

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - AID CONTRACT No. LA-711  
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I. Introduction

In November a second training session was held for the field representatives and program staff members in Washington with Professor Miguel Bernal, an organization development specialist from the University of West Florida. (The first session, in July, dealt with the process of establishing consultant relationships with client organizations and reaching a clear agreement with them on the joint work to be undertaken under the three-year country plans.) The November training had as its objective further work in the processes of organization development, that is, the steps of diagnosing needs on the basis of information collected, and types of interventions that might appropriately be made by a consultant.

The field staff agreed on criteria, stated below, by which they would judge an institutional program to be of a "self-help" nature. An agreement on this point is necessary if the base-line data now being collected is to be meaningful as to numbers of self-help programs already in existence. The criteria for self-help programs are:

1. Must be in social welfare, defined as work that is organized and coordinated among people for the creation and provision of opportunities to improve the level of life
2. Must be planned and have continuity
3. Must create opportunities for recipients to develop skills and acquire experiences that will help them to become self-sufficient
4. Must be evaluated and revised periodically.

This quarter, October 1 - December 31, 1973, included OEF's fourteenth Multinational Seminar, funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and private contributions. The relevance of this seminar to OEF programs in the four countries funded under AID Contract LA-711 deserves comment. This seminar was planned and carried out as an integral part of OEF's Latin American field programs. Its theme was "Coordination of Community Resources" with direct focus on action programs

to effect social change - the same goal as is stated in the country plans. Three participants were selected from OEF's target institutions in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica and Ecuador; two from Peru, Guatemala and the United States. The OEF field staff met with the seminar participants during the final days of the seminar in order to share the new concepts of coordination and plan together their continuing cooperation in the participants' respective countries. The seminar experience itself, plus the material developed on coordination, should have a very good effect on the organization development outlined in the country plans.

During this quarter OEF received a grant from the Lilly Endowment which will enable us to send a consultant to Central America during 1974. She will work in Panama, El Salvador and Guatemala.

## II. Latin American Programs

### Bolivia

Between July 1 and Dec. 31, 1973 the National Board of the Confederacion Nacional de Instituciones Femeninas (CONIF) and eight CONIF federations have received at least one consultative visit from OEF field representatives. All federations have been sent written confirmation of the plan of work agreed upon by OEF and CONIF. Results to date are:

1. Understanding of and agreement to the three year plan for organizational development
2. Acknowledgement on the part of boards of federations of the need for coordination of activities and programs at the national level
3. Sending of questionnaires by CONIF to member institutions is underway
4. Commitment to the formation of training teams responsible for future volunteer training. Candidates are now being selected for two training courses in March, 1974.

In accordance with the program plans, a Bolivian field representative was employed in time to join the other field staff for the November planning and training meetings. She is Mrs. Margarita Tomsich de Catacora, a participant in OEF's four-month Institute at Boston University, and in OEF's five-week Multinational Seminar. A press release about her appointment is attached. Mrs. Catacora spent six weeks in Washington for orientation and training, returning to La Paz in the early part of December.

As a result of the election of officers in November and the naming of delegates by each federation, a new national board of CONIF is being formed. The new president, Dra. Marina Cordoba Montalvo of La Paz, participated in OEF's 1970 Multinational Seminar and in OEF's Bolivian Curso of the same year. In-depth work on organization development had to await the formation of the new board.

Upon the arrival of the new field representative in La Paz, meetings were held with the president and other members of CONIF's national board of directors to discuss the role of OEF's Bolivian field representative and future cooperation between OEF and CONIF. OEF field staff also prepared a letter and application form to be sent out to all the federations to recruit candidates for the training meetings to be held in March in Cochabamba, from which training teams will be chosen.

### Colombia

The Colombian field representative served as a resource consultant on Latin American coordinating agencies for the Multinational Seminar in October. She also spent two weeks on an intensive English language course at the Berlitz School of Languages. A copy of their report on her performance is enclosed.

OEF's field representative's consultative work with the Agencia Coordinadora del Voluntariado (ACOVOL) in Bogota followed up on the evaluation and planning of Miss Dorothy Kiester's technical assistance in August - September. One of the significant results of that evaluation was the decision to seek reaffiliation of those member institutions willing to commit themselves to work together on a coordinated plan of action for the good of the community. OEF's field representative worked with ACOVOL on the content and implementation of a 15-day seminar to be held in February for delegates from all of the eight program areas. This seminar will train the delegates to go to each member institution in her program area and seek to motivate the members to commit themselves to coordinated action programs.

Planning work was also done for the semi-annual meeting of delegates from the eleven regional coordinating agencies in Colombia, which took place in Bogota in November. At this meeting the collaborative programs of the OEF and the coordinating agencies were discussed, as well as the need for gathering information upon which to base organization development plans and to meet training needs.

A separate report is attached concerning the consultant work done by Mrs. Mona Gordon, former president of the League of Women Voters of San Juan and of Puerto Rico, who held a series of three conferences with the Union de Ciudadanas de Colombia, for the purpose of helping the UCC to develop a program of civic action. Also attached are copies of three local bulletins, the national bulletin, and a member recruitment pamphlet - all direct results of Mrs. Gordon's consultation.

### Costa Rica

The field representative who is assigned half-time to Costa Rica spent the month of October in that country, consulting with the Centro Civico de Organizaciones Voluntarias and the Organizacion de Ciudadanas Costarricenses (OCC).

The Board of Directors and committees of the Centro Civico are working on the development of a calendar of the organizations' events and activities and

a periodic bulletin to be distributed to member institutions. The field representative worked with a training team of eight women in preparation for the first training course, to be given in April of 1974.

