work, but here there isn't
- We would prefer to resolve things here

**Session #7
Huizúcar**

In terms of problems, what is the problem that you have here in your community?

- Water
- It is far away and there is no cheer
- It is far for me and I can't come because it is difficult terrain
- At night, you can't go out because of the fear of rape or robbery
- There are a lot of "bolos" (drunks), they go around begging; the thieves are all worked up
- There is no electricity, no water, and poor roads
- The streets are a problem, you can't go far because of the "maras" (gangs)
- Here in this neighborhood, there is a gang
- Several of them use drugs

Do you know people who use drugs?

Five people know of people who do

- The bring it from "arenales"
- They purchase it in Usulután or in San Salvador; they sell it and they all walk around in a stupor
- There always have been users
- Yes, they have increased in number

And what can you do to resolve these problems?

- We can't do anything, it is better to stay away
- You shouldn't do anything when they look at you
- You have got to stay away from the "bolos" (drunks)

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>In terms of the future, let's say the next five years: how do you see your future here in the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If there was work, everything would be fine - You can't study; work is essential - I will finish my studies - We will have to leave (<i>six share this opinion</i>) - My departure date has not arrived yet <p>Are you happy here, or would you like to live in another type of community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They would leave because they are forced to - In order to better myself, I would have to leave, even if it means disobeying my parents - If we had a way of making money, we wouldn't have to leave <p>Do you want to continue studying?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, in order to get a good job in another place (<i>two share this opinion</i>) - If a job came up, I would leave <p>Have your parents always lived here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes (<i>all</i>) - My mother does, my father died already - My mother becomes distressed when I tell her that I have to leave - They support me - If it was up to them, they would not let me leave - If one has thought about the future, it looks grim - If I am able to reach my goal, the future could be nice; if we are able to leave 	<p>In terms of the future, let's say the next five years: how do you see your future here in the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing - I don't see a bright future; there are too few jobs; the Mayor knows who he will place - I see a good future, I have a son, and I am going to work to get ahead - I work in order to live - I want to be a secretary - If one has a negative outlook, one will fail. You can't give up even if you don't have work - There is a plumbing project and I am going to go. It is in the cultural center. They teach you to work in this field. - Only one person has heard of this. - It is financed by a woman from San Miguel

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
II. OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION	
<p>If you think of savings, what does savings mean to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Save money - Save money in a bank - Put some away, not to spend everything in one moment - The food should not be used up right away - Here, the people harvest corn and put it away; then they sell it when the price rises - I have corn - Beans, corn - Nothing (2) - Corn, beans - Corn - beans (3) <p>And when you think of resources -- "pisto"-- to meet your family's needs, where do you get them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The corn and the beans can be sold - I work in order to earn money - At home, my sister gives it to me - Both of my parents work - I help my father work the eland (7) <p>In the community, are there banks, cooperative, or savings and loan institutions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no bank in Jutiapa. There is one in Ilobasco. - Among family and friends you can borrow money - They are confident that they can loan money and be repaid - If I can't pay, I will pay it with work - We loan corn 	<p>If you think of savings, what does savings mean to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To work and earn money to put away in the bank - Only those who have family in the US <i>*Five of them have family members in the US*</i> - My brother sends money to us <i>*The other four do not receive remittances*</i> - They are the ones who can have savings - Sometimes they send a large enough quantity and they save some -They say that the banking sector would be strengthened, and they are guarding the money - Those who have families, and who receive and purchase <i>* No one has savings*</i> - If one is alone, one can save -I have a savings of five animals - I have a pig. Sometimes I buy thins for the pig, and then I sell - I have chickens, when they are big, I can sell them <p>In the community, are there banks, cooperative, or savings and loan institutions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Here there are none, only in Tránsito. There is a pharmacy, green cross, health clinic, cultural center, and school. <p>In terms of roads and other services, such as electric power, transportation for you o your products, how are things here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not easy to find transportation; we often walk - I take three hours to get home; with the thieves around it is scary

