**Transcription of Interview with Martina**

Place: Popular community centre

Date and time: 17 December 2022, starting at 11 a.m.

Duration: 47:16 mins

Additional observation notes: The interview is on the first floor of the popular community centre. It is on a Saturday, as that is the day Martina told me she had the possibility to do it. After this activity, we will have to move to a meeting of the Committee in the street. I told her that we would have another interview, like a walking interview. Once the interview is over, we walk to the meeting place. Martina also tells me that she would like to complete a participant diary.

Participants : Interviewer [A] ; Martina [M]

TRANSCRIPTION

A: Well, we can start with a very general presentation, covering age, occupation, schooling, all that general information to present.

M: Good morning, my name is Martina, I live here in Santo Domingo, I am 64 years old, I am married, I have two children. I currently work in the home, I have activities such as handicrafts, I make things that I use in my house, for my family, and I even make some things to sell, because I am in a PROFECO (federal consumer protection office) group where they teach us many things. And my schooling, well, I come from a family with six children, so in my time it was a big family, let's say. My father was in the military and was very poorly paid, so the schooling he could give me was up to secondary school, he told me "I can't give you any more, daughter", because I was the third child, let's say, and below me there were three others. So there was no money for more, but he told me "I can help you get a job, if you want you can continue studying or you can take whatever path you want". So I told him "well, I'll take you at your word", and he helped me join the army. So I was also in the army, I was in the army for 10 years. And while I was there I looked for a way to study a higher secondary education, so I studied traffic and customs processing, and once I had my degree in the army they gave me the opportunity to join a water resources secretariat, as it was called at the time, and I went to work there. I had the choice between the army and my career, and economically I was better off with my career. I left the army and continued with my career.

Look, when I was in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, it was when everything for the Cutzamala was imported, when France made many donations for the installation of the Cutzamala. And I had many satisfactions in my career. I had no idea what it was all about, but simply because I found a school that suited my schedule, I said, this is where I come from. I entered the school at 7 at night, left at 11 pm, and that's how I got through it. Later it gave me a lot of satisfaction because the people in agriculture offered me what they paid me in the army so that I could stay full time, and that's how I left the army and stayed in agriculture. Then I had a boss who liked the way I worked and he said "we are going to set up a company and I am going to give you a good position and everything". And I went all over the place. Later, my younger brother was studying to become an airline pilot at school, at the air school in Zapopan. And his plane had an accident, another one hit him from behind, he died. And I got very depressed and I left everything, I went to the United States for a year, I didn't like it, I came back and started my career again. And about two years after that, I met my husband, and we were engaged for two years, we got married, and happily we are still married, that's the broad outline of my story.

A: And how did you come to live in the neighbourhood of Santo Domingo?

C: Well, we are all from Jalisco, but my grandparents came here because my grandfather was also in the military. And then the time came when he had to retire from the army because of age, years, whatever you want, I don't know what happened. And he retired and he was out of a job and my grandparents came to Mexico. And my grandfather was lucky and went to work at UNAM. So they lived in Copilco, when Copilco was starting, I remember I was about 5 or 6 years old.

And then, because my dad was in the military, sometimes they sent him to one side, to another side, and on one occasion they sent him here to Mexico City and they offered him to stay and he accepted. So he came, he spoke to my mother and there were only two of us children, because my mother married very young and was widowed at the age of 14. At that age she was widowed with a son, so that son was raised by his grandparents. And with my father and my mother we had two children, and we came to Mexico with my mother. And then we started to make a life here. My grandparents already lived in Copilco, and when it was summer holiday, we came to vacation with them. So we got to know Copilco first, and Santo Domingo was pure stony ground, there were a lot of communal land owners. And later my grandparents were given a piece of land to look after, I don't know if you know the famous bakery.

A: Yes

M: Ah well, there it was like a hill, and there a friend of my grandfather's had a very big piece of land, he raised pigs. And he offered my grandfather to look after the land, so they accepted, they built a little house, a little hut let's say, and that's where they lived, where we visited them. Later the man said I'm going to sell my house, I don't want to go on with this any more, and then my grandparents got a place to live where I live now. That was before the invasion. And then in the 1970s came the invasion. Then my grandparents stayed there and tried to get a plot of land for my parents, which was at the back of where they lived. But it was like a huge, huge, huge hole, because I don't know how many wagons of earth were used to fill the hole. And that's how we arrived in Santo Domingo. Not in the invasion, because my grandparents already lived here. But after the invasion, I'll tell you, about six or eight years later, we came to live, because we came to visit and everything, but we didn't live here. Then when the land was built, we were already living in a military neighbourhood, in presidential guards, and then my dad had to retire from the army, and a general with whom he was very good friends, he had a house in Picacho, and he said "well, why don't you go work with me?

