



Social Investigation of the Communities Affected by the Chixoy Dam

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Study Director

Iñaki Aguirre

Local Coordinator

Rolando Cuja

Researchers

María Álvarez Gómez

Alejandro Chen

Mirna Elizabeth Coz Herrera

Jesús Irineo de la Cruz

Victoriano Díaz Pérez

Salvador Santiago Rodríguez

Salvador Sánchez

Bernardino Sis

Oliverio Sucup

Tomas Suscap Sánchez

Rosa Teletor Rodríguez

María Teletor Rodríguez

José Domingo Morente

Baltasar Toj Caal

Photography and Design

Iñaki Aguirre

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Rights Action, 1830 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20009 – www.rightsaction.org
Coordinadora de Comunidades Afectadas por la Represa Hidroeléctrica Chixoy – chixoy75@hotmail.com



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1. BACKGROUND

Between 1978 and 1983 the Institute of National Electrification (INDE) of Guatemala built the Chixoy hydroelectric dam with financing from the World Bank and the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB). The building of the project took place during very repressive military dictatorships which perpetrated genocide against the population. The affected communities were forced to peacefully opposed dam construction resulted in massacres, tortures and kidnapping of members of the community. Communities were forcefully displaced by the violence and flooding of their homes, without a proper constitutional process for expropriation.

Afterwards, the affected communities lived for decades in conditions of extreme poverty, and never accepted the usurpation of what was theirs, and other violations to which they were subjected. They constantly demanded authorities reparations for the damages caused. During that time, the government went from military to a civil form of government, the peace agreements were signed, and international missions of truth verification and historical clarification came, but there was very little response to the demands of the communities. Meanwhile, the dam continued to generate most of the energy for the country, benefiting and bringing wealth to some sectors, while the affected communities continued in extreme poverty.

Since 1993, the community of Pacux, the place of resettlement of the community of Río Negro, made contact and coordinated activities with several international NGOs. The purpose was to seek reparations for the damages caused by the construction of the Chixoy Dam. This coordination allowed communication channels with the World Bank and the IDB, and the participation of the communities in the international processes of dam affected peoples.

In 1995, Witness for Peace published a report based on the complaints of the community of Pacux, and developed a campaign of pressured against the World Bank, in coordination with International Rivers Network and Rights Action. Several representatives from Pacux traveled to the United States and made public presentations to in support of the campaign. As a result in 1996 the World Bank sent a verification mission to Guatemala.

After that mission the World Bank began to coordinate with state agencies and NGOs to achieve compliance of the Human Resettlement Plan that INDE and the World Bank had signed on to when construction of the dam began. As a result land titling, new houses, construction of a new colony in Cubulco, the purchase of a finca for the Rio Negro affected peoples were obtained.



Even though those measures represented an important achievement for the affected communities they were not enough to repair the damages suffered by the communities due to the following reasons:

- a) Until today the Resettlement Plans are not known, there was no consultation and the consent of affected populations was never obtained.
- b) Even though the terms of the Resettlement Plans is not known, it is probable that it did not respond to the total losses suffered by the affected communities.
- c) More than twenty years went by since the Resettlement Plan was elaborated until there was any thought about the need to comply. During that time unforeseen damages and consequences emerged, which were not contemplated in the Resettlement Plan.

In 1999, Pacux leaders saw that the measures to repair the damage taken by the World Bank were insufficient. As a result there were a series of meetings with the banks and INDE and the communities reiterated their reparations demands for the damages.

Furthermore, the Chixoy case was presented before the World Commission of Dams (WCD). The WCD final report recommends that mechanisms should be develop to compensate retroactively dam-affected people and restore damaged ecosystems. The WCD recommendations and guidelines have not been accepted by the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank or the Government of Guatemala, who on the contrary have stated that the resettlement has been completed.

Because of those abuses the communities consulted with international NGOs to document the damages and elaborate reparations proposals. Reaching out to the rest of affected communities by the dam was another measure taken which resulted in the creation of the Coordinating Committee of Affected Communities by the Chixoy Dam.

