

Latest update on the Project of Strengthening Civil and Institutional Society by FANMex within the framework of the “Water for Cities” program of UN Habitat and “Integrated management of Water and Sanitation project” of the Municipality of Ecatepec.

Before being able to increase the organizational and technical capacity of the institutions and local groups, it was important to get to know the area of the Municipality, the involvement of the community and its organization regarding water management, who are the active groups, which aspects of the water process had they been active with, and which they had left unaddressed. The government of Ecatepec put FANMex in charge of the institutional and social strengthening to support the projects related with integrated management of water and sanitation. With the participation of the organization Invesocial with whom FANMex has a collaborative agreement for this type of activity, carried out the work of a social-political diagnostic about water management in 5 neighborhoods of the municipal that face water shortages.

These five neighborhoods were chosen by the government of Ecatepec after having consulted with FANMex, SARAR Transformación y UN Habitat for a preliminary diagnostic to identify the zones and priority conflicts, a secondary diagnostic was done by the group SARAR Transformación, identifying which schools would be ideal for potentially doing some demonstrative projects and showing alternatives for responsible water use and sanitation practices.

With this we hoped to create a virtuous circle, in which the implementation of concrete acts of efficient water use, and the sharing of sustainable practices for health and hygiene, would complement the strengthening and involvement of the community in the sustainable management of water and sanitation practices to advance on a long term scale, for a government of water that is more participative, democratic and inclusive for the Municipality of Ecatepec, Morelos.

The 5 neighborhoods chosen were Laguna de Chiconautla, San Carlos Cantera, Benito Juárez la tercera sección, Ciudad Cuauhtémoc Sección Geo 2000 and Ciudad Cuauhtémoc Sección Moctezuma.

The realization of the social-political diagnostics constituted the first stage of the Project of Strengthening Civil and Institutional Society on Water in the Municipality of Ecatepec.

The objective of the diagnostics was to identify the social relationships that have being formed within the neighborhoods regarding water management, the organized and active groups, the aspects of the process of water and those that were not being addressed, the relationship with the local authority and their concerns regarding water (cost, water shortages, quality). Also these diagnostics set out to find the conditions, equipment and infrastructure in the neighborhood, the origin of the urbanization of the area, with the aim of understanding better the challenges of the process and those challenges that the members of the community face.