**Transcription of Walking interview with Elia & Teodora**

Date and time: 12 May, 2023. Starting the walking interview at 11:25

Duration: 45 mins

Distance covered: 1.68 kms

Starting point: Popular Community Centre

Route: From the Popular Community Centre to another community centre closest to Elia & Teodora’s house. They are next door neighbours that live in Teocalli street.

Notes:

The interview takes place starting from the popular community centre. We walk towards Mixtli, where we see the streets of the participants who have been involved in the interview: Elia & Teodora. On this occasion, the walk-through interview will be with two participants. When I arrive at the popular community centre, I tell them the logic of the interview and they agree to have it. I tell them about the importance of pseudonyms, and they choose their names. Elia says that the name she chose reminds her of her grandmother, and Teodora says that her grandfather used to call her that name. I notice that Elia comes with a stroller. She tells me that she is taking care of her granddaughter. She brings the stroller with her and will carry it during the walk, which makes me think about the difficulties related to being mobile in the neighbourhood, and during the interview on the walk. I give Teodora back her participant's diary and ask them if they agree with the walk. They agree and think of a route among themselves, saying that it will help them to "name their streets". They show me their side of the neighbourhood, which is a bit far from the popular community centre. We walk with the stroller, and at one point it is my turn to carry it. It was hot today. I brought hats for the participants, to protect them from the sun, and I remember to take them out halfway through the walk. They put the hats on because of the heat.

During the walk we stop at places like bus stops, and in the streets where some of their neighbours live. They explain to me the bus routes, the changes they have experienced in the neighbourhood.

They tell me about it and we stop at the house of a lady who wanted to donate her land for the well.

We reach Teocalli Street, where they live, and they tell me how it has changed. At the end of the recording, Teodora buys us some water because of the heat. She tells us the story of a neighbour whose blood pressure went up and he felt sick in the CU metro once, and how the fact that there were known neighbours nearby, especially a neighbour who recognised him and went to tell her family, saved him. They both say that this is why the relationship between neighbours matters. The baby became desperate because of the heat towards the end of the interview. We finished the walk at a community centre in Mixtli, near where they live.

Participants: Interviewer [A] ; Elia [E] , Teodora [T]

**TRANSCRIPTION**

E: If we had been able to, we would have gone there, there.

A: Well, we're already here leaving the popular community centre, it's 11:25, and we're going to start the walk where you tell me and you guide me.

T: This way

E: This is where we're coming from, yes.

A: You were telling me that this walk would also serve to name your streets.

E: Our streets, for example, what are called the streets where we live, which would be this one, well, where we all remember. Because this is also where we used to come to, don't think we didn't. When people arrived, well, we all did. When people arrived, well, we all came here, but we all forgot our faces because we all came back here together. You know, everyone knows a person who has always been here, but we were all in the same group. And by then everyone had arrived, so they all got together. Streets that you remember that weren't built yet, they started to build them, as they say, in their faenas (community work), as we also say, our streets, right? I can say "my street was made by my neighbour so-and-so, so-and-so and so-and-so, yes or no?" And they can say, "oh, so-and-so was there and so-and-so wasn't". Just as everyone remembers their own street, we remember ours.

T: And that they used to be called differently.

E: Aha, they've changed a lot.

T: Yes, because ours used to have a different name.

A: The one that is now Teocalli.

E: That's right, and my mum's was also renamed. In other words, they changed several names. That's why I'm telling you that I want the book that Díaz Enciso wrote. I tell my daughters that I can't remember what the name of Llave Street used to be.

T: And Tochtli's, which also had another name before.

E: But they were different names, very, very different, when we arrived.

T: Tlahuilli, what was it called?

E: See, that's all, Tlahuilli too, I don't remember what it was called before.

A: They have been changing then.

E: Yes, yes, the names have changed a lot. A lot, a lot. I tell my daughters, then there are times when you don't know if you've got amnesia or what, but they forget a lot. I forget a lot, what I don't forget a lot is the dispensary we had in Tlahuilli up to the corner.