In July of 2003 the International Rivers Network, Rights Action and the Campaign for the Reform of the World Bank began to coordinate with the Center for Political Ecology from California, USA. The investigation, conducted by CEP is comprised of five components: a cadastre and land registry of affected lands, research of existing documentation, household survey and consequential damage assessment, and the social investigation of the communities affected by the Chixoy Dam. This report contains the results of the social investigation.

2. Methodology

The Social Investigation of the Affected Communities by the Chixoy dam was requested by the affected communities which comprise the Coordinating Committee of Communities Affected by the Dam.

The investigation began in September of 2003 with meetings with leaders of the resettlement communities, which are organized in associations or development committees. Community members were asked to select Community Investigators. The criteria for selection of the



investigators were fluid writing and reading skills, counted with the necessary time to conduct the investigation, and that they were people trusted by the communities.

The investigators were selected by the community assembly in some cases, or nominated by the leaders. At the beginning participation was limited to the resettlements (Pacux, El Naranjo, Rosario Italia and San Antonio Panec), but later investigators from other affected communities joined in the process. The investigators came from the communities of Agua Blanca, El Zapote, La Campana, Panquix, San Juan Las Vegas, Chicruz, Patzulup, Agua Fría, etc.

Along with the Community Investigators there was a Local Coordinator of the Study in charge of logistics and research. The study was supervised by the Director of the Study, who gave capacity building workshops to the Community Investigators and revised the work of the investigators, among other activities.

Fourteen Community Investigators were trained in six workshops between September 2003 and February 2004. The result was five participative diagnostics written by the investigators of Pacux, El Naranjo, Rosario Italia, San Antonio Panec and Agua Blanca.

Information for this community assessment was obtained through workshops and home visits by the investigators to their communities and neighboring communities collecting information based on guidelines established in the capacity building workshops. The investigators created summary text with the results of the interviews and workshops. The texts were revised by the Director who pointed out where there was lack of information, lack of clarity, etc. and the texts were given back to the researchers to make further clarifications. In this way the investigators produced five books.

Based on the information from the five books, and complementary interviews conducted at the five communities, the director of the study wrote a briefing report for each community, which is found in this general report.

The Director, Local Coordinator and several Community Investigators made field visits to other affected communities where there were not Community Investigators. Community meetings were organized and interviews conducted in the homes of the leaders and families. Some of those interviews were recorded and transcripts were made of those recordings. Based on the field visits, the General Coordinator wrote seven community reports on El Zapote, Panquix, La Campana, San Juan Las Vegas, Chicruz, Río Negro and San Jose Chituzul.

The documentation for the diagnostic and reports was completed with more than 1000 photos of the communities and affected families, and with archival photos.

All the diagnostics and reports were revised and validated by the communities and their leaders in the elaboration process. After the fieldwork, six workshops were conducted with investigators and community leaders in which the results of the investigation were validated



and additional information related with the reparations proposal and other affected communities was collected.

San Jose Chituzul did not participate in all the validation of the results because there were changes in the community's development committee and because there were threats against the investigator. For the same reasons the report of San Jose Chituzul is not included here, although it is hoped to be able to include it in later editions. It is sufficient to mention that in this community serious violations of workers rights and other very grave human rights abuses have occurred. In addition the settlers have experienced great deterioration in the quality of life because of their loss of use of the river, since they live directly beneath the dam.

It is important to emphasize that all information contained in this report is based on the testimonies of affected people, thus reflecting in the greater possible measurement the perspective of the affected ones.

3. RESULTS

A. Communities Identified as Affected

According to the terminology of the political division of Guatemala, each village belongs to a municipality that in turn belongs to a department. In the same way, in the affected area many villages— especially the big ones, contain small towns called *caseríos* (which generally consist in less than 10 families) which belong to such a village. Several of the villages affected by the Chixoy dam, especially Cubulco had *caseríos*.

