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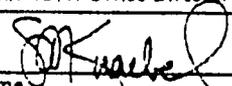
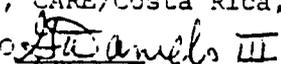
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CLASSIFICATION
PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I ~~HAH-101-A1~~ H2-LEA2
Report Symbol U-147

1. PROJECT TITLE also 5159800531501 PL-480 Title II Program Costa Rica (see inside)			2. PROJECT NUMBER NA	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE USAID/Costa Rica
5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES			4. VALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by the reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY) 80-2	
A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY 64	B. Final Obligation Expected FY 78	C. Final Input Delivery FY 78	7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION From (month/yr.) 5/78 To (month/yr.) 11/79 Date of Evaluation Review 3/13-3/14/80	
6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING (\$000)			8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR	
A. Total \$ NA			A. List decisions and/or unresolved issues; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., program, SPAR, PIO, which will present detailed request.)	
B. U.S. \$ 4,216			B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	

<p>This is the final evaluation of the PL 480 Title II Program in Costa Rica. In the event that this program is re-instated, the findings and recommendations presented in this evaluation should be considered to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of procedures for handling and distribution of commodities.</p>			<p>USAID Project Manager/CARE Director.</p>	<p>C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED</p>
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9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS			10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT		
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) As per above	A. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue Project Without Change		
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/T	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	B. <input type="checkbox"/> Change Project Design and/or		
<input type="checkbox"/> Logical Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C		<input type="checkbox"/> Change Implementation Plan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/P		C. <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Project	N/A	
11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)			12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval		
Gussie Daniels, Program Officer; Priscilla Del Bosque, Contract Evaluator; Carlos Poza, Assistant Program Officer; Justin Jackson, CARE/Costa Rica, Director.			Signature 		
Clearance: GDaniels, PO  MKI HOUR, AD			Typed Name Stephen P. Kraebel		
			Date		

13. Summary

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This report assesses the operations, effectiveness and coverage of the terminating Title II Program administered by CARE in Costa Rica. Although the last annual AID evaluation of this 25 year old program was submitted to AID/W on October 1978, this evaluation takes a closer look at the program during the last four years (1975-1979), because this period coincides with the beginning of the important and extensive Social Development and Family Assistance (DESAF) health and nutrition programs of which the Title II program formed a fully integrated part.

The CARE administered Title II program in Costa Rica has been assisting in three areas with PL 480 inputs into the growing GOOCR primary school, pre-school and maternal feeding, and other child feeding programs.

In general, CARE accounted properly for the arrival, storage, and internal distribution of PL 480 commodities. Primary responsibility for program implementation and supervision lay on the GOOCR counterpart agencies. However, CARE's inspection and monitoring of Title II food re-distribution at the feeding center level has been less than adequate during the last few years.

Had the proper planning documents been prepared, it is possible that the program could have been adjusted to take into account new circumstances or knowledge. For example, although Title II commodities were found to be generally acceptable, with the exception of the special, large 1977 shipment of whole green peas, the foods supplied were not nutritionally optimal for balancing the program diets they supplemented. The CARE/NY 1977 study on Costa Rica nutrition centers, and later the AID Nutrition Loan-funded research, indicates that the Costa Rican feeding programs more than fulfilled the recipient's protein requirements but fell short considerably in their calorie requirements. Title II commodities were composed primarily of protein-rich foods and hence were not optimal for overcoming the calorie gap; e.g., with a similar expenditure more needed calories could have been supplied or alternatively, the GOOCR could have been advised to concentrate its resources in supplying the cheaper, higher calorie food products that were required.

Since 1976, coverage of beneficiary groups has been predominantly in the primary school child category, which constitutes about 90% of total Title II recipients. Coverage of pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers constitutes about 8.5% of Title II beneficiaries. The 0-3 year old child was not effectively reached with Title II foods, despite the fact that it is nutritionally the highest risk category. According to officials from the Center for Research in Food Technology (CITA), roughly 80% of deaths related to malnutrition occur in this population group. However, it should be pointed out that Title II support to primary school feeding may have freed up GOOCR resources which do get to that group, to some extent, through a Ministry of Health (MOH) take-home food program.

In spite of the foregoing, the Title II program, as part of the larger DESAF health and nutrition program, contributed to combating hunger and malnutrition in Costa Rica, the Title II overall purpose, goal. Evidence is shown by a significant improvement in the nutritional status of the 0-4 year old Costa Rican children. Preliminary tabulations of the 1978 National Nutrition Survey, when compared to the 1975 National Nutrition Survey, indicate a nationwide reduction in the percentage of malnourished children from 53.6% to 43.5% (using weight for age measurement). Survey data also point out that a 55% decrease occurred in 3rd degree malnutrition between 1975 and 1978 and a 30% decrease in 2nd degree malnutrition.

Moreover, the program was successful in contributing to the establishment of child feeding, and especially of school feeding, as a permanent institution to be supported by indigenous resources.

14. Evaluation Methodology

This is a final evaluation undertaken to identify major strengths and weaknesses of the PL 480 Title II program as administered in Costa Rica by CARE. The findings and recommendations to be presented in this document are particularly relevant given strong GOCR interest in reinstating the program in FY-80 or FY-81. USAID/Costa Rica supports resumption of PL 480 Title II activities in the interest of consolidating achievements of feeding programs in Costa Rica serving children, pregnant and lactating women that are part of the AID target group.

The evaluation was prepared by Priscilla Del Bosque under Purchase Order No. 105-79A. Ms. Del Bosque worked closely with the USAID/CR Program Office and CARE/CR Director, Justin Jackson.

The attachment to this PES (Evaluation Report on the CARE-Administered PL 480 Title II Program in Costa Rica), and particularly the findings and recommendations it presents, are the product of comprehensive research done by Ms. Del Bosque in San José and the field, and long discussions among all participants in the evaluation process. Thus, USAID/Costa Rica and CARE concur that the information hereby presented is an accurate assessment of program performance.