**Transcription of Participant Observation notes**

Site: Street corner where the water well is being built in Santo Domingo

Type of event: Explanation of SACMEX (Water Administrative office in Mexico City, publicly owned) personnel to neighbours of the Water Defence Committee about the well

Duration: 90 minutes

Date and time: November 29, 2022. From 11:51 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Additional notes (besides field notes): I use this meeting to recruit more neighbours. I start putting together the final list of participants and continue to invite people.

Observer: A

This observation takes place on a construction site. It is the construction site of a water well in Santo Domingo. Today, personnel from the Water administration system of Mexico City (SACMEX) will explain to members of the Wate Defence Committee the functioning of this well. They will show the neighbours how the infrastructure works and prove that this well will give water to Santo Domingo.

I arrive in Santo Domingo at 11:51 and head to the site of the well. In front of the site, a street market (tianguis) has been placed. I wonder how this activity from the Water Defence Committee will affect the flow of people through the tianguis since many neighbours have gathered to listen to an explanation about the well.

I arrive and see a group of approximately 25 people and a SACMEX engineer talking with Beni and Juan. I also see Martina making a list with the names of the attendees. I talk with some of the people that I recognise when I arrive. I see more SACMEX employees and an open gate in the construction site through which I can see into the well. Beni proposes that the neighbours enter in groups of five people. He also proposes that the people who arrived first, and who signed up with Martina, will be the first to come through. Martina calls out people according to her list and asks them to form a line to enter the well. Beni and Martina ask for patience and say that will have their turn. I write my name in the list and wait for my turn.

While I’m waiting, I see and greet Waldo. He introduces me to people who haven't signed up for an interview. While I was having these conversations, some people, who were walking down the street or in the tianguis, also approached to ask me or other neighbours about what is happening, so we explain. I hear a passerby asking a neighbour from the Water Defence Committee if this group is in favour or against the well, to which the neighbour replies that they are in favour of it.

There is an intense social life on the street. People arrive from the tianguis and join in to see the well. Some more shoppers stop and ask the members of the Defence Committee what is happening with the well. Other people comment that they are glad that the well was built, hoping for a solution to the lack of water. There is an open conversation, on the street, about the well. Conversations about water and infrastructure emerge among the neighbours, and among the people who are passing by. Comments emerge on the usefulness of the well in public, on the street. The street becomes the place of discussion about water and its provision. Meanwhile, groups of five by five continue to enter to see the progress of the well. Next to the well, I see a water tap and a person collecting water from it and putting it in a jug.

My turn to enter and see the well comes, and I walk in with the last group of neighbours. Before entering, I saw a boy filling a bottle of water from the tap next to the well. We entered the construction site and received an explanation from an engineer. The engineer explained that the system will be connected to the existing network that already serves Santo Domingo, and then answered questions from the neighbours. Sandra asks some questions. I gave her an information sheet, and while she was talking, the sheet fell into a ditch in the construction. A young man helps her to get the information sheet from there. The engineer explained that this well supports the water supply in the neighbourhood with 40 litres per second, and specifies which streets will receive these benefits. He answers more questions, especially from neighbours who want to know when the well will be in operation. He says that before the end of December, it will be connected. The engineer wants to invite people to come back to the well when everything is working, so they can see it when it's finished. Sandra says that it would be great to have a street party with tacos and more food that day.

I see people I recognize from previous experiences here and say hi to them as well. Tita gives a few words at the end. She says this is achieved because of a collective effort, while some of the neighbours take photos and videos to send to a WhatsApp group. Waldo also gave a few words and thanked everyone for their participation. I walked out of the construction site and talked with Beni about the possibility of having the interview. When I leave, I listen to them express some good opinions about the work of the engineers. After this, I walked with Waldo to a local community centre to ask for a place to do some interviews.