In the department of Chalatenango, an important growth in the training of leaders was achieved. This allowed the development of Actions of Power in the communities, which are working with the COFOA methodology, with the following issues:

**WATER**

In September, COFOA leaders and more than 160 inhabitants of 7 communities, after several one-on-one meetings, held a community assembly in the canton of El Ocotal in the municipality of Dulce Nombre de María, where they prioritized the issue of the lack of drinking water in their homes.

Hugo Francis Clavel, the deputy director of Caritas, Mr. Jorge Alvarenga and the representative of AZURE, Mr. Luis Leiva, where they committed to work together to solve this serious community problem. The project is planned to be developed in the coming weeks.

In November, COFOA leaders and 153 inhabitants of San Silvestre and Los Planes, municipality of Citalá, held a community assembly in the community house of Los Planes to discuss the improvement of the potable water system.

COFOA leaders explained that in the San Silvestre hamlet, they have never had potable water, while in Los Planes, the water service is inefficient. They also pointed out that this situation affects 166 families in the area. The action was attended by the municipal mayor, Luis Ochoa, and from the Trinational Border Community of Rio Lempa, Mrs. Dina Sagastume and Mr. Geraldo Pineda. They mentioned that the project has a cost of $82,000.00, of which the commonwealth will contribute half.
In October, COFOA leaders and more than one hundred inhabitants of the community Pedro Díaz, held a community assembly in the Catholic church of the parish of San Fernando, municipality of San Francisco Morazan, where the issue of the lack of a school in that community was prioritized.

Marvin Cardoza, and Mr. Jorge Amado Guillén, in charge of Human Resources of the Department of Education, and signed a public commitment to work on the construction of a school to serve more than forty children in the community of Pedro Díaz.

In November, COFOA leaders and 124 inhabitants of the El Roblaron community of the Dulce Nombre de María parish held a community assembly on the construction of a bridge over the La Conquista river in that community. COFOA leaders indicated that they have been waiting 30 years for the construction of such bridge.

For his part, the mayor of Dulce Nombre de María, Hugo Francis Clavel, made a commitment to the community to carry out this work, which will cost $42,200.00 and will benefit more than 350 inhabitants of Roblaron. The work is expected to begin in the first months of 2022.

On the other hand, COFOA collaborated with the mayor’s office of Citalá in the consultation process to create the Participatory Strategic Plan (PEP), for which it participated in meetings with representatives of the living forces of Citalá such as: ADESCOS, merchants, religious leaders, education, health, and COFOA leaders, among others.

Subsequently, the projects prioritized by the communities were obtained, among which the following stand out: potable water improvement, paving of the road to Metapán, improvement of the health system, creation of a municipal market and creation of a bank. Then the first draft of the PEP was presented to the members of the mayor’s office. At the end of 2021, the official document will be delivered, pending the manuals of functions of the municipality.
In January 2021, a forum was held with candidates for deputies for this department. In this forum, more than 200 leaders dialogued with the candidates for deputies for the department of La Paz. The leaders invited the candidates of the different parties and non-partisan, to present their proposals regarding issues such as: Reforms to the Law of Allotments, policies to generate jobs, increase to the minimum wage, improvements to health access.

Meanwhile, in La Paz, San Pedro Masahuat, work is being done on the construction of a dam due to a gully. The leaders have already held investigation meetings with the Municipal Mayor’s Office, and a letter has also been sent to the Ministry of Public Works.

In El Socorro, Santa Eugenia, work is being done for the asphalt pavement on cobblestone, access roads to the community of El Papayo, canton El Hormiguero. The leaders indicated that the project is being managed and followed up with the Municipal Projects Unit of the Municipality of Zacatecoluca. The repair of this main road will benefit 350 families in the communities of Santa Eugenia, El hormiguero and El Papayo, and will cost $121,888.00.

In the month of November a community assembly was held with the participation of 40 inhabitants of the communities of San José Arriba and San José Abajo de Santiago Nonualco. The assembly was held in the church of San José Arriba, this after several one on one meetings, where the issue of the community was prioritized: “Construction of a bridge in la Quebradona”.

COFOA leaders explained that they have been waiting 30 years for the construction of this work, which will benefit more than 500 families residing in these communities. For her part, the mayor of Santiago Nonualco, Damaris Leiva, promised to find a solution to this issue. To this end, she will begin with the preparation of the project’s technical folder in the coming months.
USULUTÁN

In May, a meeting was held with the vicariate Zona de la Montaña, where 7 priests from the municipalities of Alegría, Berlín, Santiago de María, Ozatlán and Tecapán attended. The purpose of this meeting was to share COFOA’s community organization methodology.

