

ASOCIACIÓN PARA LA ORGANIZACIÓN Y EDUCACIÓN EMPRESARIAL FEMENINA DE EL SALVADOR



REPORT OF IMPACT ACTIVITIES AT PUERTO EL FLOR 2016

TO BE PRESENTED TO
INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB

SAN SALVADOR, NOVEMBER 2016.

INTRODUCTION

The present report refers to health attention activities which are being executed with families from Puerto El Flor Usulután.

The healthcare activities are complemented with other projects that OEF is working on this area, like credit, vocational trainings, and children educational attention through a Leveling Classroom.

With healthcare activities, last year OEF expanded its attention to a new community - Botoncillo – so the families attended grew from 166 to 277, making a total of 1300 people, between children, men and women, who are now participating and being benefited by healthcare services.

This report describes on a precise way, the impact OEF has achieved with families and communities, through different actions; which have strengthen the community participation and organization, as much as population health conditions, family economy and the environment. Pictures are included so you can see what is being done and what OEF has achieved.

I. MAIN IMPACT

The impact achieved through the activities with families from Puerto El Flor and Botoncillo, at Usulután, had transformed the direct participants, as much as their families, between them, there are three main actions which had made a difference on the population:

1-Creation of a Support Group for Alcoholic people (AA Alcohólicos Anónimos) at the community.

One of the main social problems at Puerto El Flor is alcoholism, which is present on young people and adults, mainly men but a few women. This problem has been a cause for family disintegration, emotional sickness, family and community trouble, between others, which had also been the main cause for domestic and community violence. That is why, OEF which is identified with the problem and conscious of the effects produce don families, decided to promote an initiative to give the community, some tools which could help to make some life changes and that it is why a support group for Alcoholics was created -**Alcohólicos Anónimos- which is called “Changing lives at El Flor”**. Coordination with the Community Clinic was performed to create the group, mainly with the Community Health Promoter, who is the leader for the support group at Usulután; and also the support from community leaders was needed.



The group began 9 months ago, with 4 participants – now there are 20 active members – who every day during afternoon are having their meeting, which lasts around 2 hours, during that time they share experiences they had had being alcoholics and the hard consequences they had had to face. On every meeting, they strengthen their purpose of being sober. The OEF has been supporting them with talks from a psychologist who is part of our work team.

From the beginning of the support group, many changes had happened on peoples' lives. One example is **Neftalí Villalta**, a 41 years old man, who under an alcoholic episode, threatened to death to his mother; also, it can be mention,. **Nohemy Portillo**, a 31 years old woman –who lives on a neighbor community- who began as an alcoholic being just a teenager, got pregnant twice, and for her being alcoholic, she could not take care of herself and neither of her children and family. As a result of their participation at the support group, the support from their partners, and the testimony of other participants, now both of them, regret their actions and they are working everyday on keeping sober; Neftali works fishing and he is taking care of his family. Nohemy is selling vegetables at San Miguel and Usulután market, and even she doesn't live at Puerto El Flor, she is attending the group every day and she has become one of the group “godmother”. Both of them are now back part of society, **being leaders and becoming an example for their group**.

We can conclude that these people are changing their life, on different ways: economic, spiritual, being back part of society and the same way, families are bieng strengthen, and the community improves their **tranquility and peace**.

2- Creation of a Community Garden

OEF together with the **Coordinadora de Comunidades de Puerto Parada**, (CCPP) and the community organized are working as a team to improve families' nutrition. That is why families were sensitized about the initiative of a Community Garden creation, they were motivated and they are working to make it real. Actions were begun by 20 families, who identified the land, they organized to make chores like: clean the land, sow seeds, irrigation; and also to get the required supplies. On the other side, OEF and CCPP gave the materials to surround the land, seeds and technical assistance. They began to sow with a variety of seeds like: tomato, radish, cucumber, between many others. Between the impact achieved through this activity, it can be mentioned:

Organization, the main protagonists are women, who are the ones having the chores done, without leaving aside their daily responsibilities, which has already made changes on their self-esteem.

Nutrition, families have fresh vegetables which are being harvested on an organic way, part of the harvest is given to School, so it can be used on school snack.

Family economy, the harvest is not only being used to improve the family meals, but also a part of it is now being sold on the surrounding areas.

Technical assistance, CCPP and families participating received training on preparing insecticides, fungicides and foliar fertilizers, besides all the knowledge related to the different stages of the harvest.

Projections, according to the obtained results, families are planning to create a new community garden and also the

participation of more new families from the community.

Experience, it has been enriching at a personal, family and community level, because families have recognized that with God's direction, all the community effort and organization can be developed and achieve the planned goals.

Coexistence Exchange of community experiences, families from Puerto El Flor visited for an Exchange of experiences the community El Roble, at Chalatenango, they shared experiences, knowledge, achievements and created friendship bonds, motivating people from El Flor to begin a similar Community Garden.



3 – Eyecare attention

In coordination with Fundación de Desarrollo para la Mujer (FUDEM), it has been given by the first time Eyecare services at Puerto El Flor -**Families did not consider eyecare attention as a priority**-. During the Eyecare campaign, families were attended and many eyecare diagnoses were given; so far, 3 campaigns had taken place, and around 200 people had been attended. The results are that 53 people had been referred for specialized attention for sicknesses like: strabismus, pterygium, cataracts, between others. Some people had been supported by OEF with transportation, accompanied to continue the treatment and supported to buy glasses. Somewhere, 15 people had had surgery for cataracts of pterygium – 7 of them had not pay for the surgery – and 2 of them are now planning to have surgery and other 4 people bought their glasses. Through these Eyecare campaigns, the girl Jennifer Zavala got a diagnose, a her story is describe below.

