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El Salvador: U.N.f.p.a. Provides Assistance In Organizing Information System On Displaced Population

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On March 12, the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Salvadoran government finalized an agreement to systematize information on communities displaced during the civil war. The agreement includes an inventory of the needs of former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) combatants who are now concentrated in 15 specially designated areas. Walter Franco, representative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in El Salvador, said the project is aimed at inserting communities of displaced persons within the framework of the national reconstruction plan. Former rebels concentrated in special encampments have encountered major difficulties in obtaining food and health care, but Salvadoran officials said that UN agencies, including the World Food Programme (WFP), had now been authorized to provide assistance. An estimated 500,000 people abandoned their homes during the 12-year war. Of the total, 26,000 have returned to former homes in rural areas. In addition to assisting displaced persons and demobilized rebels, the UNFPA will finance a socio-demographic study on Salvadoran women. Planning Minister Mirna Lievano said the government will contribute US\$738,000 and the UNFPA, US\$422,000, to finance the projects. (Basic data from Inter Press Service, 03/12/92)

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