AID 1025-1 (7-71) (FACE SHEET)

NONCAPITAL PROJECT PAPER (PROP)

A.I.D.
Reference Center
Room 1656 NS

rec'd 1/74

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PD-AAC-197-GB

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I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

P.A. No. 0114.1

1. PROJECT TITLE

Regional Testing Resource & Training Center

APPENDIX ATTACHED: ☐ YES ☒ NO

2. PROJECT NO. (M.O. 1025.1)

690-11-680-005

3. RECIPIENT (specify)

☐ COUNTRY

☒ REGIONAL OSAPAC ☐ INTERREGIONAL

4. LIFE OF PROJECT

BEGINS FY 69

ENDS FY 74

5. SUBMISSION

☐ ORIGINAL

☒ REV. NO. 1 DATE

DATE

CONTR./PASA NO. AID/ ... 668

II. FUNDING ($000) AND MAN MONTHS (MM) REQUIREMENTS

A. FUNDING BY FISCAL YEAR	B. TOTAL $	C. PERSONNEL (1) $	C. PERSONNEL (2) MM	D. PARTICIPANTS (1) $	D. PARTICIPANTS (2) MM	E. COMMODITIES $	F. OTHER COSTS $	G. PASA/CONTR. (1) $	G. PASA/CONTR. (2) MM	H. LOCAL EXCHANGE CURRENCY RATE: $ US ___ (U.S. OWNED) (1) U.S. GRANT LOAN	(2) COOP COUNTRY (A) JOINT	(2) COOP COUNTRY (B) [illegible]
1. PRIOR THRU ACTUAL FY	628	499	108	42	72	87	-	628	108			116
2. OPRN 72 FY 72	305	265	48	28	48	6	6	305	48			45
3. BUDGET 73 FY 73	305	265	48	28	48	6	6	305	48			65
4. BUDGET 74 FY 74	299	265	48	28	48	-	6	299	48			65
5. BUDGET 75 FY												
6. BUDGET 76 FY												
7. ALL SUBQ. FY												
8. GRAND TOTAL	1537	1294	252	126	216	99	18	1537	252			291

9. OTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

(A) NAME OF DONOR	(B) KIND OF GOODS/SERVICES	(C) AMOUNT

III. ORIGINATING OFFICE CLEARANCE

1. DRAFTER: T. McDonough	TITLE: Education Officer	DATE: 12/20/73
2. CLEARANCE OFFICER: C. Campbell	TITLE: Regional Development Officer	DATE: 12/20/73

IV. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

1. CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

2. CLEARANCES

BUR/OFF.	SIGNATURE	DATE	BUR/OFF	SIGNATURE	DATE
AID/SAP	[illegible]	1/21/74			

3. APPROVAL AA/OR OFFICE DIRECTORS

SIGNATURE: Philip Birnbaum DATE: 1/21/74

4. APPROVAL A/AID (See M.O. 1025.1 VI C)

SIGNATURE DATE

Regional Testing Resource and Training Center PROP Revision No.1

This PROP revision is prepared in accordance with M.O. 1025.1 dated October 13, 1971. The changes described below are considered to be minor or "record" changes and thus only those sections of the PROP reflecting alteration will be mentioned in this revision. Only the project inputs (course of action) Section is being revised, with outputs, purpose and goal remaining as in the original PROP.

Relevant documents providing information regarding project progress and requirements for new inputs are the Semi Annual reports prepared by the Contractor and Initial Evaluation submitted by OSARAC in February 1971.

The purpose of this PROP revision is to identify three new inputs proposed as a result of assessing the first two years of project operation. In addition the inputs are designed to provide the linkages and complementarities to cooperate quickly and effectively with a proposed regional curriculum development project.

Experiences of the first two years indicate that the long-range objectives of the Regional Testing Center could be realized more rapidly, more smoothly, and with fewer critical deadlines if attention and positive action can be given to the present limitation of the staffing pattern, coordination of program activities among the four countries and establishing a permanent local computer facility. Also to be considered is the planning now underway for a new Southern African regional AID project concerned with primary school curriculum. It is natural and expected that the Regional Testing Center will become involved in some phases of the curriculum project. Therefore the Regional Testing Resource and Training Center (RTRTC) should have the capability to react positively to increased regional needs regarding curriculum development. These recommended changes will increase the magnitude but not the basic character of the project. The additional project inputs, in turn, increase the funding required as proposed in the original PROP.