In this document for the most part not all the *caseríos* are dealt with in a separate manner, but information on them is included in the documentation the village to which they belong. For example the community of Los Encuentros, which was completely flooded does not exist anymore, it was a *caserío* of Río Negro, Rabinal. Therefore, it is included as part of Río Negro.

The following communities were researched by the Community Investigators and or the Coordinator of the Study, and it was determined that all were affected by the construction of the Chixoy dam.

1. Río Negro, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
2. Pacux, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
3. El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
4. Chicruz, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
5. Patzulup, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
6. Chitomax, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
7. Chirramos, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
8. Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
9. San Juan Las Vegas, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz



10. Rosario Italia, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz
11. San Antonio Panec, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz
12. El Zapote, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz
13. Agua Blanca, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz
14. Panquix, San Cristóbal, alta Verapaz
15. San José Chituzul, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz
16. La Campana, Chicamán, Quiche
17. Las Pajales, Chicamán, Quiche

The following communities participated in workshops or meetings of the Coordinadora in which information on damages were provided, but these communities were not visited by the investigators:

1. Chivaquito, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
2. Xinacati 2, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
- 3 Pichal, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
4. Pachijul, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
5. Patuy, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
6. Chitucán, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
7. Agua Fría, Chicamán, Quiche

Participants in the workshops informed that the following communities were affected by the dam, even though they did not participate in the workshops for the investigation:

1. Xuaxán, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
2. Guaynep. Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
3. Pachec, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
4. Pacaní, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
5. Camalmapa, Rabinal. Baja Verapaz
6. Chicután, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
7. Canchún, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
8. Plan Grande, Chicama, Quiche

Other downstream communities that were not researched and that were probably affected are the communities in the section of the river between Pueblo Viejo and Quixal.

Communities near to the tunnel that carries water from Pueblo Viejo-Chixoy to Quixal could have suffered impacts, such as the drying up of water sources, as in the case of La Campana, Chicamán, Quiche.

It is also possible that the communities below Quixal, where the tunnel meets the rivers could have suffered damages such as water quantity and quality, and changes in the ecosystem of the river. Impacts upstream of the reservoir should be determined. The buildings of INDE in Quixal where the tunnel meets the Chixoy River are built in Finca La Providencia, which is community land.



B. Damages Caused to the Communities by the Chixoy Dam

The construction of the Chixoy Dam resulted in many and varied damages to the affected communities. The affected peoples distinguish between the people who were impacted directly or indirectly. According to this terminology, those impacted directly lost their lands and or their homes due to the flooding and were displaced; while the indirectly impacted were all those peoples and communities that had another type of damages: destruction of pathways and loss of accessibility, problems with water sources, fish contamination, etc. A summary of the damages suffered by the communities follows with some concrete examples:

Total displacement of communities

Some communities were displaced for several years, such as San Antonio Panec, displaced for 7 years in three different places until they were finally resettled.

Partial displacement of communities

This displacement obliged many families to move their belongings and crops further up from the areas of flooding, such as el Zapote. More than 100 families returned in worse conditions to their original communities due to the lack of life alternatives at resettlement communities.

Destruction of villages

The homes and buildings of the communities were destroyed by the flooding. Even though these houses were not of cement blocks, they were built of local materials which allowed them to repair them, or build new homes for new families without the need of buying materials.

Land flooding

Communities living on the basin practiced intensive cultivation of the highly fertile lands on the river banks prior to the filling of the reservoir. The great harvests produced by the fertile lands gave food security to the communities, which they complemented with the use of less productive lands for fruit trees, firewood, lumber, cattle grazing etc. Also there were large spaces around the houses for animal husbandry.

Due to the resettlement communities have less land. Most of the land given is not adequate for agricultural production, cattle ranching or forestry. Lands not flooded located around the fertile lands lost value and use, as they cannot be used in coordination with fertile lands.

Loss of crops

Fruit trees, vegetable gardens, coffee, corn and beans were lost at the time of the construction of the reservoir due to flooding and destruction. Some communities were never compensated such as the Agua Blanca and La Campana communities, and other received inadequate compensation compared to the real value of the lost crops.

