

AIRGRAM

PD-ARB-340-C1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

526 0303-1002

AIRGRAM

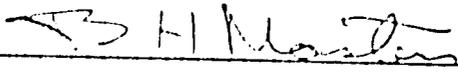
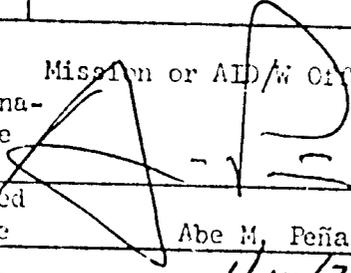
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PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY
(Submit to MO/PAV after each project evaluation)

1. Mission or AID/W Office Name USAID/PARAGUAY		2. Project Number 526-0303	
3. Project Title HEALTH EDUCATION (OPG) - Grantee: Misión de Amistad (Friendship Mission)			
4. Key project dates (fiscal years)			5. Total U.S. funding life of project \$50,000
a. Project Agreement Signed 6/30/75	b. Final Obligation 12/31/77	c. Final input delivered 7/29/77	
6. Evaluation number as listed in Eval. Schedule 77/7	7. Period covered by this evaluation From: July 1976 To: October 1977 Month/Year Month/Year		8. Date of this Evaluation Review Nov. 11, 1977 Month/Day/Year
9. Action Decisions Reached at Evaluation Review, including items needing further study (NOTE--This list does not constitute an action request to AID/W. Use telegrams, airgrams, STARS, etc., for action)		10. Officer or Unit responsible for follow-up	11. Date action to be completed

12. Signatures:	
Project Officer	Mission or AID/W Office Director
Signature 	Signature 
Typed Name Bernard H. Masters	Typed Name Abe M. Peña
Date 1/1/78	Date 1/10/78

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13. SUMMARY

The project has not achieved its planned targets mainly because of serious limitation caused by actions of the government. The Mision was able however to recover from the problem, restructured its plans and made every possible effort to continue the program. The new activities, however, were rather ad hoc and achievements were less than expected. The most serious shortcoming has been the financial incapacity of the Mision to continue the program on a regular basis. This issue had not been considered properly in the original project design and unless some external financial assistance is provided, the activities will be discontinued in December, 1977, after the scarce remaining AID funds are fully expended.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This is the second and final evaluation of the project. The work was performed by the USAID/P Program Office and followed the current AID evaluation methodology. Shortly before our review, the Mision completed its own evaluation of the project and a draft report was already available. Our review was, therefore, limited to the confirmation and analysis of the data contained in their report through work sessions with the directives of the Mision.

15. Documents to be revised to reflect decisions noted page 1

- Project Paper (PP) Logical Framework CPI Network Financial Plan
- PIO/T PIO/C PIO/P Project Agreement Other
- This evaluation brought out ideas for a new project --
a Project Identification Document (PID) will follow.

16. EVALUATION FINDINGS ABOUT EXTERNAL FACTORS

A political clash with the Government in April 1976 that resulted in the arrest of most of the personnel employed by the Mision caused a complete halt in activities for several months. Besides ~~xx~~ this there was no other major external factor affecting the project. All assumptions made were found valid. ~~xxx xxxxxx~~

17. EVALUATION FINDINGS ABOUT GOAL/SUBGOAL

The goal of this project is to improve the health of selected groups of Paraguay's labor force.

The measures of goal achievement are:

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1. Reduced mortality rates
2. Most serious communicable diseases under control
3. Improved nutrition
4. Improved basic health and sanitation services

The extent to which the project contributed to the final goal could not be evaluated properly. The targets were expressed in broad terms not lending to objective verification and the Mision has not gathered hard data on the impact of the project on the target group. There are, however, indirect indicators that might suggest that the program has a significant potential to improve the health condition of the low income groups and that there has been some impact achieved.

For example, in those areas where health education programs were carried out, the Mision states that Ministry of Public Health personnel report there has been an increasing tendency of the people to seek medical treatment at health centers or hospitals contrary to the prevailing practice of seeking the help of witch doctors. The Mision also reported increased levels of hemoglobin in areas where the Mision had carried out campaigns to prevent or eradicate intestinal parasites.