We went to live there in the general's house, well, in some houses he had for his employees, and we lived there for two years. But my dad already had the land, and in those two years, since they didn't charge us rent, he invested in the land. And it became a shell of a house, we came to live without windows, without doors, and we slept on the floor, we tied the door with a rope so that no one would come in, and well, we slept there.

A: That in the house over there in Picacho?

M: No, in the house here, and that's how we arrived in Santo Domingo, around, what can I tell you, 78, around there.

A: And at that time, what was the water situation like?

M: It was very complicated because it was a neighbourhood in process that had been invalidated by presidential order, and everyone was fighting over the land. I knew people who killed themselves over a piece of land. The water situation was very complicated. My grandmother told me that she used to live here and there were little boxes that were filled with water. So what was used at that time was that you bought a donkey, and on the donkey you carried the water, because in the DIF community centre there was a water tap, so that's where the people formed to carry the water and take it to their homes. We used the water carriers, it was a stick with two buckets or two cans, and then with that you carried water to your house. And the process of settlement continued. Then my older brother was bought a donkey and with that he carried water to the house. Later we began to fight with the government to get water, and every so often a water truck would come by to fill the water tanks that we would make in the street. So you would build your water tank, but you had to be careful because the people would steal everything. So you would build your water tank, one or two water tanks, and then you had to keep an eye on things. When the water truck arrived and filled them, you carried the water to your house. You didn't have to go to the tap.

A: And the donkey would bring it every day?

M: Yes, every day. In fact, there were people who used the donkey as a means of survival, it was like a job. Because some neighbours would say that they couldn't go for some reason to collect water from the tap, they would say to the donkey driver, "Well, bring me a trip of water". And they charged for the water trips, so it was like a job, let's say.

And well, a few years later, people continued to fight for basic services to be introduced. Because you could grab the electricity from other people, from the pole that was closest to your house, then from there you put a wire, you pulled it to your house and somehow you had electricity, which was basic, wasn't it? And the poles looked like spider webs with wires all over the place, and there was always the occasional short circuit because the wires would stick together and you had to go and check. And we stayed like that for a few years until the people's struggle made changes. Everyone organised in their own community, let's say, right?

A: What was that like?

M: Well, to tell you, you organised either one street or two streets, or part of the avenue that it covered. Because I live in an enclosed area, so there is no passage to the other side. So either we were united or we were united, there was no other way. Then the mothers started, they were the ones who were fighting because the men were going to work. So they started fighting for the government to provide basic services. And solidarity groups were formed, they used to say at that time. When Salinas de Gortari became president, he dealt a lot with solidarity.

A: Yes, he had the national solidarity programme.

M: So solidarity for him was that you provided the labour and they gave you the material. So they said "we're going to put the water in the closed area". And the people started to organise themselves and to work, to open ditches, to open part of it for your house, so that they could put in the water intake. Well, the water intake was outside, but obviously you had to have a pipe that connected to the water intake. And that's how they managed to get the water in. The network. And a lot of work was done there. And yes, the government provided the material and the people worked to have those services.

Then they put in poles closer and it was less of a problem to get connected. Until the company Luz y Fuerza del Centro de México came, at that time. Then they officially started to put up, I don't remember what year, but they officially started to put up the electricity poles. The avenues, no, I'll tell you, they were huge holes. Grieta Street was full of holes, but huge holes. And the avenue didn't go beyond where there's a little park, where they give boxing classes, about 100 metres ahead, that's as far as the avenue goes.

A: But on the side of Metro CU or on the side of Tlalli?

M: No, on the Grieta side. That had another name at the time, because for some reason someone had the idea of naming many parts of the neighbourhood after flowers.

And well, as the years went by, the government projects started to grow. They saw the possibility of putting in the metro and they did. And they took care of the avenue, of modernising it in some way or giving us what we needed to turn it into an avenue.