Now I see the lady's houses and I say "well, they were relocated there because there was a gap". That was when there was no longer a dispensary, there were no doctors, there was nothing like that. That's why they filled in that hole, but all that was the dispensary. That's where we used to have get-togethers, that's where we did everything. Like the popular community centre here, if they had wanted to, or if we had wanted to build a centre like the one here, it would have been different. But like everything else, people want to live, and that's why they live there.

A: And were you involved in the popular community centre or something like that?

E: No, you see, not there. Because here, as far as I understand it, I think that piece of land belonged to someone else, and I think she donated it. That's what I understand, as far as I've heard and talked about, that's what I know, that she donated that space.

[A car is approaching with loud music that can be identified in the recording].

A: A car is coming

I: Yes, supposedly we're coming this way because there are no cars.

A: Through this street?

E: Look, these streets here are fine, the only thing that's missing a lot is, well, seeing a lot of families and all the people who live here too, because we almost always used to gather here on this side.

A: So they brought me here, to Madera Street, because there are fewer cars.

E: Supposedly. [laughs].

More cars pass through there because it's the main avenue.

T: Yes, you could say that Tap Street is a main street for the bus drivers and all that.

E: And for example right now, up here there used to be a bus route 90, but now there is no route 90, supposedly they took it away, that was our route to go to the centre. But then it was gone. Route 90. The one that is after the trucks that were at the furniture store, we're going to show you how to get to the furniture store. But this was route 90, and now how long has it been disabled? I think it's been down for a year now.

T: Yes.

E: I don't remember over there, yes. Now they've added another route that who knows what happened to it, because it only goes to Huipulco. But if we wanted to go to La Merced or something, from here.

T: And right there, that's where it left us. It really affected us a lot when they took that route away.

A: That they changed it.

E: Yes, route 90.

A: And now you have to look after your granddaughter. [Elia is carrying the stroller while we talk on the walk].

E: Yes, well, my daughter went to work and that's why she hasn't arrived yet. And I had to bring her with me and I said, oh well, no problem. And I would have left her to another daughter, but no, because she went to get her daughter, they were leaving at 11 o'clock. But look, here she is with us too. [laughs]

A: She's on the walk as well. If you want me to help you with the stroller, tell me too. [seeing that Teodora is now carrying the stroller].

T: Later on, don't worry.

A: Because she's already taken her turn.

E: Yes, go this way, an aunt lived here.

T: This is where route 90 used to be.

E: Here on Árbol Street with Madera, it's route 90 B. There it said route 90, which is no longer there.

A: Ah, yes, but it still says there on the street [while I take a photo].

E: Yes, it keeps saying that.

T: But there's no bus anymore, or anything.

E: No, there isn't any more. It's gone from here, look, they even broke the little virgin, my God.

A: Wasn't that one there before, the virgin [religious altar]?

E: Yes, but they've already broken her glass. It's the man with the awnings. Oh, he's been there for years. [while I take a photo of the virgin's altar] This is where the route used to be. There were a lot of buses here, but many, many. Now they've taken them away. All this from here to here.

Ah, I didn't show you here. This side is where the other man is. He was the one who used to get together with my mum. Well, the woman from the popular community centre said that she knew him.

They were the two communal land owners who were here. That man is the one who also started giving out land. They say that he gave the land from here to there.

Look, as a route is coming.... [seeing a bus approaching] That bus that is coming is already replacing the 90. It's route 24. But it's already different. It's a big bus, it's not a minibus.

T: We're going this way. I'll leave it with you [the stroller].

A: Ah, okay. Now I'll take it.

T: Yes.

[I start to carry the stroller].

E: Yes, this is Cueva Street. From Cueva Street that way we always used to get together with everyone from around here. But today there are many who have passed away, many of our friends, of all of them. But this is where we started to see clearly. In Libro Street, and in Tletl Street and everything, there are also many memories. But as we are saying, there are generations that are leaving and leaving. Our mothers have already left, and so have our fathers. We are the only ones left as the parents of our children.

