

# **FUNDAHMER – Women's Training Centre "The Community House"**

## **Cacaopera, El Salvador**

### **Background:**

Cacaopera, Morazán, is a region of El Salvador that was originally inhabited by the indigenous Kakawira people, and its current residents are of predominantly Kakawiran descent. Even though indigenous languages and identities were erased in El Salvador over the course of many centuries, starting with the Spanish conquest of the region in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

During the armed conflict of the 80s, the Department of Morazán was the site of revolutionary insurgency and government-sponsored scorched-earth campaigns. Many Cacaoperans joined the guerrilla forces, while the majority fled the region as refugees, mostly to Honduras. Refugees returned and the region was resettled in the 1990s.

Several communities in the region have worked together for the past three decades, organizing themselves to promote leadership formation, education, cooperative economics, cultural pride, and spiritual sustenance.

These women and youth, are now daughters, sons and grandchildren from the war.

FUNDAHMER (Institutional Curriculum attached) exists to serve the communities and is characterized by its closeness to them and its strong ties of solidarity with international individuals and organizations. In Cacaopera, FUNDAHMER has been working since 1990, carrying out formative work, resulting in rich experiences of formation, popular education, organization, and democratic participation, especially amongst women of the communities.

At the present time, there are several projects underway in the communities; for instance, the youth project financed by DKA – Austria (Catholic Children's movement), and the women's project financed by the German NGO - World Day of Prayer for the Cacaopera region, brings together various initiatives that develop the entrepreneurial and economic capacities of collective groups of women, so that they can offer their agricultural and artisanal products for sale. However, the project also seeks to empower women for leadership with a vision of an economy of solidarity and care: "Solidarity economy is an umbrella term for a wide range of collective, collaborative practices that actuate the principle of solidarity through cooperation, mutual aid, co-creation, sharing, reciprocity, altruism, volunteerism, caring, and gifting"

Through FUNDAHMER, women in Cacaopera already have access to a small adobe structure, which serves as a community center where they come together for collaborative baking, sewing, and cooking projects and for workshops on historical memory, gender justice, self-care, Kakawira spirituality, and ecological well-being.

## Justification:

FUNDAHMER, has dedicated a large part of its area of work to the training and empowerment of women and youth.

FUNDAHMER, has extensive land in the Agua Blanca area, in the municipality of Cacaoopera. There is a Memorial Center, where masses are celebrated and which has been a meeting point in the area to date; however, it lacks a sanitary bathroom, there is no cleaning/handwashing area; therefore, it does not have the conditions to carry out all women and youth training activities.

There is an adobe structure, which is the place where, lately, the training on bakery has been taking place. This structure has a dirt floor and it is totally open, it is basically a roof and columns. Therefore, it is also not an adequate place for training in various subjects.

Therefore, the construction of a space suitable for training, is essential for the development of the population served. Among the training topics that are currently being given are:

### **TRAINING ACTIVITIES GIVEN IN THE CACAOPERA COMMUNITIES**

No.	Training Activity	Sub-Category
1	imitation jewelry	
2	Embroidery	Blouses
2.1		Pictures
2.2		
3	Clothing sewing	
4	Food preparation	
4.1		Cravings
5	Candle making	
6	Home gardens	
7	Exchange of experience, environmental protection issues	
7.1		Local
7.2		International
8	Natural remedies	
9	Skin care products	
9.1		Body cream
9.2		Shampoo
9.3		Soap

10	Fabrics	
10.1		Crochet
10.2		Hammock
11	Therapies	
11.1		Self care
11.2		Gender justice
12	Faith formation schools for boys and girls from the communities.	Spirituality, historical memory of martyrdom

## Main Purpose:

The purpose is to build a space in 2 phases, to be able to carry out the different training programs that have been given throughout the 31 years of FUNDAHMER's presence in the Cacaopera - Morazán area.

### PHASE 1

**Training house:** it allows guaranteeing the meeting spaces for the training processes directed at the participants in the different projects and initiatives of the Foundation.

Training workshops on aspects of a social, economic (entrepreneurship), theological, ecological, and cultural nature. Directed by the areas in which FUNDAHMER is based: women, youth, base ecclesial communities, scholars.

**Sanitary services:** Guaranteeing hygiene aspects for those who use the building, construction of a septic tank.

**Water storage tank:** Guarantee the water supply for the proper functioning of the building.

### PHASE 2

**Kitchen and dining room,** Preparation, preservation of food for the different events and as a parallel resource for the bakery, nutrition and culinary art workshops, food to serve local and external delegations.