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>Is it easy or difficult to get loans, have bank accounts, open savings cards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you have a letter proving the purchase of land, you can get them - None of their parents have received loans <p>Do you share needs with your parents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No - Yes (2) <p>In terms of roads and other services, such as electric power, transportation for you o your products, how are things here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These are available here - In the homes as well - There are only three buses that go to Jutiapa - Sometimes, we have to travel on foot, when the bus breaks down <p>And if you want to purchase material, equipment, fertilizers, are they easy to find?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can sell corn in order to buy fertilizer - We have to travel - They sell clothes only in Ilobasco - This year, an agroservice store opened; they sell fertilizer, pesticides, seedlings - As the years go by, things become more expensive - We already are used to going to Ilobasco - It is a nice form of distraction 	<p>When you think of "education", what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying to be something some day - If you have kids, you should send them to school - I am thinking of making it to ninth grade - It is nice because it can facilitate finding a job; I now regret not having continued - Obey my parents, and keep moving ahead. - I used to study, but now that I have a child, I plan to study to educate my son. <p>And if we talk about "training", what is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have the capability of doing something, for example a professor has to go to University to become educated - I didn't continue my studies, the school was very far away and I had to care for my younger brother - Here there are no possibilities; you have to go elsewhere - You can go to another place to receive training - You can be capable of something, but not have the money - They all would take time out to better prepare themselves * <i>Only one doesn't know if she would take time out to prepare herself*</i> - It would help to improve their lives (<i>all of them</i>)

5
CID

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>Who do the lands belong to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A land-owner in Ilobasco - We rent - To my grandfather - To my mother - To my stepfather's sister - To an uncle (2) - Rented - Father - Grandfather <p>When you think of "education", what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My professors are educating me a bit - To be respectful, friendly - To know how to behave yourself - If you want to be respected, you have to respect others - Our parents educate us <p>And if we talk about "training", what is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To train and learn some kind of trade - There are some opportunities, such as dressmaking; I trace patterns and cut them - The ability to do something, such as bricklaying - There also is tailoring <p><i>*Only two receive some kind of training*</i></p> <p>Here in the community, do you believe education and training are important in order to improve your quality of life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes it is important 	

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important to be able to perform a job - We will have a greater ability to do things and get us out of our current situation - The ability to keep studying, receive the "bachillerato" (high school degree), and become a secretary -Doctor -Accountant - Law - I don't want to continue with school -Carpentry / Bricklaying (1) -Nursing - Tailor - I am going to Tejute in order to be an accountant 	

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
III. HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN	
<p>In general, how is the health of people who live here in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Here, the air is pure, we have good health - Nice - We rarely get sick - My mom suffers from headaches, colds, cough, and fever - Sometimes we get soaked in the rain - There are no serious illnesses <p>Serious Illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cholera - Stroke <p>Common Illnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cold, temperature, headache <p>What do you do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go to the Health Unit (<i>five share this opinion</i>) - Went for a cold - Headache - Cold (<i>two share this opinion</i>) <p>How was the service?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fast 	<p>In general, how is the health of people who live here in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I don't go around the hospitals - I have problems with my appendix - Good (3) <p>And what is the principal health problem you have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hepatitis/ Hemorrhages - Measles, chicken pox, cholera, hepatitis - I have a neighbor who has heart trouble - Children get measles, eye infections, fever - There are people who get sick, with fever, vomiting, diarrhea - Kids suffer from indigestion <p>Diarrhea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a children's disease - They don't have a good diet when they breast-feed the babies - There are children who don't wash their hands <p>How do you believe we can avoid the most common illnesses we have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By going to the hospital - By washing hands, covering foods - Giving them clean things - The garbage gives a bad odor that causes headaches - Cleanliness is important to eliminate microorganisms and flies