And right now we can only say that we are leaving them behind and our generation of children is following us. It's like I said, now they have to take care of themselves because in this life everything is very difficult. Very difficult, very difficult.

My granddaughter's mother told her, "forgive me, daughter, because I didn't know what life I brought you into". But now we have to take care of ourselves, we have to take care of ourselves because here we are under obligation to take care of ourselves. Here I tell my daughters, "years ago I used to walk with my friends, they were from a party that we used to go from here to Aztecas and we would come here walking alone. There were men and women passing by and cars and no one was mean to you, no one said a bad word to you, no one did anything". But now you have to be careful, you see a car and you have to hide.

T: Even in the daytime, even in the daytime it is very dangerous.

A: Have you noticed that it has changed a lot?

E: Yes, a lot, a lot, here. Here you have to realise that now I even tell them, in the villages you go and say, "Oh, how do you think your daughter is going to get down from here to the other village on her own?

I tell them, "haven't there been girls who have been kidnapped?" And they tell me, "no, there's not so much evil here yet", that's what they tell me. And here, no way.

[looking at a house in front of us] A friend came and said that this house belonged to his mother, but she sold it by force, the one by the hardware store. I told him, "and not so forcedly", because his mum must have said she didn't want to sell it.

The one you see over there next to the gym. And there in the tree house there's a guy who you can say is a leader here, who's going around, he's a little bit of a hustler. But he knows all of us, just as we say "look, in that house lives so-and-so, that's her name"... So he also knows us, most of the people around where we live.

A: So you know a lot of people around here?

T: Yes

E: Aha, and notice that very few people are still living from before, because many of them have already sold their houses, very few are left.

T: And if the older people didn't sell them, it was easier for their children to sell.

A: The children, in other words, the second generation has sold.

T: Yes, I mean, for whatever reason you want, because I don't know, they didn't like it here, because yes, some of them made the comment, "oh, how did you think of coming to live here?" So, well, it's easy for them to sell up and go, either to the province or somewhere else.

E: [arriving at a building] Look, the furniture store has been around for years. It's here, on this corner. Now I don't know why they took the name off it. This is also where the blue trucks used to stop, the ones we told you about. At Cueva and Llave, this used to be the bus stop. This is where the trucks would arrive, return and from here we would go to the city centre.

T: But they used to go all the way to Insurgentes, all the way to Roma and then to the city centre. They had a good route.

I: They called them the blue whales, these blue trucks.

A: Were they big?

E: Yes, I've been looking for those trucks on Facebook and I'll pass them on to you later.

A: They kind of come up with memories, photos.

E: Yes, memories of the years, I don't know how long ago, this truck used to go to such and such a place, to such and such a side and there. And those lorries went from here to there. In those years too, one of those trucks ran over a little girl here.

A: Here on this corner?

E: Yes, a girl. The girl didn't make it out of the truck, the truck backed up and the girl was left down there.

T: Move over here because the truck is coming.

A: Here comes the bus.

E: The bus, this one goes to route 34 to Ermita. I'm telling you, there's a lot of transport from here to there, to get out of here.

T: The one from Tasqueña, the 59, also passes through. It goes to Tasqueña. And the 29 that goes to Metro C.U.

A: Quite a few routes. Well, it's quite well connected.

T: Here we are better off.

E: Yes, we're much better off here than anything else.

A: And the metro is the one that's close by, isn't it?

E: Yes, the metro is the one we have here. Hello, good afternoon. Hello, good afternoon. [greeting a person who is walking].

A: So you say you have to take care of yourselves?

E: Yes, you have to take care of yourself here. Not from those who are from here, but from those who come from elsewhere.

T: From other places. Many of them come to rent and many people don't know who they are leasing to.

E: Now without going too far away, the other day I was coming from the dairy and I saw that there were two big police vans and a lady was there. I thought, something must have happened to the lady, because it's an emergency and the patrol cars arrive quickly, right? No, well, what happened is that they were taking some people out who rent because they don't want to leave. They say they don't want to leave.

A: Some people were coming in to rent?

