



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

COMUNIDADES DE FE ORGANIZADAS EN ACCIÓN

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COFOA/FE EN ACCIÓN

CONTENT

- Director's words ----- pág. 2
- RENACER -----pág. 3
- Departments -----pág. 5-10
(Chalatenango, La Paz, Usulután, Cuscatlán, Cabañas, San Salvador, Sonsonate, La Libertad)



COFOA FIA



COFOA DIRECTOR'S WORDS

Communities of Faith Organized in Action is working daily to train citizens, through community organizers, in a leadership process that allows them to develop their capacity to act in front of public officials in properly planned negotiations. After a good listening campaign, the leaders learn to unite their own interests with the interests of their family members, husbands or wives, neighbors or members of their community, in order to focus individual power into community power, capable of transforming the reality of their neighborhoods, cantons, villages, municipalities, departments and country.

In this year 2021, the achievements of the leaders of COFOA/Fe en Acción, are reflected in this annual Newsletter that speaks of the efforts of community organizers in the formation of leaders, which is crowned, with the successes that each local organizing committee obtains for the benefit of their communities, such as: Schools, Drinking Water, Bridges, Streets, Deeds to their property, etc. That transforms and awakens the imagination of citizens to dream of more just and balanced communities, where the mission and vision of COFOA, becomes a reality.

All this work would not be possible without the support of Monsignor Elías Samuel Bolaños Avelar sdb, Bishop of the Diocese of Zacatecoluca, in the department of La Paz; Foundations such as: Sobrato Foundation, Bishops of the United States (USCCB), Raskob Family, El Salvador Project and Porticus Foundation, who in the past, helped build what COFOA is today, who generously trusted COFOA/Faith in Action and are part of these community successes in El Salvador, as well as individual Donors, to whom I am deeply grateful for their generosity.

Also thanks to the efforts of COFOA's leaders, who contributed in cash and in kind to its organization, especially with their dedication and presence in each mobilization to different government institutions.

I want to highlight the support and dedication since 1972 to our International Director, Father John Baumann, my advisor Ron Snyder, and Gordon Whitman, international advisor, who have been supporting and dreaming with me in the development of a community organization through Faith, in the search for a better world.

I ask God that this new year 2022, fill you with blessings and protect us from all threats whether health or violence, and open our minds to think of our neighbor before we think of ourselves in a selfish way, let us dream that a new country and world is possible if we always fulfill the command of our Lord Jesus Christ: ***"Love our neighbor as ourselves"***.

May the Lord bless you.



Lic. Alberto Velázquez Trujillo

COFOA Regional Director



RENACER Campaign

The National Network in Action with Hope and Resistance (RENACER), has been one of the campaigns that generated the most impact this 2021 for Communities of Faith Organized in Action (COFOA).



In July, more than 800 leaders of COFOA-RENACER gathered in front of the Presidential House to deliver letters requesting a meeting with President Nayib Bukele to expose the legal loopholes of the “Special Transitory Law for the Regulation of Plots and Plots for Housing Use”, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly on June 22, 2021. This action resulted in the Legal Secretary of the Presidency, Conan Castro, sending a letter to COFOA, informing that this request was forwarded to the Ministry of Housing.

In October, more than 600 leaders gathered at the facilities of the Ministry of Public Works (MOP), to attend the meeting held by a commission of COFOA/RENACER leaders with the Minister of Housing, Michelle Sol, where they presented a package of reforms to the Special Transitory Law for the Regulation of Plots and Plots for Housing Use, developed by the Legal Department of COFOA and Human Rights Protection of the Archdiocese of San Salvador.

The legal department and COFOA leaders explained to the Minister of Housing, that the regulation seriously affects more than 7,500 families of lot holders belonging to the RENACER campaign in the departments of: La Paz, Cabañas, Cuscatlán, San Salvador, La Libertad and Sonsonate, and more than 350,000 families nationwide.



COFOA leaders outside the Ministry of Housing.



Housing Minister Michelle Sol with COFOA RENACER leaders.

In this regard, Minister Michelle Sol, pledged to create a working group between COFOA, the Ministry of Housing, CNR and the mayors of the municipalities where the affected lots are located.

Subsequently, in November 2021, the COFOA-RENACER Leaders Commission met with the Minister of Housing, Michelle Sol, at the offices of the National Fund for Popular Housing (FONAVIPO) to analyze the package of reforms to the Lotificaciones Law, delivered by COFOA in October, which are still being analyzed by the legal team of the Ministry of Housing.



Housing Minister Michelle Sol meets with COFOA/RENACER leaders at FONAVIPO offices to discuss the reform package submitted by COFOA for the ***“Transitory Law of Lotifications and Parcels for Residential Use”***.



Leaders and legal team of COFOA, delivering documentation of lotificaciones to Lic. Kevin Vargas, lawyer of the Ministry of Housing.

For her part, the Minister of Housing, Michelle Sol, expressed her support for the more than sixty lotificaciones that are part of the RENACER campaign. At the end of November, the COFOA/RENACER leaders' commission handed over the documentation of these lotificaciones to members of the Ministry of Housing's legal team, in order to begin the process of legalizing the property deeds.