A. Technical Inputs

One additional Educational Statistician advisor is required in addition to the present three man staff. Placement of the fourth staff member will be in Swaziland where the existing Swaziland Testing Unit (STU) is located. At a recent (October 1971) RTRTC International Board meeting the Board acted to accept administrative responsibility for the STU. Therefore the STU has recently become, in effect, a part of this project.

The additional technician would alleviate some of the current work load placed on present staff due to the widespread acceptance of the product of RTRTC. This addition would enable increased services in programs already established as well as expansion of services beyond current activities. For example, one staff member is needed to expand priority programs other than primary school leaving and secondary school selection; i.e., development of instruments and procedures for selection into public service, the private sector, colleges and other training programs, etc. The increasing number

of requests from various agencies of government and from the private sectors in all four countries constitute a broad area of considerable interest and acute need, to which the added staff member could give more adequate attention for program development than is now possible with the workload being carried by the present staff.

The addition of a fourth advisor also would provide the RTRTC with a strengthened staff which can respond more rapidly and effectively to demands generated by the implementation of the proposed curriculum development project. This linkage between the two projects was approved as a necessary ingredient in the OSARAC education sector strategy during the FY 1972 CFS review. At present, details of the curriculum development project have yet to be placed into a final PROP; however it is expected that there will be a close and direct relationship between these two projects. The RTRTC International Board, at their October 1971 meeting, adopted a policy of coordination with the new curriculum project. The fourth advisor will provide more opportunity for individual staff members to develop areas of specialization in which to assume primary responsibility for planned program development and staff training in the several major target areas of the project priorities.

Additional staff will make possible expanded research activities, particularly in conducting additional validity studies needed in all program areas (including new curriculum) to demonstrate the validity of the various selection instruments being introduced.

The increase in staff will enable better coordination of intercountry services, by freeing additional time needed by the Director and Deputy Director for increased attention to activities more specific to overall program development and training and program coordination among the four countries and between the headquarters and the Branch offices. In addition if localization of the project is to be achieved in the time frame identified additional attention must be devoted to inservice training. With the heavy workload on existing staff virtually no time can be given to inservice training.

B. <u>Increase in Number of Participants</u>

The need for additional counterpart trainees is acute since additional counterparts will be required at an early date to enable an orderly transfer of professional responsibilities from advisory personnel to local professionals. The four counterparts now appointed for Masters degree training are not enough to provide a strong cadre of senior staff over the next two years. It is now clearly apparent that the potential for program growth in all four countries is considerably beyond the combined capabilities of the number of counterparts now scheduled for training. It is, therefore, recommended that additional funds be earmarked for training four, additional Masters' degree counterparts.

The first four counterparts/participants were identified and sent for training only after considerable delay. However OSARAC has received assurances from the International Board members and Ministry personnel in the four countries that additional candidates can be found and scheduled for training on a timely basis.

C. Establishing a Permanent Center Computer System

For the two years of operation the Center leased a Hewlett-Packard basic 2607-A computer system, consisting of an 8K word HP 2114B digital computer, 2754B teleprinter, and a 2761A optical mark reader. The initial arrangement to lease rather than purchase the system was chosen to allow opportunity to evaluate the equipment. Usage of the equipment has greatly exceeded predicted figures in both extent and variety. In order to cope with the increasing demands, and data processing services, the Center's system has been augmented by leasing an HP 2767A Line Printer and HP 2870 Cartridge Disc Memory. The Line Printer increased the output speed from eight lines per minute to 365 lines per minute, and since the processing this past year for the PSIS alone required over 200,000 lines, the need for the faster printer is apparent. The addition of the Disc Memory enables the system to sort examination results into order of merit, school order, district order, etc., as required by the Ministries without having to transfer test results to key punched cards and then process the cards at computer facilities outside the cooperating countries.

The purchase price for the system as it now exists is $51,000. The KERTC, through the use of AID funds is leasing the system for $1326 per month with an option to purchase at any time for the list price less 70% of the total purchase price. Continued leasing over a four year period with no exercise of the purchase option would result in an outlay of $63,650 and with no equity. In addition to the savings that would result in purchase of the equipment, part of the initial outlay will be recouped each year by Center earnings in processing school examinations in the four countries without having to lease external facilities. Ownership of the equipment the KERTC is currently leasing with AID funds is both logical and economic.