I: Uh-huh, and no, the lady doesn't want them there and they don't want to leave because they don't pay them who knows what. So she wanted to get them out of here. If you want I can help you. [referring to her taking the stroller].

A: Ah, I'm still doing well.

E: Uh-huh, ok, it's fine. And this is where we live.

T: Yes, here. Here is the poultry shop where we buy or here is the bakery.

E: Here you can say that when we arrived here all this, all this from here to there, to there was where I tell you it was the hill. [referring to and pointing to parts of his street, Teocalli, which we have already reached] You can see all this from here to there because I live on this side, right? So all this down here, all this down there, you could see that you were walking and you could see how my mother would go down there telling my brothers and sisters that she was going to spank them. "Now when they come back I'm going to spank them". And they would say "we're going to my aunt Lola's". And from here they would go as far as Isidro Fabela, as far as Carrasco. But walking, well, on the plain. Because here it was all hills, when we arrived there wasn't even a house and everything.

T: And there was nothing, obviously.

E: Sidewalks, no road, nothing. You made your own way, the way you walked. And this is where my brothers went from here to there with my aunt. My aunt now lives on the peripheral ring road, just a little way away, which is Carrasco.

A: So this part of the neighbourhood is already your area.

E: Yes, all this. There is already a tortilla shop, a meat shop, a poultry shop. And they're doing more things because there are about four or five shops.

A: And you said that you also noticed, you were telling me earlier, that the people who are from the other side, from that side...

E: Yes, I mean, from Cactus and Atl streets, that's where my children's grandparents live. And there I used to say to them "where do you get the water?

And they told me to go to Ajusco.

And yes, because it was only a few blocks away for them to go to Ajusco. And for us it's a different direction. It's the same distance to the Community Centre in Tochtli. And there we would go to bring the water and they would say, "well, to Ajusco" because Ajusco is just how far it is from here to there.

A: Yes, that's where you start to notice that.

E: Yes, they did that. And I asked them, "Why are they taking us here if we are from Santo Domingo? What are they going to do in Ajusco?" And they said, "No, they were giving us water from a tap there". Just like the tap that was here, that we told you there was in Teocalli, there was a tap there. That's how they used to go and get water.

Here, they tell me that there used to be a tap here too, it's called Cuicatl Street, and there was a tap there just like that. They are just closing them all. That's what I didn't ask Waldo, if that tap is from the house or if it was from outside. That's what I never knew, or where they gave us that water. That's what he says, that maybe it was from the spring. He says it couldn't have been, but who knows where they gave it to us. Or maybe it was from the same water intake that they made for the houses and that's where they gave it to us, I don't know. A lady who lives near the popular community centre also talked about it. She talks a lot about these streets, and about the taps they had on that side.

A: So here in Teocalli there was also a tap.

T: Aha, in Teocalli.

E: They just took it away because a man says that at night the kids would come by at night and leave it open. So he was just listening to the water being poured and it would come out and he would close it. But that's what it was. But yes, from here, this is what we know and where we know each other. Look, some people used to live here, but they sold the house and sold it to someone else.

A: And the people who buy and come then are new people? Do they live in the same way or do they get involved?

E: Yes, yes. We got to know the lady again, she greets us and everything. And so we are already acquaintances. Because of the time. I don't know how or in what way they sold it to her, but when we saw, they were no longer there and those people arrived and started to build.

And from there they are already little houses. Look around here lived another woman who was also in the water issue. [while we look at a house]

A: This one here, the mural?

[some neighbours pass by and say good afternoon to each other].

T: I don't know if you ever heard that they said they were thanking her because she was the first person to offer her house to make the well. That's her. Her son lives here now.

E: Do you know him?

A: I don't think so.

E: Ah well, he hardly goes to the meetings there, but she lived here. She passed away from COVID. She passed away from COVID. Waldo says that in her time she said she donated her house to build the well.

A: This is the one with the mural.

E: Yes, this mural. Hello, good day. [greets another neighbour passing in the street] Yes, this whole mural.

A: I donated it to make the well that is now over there.