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>And if we think about our families and homes, what factors can cause children and youth to get sick?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, mice - The cats are dirty - There are a lot of mice - There are many because they make holes/nests in the fields - The chickens don't affect the situation because they are outside - All of them are outside <p>And what factors can influence so that we have a good state of health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The kids run around in the puddles - The lack of hygiene, they should bathe, not run around dirty. - They eat without washing their hands - The homes are not clean - Parents neglect them <p>How do you believe we can avoid the most common diseases that you have here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Washing hands - Washing with soap - Maintaining a regular eating schedule - Keeping the house clean - Some homes are clean, in others they don't maintain good standards of hygiene; they don't cook as they should 	<p>Who do you believe should be the person responsible for the family's health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mother, because when we are not home she does the housework - Mother - Parents; they are the ones who take us to the hospital - Mother, she is always home <p>Does the man have a responsibility?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - The man has to work <p>What do you do with the garbage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dump it in the stream (3) - Bury it/ Burn it - Burn it - I bury it - We burn it (2) <p><i>*All of them have letrines*</i></p> <p>The water you drink: what kind of water is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We went two months without water because the pump was broken. They fixed it but it broke again. - Well: we boil or treat water with chlorine - Well: we treat it with chlorine - We disinfect the water - From the well, we treat it with chlorine or lye

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>Who do you believe should be the person responsible for the family's health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mother (2) - Everyone - I should do the cleaning (2) <p>Do you believe the man should worry about and look after the family's health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, should be concerned - All members of the household should help - They sweep - Water plants - Haul firewood and water - My mother has shown me how - It is a duty (3) - One must be responsible - You have to thank him; perhaps he feels like helping <p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid having a lot of children - You have to be aware of what you are going to do to feed and care for your children - Sometimes you don't have the resources needed to raise kids - Sometimes you don't have the resources needed to raise a lot of children 	<p>Affects health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water from the well is better; water from the tank contains sand - Water from the well is better; it is cleaner and more disinfected - I disinfect the water. Well-water is best. - For me, drinking water is the best - They boil whichever because they purchase in the wells. - Drinking water is best <p>When you need health care services, where do you go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To the hospital - Here we have only a clinic and green cross - I have gone to the hospital (4) - To the health unit - They give a good and quick service - I went in January to the clinic to have a tooth pulled - I went to take my child for a check up - I went; they gave me shots <p>And who provided the service?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A doctor and several apprentices - Now there are two doctors and a dentist <p>And when you think of family planning, what do you think of?</p> <p><i>*All of them have heard of family planning* (-1)</i></p>

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>In terms of contraceptive methods, what have you heard of or are you familiar with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing - No (2) - Does not know about contraceptive methods - Have heard about contraceptive methods (9) - Only one hasn't heard talk about contraceptive methods <p>Have you heard people talk about AIDS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is the most terrible disease - Science is advancing - Men should not get involved with men, nor with prostitutes <p>Venereal diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We had classes in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When a woman is living with a partner, she should plan with the pill and the shot - The situation is critical - There are women who undergo the operation - Planning is good. It is important to be able to properly care for the children you have. It is good for the men. <p>Have you heard about AIDS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a tough disease that attacks men when they have sexual relations - It can be transmitted through needles <p><i>*Only two have heard about AIDS*</i></p> <p>In terms of contraceptive methods, what have you heard of or are you familiar with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operations / pills / injections - They take a remedy of avocado pit boiled with oregano - Pills/ injections/ condoms

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
IV. ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Have you heard people talk about the "environment"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lack of trees, that is why the air is polluted - People dump garbage in the rivers and pollute the environment - The Lempa river has been contaminated by sewage - They dump garbage into rivers <p>How does having rivers, trees and animals have an impact on your life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Here the rivers are fairly clean, but you have to be careful of what you drink - We have to plant trees; trees should not be burned - If there are no trees, there is no water. The air we breathe would not be the same - People often visit the rivers - We go to bathe in the rivers - People from other places also go to these rivers <p>In terms of forests, do you use them for something, do you think they are important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The trees give shade - Provide fresh air - Provide water - Decorate the landscape <p>Do you think that there are less forests, animals, and rivers than there were ten years ago?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, there are animals - Deer 	<p>Have you heard people talk about the "environment"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It refers to how one can live without having problems with others - Plant trees, obtain shade - No -Yes <p><i>*Five have heard of the environment*</i></p> <p>Garbage in the Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The garbage flows out to the ocean - It does get to the rivers <p>How does having rivers, trees and animals have an impact on your life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes the trees fall and the water carries them off. It is good to have trees, because they attract the water - It is good because of the cool shade, which makes for pleasant conditions - Shade is necessary; trees protect us from pollution and from the ozone layer - For the shade - Where I live, we have fruit trees - You can hang a hammock - Where I live, we have only a few; they provide shade <p>In terms of forests, do you use them for something, do you think they are important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There aren't any here; only in Piedra Azul, where you can feel the freshness