Loss of an agricultural cycle

The communities able to continue cultivating their lands in the banks of the reservoir, especially in the area of Cubulco, have lost the possibility of collecting one or two harvest per year as a consequence of periodic water increases at the reservoir. This is to say that



before the dam construction they were able to obtain two or three harvests per year in a piece of land. Since the dam was built the water of the reservoir floods the lands during many months of the year. This makes impossible to produce one or two harvest per years that impacts negatively their economics.

Water problems

- * The construction of the dam has dried up wells and water sources that supplied enough water for the communities, such as in La Campana.
- *The stagnant waters of the river and differences in the water flows during the summer and winter have created contamination foci which cause human diseases in people such as malaria, and in fish. Also many communities have lost access to fishing, such as the San Juan Las Vegas community.
- *All the resettled communities have had problems due to lack of water, which has caused diseases and created serious difficulties for the communities.

Obstruction of pathways

The construction of the dam generated many transportation difficulties for people and transportation of their products to towns and commerce centers, as in Chicruz. Other communities have practically loss access to traditional markets such as in the case of Los Pajales.

Loss of sacred and cultural sites

Cemeteries, prayers sites, or as in Pueblo Cahuinal the loss of archaeological and ancestral site used by the communities for spiritual and recreation activities.

Land conflicts result of the resettlement

Such as the conflict between the communities of Rio Negro, Xococ and Los Pajales which shared 146 *caballerías* with the old title in the name of the representatives of the communities. The community of Los Pajales modified the title putting it in the name of only the Los Pajales families, because Rio Negro did not pay taxes on the land during the displacement years.

Acts of violence

Acts of violence have produced physical and mental health problems in many peoples such as nervousness, fear, sadness among other things. Some of the acts of violence connected with the dam are the following:

- *Disappearance: for example the kidnapping and disappearance of Filiberto Pocasangre an INDE employee at the Cruce del Cid (1982). Community people were witness of the kidnapping. Or the disappearance of Don Julian Sanchez from the El Zapote in 1982.
- *Assassinations: such as in the case of two members of the Rio Negro committee who were assassinated after a meeting called by INDE. The last time those people were seen was when they went into the INDE building.
- *Massacres: such as the four massacres suffered by the Rio Negro community between 1980 and 1982. In this massacre at least 349 people died.
- *Rapes: such as the three young and single women raped and assassinated when they went to fetch water from Panquix to San Juan.



*Tortures: such as the one suffered by the first groups of people from Rio Negro, who after the massacres gave themselves to the Army located at the Pacux resettlement in 1982.

*Threats: such as in the case of leaders of Chicruz when they were threatened by members of the Army in 1984, or in Rosario Italia, when an INDE worker (reportedly Ing. Victor Palma) threatened community leaders.

Loss of work sources and resources for production activities

During more than 20 years many affected families did not have access to fertile lands where to develop their agricultural activities, their access to markets were cut off and, they lost access to resources which constituted an important part for community and family life (fish, palm leaves, fruits, firewood, etc.) Therefore the families have suffered a substantial decrease in income negatively impacting their possibilities for human and community development.

* During all these years they have not been able to keep an adequate level of nourishment for lack of adequate lands to cultivate. Before, the families had a varied diet. Many deaths occurred during the first years of displacement of the resettled communities due to malnutrition.

*Health conditions have been affected due to lack of traditional natural resources (medicinal plants) and economic resource to buy medicines.

*Even though educational institutions are closer for the resettlement communities, due to lack of resources they have not been able to study.

*Houses have not been improved, and new houses for new families have not been built due to lack of construction materials and lands where to build.

*It has been impossible to develop economic activities such as micro businesses, and product commercialization, elaboration of crafts, etc, for lack of resources to start them. Also the social network which made possible to find new markets, or learn and practice traditional and crafts occupations does not exist.

