



## Parent Committees

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Project: Santa Ana, El Salvador

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**Program background:** In 2009 Unbound Santa Ana Project organized mothers of sponsored children into mothers groups. The leadership roles of the mothers groups consisted of a president, secretary and a treasurer. It was observed that mothers who did not hold a position of leadership did not show group ownership and had lower participation rates.

In 2011 Unbound Santa Ana Project organized mothers of sponsored children who were not yet in mothers groups into communities. The communities of mothers then form committees each with the responsibility of managing one of four different parts of the Unbound program: finances, education, health and nutrition. The purpose of the committees is to create engagement with the Unbound program so that when mothers are ready to enter a mothers group they are active members regardless of leadership status.

**Purpose of the evaluation:** To identify the level of organization among the committees and determine if the committees are increasing participants' engagement with Unbound.

### Methods:

- 347 committee participants were randomly selected for a one time questionnaire. 95% confidence level, interval 4.07

### Key findings and Conclusions:

- 99% of survey participants could identify the committee in which they are a part.
- 96% of respondents report they participate in their identified committee.
- 87% of respondents report their committees to be organized in a manner that promotes accomplishment of desired activities.
- 86% of respondents hold the opinion that the committees have benefitted their community.
- 25% of respondents view themselves as leaders within their communities.

### Learnings and Report recommendations:

- Mothers in the committees understand the importance of their participation and they realize they are capable of planning and organizing activities that benefit their families, their communities and themselves.
- The empowerment of mothers should continue to be developed so to increase their self-perception as leaders.