At that time I was studying and with a lot of sacrifice I bought a little car [laughs] because I used to go to Artículo 123 Street to study. So it was a long way from Artículo 123 Street to my house without a metro. So I made a sacrifice, I bought myself a little car. And then a year after I started studying, my sister started studying the same degree, and we would go with each other. And we had to leave our cars outside because they put up a wall all along the avenue. So there was no space for you to manoeuvre or anything, nothing, nothing, nothing. And we suffered a lot, for example, from the explosions for the construction of the metro. It was just stone. And then they had to dynamite to be able to open up, to open up the gap for the metro. But look, that helped a lot with modernisation. And all the people who came to Ciudad Universitaria (the UNAM university campus).

Look, when we, I'll tell you, when we were kids and we came to Copilco on holiday, it was always the custom on the ranches to leave lunch for the ranchers who were working. My grandmother continued to keep that custom, and when lunchtime came, when my grandfather was given his lunch hour, we would go and bring him food. At that time, the trucks were public and they went to the university, but once they entered the university, they gave free service. But they were public service trucks, they didn't have, there was no PumaBus. So, it was empty, because we were surprised, as children, that we would get on the bus we saw on the street inside Ciudad Universitaria and it didn't charge us. And that's how it was.

A: So it was simultaneous, because water, electricity and paving were introduced. The neighbourhood was transformed.

M: Yes, in our area, yes, because of the metro.

A: And so there was frequent interaction between neighbours in that street, organisation, cooperation?

M: Yes, total, total cooperation, organisation. There was a president, let's say, of the block. And then the people came to an agreement, the block president organised the people. Because, well, we didn't just want the benefit for ourselves, we wanted it for everyone who lived on our block. Although our block includes part of Grieta and part of Mixtli, what is now that street, which used to be called something else. [We talked about the name that Mixtli had, and also the name of another street, now known as Tochtli.] Then, when the change came, when the streets were laid out and everything was mapped out, they changed the name. It is now Mixtli, isn't it? They also changed the name of the other one, which is now Tochtli.

A: And thinking about later on, how did you become involved with the Water Defence Committee?

M: Well, when the Comisión de Luz y Fuerza del Centro was changed, the Comisión Federal de Electricidad came in. But then there was abuse, a lot of abuse on the part of the Federal Electricity Commission in terms of charges. For example, my mother, well, she was practically alone, that is, almost nobody lived with her, just the occasional grandchild. And she received bills for four or three thousand pesos. So she started to investigate and realised that there was a group that filed complaints with Profeco to stop the high charges and that while your complaint was pending, the fact that they were harassing you, that they were trying to charge you, was suspended. So that group of people was formed and my mum joined that group, they went to meetings, they organised themselves, the leaders went to meetings with the union and brought the news, the information, to the groups.

A: Well, and there was the issue of the high electricity charges.

M: That's where it all came from, because later the Aztecas 215 property was invaded, yes? Because they realised that when they were building there was a waterhole or there was a shallow aquifer and they were damaging it. So there were many groups, subgroups, let's say, of the light that participated in the community. We communicated, we were aware of what was happening with the electricity, but then they told us that the land of Quiero Casa, of Aztecas 215, was being invaded and that they needed support. So these subgroups began to join the Aztecas 215 group.

M: Did you also receive high electricity bills like your mother?

M: No, no. Not so much. It was high for my mum, for example, but there are people, I repeat, very apathetic, who don't like to get into... they say they don't like to get into trouble and they preferred to pay the high charges or they went to see the Federal Electricity Commission, they reached an agreement and that was it. If they had debts they would pay them because they never forgave you the debt.

A: But then you preferred to join...

M: My mum preferred to continue. And then when she was no longer able to attend the group, she asked me as a favour to start going for her. That's when I started to get involved. So sometimes we would do street strikes, for example, in Tlalli, and when the strike was over we would go to Aztecas 215 to support the comrades. From the beginning I wasn't with the comrades who were there at the beginning of the land invasion. I wasn't with them, to be honest, but we would go to support them, we would bring them coffee or something to eat, and then the government took them off the land. So there was the same struggle, now with the government, no longer with the construction company, but with the government. Because they asked how it was possible that so much water was being wasted, because they were throwing it down the drain. We have videos, evidence and everything that this water was thrown into the drainage system. So I was never in the camp, I'll be honest with you, but I supported it in some way.

When they removed the camp, it became like a group. And in the group that we were in, there was a lot of corruption. There was a guy who used the group and benefited from the quotas. And then there came a time when we decided not to continue and to start a new group with those who wanted to join, but in total transparency. That was the origin of the Pedregales Unidos de Coyoacán Committee, of the electricity.