Years without possibilities for community development

The years that went by while families were in constant displacement made it impossible family and community development. The precariousness of the successive resettlements impeded investing in the future. For example nine years went by between the first emergency displacement and the definitive resettlement of the Rosario Italia community.

Alienation of new families

Population increase presents a serious problem among resettlement communities. The resettlement has not generated alternatives for the new families.

*The new generations lack employment alternatives because their parents' lands are insufficient for cultivation in size and productivity and they did not have access to formal technical education which would allow other possibilities.

*The narrowness of lots have presented livelihood difficulties for the children of the directly families. There are up to seven families living in the small lots given by INDE.

Loss of resources and purchase of products

Before the construction of the dam many communities in the basin enjoyed a certain level of self-sufficiency regarding the use of local resources for meeting their basic needs. But the resettlement areas lack those resources, which requires people to buy what they use to have



as a resource. The high cost of living is noticeable in the communities. The items that they have to buy are: firewood, fruits, fish, palm leaves to make crafts, meat, vegetables and construction materials, all obtained in a natural and easy way. The lands that were flooded provided those resources for the communities. Another example: before, lands did not need fertilizers and produced two or three harvests a year. At present there is need to invest more in the land which produces less than before. Services such as electricity or water require a great family and community investment. Even though INDE promised the communities that they were going to have those services at no cost.

Social breakdown

Social breakdown has been caused by overcrowding, lack of economic and social alternatives, the consequences of the violence, and is manifested in high level conflicts in between the families and the communities, and with neighbor communities. The communities have confronted new phenomena such as temporal or permanent emigration; internal division, gangs and the case of semi urban resettlements (Pacux and El Naranjo), loss of traditional authority structure, alcoholism, crime, proliferation of religious sects, etc. The situation of widows and orphans is also very dramatic.

Other damages

Other damages include the lack of land titling and legalization of private and communal resettlement lands, such as El Naranjo; or overcrowding of families in houses and lots, difficulties to obtain basic resources such as firewood, forced displacement to cultivate and take care of the given lands, or the disappearance of resources (palms, fish, fruit trees, animals) and traditional jobs with no substitutions.

C. Community Damages

In this section some of the damages for each community are listed. Is important to say that the information below is not a total summary of all the affected communities, or of all the damages suffered. This list is only a profile of the main damages provided as a guide to identify the experiences per communities. Some of the damages described before are not difficult to identify geographically per community and have not been included in this list.

Displaced Communities

The following communities were flooded by the reservoir and were displaced to resettlements.

1. Rio Negro, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz displaced to Pacux, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
2. Chicruz, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz was displaced to El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
3. Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz displaced to El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
4. San Juan Las Vegas, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz displaced to El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
5. Panquix, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz displaced to el Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
6. Chisajcap, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz displaced to El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
7. Caserío Pueblo Viejo, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz displaced to San Antonio Panec, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz



8. Puente Viejo, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz displaced to Colonia Rosario Italia, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz
9. Los Chicos, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz displaced to Colonia Rosario Italia, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz

The following are resettlement communities created by INDE and did not exist before the creation of the reservoir:

1. Pacux, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
2. El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
3. San Antonio Panec, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz
4. Colonia Rosario Italia, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz

The community of Panquix, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz was created after the construction of the dam with families that did not feel comfortable at San Antonio Panec and new families. In 1996 some families from the community of Rio Negro, Chicruz Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal and San Juan Las Vegas went back to the banks of the reservoir upstream from their place of origin, now flooded.

No one from Panquix, Chisajcap, Pueblo Viejo, Puente Viejo and Los Chicos went back to the reservoir area.

The community of Agua Fría, Chicamán, Quiche was abandoned in 1982 due to the violence and were not able to go back to the community again because the reservoir destroyed access pathways. In 1994 a commission of displaced people tried to go by boat to their lands, but the boat capsized and two community leaders drowned. They still have an interest to go back but have not been able to do so because of the reservoir.

The village of Chitucán, Rabinal was abandoned for 14 years and 23 families (120 people) have now gone back. The displacement was due to the violence, it was not flooded.