Jenifer Zavala, is a 5 years old girl, her family is formed by her mother Blanca Soriano, a 18 years old Young girl, her father Rudy Zavala, a 19 years old Young man; and 2 younger sisters: one of them 3 years old and also a newborn. Even her parents are teenagers with a low education background, they notice about a problem on Jenifer's visual capacity, they took the girl to Usulután Hospital and she was diagnose with **Microcornea Central Walleye**, a disease gotten since she was born and which is characterize by blindness. Jenifer's life had no motivation and her family thought she could never go to school, she was seen by her family and community with pity, and Jenifer depended totally on her mother.

After OEF intervention, the family is sensitized about seeing Jenifer as a human being, with a visual disability of course, but discovering on her other capacities. Unfortunately, at Usulután there is not any institution who takes care of blind people, so OEF has to make a coordination with the Centro de Rehabilitación para Ciegos a rehabilitation center at San Salvador, which is a specialized insitution on blind people attention, they evaluated Jenifer and determine the necesity of attending Jenifer at least one a week, family agreed



Jenifer, being a protagonist, during an activity with her classmates.

but their economy did not let them make the effort to Travel from Usulután to San Salvador once a week, which means at least \$50 a month cost; and their family get an income only from the father who is a Fisher, and his income was not enough to cover the cost. But seeing the mother availability to get Jenifer the suggested attention, OEF began providing the \$50 cost monthly and then, the Mayor Office from Usulután Heard about Jenifer and began providing the \$50 monthly to cover the costs.

Jenifer began her attention at this rehabilitation center, as much as her family, because the attention goes from psychological, to physical and self sufficiency care.

One of the recommendation form the rehabilitation center and the OEF goal was to insert Jenifer on the community kindergarten a **Children Development Center** which works at the community and it is being manage by a NGO. The community responsible were opposed to receive Jenifer, because they were not prepare to attend blind people or any other disabled child, nevertheless, Jenifer was received and she is attending now.

The surprise for everyone is how easy was for Jenifer and her classmates to adapt and her capacity to learn. Now, Jenifer is becoming more independent everyday. For example, she can move around her house and the surroundings, she eats by herself, her language abilities have improve, and she always shows interest on identify and know new objects, she has also improve on socialization with other children but also with adults, she can now let other people show her affection – like hugs -. About her classmates, they are learning to see how normal is to share with some with a disability, and how they can share with Jenifer and make her part of the activities. Family have also had some achievements like: deal with Jenifer disability and understand that as parents they are the main therapists and never see Jenifer with pity.

II. EXPECTED IMPACT

Healthcare attention and Education: Between these activities there are:

Preventive Health care:

It had been performed –during 2016- 10 monthly campaigns for preventive healthcare, during which an average of 15 people had been attended, and between the types of attention it can be mentioned: 50 Papanicolau smears, 15 children under 5 years old, being care about their growing and psicomotor development progress, 5 women under pregnancy care and 50 healthcare attentions to adults in general; during which we had taken care of their needs on medications, counseling and reference according to each case.

It is important to mention, that between women who had their Papanicolau smears taken, 10 had more than 2 years without having one, and they were resistant to have it for fear or for having a bad experience before, situations that were overcome during home visits, the exams were taken and the healthcare team working in the community keeps helping families to understand the importance of the preventive healthcare and self-care.

About children healthcare, between the 15 children attended, 3 are taking care for malnutrition. These families have been accompanied and assessed about nutrition, so they can make their children to have a healthy weight.

Monthly Educational Talks.

Educational talks are given to an average of 15 people, during these talks some of the topics which are developed are: cancer prevention, technical assistance on family and community gardens, prevention of mosquito transmitted diseases, family communication, importance of a differentiation on garbage disposal, counseling on chronic diseases, between many others.

These topics are developed under coordination with the Community Clinic and community leaders. After the process, through these talks it has been achieved, an improvement on women having their Papanicolau smears, creation of family's gardens for growing vegetables and little improvements on improving family environment through communication.

Soy based food Workshop.



It had been developed 3 workshops about preparing soy based food, during the ones, an average of 15 people had participated; as a result at least 6 families have incorporated soy based food on their daily meals.

O.E.F as a complementary activity, has delivered basic food baskets to at least 25 families, with at least one member under nutritional risk and in poor condition.

Home Visits

The Community Health Promoter performs family's home visits in order to: promote actions to improve community health conditions, promote cleaning campaigns, verify order and cleaning conditions of the houses, assessment on family gardens, check on weight and height of children

under 5 years old, promote Papanicolau smears between women, check on pregnant women, between others, with the purpose of promoting habit changes in the population which help them improve their life conditions.

All these actions are supported with the intervention and leadership of the responsible of the Healthcare Area and the Executive Director.

Environmental Healthcare

About environmental healthcare actions, it had been performed cleaning and tree planting campaigns. They are executed under coordination with Usulután Mayor Office, who support the campaigns with a truck to pick up garbage, the School with the participation of children who help cleaning the school, and the Support Committee –integrated by 5 women and 2 men – who promote and participate during activities.

Usulután Mayor Office deliver trees, which were planted at the School.