From that Committee we gave a lot of support to all the movements that took place in Aztecas 215, but very directly. Because there was already, there was Doña Tita, there was Don Beni's daughter, she was the one who started it, then for some reason she couldn't go on, and Don Beni came in to take over. And we got together to go to Aztecas 215 and continue fighting, because how was it possible that Santo Domingo didn't have water, and they were wasting water there. And it was a constant struggle with the government, because when they were going to hold elections it was like political spoils. In other words, I am a candidate, I come and I promise you that I will provide you with water, that you will not lack it, but vote for me. You believed, you voted, and a year after the man had come in, the complaints continued and the problem of water shortages continued here in Santo Domingo.

A: Has the problem of water shortages also affected you directly at home?

M: At the beginning, yes, there was a shortage. But when they built the metro, they made a well in Ciudad Uuniversitaria (the UNAM campus), there is a well there. So everything along the avenue, the metro and areas near the metro, let's say, are supplied from that well. So we have practically no problems, unless the well breaks down, a valve or a pump, then we have had problems. And the people start protesting and have held blockades, shutting down the avenue. And also as the committee was already formed, we have also supported them.

Because, well, I live in Grieta, but since I joined the struggle I've been on this side, because of the needs of the people, the people in the centre and the upper part of Santo Domingo, which is where there are the most shortages.

A: Then you started to get involved with Aztecas and from there the committee came about.

M: A few years later, it didn't come about immediately. The Water Defence Committee is more recent, as a Water Defence Committee, and many neighbours joined. Neighbours who weren't fighting for electricity, who now wanted to join together to fight for water, for the water supply network. They started to unite about, I don't remember if it was a year and a half or so ago, or it's about to be two years, something like that. In the middle of the pandemic.

A: That's when the committee started.

M: The committee came about because someone, Mrs Sandra, approached Waldo and said, "hey, I know you are fighting for water and why don't we all get together?" And Waldo said, well, we are going to separate the electricity committee and form a water committee. So the Water Defence Committee was formed. And then we started to work with the people from the Water Defence Committee, and many people from the Pedregales Unidos Committee, who fought for the electricity, are also on the Water Defence Committee. So it didn't take much work to get together, to pull people together and unite those who were proposing the formation of the Committee, and that's how the Water Defence Committee came about, which was almost at the same time as the mural on Fuerza Street. Almost at the same time, and I'm telling you, in the middle of the pandemic.

A: So you were also involved in making the mural in some way?

M: Yes, the people from the Committee asked for support, practically many of us from the Committee of Electricity cooperated with paint, with brushes, with work so that the mural could be done. It literally represents the economy and the struggle for water and the struggle for electricity.

A: Yes, it's a very beautiful mural.

M: Yes, it's beautiful, yes, and well, that's how the committee came about. And then the pandemic came and we were already in talks. At that time Negrete was mayor, but it was a problem, we had working groups with him for Aztecas 215, for the water supply, and they always ignored us. Then they changed, for example, the people in the mayor's office or those who were in charge of legal matters. They changed them and it was like starting from scratch again and having to explain what the movement was. And it was funny because we taught them how to work, we made our notes by hand, I made them by hand and we signed them so that they would really commit themselves to the Committee because everything was by word of mouth.

There came a time when Waldo, Raúl, Beni, another comrade who went to live somewhere else, my sister-in-law, may she rest in peace, we were the most committed and we held protests at the mayor's office in Coyoacán. We demanded work sessions and the doors began to open for us. That's when the work sessions began and we saw the need for a well here in the central zone.

I'm talking about around 2016 and they told us "no, you're crazy". And the possibility of a well was not contemplated.

A: How did you identify the need for a well?

M: Because of the need for water, that is, there was no water in the network. So when the elections came around, they promised you that they were going to use water trucks to replace that you didn't get water from the water network. So people who needed at least a water truck every eight days, every fortnight, sometimes every month, voted for these people. But we began to realise that they were just using us and we said "no, whoever is there, we are going to fight with them and we are going to demand that they send water through the network". So during the pandemic, look at the curious thing, they always denied us water. They said there wasn't any, that there was a shortage. But the most complicated year of the pandemic, when Santo Domingo was catalogued as one of the neighbourhoods with the most infections in Mexico City, then we began to demand and we got water in the central and upper areas, not very regularly but we had enough for our basic needs. And so we continued with the struggles, we learned to have virtual meetings and we met virtually either with the comrades on the committee or with the authorities so that little by little we could make progress.