E: Aha, in Atl. Yes, she used to live here.

[sounds of the baby making noises] A: She's talking too.

E: Yes, yes, you're also telling your story from now on, daughter. [laughs].

And this is where we live, the neighbours, us.

A: Yes, we are coming to your houses.

[They greet another neighbour who walks past us].

And do you think that getting to know each other as neighbours helps to take care of each other as well?

T: Ah, yes, of course.

E: Yes, for example, we live here, he [the neighbour they just greeted] lives right up to where the secondary school is. Well, at some point, if someone is attacking him and I see that, I go over to defend him. And if I think he sees us being assaulted, he'll do the same.

T: Here too, all of us, we even put up cameras to support each other because the truth is that crime was really bad. They would break into houses, you would pass by and they would mug you.

A: Here in this street?

T: Here, so they put up, eight?

E: Eight cameras.

This is where I'm telling you, this is where we started from. Look, a neighbour lives here and from here, from my mum's house, we used to see how my brothers ran. And now you see it and you say 'Where to? Tell me, where to?

A: No, walking from here to La Carrasco is quite a long way.

E: And to see how my brothers used to run all the way down the little piece of land. What is now the street.

You go and you see houses and houses and you say "how did they build so many houses? I tell my aunt "I can't get to your house anymore, now I have to take the bus. And then when they built that bridge and you can't go over there, you can't go over the ring road. Now I have to go all the way around your neighbourhood, auntie. And before, how did we get there walking?" And she says to me "Yes, the way you used to get there, crying and crying that your mum would kick the shit out of you" [laughs].

T: Here's your house, this is where I live, and where that gate is, my comadrita [pointing to their houses].

E: And there's the neighbour, the neighbouring woman.

A: They live next door to each other, literally, their houses are almost next to each other.

T: Yes, yes, and the one over there is my comadre, who couldn't come to the interview the other time either.

E: Oh, we said the three of us were going to go, yes, but she couldn't go, I think she went to the doctor, didn't she?

T: Yes

E: I'm going to see if my daughter has arrived so I can drop off my granddaughter [Elia enters her house to see if her daughter is there].

T: Yes, because she can get too much sun.

A: I brought a hat, in fact. [I remember that I brought caps precisely because of the sun and I offer one to Teodora and get another one for when Elia comes out] For the sun, right?

T: Yes, or if you want I'll go get a hat.

A: That's fine, because yes, at this hour the sun got strong, didn't it? [I pass her the hat and she puts it on while we wait for Elia to come out] Hey, and you haven't had any water problems?

T: Yes, since last week, like three days, we didn't have any.

A: Since last week?

T: Yes, and in some places they started asking for water trucks.

And then, but what I've done since the last time we didn't even know what to report, I started to write it down. So that helped me to keep track of the days we have and the days we don't have. For example, yesterday some of my neighbours started to get water in the afternoon. I didn't, it started to fall until the early hours of the morning. With regular pressure, but good.

A: So it was what, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday?

T: Tuesday it came a little bit, but with very low pressure. But Monday, Wednesday, Thursday...

[Elia returns].

E: She didn't arrive.

T: No?

A: [to Elia] Look, I'll lend you this cap for the sun [I pass her the cap and she puts it on].

T: He's already put us caps on (nos engorró). [laughs]

A: It's better because the sun is strong.

T: But I'll tell you, if you want me to pick up a hat later, I'll pass you one.

A: No, no, it's fine.

[Elia covers her granddaughter in the stroller].

T: But she wants to see.

E: Yes, I covered her face. And here, where you have your temple [as we pass in front of a church where I was], this house next door belonged to my grandmother's daughter. She was the one who sold it to you guys so you could build it. There was a little ravine there. Did you know how much work it took them to do it?

A: Yes, I've seen photos that it was a ravine.

E: They were caves, a ravine. Here and here it was a ravine. All this.

A: Well here you can still see all the way down [referring to the street in front of us].