In October, COFOA leaders, and 159 inhabitants of Cantón San Juan, met in the municipality of Alegría, Usulután, after several one-on-one meetings with five communities, where the issue of the lack of potable water was prioritized. The leaders explained that they had already lost faith in having potable water in their communities. More than 200 families from the hamlets of Los Flores, Los Hernández, Los Mendoza, Los Nieto Gonzáles and El Paraíso are affected by the lack of water. For his part, the mayor of Alegría, Armando Meléndez, promised to take the first steps to bring potable water to these communities. He also said that he will look for more institutions that can join to achieve this dream of the inhabitants of Canton San Juan.

CUSCATLÁN & CABAÑAS

During the month of April, we held a meeting with the Governor of Cuscatlán, Eduardo Menjivar, and the Vice Governor, Guadalupe Martínez. The purpose of the meeting was to create power relationships that help to solve the different problems that exist in the communities of Cuscatlán. The mission and vision of COFOA were discussed. The Governor invited us to be part of a regional meeting of Governors of the departments of Cuscatlán, Cabañas and San Vicente.

In this department, a community assembly was held in November in the community of Ojos de Agua, Cojutepeque. In which forty leaders participated, and prioritized the issue of: The main street was repaved. The assembly was attended by Mayor Marvin Romero, who committed to work on this project by signing a community agreement. The leaders indicated that they have been waiting for more than three years for the recarpeting of the main street.

The leaders of the Elen I and II subdivisions of Ilobasco are conducting listening campaigns in both communities, in order to work, in addition to the subdivision issue, on other problems that affect them as families. At the same time, the leaders are arranging meetings with their deputies on the issue of subdivisions.
During the month of January, leaders of Los Conacastes, Soyapango, met with the then mayor, Juan Pablo Alvarez to request the continuation of the campaign called: Conacastes Clean and Healthy. Thus becoming the first neighborhood in the country to promote a municipal recycling project. To achieve this, the mayor’s office established a public-private partnership with the company Sersivoy. This allowed the municipality to generate a savings of 30%, equivalent to $54,000.00 dollars of payment to MIDES for the treatment of waste, who are paid an average of US$180,000.00 per month.

In May of this year, after efforts by leaders of Los Conacastes, the president of the National Aqueduct and Sewer Administration (ANDA), Ruben Aleman, came to the community and discussed the service and poor water quality received by more than 6,000 families in Los Conacastes and its surroundings. The official explained that the poor quality of the water was due to the fact that the well in Los Conacastes contains iron and manganese, and that new filters and a chemical need to be added to the water to make it clear and clean. During the month of August the leaders visited ANDA’s central office to follow up on this process. The Autónoma agreed to manage the economic resources for the purchase of these filters.

Also, new communities are beginning their organization process, such as the Colonia Las Neblinas in Panchimalco, where the COFOA credential was presented and more than 70 leaders attended. Emphasis was placed on the importance of organizing to work on the issue: Reactivation of the drinking water service through the Las Neblinas well. The leaders explained that they have been without water for more than two and a half years. It is expected that by the beginning of next year, a community-wide listening campaign will begin.
LA LIBERTAD & SONSONATE

In February of this year, the leaders of the communities Veracruz I and II, Nombre de Dios and Buena Vista de San Juan Opico, invited the then mayor, Abigail Girón, due to the lack of a community clinic in the area. The mayor signed a public commitment to deliver $15,000.00 dollars in supplies for the clinic, which would benefit more than 600 families in the area. The signing of this agreement guarantees that once the clinic is built, the mayor will deliver the supplies. The leaders are currently negotiating with the director of the Sistema Básico de Salud Integral (SIBASI), the construction and subsequent equipping of the clinic.

Also, leaders of San José La Cueva in San Juan Opico, after joining efforts with the entire community, were able to drill their own well and provide drinking water to more than 800 families in the area. Subsequently, they invited the then mayoress, Abigail Girón, to a community meeting, where she made a commitment to the community to provide $50,000.00 dollars for the network of pipes that will distribute water to every home in the community. The mayor mentioned that this project is included in the Mayor’s Office Participatory Strategic Plan.

At the beginning of December, the first Assembly of Christians United in this department was held at the Nueva Sion Church, Lot. Agua Escondida, Puerto de La Libertad, where 160 leaders from the following communities participated: San Francisco, Las Victorias, San Juan Opico, El Trébol, Veracruz, Encarnación, Agua Escondida 1 and 2, Los Mangos 1 and 2, Cimarrón, San Isidro and Palmares. The leaders are clear about the importance of being organized, working and improving living conditions in their communities and municipalities.

In the month of November, Sonsonate gathered a hundred leaders to hold its first Assembly of United Christians. This Assembly was held in Metalio, with the participation of Father Erick Cruz from the parish of San José Obrero, Metalio, Acajutla. On the other hand, the Plan was discussed: Building Power 2024 was discussed. The leaders expressed that in order to achieve changes in their communities it is essential to be organized.

The leaders of this department, in addition to working on the RE- NACER campaign, are also conducting listening campaigns in their communities, with the objective of prioritizing issues and initiating solutions to them.