So I don't know who suggested that part where the well is, that piece of land, but Don Beni intervened a lot there. He and other comrades, who are no longer here for work reasons, became aware of that piece of land and began to fight, because the measurements there were correct. Because they are very demanding in the government, about the measurements, about the situation, about whether it is near another well, about many issues that you have to see, so they suggested that land and the authorities came to take measurements and everything. At first they told us no, that it wasn't the right measurements, but later we consulted with an engineer who helped us a lot in the fight. He was in SACMEX and they began to make, what can I say, agreements between SACMEX, the Mayor's Office and the Committee, that we would not run out of water, even with water trucks, while they looked at how to move it through the network.

Then we would go to the mayor's office and they would tell us "no, but there is water, we already put it in, the problem was that the valves were badly calibrated". So we would go to the authorities and they would open the valves or close them somewhere else, but the water didn't come anyway. There was a lot of corruption here in Coyoacán and a lot of manipulation of valves. Until they found a man who had grown up and knew everything about Santo Domingo, and he started to calibrate the valves correctly and water started to arrive.

Well, when Sheinbaum came to Mexico City, she put several parts of the city on tandeo, including the neighbourhood of Santo Domingo. Originally the tandeo was one day in the upper zone and one day in the central zone, but between filling the tank on Calle Grieta and putting in the water that supposedly came from the Cutzamala, it didn't arrive. One day it was useless, because it didn't arrive on one side and it didn't arrive on the other, so in the committee we started to look for a way to get it to arrive. And the committee came up with the proposal, like many other ideas that have arisen to solve problems, that why not give half a week to the high zone and half a week to the central zone. And it was a really good solution, because then maybe the first day you wouldn't get water because the tanks were filling up, especially the Grieta tank, because this area is supplied from that tank and from another well that is in the neighbourhood, in Tletl. They had declared that this other well no longer had water, that it had dried up, but it had not. A new study was carried out and they realised that there was a fault in their installations and they reactivated it. So with the water from that well and that tank, it started to improve.

A: So this proposal for the tandeo came from the committee.

M: Yes, not the tandeo, not officially the tandeo.

A: Ah, about the days of distribution, let's say.

M: The days, yes, and then people could have two days, or two and a half days of real water in their homes. And as we have learned to take care of water, to recycle water and to collect water, people started to prepare themselves.

Because when you arrive here in Santo Domingo you would never imagine that you would need a cistern and you start to build one. But over the years you realise that you should have built. But maybe you didn't have the money to build a cistern. And then a lot of people don't have a way to collect water at home, a lot of water, let's say. They fill two, three tanks, a sink and their tank that is upstairs. Because we managed to get the water pressure to the water tanks that are upstairs, so it was like saying "ok, now I have water, this water that I collect I'm going to save for the three days that I'm not going to have water". And that is how people have been working. Then there were streets that, for example, did receive water and other streets did not receive water even though they were in the high or central area.

We also proposed many tours, authorities from SACMEX and from the mayor's office came to visit the houses with us, because they didn’t believe that water was not arriving. And we showed them with facts that the water was not arriving correctly.

A: That it wasn't reaching the houses.

M: Aha, it wasn't reaching the houses. Why was it being diverted? I don't know, that's a technical question for the mayor's office, for SACMEX, for the valves that are strategically placed in different places.

A: So those rounds were rounds of houses asking if they had water?

M: We would go in and open them. Exactly, we asked in avenues where we were walking.

Amongst ourselves, the idea also came up in the committee to do a mapping. So we made maps of the streets that make up the centre and the higher zone of Santo Domingo, where we didn't have water on a regular basis. According to this mapping, you had to report if you had water on certain days.

The tandeo was divided into Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, midday, upper zone. Thursday, noon, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the central zone. So those in the central zone had to report on Monday and those in the upper zone on Thursday, which was the day they had half a day. And according to those reports, Waldo and Raul made a map to demonstrate that water was not arriving. I admire Waldo and Raúl a lot, they were the ones who did the mapping work.

And then with that mapping we demonstrated to the authorities that the water was not arriving. So we made those trips from the well in Tletl.