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raccoons - Rabbits - Iguana - Armadillos - "Tacuacín" - Now there are fewer - They kill them to eat them <p>Have you planted trees? <i>*Only one has planted trees*</i></p> <p>Have you killed animals? What kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, to eat - Armadillo - Iguana - Rabbit - Those are the ones we eat more often <p><i>*All of them use firewood to cook*</i></p> <p>Let's talk about firewood: is there enough, will there be enough, and do you do something to ensure that you will have it in the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the future, there will be no trees - We will probably have to cook with gas - When we plant trees, we cut their branches - The trunk stays alive and the tree doesn't die 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because they cool the air - In order to play - There are big trees that are sold for their wood - Cook with firewood (<i>all of them</i>) - They are necessary because they provide firewood and fruit - I have planted fruit trees - I have planted orange trees - If there were no trees, what would we cook with? - If there are no trees and no rivers, there is nothing - Would purchase a gas stove (3) <p>Have you planted trees? <i>*Three have planted trees*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My father has planted <p>Do you do something special to protect the nature that surrounds you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With a group of friends, we have planted and fertilized and tagged them - We clean the rivers and take care of them <p>Are there animals here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No there aren't any - Rabbits, raccoons, "macuasin", iguana, "chontas" <p>Why aren't there any?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are kids who scare them off with slingshots - We eat iguana - I would prefer they not kill them because they might become extinct - It is good to have animals; it is nice to see them around - Sometimes they kill for the sake of killing

Session #2
Jutiapa

Session #7
Huizúcar

V. TRANSITION TO PEACE

What does "peace" mean to you?

- Tranquillity in the country, in the home
- They say we have peace, but in some homes it doesn't exist
- People live in tranquillity, without gangs and their confrontations
- The government hasn't kept some of the promises it made
- To live in peace, without war

And here, in this community, is there peace?

- Yes, because you don't hear the noise of the war anymore
- There are no gangs, no thieves
- Here, there are no gangs, no thieves
- We don't meddle in other people's affairs

And when you go out on the street to work, travel, do you feel safe?

All of them feel safe

And in general, in the homes, is there peace, among couples, among parents and their children, among brothers and sisters?

- Some households live well, others don't.
- There is peace in the majority
- Here, men rarely hit the women
- When they drink, they arrive in an angry state and they hit them
- Sometimes my uncles hit their wives

What does "peace" mean to you?

- Tranquillity
- To have no problems with anyone
- If you have money and problems, you don't feel good
- Now, there is no war

And when you go out on the street to work, travel, do you feel safe?

- Yes, although when I leave the house I don't know if God wants me to return
- When you go out you run into drug addicts who ask for money

How are the families in this community (united)?

- I live in peace, but if the guy I live with drinks, that is the end of the peace
- Drugs destroy peace, they bring problems
- Drugs make people act badly
- A neighbor has a lot of kids and when the husband drinks he punishes her and the kids
- There are people who, although they don't drink, they always cause trouble

And in general, in the homes, is there peace, among couples, among parents and their children, among brothers and sisters?

- I don't live well because of my stepfather
- Sometimes you see tranquillity
- At home, when my father arrives drunk, he only fights

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
<p>Law that protects women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That is good, because any injury can cause damage <p>And what do you believe you can do to live more at peace?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the saloon - They sell beer in the stores - It would be best if liquor were not sold 	<p>Have you heard of the law that protects women?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have heard that when the husband hits or rapes his wife, there is a law that protects her - They say that the punishment is 30 years in prison for beating a woman <p>Thinking about the period prior to the peace accords, do you think things have changed or do they remain the same?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, we live better - Before, we would tremble every time we heard gunshots - Now, there are a lot of deceitful/ "bad" people ("mafiosos") out there - Before, you might go out and there were confrontations - I am happy because the war is over and my father is back with us <p>And what do you believe you can do to live more at peace?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be happy - You have to know how to get along with people - Have harmony - Eliminate hatred so that people won't harm each other - Get along well with your neighbor - Avoid fights