E: Yes, uh-huh. This slope took a lot of work to fill in. We even made little paths and then they cut away the stones. There were ravines down there. This is the house of a neighbour. And she also sold it here on one side. Down here you can see the basement. And from the basement you can still see some ravines and everything. Aha. In other words, all this was built in ravines. And the house behind was also my grandmother's house and she sold it to an aunt of my comadre. Right?

T: Uh-huh, yes.

E: You could say it's in continuity with everything. And here, this was also a hole and from here we used to go to Tlahuilli.

[A neighbour joins us as we walk past and Elia asks him about the name that the streets we're in used to have and that he couldn't remember their names.]

Well, that's why I want the book, because in the book are all the streets. The names of here come there, in the street. In that book comes all the history. But people go by, time goes by and the fathers leave and we children are left behind. Generation after generation.

A: And here's the other generation [mentioning the granddaughter].

E: Look, the other one is coming.

T: Here in the corner on the other side of the corner was the tap.

E: There was the other tap. The tap that has taken more water from here.

Good afternoon. Good afternoon [greet other neighbours].

E: Here, I don't remember if it was here or over there, but here. We used to get water from here when we didn't go up there.

T: When there was. Because sometimes there wasn't any. Sometimes we had to go there, to the community centre, or to Tlahuillii in the alleyways.

E: And this little alley they also managed to open up some space, because they didn't want to give space. Some of the houses wanted to be alone. [as we walked through the alley].

And here we walked all this way, in the little alley to go and fetch water.

A: When there was no water here you would go.

E: Yes, but no, this tap was here afterwards. Much, much, much later. At the beginning we always went further away.

Then there were the water tanks, there in the community centre, with taps and everything. One here and one there. There was also a water tank at the school that supplied water. They were like water trucks, but they just put supports and taps on them. And that's where they supplied us with water. Just the tank.

Here too, this street was a big issue [as we arrived at Manantial Street]. Many didn't want it to be such a big avenue. It had to be a normal street. And this is not a main street. If you look at it, it's not a main street. It's a normal street, except that this was the biggest one they opened. But it's a good thing because otherwise this house would have reached how far, and that one would have reached how far, wouldn't it? It would have been more than 200 metres, I think. [as we arrived at a church on this street] Yes, and then here we arrived at the Colores church. I don't know if I ever find the photos from there, I'm going to send them to you anyway.

The only thing is that they come out with us because that's where we had our first communion, where we were baptised, everything. So that's where the faces of us, of my children, would be. And here when the church was built they say that this figure of Christ was found in the Community Centre, and they brought it here from there. And here they say that lightning struck it and made it like this, like it is black. But now it is a church. Not before, it was a little hole. It used to be smaller. Yes, you can say that now there's this one and inside there's the other one, in the hole.

T: And now there are even crypts there.

E: Yes, yes, now there are crypts there. And you can say that this is already our area.

T: Aha. Here already.

A: These are your streets.

T: Yes, exactly, because we always move this way.

E: Towards here, and not all of them. Sometimes they gather in other churches or in other places. And no, we say the church of Colores, which is ours.

A: That's where everyone hangs out on Sundays. [in the street].

E: Aha, the Sunday market.

A: Do you come to this market?

E: Yes, and even if you've noticed, they hardly mention the church that nobody has mentioned, I think it's one that's over there by Flores Park. Or have they mentioned it?

A: No, no, no.

E: There's a little church there that if you count it you go into the little streets that are up there, that park, and it's a little street like that and the church is like this, the one next to it.

A: This is like your area

T: Yes, here we feel at home. Whatever time of day it is, we feel more confident here.

A: You see, I've been coming here for more years, more to this side of here, and it's where I know more.

T: Do we go there?

E: We go like this, I don't know if we go to Tlahuilli and that's it, ok?

A: Yes.

E: Yes? Because of the heat, I mean, eh?

T: You tell me, and not because of you comadre, because of the girl.

A: Yes, for the girl, because it's getting really hot...

[Elia tells a story about a member of her family who lives in this street and used to live in the Copilco metro.]

Hey, did you also run out of water this week?