The following communities were displaced in a partial form, that is, some families of these communities lost their houses because of the reservoir.

- Chirramos, Chitomax, Guaynep, Patzulup, Xuaxán, y Pachijul de Cubulco, Baja Verapaz displaced to El Naranjo, and to higher elevations of land above the dam.
- El Zapote, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz displaced to Rosario Italia, and to higher elevations of land above the dam.

Communities with Access Problems

The following communities located upstream have been affected because their access pathways were cut off by the reservoir: Chirramos, Chitomax, Guaynep, Chicruz, Patzulup, Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, San Juan Las Vegas, Panquix, Pachec, Chisajcap, Xinacatí 2, Pichal, Chivaquito, Pachijul, and Patuy all of Cubulco, Baja Verapaz.

Around the reservoir the communities of Rio Negro in Rabinal, La Campana in Chicamán and El Zapote in Santa Cruz have been affected by problems related to the construction of the dam.



The downstream communities of Agua Blanca in San Cristóbal and Plan Grande in Chicamán have been affected by problems related to the construction of the dam.

The communities of Los Pajales and Agua Fría in Chicamán, and Chitucán and Xococ in Rabinal do not have access to markets and or lands that are traditionally theirs, even though those lands are not situated close to the reservoir area.

It is possible that access paths for the community of Pancuil in Chicamán and other communities downstream were cut off, but it was not possible to confirm it.

Land Flooding

The following communities were affected by the flooding of lands they cultivated before the construction of the dam, regardless of the landownership situation. It is important to note that most of the affected lands had land titles many dating back to the XIX century. Land tenure was derived from customary rights to communal lands. The construction of the dam created many lands conflicts, which will have to be solved according to customary rights which applied through many generations. The historical rights of communities that used the land for many generations would have to be recognized even if those titles were in the name of private parties.

1. Municipality of Cubulco: El Naranjo, Chirramos, Chitomax, Guaynep, Chicruz, Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, San Juan Las Vegas, Xuaxán, Chivaquito, Pachijul and Patuy.
2. Municipality of Rabinal: Pacux, Rio Negro, Chitucán and Cancun.
3. Municipality of Santa Cruz: Rosario Italia, San Antonio Panec and El Zapote.
4. Municipality of San Cristóbal: Panquix, and San Jose Chituzul.
5. Municipality of Chicamán: Los Pajales and La Campana.
6. Agua Blanca and San Cristóbal were affected not by flooding but because INDE installations (tunnel of adduction) was built there.
7. It is possible that downstream communities were affected because of the erosion caused by strong sudden water releases when gates are opened.

Flooding of Houses

The following communities lost their houses due to flooding. In most cases the situation presented by the displacement make it difficult or impossible to improve or make new houses, as they used to do before with materials they had access to.

1. Municipality of Cubulco: El Naranjo, Chirramos, Chitomax, Cuaynep, Chicruz, Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal and San Juan Las Vegas.
2. Municipality of Rabinal: Pacux and Rio Negro.
3. Municipality of Santa Cruz: Rosario Italia, San Antonio Panec and El Zapote
4. Panquix in the Municipality of San Cristóbal.
5. Agua Blanca in San Cristóbal was affected when the adduction tunnel broke. Some houses were damaged.

Loss of Crops

The following communities have given information about crop losses at the moment of the flooding, due to lack of irrigation from the river as they used to do before or due to annual flooding caused by the reservoir:



1. Municipality of Cubulco: El Naranjo, Chitomax, Guaynep, Chicruz, Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, San Juan Las Vegas, Xuaxán and Patuy.
2. Municipality of Rabinal: Pacux and Rio Negro.
3. Municipality of Santa Cruz: Rosario Italia, San Antonio Panec, El Zapote.
4. Municipality of San Cristóbal: Panquix, Agua Blanca and San Jose Chituzul
5. La Campana in the Municipality of Chicamán.
6. It is probable that downstream communities have lost crops due to erosion caused by strong sudden water releases when gates are opened.
7. It is possible that communities situated between Pueblo Viejo and Quixal have lost crops due to decrease of water flow in the river or because water sources dried up caused by the adduction tunnel.

