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Statistics for the Analysis of the Education Sector

GUATEMALA

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PREFACE

This report is one of several planned for publication by the Sector Analysis Division, Office of Development Resources, Bureau for Latin America, A.I.D. The primary purpose of this report is the presentation of a wide range of statistical data describing the education sector of Guatemala. This report also demonstrates that a variety of statistical data exists in Guatemala which can be used in making analytical studies of the education sector, and it indicates some areas in which useful data seem to be lacking.

It was hoped that it would be proved feasible to compile comparable data for each of the Latin American countries in the form of a number of 'standard' tables. Experience in compiling education data for six countries shows that it is not possible at this time to achieve uniformity because of differences from country to country in basic terminology and definitions as well as differences in the amount, timing, and inclusiveness of data collected in the first place by agencies of the countries themselves. It is also clear that notions of organization, structure, and interrelationships of the complex educational systems of one country do not usually apply, unchanged, to systems of other countries. In fact there seems to be considerable variation from country to country in the way resources are organized to deliver education to the population. Furthermore, education systems are dynamic rather than static which contributes problems to the compilation process when, because of the introduction of reforms of the systems, established series are interrupted or discontinued and there is no real or apparent connection with new, successor series. With additional time and experience, a set of uniform concepts, definitions, and classifications can be developed for future reports of this type. In the meantime however, this report provides education data common to all countries; but at the same time takes into account the special and unique conditions and situations existing in Guatemala.

The content, format and procedures used in the compilation of this publication were designed by A.I.D. and not by the agencies of Guatemala. The data in this report, which make up only a portion of those available in Guatemala, were collected by staff members of the International Statistical Programs Center, U.S. Bureau of the Census, by means of personal visits to the offices of various agencies in Guatemala. The data were compiled from official published reports and unpublished source documents of those organizations. However, the application of accepted statistical conventions, such as rounding procedures, may have caused figures in this report to differ from those in basic source documents. Indeed, because of rounding, some column details do not add to column totals. In other cases, separate classifications found in source materials may have been consolidated or reorganized for this publication. Wherever this has been done, it has been done with the single objective in mind of facilitating use by displaying data in the most meaningful way.

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