**Administrative zone:** Space for the administration, planning, monitoring and follow-up, projects in the zone.

**Perimeter craft fence to protect resources:** In order to protect the resources of the Community House.

**Guest House and facilities:** House to accommodate people who participate in local and external delegations, staff who attend the workshops/trainings, volunteers and permanent staff of FUNDAHMER.

The following list belong to sister communities, some of them organize visits, where many youngsters, mainly from the USA come to El Salvador to interact with the different communities of Morazán (Please Annex 2)

Twining Communities:

	Name	Project	Country
1	First United	Scholarships	First United, Canadá
2	Brophy / Family to Family	Scholarships	Arizona, EE.UU.
3	Bellarmine	Child Development Center	California, EE.UU
4	Príncipe de paz	Scholarships	Texas, EE.UU.
5	Washu	Relationship – General visits	Missouri, EE.UU.
6	Cayuga	Scholarships	New York, EE.UU.
7	Peninsula United Church	Human development, apiary, community medicine cabinet.	Canadá.
8	Iglesia Menonita.	Scholarships	North Carolina, EE.UU.
9	FACES (Faith in Action with El Salvador)	Scholarships	EE.UU.

The present proposal, is to assist in the **first phase** of the project, which is the construction of the **training Centre and the installation of a water tank. (\$19,479 USD)**

## CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND IN USE

Image 1



Image 2



## FUTURE SKETCH TRAINING CENTRE - CACAOPERA

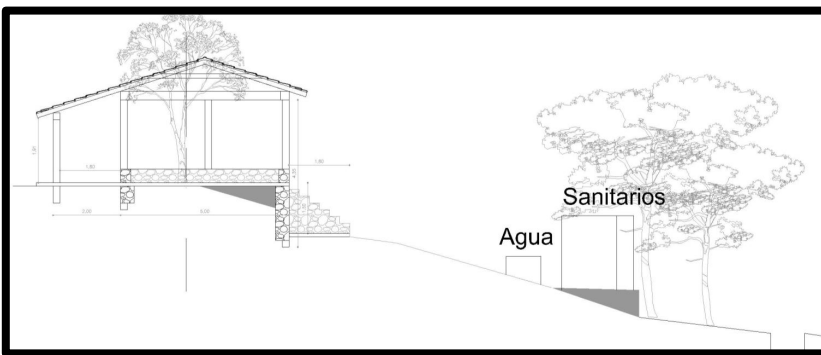
Image 3



Image 4



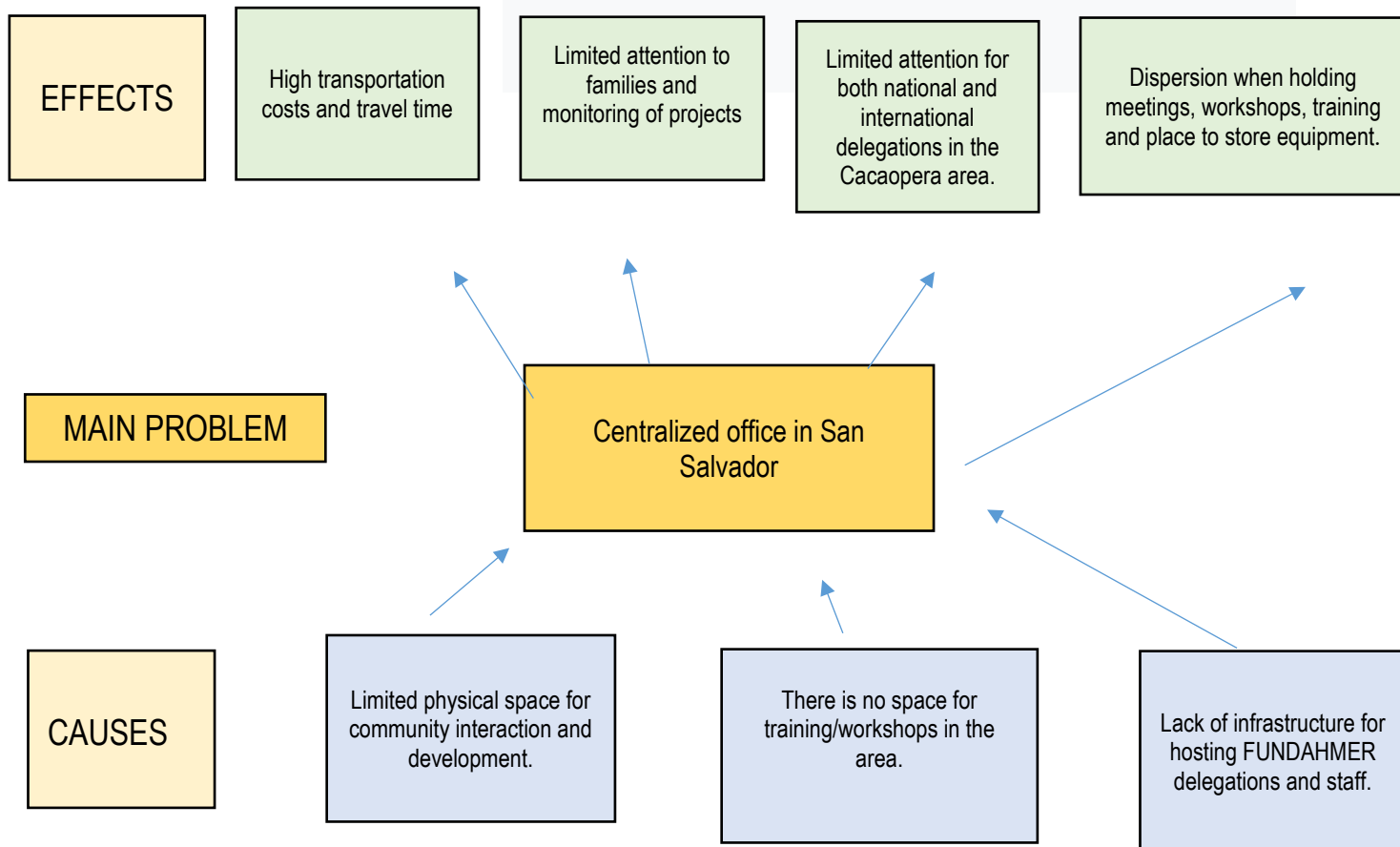
Image 5



## TOTAL PARTICIPANTS/PROJECS – CACAOPERA AREA

No.	Concept	Amount
1	Women	156
2	Men	28
3	Young Women	97
4	Young Men	129
5	Girls	31
6	Boys	35
TOTAL		476

## PROBLEM TREE:



## OBJECTIVE TREE:



PURPOSES

Increase identification of and with the population in the area

Reduce transportation costs and travel time

Increase attention to local families and projects follow up

Increase attention to national and international delegations in the Cacaopera area

Centre for meetings, workshops, training and place for equipment

MAIN OBJECTIVE

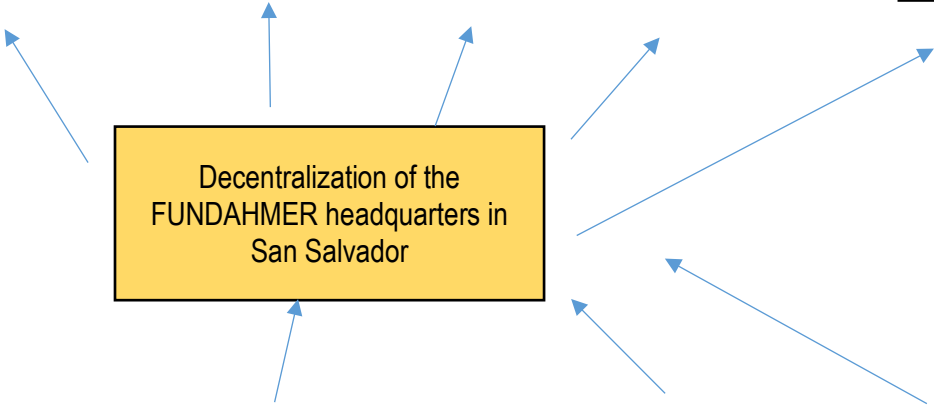
Decentralization of the FUNDAHMER headquarters in San Salvador

DIRECT – INDIRECT OBJECTIVES

Expand the physical space for community interaction and development

Have a space for training/workshops in the area.

Have an infrastructure for hosting FUNDAHMER national, international delegations and staff





## ANNEX 1

### BAKERY WORKSHOPS



## HAMMOCK WORKSHOPS



## SEWING WORKSHOPS





## ANNEX 2

BROPHY/USA - DELEGATION\_ MAY\_2022