E: Yes, once or twice, three times. But well, we say it again and we think about the water again. Neighbour! [greets a neighbour] And I say to him, "how come there's no water and everybody starts writing in the group, right?" But when there's no water, nothing, am I wrong?

T: No.

E: Not even good morning to Waldo, or something, right? We too, why would I tell lies? A long time ago I put something, didn't I, comadre?

T: Yes.

E: That they were criminals robbing a girl and she publicly told us to be careful because the cars that are stopped are just watching us. She, as a woman alone, was in danger, so she made it clear so that we, as parents and family members, could see it, right? And it turns out that I put it, I put the communiqué on the Whatsapp group for water and electricity. So that we could all read it and say that we have to be alert as neighbours. Oh no, they told me that the group wasn't for that and that... That's why, look, that's all. Good afternoon.

[exchanging greetings with a neighbour].

And this is where I tell you that we walked a lot, a lot this way and no, look. [we enter some alleys and closed streets] That way it's closed. Around here they are closed, you see, they are little streets that take you out here, they take you out to Tochtli Avenue.

A: But you have to know which one goes where, because otherwise you get lost....

T: Look, that way we're going out to Mixtli Street, and that way to Tochtli Street.

E: Aha, but since you don't know, you have to know which way you're going to go in and which way you're going to come out.

T: Here we leave you and you get lost. [laughs]

A: Well, I'll go straight in and go out somewhere I recognise. [Laughs]

E: Here you go straight out, here to the avenue where we were coming from. Yes, there and there to the right you go out to Famsa.

T: The truth is, we, I think we got the best place to live.

A: In the neighbourhood?

T: Yes, yes, because we're closer to everything, the bus stops.

E: Yes, we have the market, one market, two markets, three markets, wherever. Like this is where we used to walk to school.

And I used to ask all the neighbours here if they had water when we didn't, and they did. They said that they have had water all their lives. Yes, they have never lacked water.

A: This street we're on, don't they lack water around here?

T: They never lack water

E: Never, and I wonder why. And they say "I've never lacked it". And no, they never lacked water. When I told them, "we are in a water group, support this, that, and the other, so that the well can be built", they said "but we have never lacked water, why?" But well, you say, it's important. Look, that's the street we take to Mixtli Street.

A: So they didn't want to get involved

E: No. And there in the Community Centre it was all plain, just like a football pitch, it was a football pitch. And there inside the Community Centre, that's what I tell the girls that I go in there to sell them products. I tell them, "we used to come here to this, to the other, and here was the plane, and here we were".

And they tell me, "Oh, I've only just arrived in the neighbourhood, I don't know how many years I've been working at the Community Centre. And you don't work here or at the university. And you've lived here all your life". Because we, as one lady says, "you are the ones who came here, I don't know why people from other places come to work here in the government, this is the government's". I say, well yes, but that's the way it is, no, I can't even say to them, "now you give me a job because I'm from here".

A: And here we are in Mixtli and there is the Community Centre.

T: Have you seen it? Between streets and more streets and we came out.

A: Yes, well, there it was, like a shortcut.

E: It's a shortcut, why? Because you don't have to go all the way around to get to this avenue. And here is the school. That's where the football pitches used to be. Yes, now it turns out that we don't have our own, this was all our community property, but with the Community Centre, the government took it all over. Before, we had washing places, we had showers, we had a breakfast room.

When we used to come here, I tell my sisters, now you can say that they are older than me, but I tell them that if back then I had had a mobile phone that records and everything, if someone had recorded a film of me, how I would come here with some kids, with the other one carrying him on my back and I would grab my kids. And as my mum worked, I would come down here with them so we could have breakfast.

Breakfast from before, eh? Because the breakfast they give them now, I tell my daughters that no, they are no longer breakfasts. Before they gave us a piece of fruit, they gave us a piece of bread, they gave us milk and they gave us a piece of sandwich or something. And we would form up and go inside and have breakfast. You could form one outside. I would bring my little brothers and sisters, but imagine how old I would be to come with my children. And I told everyone about how the DIF used to be and they said, "Do you know everywhere here?"