Loss of animals

The following communities from the Municipality of Cubulco lose animals when the reservoir water level decreases. Cattle get stuck in the mud. Many animals have died in Chitomax, Guaynep, Chicruz, Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, San Juan Las Vegas, Panquix, Xuaxán and Chisajcap.

Animals from people from Pacux and Rio Negro in Rabinal were stolen from Rio Negro by massacre perpetrators. Many cattle were lost.

The following communities have reported animal losses due to land flooding: Rio Negro in Rabinal; Rosario Italia, San Antonio Panec and El Zapote in Santa Cruz; Panquix and Agua Blanca in San Cristóbal.

Water Issues

Wells and water sources have dried out in the following communities:

1. Municipality of Cubulco: Patzulup, San Juan Las Vegas and Pachec and
2. La Campana in the Municipality of Chicamán

River contamination that affected people and fish:

1. Municipality of Cubulco: Chirramos, Chitomax, Guaynep, Chicruz and Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, San Juan Las Vegas, Patzulup, Pacaní, Xuaxán, Pachijul, Pachec, Chivaquito, Pichal and Xinacati 2
2. Rio Negro in the Municipality of Rabinal
3. El Zapote in the Municipality of Santa Cruz
4. Municipality of San Cristóbal: Panquix, San Jose Chituzul and Agua Blanca
5. Downstream communities were possible affected.

Lack of water and water contamination is reported at the resettlement sites:

1. Pacux, Rabinal, Baja Verapaz
2. El Naranjo, Cubulco, Baja Verapaz
3. San Antonio Panec, San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz
4. Colonia Rosario Italia, Santa Cruz, Alta Verapaz



Acts of Violence

Acts of violence were reported in the following communities. This is not a definitive list due to the difficulty in documenting acts of violence because of the trauma created in the victims.

People from Pacux, Rio Negro, Chitucán in Rabinal, Agua Fría in Chicamán reported on being affected by collective massacres. In Pacux and Rio Negro in Rabinal and El Zapote in Santa Cruz there were reports of disappearances and assassinations. There were reports of rape of women in Rio Negro Rabinal and in San Antonio Panec, Santa Cruz.

Reports of threats and intimidations in:

1. Municipality of Cubulco: El Naranjo, Chirramos, Chitomax, Guaynep, Chicruz, Pueblo Viejo Cahuinal, San Juan Las Vegas, Pachec, and Xuaxán.
2. In the municipality of Rabinal: Pacux and Rio Negro.
3. In the municipality of Santa Cruz: Rosario Italia, San Antonio Panec, El Zapote.
4. Panquix in San Cristóbal.

D. NEEDS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The needs of affected communities are multiple and varied. While all communities have access with diverse resources and infrastructure, in general the community's needs and problems are as follow:

Sustainable economic alternatives for their livelihood: There is a great need to support all families. The economic problem is major. There is a need for more and better lands and investment in production, marketing and transportation. The most important needs are:

- Legalization of private and public lands and properties still pending.
- Fertile and productive lands for cultivation and harvesting.
- Possibility of providing technical systems (water dripping system, tractors, etc.) and diversification of agricultural, forestry, cattle ranching and fishing (grins, vegetables, medicinal plants, reforestation, timber, animal farms and cattle, fishing)
- Agricultural resources for production and maintenance (seeds, fertilizers, post-harvest management, animal feed and vaccines, etc.)
- Soil fertility studies and marketing studies.
- Technical support for launching and maintaining productive activities (soil conservation, fish tanks, agroforestry, marketing)
- Transportation for the commercialization of products and transportation of people (trucks, boats).
- Resources and technical capacity building for the creation of small enterprises (data processing, mechanical shops, beauty parlors, lawyers, professionals) Special attention should be give to support women and youth development possibilities.
- There is a need to ensure sustainable environmental resources of the communities through the decontamination of rivers, (all are polluted), management of water sources, waste disposal, green areas and parks.