Other activities that were carried out, should have had a beneficial effect, although no data is available, such as water purification campaigns in areas with high incidence of gastroenteritis or administration of iodine in areas where goiter is prevalent.

18. EVALUATION FINDINGS ABOUT PURPOSE

The purpose of the project, according to the project proposal and agreement, is to further develop within the Mision a capability to deliver health education to rural and lower income urban sectors. Conditions to exist when purpose is achieved and accomplishments to date are as follows:

EOPS No. 1

"The Mision has the capability to prepare instructional materials on their own."

The Mision has adequate audio-visual facilities and equipment. Commodities provided under the project contributed to upgrade the quality of the existing resources and improve quality and quantity of potential production. The problem rests in the area of personnel. One of the only two trained technicians employed is funded under the project and it is not certain whether his salary will be absorbed by the Mision.

EOPS No.2

"Mision provides health education services on a regular basis without further USAID assistance. People exposed: 20,000."

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The Mision has been successful in carrying out a series of activities in the health area through adequately elaborated programs which were generally well received by the target group. In spite of all the difficulties experienced during the implementation, like the political clash with the government, that caused a complete halt in activities during several months, and occasional adverse attitudes found in some communities towards programs carried out by a Protestant organization like the Mision, the project has been able to reach a total of 13,500 people. The greatest concern however is the budget constraint that will prevent the Mision from continuing with the program after the U.S. inputs are terminated, an issue that the project design has not properly addressed. Most of the income of the Mision derives from regular outside donations from religious organizations. Funds are applied to the financing of the current activities of the institution, which do not include health education as an integral part. Some funds are generated locally through small charges to patients, but are insufficient to support a program similar in size to that carried out under the USAID/P grant.

EOFS No. 3

"Services cover 100% of target group."

The project has reached a total of 13,500 persons out of the total of 20,000 planned, but since the target does not specify the measure by which the persons are to benefit from the program, we could not assess the level of achievement under this EOFS indicator.

19. EVALUATION FINDINGS ABOUT OUTPUTS AND INPUTS

AID inputs were provided as planned but there have been excessive delays in the procurement of all equipment for the project due to slackness on the part of the Mision and USAID/P in implementing the purchases and due to delays on the part of U.S. suppliers in submitting quotations and/or delivering the commodities. Most of the equipment was received during the last months of the project and some items have not arrived yet. However, the effect of these delays on the production of planned outputs was minimal, partly because the Mision used its old equipment and because the production of audio visual materials for courses has not been considered a critical component of the educational program. The main shortfall was noted in the preparation of pamphlets where from a total of 10,000 only 12,000 (nine titles) were printed. None of the 1,000 planned booklets was printed and approximately only about 200 charts were prepared from a total of 1,000 planned. A total of 650 photos were produced out of 1,000 planned but they could not be considered as a teaching aid, per se. The project did well in achieving other targets such as the number of instructors and preparation of course outlines.

However, due to funding problems, as all the instructors were paid with AID funds, it is not certain whether these technicians will constitute a permanent asset to the Institution. The plans also provided for the training of 35 volunteer instructors. After a good start in the earlier stages of the project, due to a

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political clash, all the volunteer instructors trained through mid 1976 were lost to the program. An effort was made later to train new volunteers, but this effort was confined to two specific areas where a total of 105 people were trained to eventually perform as voluntary instructors. Courses were comprehensive and successful. However, it is not certain whether the attendees will be in condition or have the resources to perform on their own. Since volunteers were trained in only two areas; the geographical coverage has been less than adequate.

One particular success of the Mision has been the implementation of the health education program with Toba Indians, which has proved the feasibility of developing para-medical workers within Indian communities.

The Mision agreed to contribute to the project existing equipment and personal services of their volunteers estimated at \$60,000. No breakdown of the composition of the counterpart contribution was provided in the project planning documents, and information on actual amounts contributed was not readily available.

20. UNPLANNED EFFECTS

There were no unplanned effects identified during this evaluation period.

21. CHANGES IN DESIGN

No changes are necessary since project is terminating.

22. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Project proposals for OPGs. should be reviewed with a view to assure that the FVO will be able to carry out the activity independently after the grant funds are fully used.
2. At the time the local government investigated some of the employees of the Mision we noted that we had not obtained any Government clearance for the project.

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