And I tell them, "yes".

I tell them that we had washing machines, we bought washing machines and they took them all away to make what they have now. This is another government centre. But before that they had already removed the washing machines, but we had washing places. They took them away, supposedly because all the women were throwing away a lot of water. They were wasting it. But there since 7 o'clock, look, in the washing place, wash and wash. [the baby starts crying]

What my love, have you had enough?

A: Well, we could also say the final words here. Some conclusions. But we can finish here, I think it's a good point too. Let's finish the interview and I'll walk you back, if you're going back or I don't know where you're going.

T: Yes

E: OK

A: Well, I don't know if there's anything else you'd like to say about how you remember this area, the community centre, how important it was?

E: Well, for me it was important because, you could say, it was my childhood that I lived here. Because my mum went to work and I came here and I was here with my siblings. And then later, after I got married, the laundry, the bathroom, everything else, everything here. And then the journey we made, I tell you, to go and fetch the water.

T: Yes, because when we got to the other street, which is the main avenue, to the other side, well that's Copilco, and then we would also go there to fetch water.

I: You could say, Copilco is still after the street, because where the 45th Street busses come in, that's still Santo Domingo.

A: So it was a route you used to take to get water, to come here, get water and go back.

E: Yes, in the water holder. That's why I tell my children to value water now, because the truth is, if they knew how much it cost us.... Are you following us or what? [we meet again the neighbour we saw earlier and who was asked about the names of the streets] [laughs at the question of whether he is following us, he stops and says hello and then leaves].

I tell you, value the water we have today. Because you don't know how much we suffered to have water back then. And now we are going to have that suffering. Because now I tell them that you only value it when there is no water. But you always have to take care of it. Not just because now you have water every day. We who already have water every day, you can say, right now it has stopped for one or two days. When that happens, many people in the group start to say they want a water truck, they want a water truck. And those who know say that this is going to be the future war, for water. So I tell my children and grandchildren, "look, we are going to fight even for a glass of water". Well, if God gives me life, but I think about what I'm going to leave to my grandchildren, to my children.

T: Yes, but look, for example, we, there in our house, we don't have enough water. But you go down the street and they don't lack water. And they do waste water.

A: From the same street.

T: Yes, from the same street, downwards. They start hosing down the cars. And you say, what happens? They say that you can't wash with a bucket, that's a lie, how are you going to wash and all the water you throw away. And on the other hand, we, for example, even, me for example, the people who rent there with me, they already know that they wash, but they put their buckets in the sinks so that they can put aside the water that is for the bathroom. Yes, I mean, not everything goes down the drain.

A: And just now while we were walking, I saw that you greeted a lot of people. Is it important for you to have a good relationship with your neighbours?

Teodora: Yes, for me it's very important because at a certain moment you don't know when you might need that person. If something happened to me there on the street corner and someone recognises me, they could help me.

Elia: It's having a friendship so that it becomes a relationship so that when… and I hope nothing happens to us… but if something happens to us someone that was close by could see us and help us, or they go and tell others, right?

Teodora: Or if we see something, do the same too. We should also tell others. That's to look out for each other, obviously for the people we know.

A: Well, thank you very much for taking the time for the interview, for taking the time to go on the tour and for showing me your streets.

T: Our comfort zone [laughs].

E: The shortcuts

A: Your shortcuts, yes.

E: Yes, that's one, and there are others elsewhere. In the popular community centre there is a shortcut, if you want I'll show it to you later. I remember and I just went to bring the yarn there. And I came and I was looking at the street and I was like this and I said, will I still fit [laughs] because it's a little passageway that you see it like that, but when you get there it gets smaller and smaller, and you get into the shortcut, half a block, you look out and you see the little passageway. But I remember before, I remember passing by and passing by. Recently I looked out and said, no, I don't dare go through. But there are shortcuts.

T: Thanks to you too, really, because I think that everything you are doing is going to help us. So, thank you very much.

E: And may it also be for your own good, may you come out of your studies well.

A: Thank you very much.