**Transcription of Diary**

Pseudonym: Julia

Time during which the diary was held: 01 Feb - 15 Feb, 2023

TRANSCRIPTION

**February 1, 2023**

Experiences and water shortages in the Pedregal de Santo Domingo neighbourhood

When we arrived in the neighbourhood there was a shortage of things, starting with water. We had to go to Aztecas Avenue in the Ajusco neighbourhood to get water in cans, jugs, and whatever we could carry. We also went to wash clothes there because the water we carried was only for essential things. We did this for many years because there were no streets for cars to pass through.

We also used charcoal and firewood because there were no gas carts, we had no electricity, and we only lit ourselves with candles and oil lamps. When the streets began to be formed, this achievement was based on all the residents who worked together, children and adults, we all cooperated.

**February 2, 2023**

We all went out to water the earth and remove rubble to make the streets. I was about 11 years old and as my mother worked, one of my brothers and I would go out to do chores and help with the work. For us as children, it was like a game.

After that, many of us started to carry water to sell it with buckets and cans, and we also sold oil because that was what was used for cooking.

It was difficult for a long time during which the community members who owned the land where we arrived did not want us to stay, there were many deaths, and they burned the little cardboard huts that we had to live in.

**February 3, 2023**

Then the governmental secretariat INDECO came in to measure the land and start paying for the land. We were still without water until they could get water pipes, but they only gave us one water tank per family and we kept going to Aztecas to get enough water for our needs.

After a long time, the authorities began to put drinking water into the network but sometimes it didn't come for days. We spent many years like this. Sometimes there was water, sometimes there wasn't, and when there was, we had to get up very early in the morning to get water. That way, when there wasn't any, we had enough water to make ends meet.

**February 4, 2023**

We also took care of the water by recycling it for the toilet, the yard, and even by collecting rainwater. Even when the water was put in the houses through the network, sometimes it didn't even fall for several days.

We suffered a lot from not having water for a long time and we had to ask for water trucks but they took days to bring it and we had to buy private water trucks that were sold at high prices.

Then a water defence group was formed to put pressure on the authorities so that we could have water. We closed streets in the mayor's office so that they would listen to us and so we spent a long time until they listened to us and talked to the mayor, although sometimes he didn't come out.

**5 February, 2023**

In 2016 we asked for authorisation to build a water well, but no authorisation was given, they always put obstacles in the way, and then they changed mayors and it was the same thing, all of them saying that there was no land for the well. The committee started looking for land when we saw that they wouldn't listen to us. We found two options, in the secondary school and in a module that had been built that was almost never used and was left abandoned where they would dump rubbish, and dead animals, and where the vagrants also used to stay. After many sit-ins, we went to see the head of the Mexico City government to talk to her and tell her what we suffered from not having water.

**6 February 2023**

We had several dialogues and meetings with the government to express our water problem because the previous delegates only made us go round and round in circles and did not give any explanations or responses about the well until the head of government authorised it, although there were still problems because many neighbours near where the well was going to be built were opposed because they said that the water would go to some other side and that their houses would fall down.

The leaders of our group in defence of the water had to talk to these neighbours to tell them that neither of the two things they were saying would happen.

After many talks, they came to their senses and agreed. The school next to the well was also suffering from lack of water because they had to suspend classes due to lack of water and the children missed a lot of lessons. Sometimes the students were made to carry water from their homes to use in the toilet or to wash their hands because there was no water.

**7 February, 2023**

Then came the pandemic and the work was delayed. The authorities told us to wash our hands frequently to protect ourselves from the virus, but we didn't have water to take care of ourselves as they said. The colony was one of the most infected because of the lack of water and many people in the colony died because of it, and there were also many contagions and many of us got sick, but even so we kept closing streets to have water, and that was the only way they would listen to us. Sometimes they would bring us water trucks but they couldn't supply the whole neighbourhood because there were too many of us to bring us water in one day. Sometimes it took up to several days for the pipes to be delivered. We learned to take care of the water by recycling it and taking care of it, we all learned to take care of the water when it came to us.

**February 8, 2023**

When the authorisation was given on 20 November to start the well, all of us on the committee agreed to monitor where there was no water. This was so that the authorities would come to our houses to check that we didn't have water and check the water valves, which were sometimes closed. That was why we didn't have water. They would go from house to house to confirm that we didn't have water.

**February 9, 2023**

Also when the streets were built, they put a water tank where there were long lines to fill up and take a few jars of water to our houses. There were long lines to take a few jars of water because there were so many of us and so that everyone could get something.

The popular community centre was also built, which functioned as a school where all the settlers participated in work and cooperation. It was built because there were no schools and there were many children who had to go to other neighbourhoods to study. When two rooms were built, we started to give classes to younger children because there was nothing. The children had to bring their chairs and some tables and so the little school was formed.

There was also a milk store that we had to go to very early in the morning to get milk, the bad thing was when they took it away and sent us to other milk stores that were further away and many of us could no longer go because of work and the distance.

**February 10, 2023**

The members of the Committee used to monitor when the well was being drilled. We took turns to be monitoring and check that the people were working. One by one we went every day until they finished building it.

Finally, we no longer suffer from water shortages, only some days we don't have water during the day but at night it comes back, but many of us continue to take care of the water by recycling it for other things. The Committee also helps people who need a favour or have a problem and we all help each other with whatever we can.

**11 February, 2023**

1- When there has been a lack of water, we are all aware of it and we start to monitor which streets do have water and which do not. The members who represent us request an appointment with the government to ask for explanations and talk about the lack of water in the colony and some of the authorities explain the cause of the problem. They also go to some houses to corroborate that there is no water. The authorities and some members of the committee check the valves because there are some that are closed. They open them and water starts pouring into our houses.

2- All the neighbours keep an eye on things and inform the committee if there are any leaks. If there are water leaks we have to report them to the committee and they are in charge of notifying the authorities so that they can fix the leak and not so much water is spilt.

**12 February, 2023**

Did you run out of water today?

-For now, we have no water shortage thanks to the water well being in place.

How does not having water change your daily life?

-When we don't have water one day, the committee helps us by asking for water pipes or a neighbour who has a cistern shares a few buckets of water with us so that we can hold on until we get some.

What did you do to get water?

-We go with buckets to a tap near the well, where there is almost never a shortage of water.

Did you see or talk to any neighbours today?

-Yes, we talked about how we no longer suffer so much from not having water thanks to the well.

When and where and why do you meet the neighbours on a normal day?

-through the group or when they have a meeting to talk about anything to do with water

-My memory of the questions is that when there was no water we had to go to the mayor's office. If they didn't listen to us because of the lack of water we had to close the streets, only then did they listen to us and send us water trucks.