The Centro Civico is in the process of gathering baseline data from its affiliates and has developed a questionnaire for that purpose. They are visiting member institutions in order to collect information and explain the advantages of coordination.

The OCC celebrated its tenth anniversary in November with a week of activities designed to promote civic responsibility. These included three days of group work for members and prospective members of the OCC, programs about the OCC on radio and television, newspaper publicity, a round table discussion on country development and a speaker on "non-violence."

OEF consultation with the OCC is emphasizing civic action. Material and techniques used in Colombia with the Union de Ciudadanas de Colombia will be shared with the OCC.

#### Ecuador

##### a) Quito

The early part of October was devoted to consultation with members of the new Board of Directors of SEGESVOL, of which the President, Vice President and Secretary are egresadas of OEF's Multinational Seminar. Later in the month, a three-day training session was held for the Board of Directors of SEGESVOL on the concepts of coordination and organization development. A four-day follow-up training course was held at CEMA for those members of SEGESVOL who participated in the initial training last May.

Upon their return to the field after the November staff training meetings, the Colombian field representative and the U.S. field representative assigned to Ecuador gave the third step of ACOVOL's progressive training curriculum, known as "Towards the Maturity of the Volunteer." Those attending included members of the Board of Directors and of the eight-member training team. This was the first time this group had had the third step of training, and after some assistance and a repeat of this step, the SEGESVOL training team will be expected to replicate this third level of training by themselves sometime next year. They are now replicating the first and second steps.

OEF's field representative, with CEMA and AID, also completed the details of the training design for Elsa de Teran. Mrs. Teran will be the resource person for SEGESVOL as outlined in the AID contract. Her training began in December and will continue through May. It will include practical experience with SEGESVOL and other community organizations in Quito. OEF's field representative and the AID liaison officer are in agreement on the need for specialized training in the operations of coordinating agencies. The logical

resource for this would be observing and working with ACOVOL, as this experience with a coordinating agency would relate directly to Mrs. Teran's work with SEGESVOL.

b) Guayaquil

A three-day seminar was held with a group of 25 representatives of voluntary organizations in Guayaquil, the object of which was to motivate them to consider the need for coordination of the voluntary organizations in the city. The content included exploration of the concept of voluntarism and its objectives, the need for training in order that voluntary work be more effective, and the advantages of coordination as a method for bringing about positive changes in the community. This seminar was the result of increasing interest on the part of a number of volunteers and OEF egresadas in Guayaquil, growing out of OEF field representatives' prior visits to them. As a result of this seminar and previous work done by the field representative, an ad hoc committee was formed to continue exploration and motivation among voluntary organizations in Guayaquil towards the formation of a coordinating agency in that city. OEF's field representative plans to go back in February to determine the committee's progress.

III. Pamphlets on Coordination

After being tested in OEF's Multinational Seminar, the seven pamphlets on coordination prepared for seminar and field program use were revised from the drafts sent to AID in October. Final revision of the pamphlets will be sent to AID by January 31, 1974. Estimates of printing costs for 5,000 copies have been obtained, for which private funding is being sought. The material, which was very well received by the seminar participants, is ready for publication.

IV. Intercambio

Attached to this report are the October and December 1973 issues of Intercambio, OEF's bi-monthly Spanish language publication, with English summary translations.

Attachments (12)

1. Press release on appointment of Bolivian field representative
2. Report from Berlitz School of Languages on Srta. Giraldo
3. Report on Mrs. Gordon's consultant work with the UCC, Colombia
4. UCC/Cali bulletin, November, 1973
5. UCC/Cali bulletin, December, 1973
6. UCC/Santa Marta bulletin, November, 1973
7. UCC National Bulletin, December, 1973 (Medillin)
8. La Union de Ciudadanas de Colombia Te Invita
9. Intercambio, October, 1973
10. Intercambio, December, 1973
11. English summary translation of October 1973 Intercambio
12. English summary translation of December 1973 Intercambio

# PRESS RELEASE

December 1973

## OVERSEAS EDUCATION FUND APPOINTS FIRST BOLIVIAN FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

The Overseas Education Fund of the League of Women Voters is pleased to announce the appointment of its first Bolivian field representative, Sra. Margarita Tomsich de Catacora of Cochabamba.

Sra. de Catacora, 35, a journalist, is currently in Washington preparing for an overseas assignment as a consultant to the National Federation of Women's Organizations (CONIF) in La Paz. CONIF, established in 1959 to improve the status of Bolivian women, has 17 affiliates throughout Bolivia.

Sra. de Catacora's studies in Bolivia, Uruguay and the U.S. equipped her for her career as a journalist. One of her articles, inspired by her participation in OEF's 1968 U.S. Institute for Latin American women leaders, dealt with the topic of civic consciousness-raising of women. Informing Bolivian readers about the diverse community services provided by U.S. citizens working as volunteers, she reported, "Voluntary service has made a vital contribution to North American progress."

In addition to her professional activities Sra. de Catacora has extensive volunteer experience in Bolivian civic and social service programs. An officer of the Bolivian Women's Civic Group, she was an organizer of the second Bolivian workshop on "Women's Responsibility in Development," co-sponsored by OEF and CONIF in 1967. Sra. de Catacora participated in two international leadership training programs, the Inter-American Commission of Women's seminar in Caracas in 1972 and OEF's multinational seminar in the U.S. in 1966. She has been an active volunteer for the Bolivian Cancer

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Foundation. In 1971 she helped to establish the Bolivian Development Foundation, which provides low-interest financing for small scale agricultural and industrial development projects.

Sra. de Catacora is the sixth Latin American to be appointed to OEF's multinational field staff. The Overseas Education Fund was established by the League of Women Voters in 1947 to furnish technical assistance to voluntary groups outside the United States. Presently it has programs in Latin America and Southeast Asia.