Session #2 Jutiapa	Session #7 Huizúcar
VI. SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY	
<p>And the health, education, and commercial services that you receive, where are they located, here or in another place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be a well-stocked pharmacy - In addition to education <p>Do you visit the department capital? * <i>No one has gone</i> *</p> <p>Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are in March - To elect the mayor and the deputy <p>Do they bring some benefit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are useful for promoting road repairs - To elect a mayor <p>Do the elections improve your living conditions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes; sometimes they keep their promises - Yes, I vote in order to elect a good mayor, one who will stop taxes - So that they will help the town - Provide direction to the Mayor - The prior Mayor is the person who has helped; I will vote for him <p>Do you remember who makes the country's laws?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The president (<i>Seven shared this opinion</i>) - The Council, the Deputies 	<p>Are you thinking of voting in the elections?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, because one desires improvement - I don't know about these things <p>What motivates you to vote?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve, for projects - Some presidents are well behaved - Sometimes they give to those who don't need - Projects that help repair roads and electricity - That build walls for schools - Sometimes one votes so that the country improves - It depends on the president who is elected <p>Who is more important: President/ Mayor? * <i>The majority cite the mayor</i> *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If he is determined to do something, he can achieve it - It is the person whose opinion counts in order to repair the roads - Some run for office for the money, others because they love their community - They have repaired the park; they have done something <p>When you think of the judicial system: what do you think of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When they catch a thief and take him to trial - Yes, they try him and send him to prison - They apply the law - You have to show evidence

<p align="center">Session #2 Jutiapa</p>	<p align="center">Session #7 Huizúcar</p>
<p>Do you participate in community groups to help resolve problems and improve conditions? - I participate in a youth group at the church <i>*The rest of the participants didn't know how to answer*</i></p> <p>When you think of corruption, what do you think of? - The people are acting badly - They don't do good things - Steal, kill</p>	<p>Do you remember who makes the country's laws? <i>*All but one person claimed not to know*</i> - The police</p> <p>When you think of corruption, what do you think of? - Obeying parents because they are the ones who know how to educate - To be involved in drugs - If one has nothing for the children, and becomes a prostitute - To make a scandal in the streets, go around yelling</p> <p>What aid institutions do you know? - Only the assistance provided by the mayor <i>(eight shared this opinion)</i> - I don't know <i>(two share this opinion)</i> - They say that the US has helped <i>*No one has heard of A.I.D.*</i></p>

LIST OF RESPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

"And in general terms, what is the principal problem here in " _____"?"

Session #1

Alcoholism, vagrancy

There, I don't have problems

Lack of employment

There is no electricity in the neighborhood of las Marías and a high cost of living

Violence and theft

Employment

Have no problems

Everything is very expensive

There is neither water nor electricity in my canton

Everything is very expensive

Session #2

The mayor

The basic food basket is very expensive; there is more poverty

Insufficient food

Nutrition

Fights in the home, with brother

Some people go without food

High cost of corn and beans; they didn't cost that much before

Problem of alcoholism (drunks/"bolos")

Economic problems

Poverty, lack of work

Session #3

Everything is very expensive

Poverty

Don't know

The cost of living

Life is very expensive, everything is expensive

A lot of theft

Everything expensive, money is not enough to purchase the necessities

The water and the ravines in the neighborhood

A lot of delinquency, violence against women, lack of work and education

There is no work, a lot of unemployment

Lack of drinking water

Economic problems

Session #4

Lack of water and electricity
There is no electricity, no water, no streets
None
Bad roads
A lot of thieves
Scarcity of water (*four shared this opinion*)
Lack of work (*four shared this opinion*)

Session #5

Lack of work
Scarcity of water (*five share this opinion*)
There is no work (*three share this opinion*)
Little electricity
Lack of credit

Session #6

Delinquency
Poor roads, muddy roads
Streets and electric power
A lot of poverty, no water
Cost of living, transportation, water, security
Economic
Few schools
Insufficient food (*two share this opinion*)
Lack of water
Energy problem
Poverty
Lack of housing

Session #7

There are no main streets
The highway (*three share this opinion*)
There are no paved roads
Lack of electric power
Litter on the streets
Pollution
Garbage and the streets
There is no main street