

**International Task Force
Zoom call Minutes
November 12, 2018**

The International Task Force convened at 4:00 p.m. EST with Susan greetings to all participants.

Alonzo opened the meeting with prayers.

Present: Susan Dobkins (Chairperson), Karen Brown, Phil Tom, Rebecca Reyes, Teresa Bidart (staff).
Alonzo Johnson(staff).

The agenda was approved.

The Committee reviewed the Seine Bight Village council technical assistance grant request and answers:

SI14005 Seine Bight Village Council, Belize

The International Task Force will inform the National Committee that they **VALIDATED AND FUNDED** this technical assistance grant for \$3,000. Staff was asked to send a note to the group asking for an updated timetable and at the end of the time, the group should have a report to be sent it to us.

Follow up on Barranco Fisher Folks Cooperative

Susan informed the Committee that she wrote a note to the person that submit the complain about the Barranco Fisherman group in Belize and sent it to Teresa. The note said "Thank you very much for your October 3 letter and photos outlining your concerns about the Barranco fisherfolks activities. We take these issues very seriously. However, because the SDOP grant funds have already been released to the group, there is very little action we can take. Be assured that if this group applies for funding in the future, we will investigate thoroughly and scrutinize any application carefully. Please continue to keep us apprised of any developments".

Teresa already sent the note.

Staff was asked to keep copy of this correspondence in the group file.

Central America phone call December 10.

Alonzo mentioned the persons that will be present in this call with the International Task Force members and the staff: Leslie Voge, Mission coworker in Guatemala and Mexico, Tracy King, Mission Coworker in Nicaragua, Valdir Franca, Central America and Caribbean Area Coordinator.

Teresa explained that the Task Force approved before that this partnership in Guatemala/Nicaragua will focus to identify an intermediary partner in each country. The conversation will focus on how the mission coworkers in both countries will support us in this endeavor.

Susan recommended that during our trip in Panama the group will come up with an agenda for this conversation and share it with the rest of the International Task Force members.

Panama trip preparations

Teresa went through the entire agenda during this November 26-30 trip. She mentioned that as usual in all countries that we have focused our partnership women groups are found very often. In Panama City we will meet with 3 of them. November 28 is a holiday in Panama so one group will meet with us that day but just the group representative. Then the group will travel to the south, to Chitre City, 3 hours from Panama City to visit another group who work with issues on environment.

Susan recommend following up with Teresa to discuss the talking points for groups in Panama.

Teresa informed that in Panama we can use the US dollar and a driver was hired and he will drive us everywhere. The driver will be our driver throughout the trip.

Teresa informed that she had followed up with a Cooperative officer in Belize who is supporting a bakery group to submit a grant application, but the group application is not ready yet. Susan exhorted Teresa to continue to follow up to receive it before the December meeting.

The Zoom call meeting adjourned at 4: 40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Bidart