To provide or upgrade basic services: The most important are:



- Electricity: most of the affected communities do not have electricity, and when they have it is expensive and deficient.
- Water: where this service exists it does not cover all the needs of the community. There is a need to introduce and upgrade potable water systems, and to guarantee the quality of water for consumption.
- Education: there is need to upgrade the education of communities through increasing the number of teachers and grades, quality control of their work, granting of scholarships (specially for women and youth), increase access possibility to formal education (literacy campaigns, tele-schooling, college, etc.)
- Health: Health services are very deficient in all cases. There is a need of doctors, nurses, medicines, health promoters and community midwives, programs of prevention and attention, etc.
- Housing: construction and amplification of adequate housing for the needs of the families.

Extension and upgrading of community infrastructures:

- Improvement and asphaltting of streets and access roads, as well as access roads. Some communities need construction and repair of bridges.
- Construction, repair, improvement of public buildings: communal spaces, schools, health posts, kitchens for schools, center for nutritional recuperation
- Construction, repair, and improvement of infrastructure for spiritual development, education, culture, sports and recreation: churches and sanctuaries, sacred places, soccer fields, libraries, community museums, children's parks, swimming pools, etc.
- Construction and improvement of basic infrastructure systems such as potable water, water tanks, outhouses, sewages, water faucets, efficient cooking stoves, etc.

Reactivation of social and cultural life:

- Alternatives to violence: there is need to attain justice and reparations for all the violence suffered by all communities during the process of involuntary resettlement and displacement. For that it is necessary:
 - To know the truth of what happened, the facts of what happened and responsibilities, and to apply justice.
 - Restitution of the dignity of the victims through adequate measures for redress: exhumations, creation of spaces for keeping the memory alive, economic compensation, provision of community mental health, respect and strengthening of the traditional ways of life.
- Community organization: there is need to improve forms of community organization, and to increase access to resources that will enhance community employment, including transportation.
- Youth and the elderly: there is a need to create spaces for building youth capacity and recreation of youth and the elderly of the communities.
- Widows: there is need to create spaces of solidarity and alternatives for the widows in the community.
- To rescue culture, historic memory and practice of ancestral knowledge, the costumes and traditions.
- Institutional support: there is need to strengthen and widen institutional support in the communities. There is very little institutional support for the communities.



E. COMMUNITY PROPOSALS

The affected communities propose four main ways for the reparation of damages according to the needs and priorities identified by the leaders of the affected communities.

First, immediate actions to address emergency problems, such as the immediate provision of potable water, free electricity services, repair bridges, improvement of housing and the resettlement of the residents of the Agua Blanca community, who live in constant danger because they live downstream from the dam site, and the threats of displacement by the administrator of the finca where they have always lived.

Second, land granting with comparable extensions and quality to the ones flooded or that remained inaccessible.

Third, the establishment of a fund that could finance payment and necessary projects or the economic, social, environmental and cultural reactivation of the total affected communities of the Rio Chixoy basin. The trust fund should count with sufficient funds to reach a better level of development of the affected communities and should count of adequate administration mechanisms which should allow the active participation of the communities in the identification, prioritizing, planning, evaluation and supervision of the projects and payments made by the fund.

Four, it is proposed that reparations for the acts of violence caused by the state and suffered by the communities in the area of the reservoir are addressed.

There are three preliminary steps to follow to accomplish the above:

There is an urgent and necessary need of a complete census of the population. Also, the identification, classification and establishing priorities of the affected according to the types of damages suffered. Finally, there is need to establish mechanisms for conflict mediation and resolution, which are a result of the dam construction among the communities and affected families.

The full participation of representative community organizations in all activities of reparations is necessary to ensure the success of the same; especially in the selection of trusted agencies chosen by the communities for the implementation of projects and capacity building and technical support.

Finally, the needs should be considered in an integral form and not as separate and disperse actions which have not been designed to address the specific needs of the communities affected by the dam construction.