We would go down and ask around the avenues where the mapping said that the water was not arriving. And yes, we would we would knock on the door, go into the houses, and open the tap, and it turned out that there was no water. There were some that did get water and we said, "How is it possible that a street parallel to this one gets water and this one doesn't? Something is wrong". With those maps we also began checking valves so that they would close and open correctly on the days when it was the turn of the high zone or the central zone. And for a while, yes, I am very surprised and very happy that this year we did well. Because there is always a time of dry season, when the water is going to fail because it is going to fail.

A: In the dry season?

M: The dry season, exactly when spring comes, the whole season, part of the summer, we call it the dry season, and there is no water. So this year we really managed to get water everywhere during that season, both in the higher area and in the central area. Why do we know that we managed to do that? Because we didn't ask for water trucks. A very easy way to know whether or not water is reaching certain areas is to start asking for water trucks.

And well, when this government came in, it accepted the agreements we had with the Mayor's Office and with SACMEX. On one occasion we had a backlog of about 30 water trucks of people who didn't have water. And we had a meeting here in the theatre with an official from the mayor's office and that day he made a commitment to deliver all those water trucks and they delivered them in three days at the most. I mean, how they did it, I don't know, they spent resources, I don't know, but it was fulfilled. Another of the Committee's very important achievements. And I think the mayor's office realised that they were investing a lot of money in the water trucks and tried to find a solution so that the water would come through the network. And obviously there are so many of us who live here in Santo Domingo. Because we are like mother hens, aren't we, who don't want to let the chicks go, "I have my land and you son don't leave here, build a little room, a flat up here and then the daughter builds another little apartment". And we are considered the most populated neighbourhood in Latin America for that reason, because we are like mueganitos (Mexican street candy), we don't want to leave. So, the need for water has been growing, so our request for the well has been increasing more and more. We said, no, it is necessary.

And when they accepted, they came to measure a second time. Because another proposal was to do it in the car park of the high school, but that is a federal zone. And then there was a lot of paperwork, you have no idea, to the SEP ( Ministry of Public Education), to the federal government, and they started to put obstacles in the way, the director who was there was changed, the paperwork was half done, so they said, "no, we'll go back to plan A, the original plan". They measured again and said, "well, yes, it works". And then in a meeting we had in the government, in the mayor's office, they told us, "the budget for the well is ready". But it was almost the end of the year. And we said, "oh, well, that's perfect". But there were still some permits and everything, so I don't know if they kept that budget or what they did.

Then came the pandemic and everything stopped. But when the issue of the pandemic opened up a bit, and I could go out on the street, with protection and everything, we resumed our face-to-face conversations with the government. By that time the central government was already intervening, because they didn't want to authorise the well. There are many groups here who are against progress or against an area having benefits because of the political question.

Then, when everything was about to start with the budget and everything, there were many people who said that the water was not going to be for Santo Domingo, that they were going to take it somewhere else. So, the project was stopped again and we said "let's see, what are we going to do now? We're going to collect signatures". And so we started collecting signatures with ID cards so that they would realise that these were real people. Because they always said "the people asking for the well are people who don't even live in Santo Domingo". And we told them "why not, if the needs are ours". So we came up with this idea and in about 15 days we collected about a thousand signatures with voter's credentials. And then we presented a letter with all the signatures, to the Head of Government, to SACMEX and to the mayor's office, so that they could see that the need was real and that the construction of the well was real. Then, with that letter, the head of government had no choice but to say, "the project is going ahead". And that's when the construction of the well officially began.

A: Well, we are finishing because it's almost time to go, we have to leave. But I think this has been a very good reconstruction of how everything has been going. I really appreciate it. And perhaps to close, could you tell me what the defence of water means?

M: The defence of water is life. In other words, no human being can live without water. Your water needs are basic for survival. For me, the struggle of water is the life of people, of oneself. The struggle of the well is to leave my family the certainty that in a certain time they will have water. And to teach them that you have to fight for what you want. Because if we hadn't fought, we wouldn't have achieved it. So, water is life for everyone. This struggle is the life of all of us who are fighting. That is what this committee or this struggle for water represents for me.

A: Well, thank you very much, thank you for taking the time to have this conversation, for taking time out of the morning for this and for sharing all this experience, all these experiences.

M: No, we're still at your service and if you want another interview, because I don't think an hour is enough, I'd be happy to come to an agreement and we can discuss how the problems we had started, how the people were against us, how we managed to overcome all these problems until we reached what you already know, that the well is about to be finished.

A: Thank you very much