

PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

1. PROJECT TITLE  LEGAL RIGHTS FOR RURAL WOMEN	2. PROJECT NUMBER 526-0509	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE USAID/PARAGUAY
	4. EVALUATION 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) 80-5	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR EVALUATION <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EVALUATION		

5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES			6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING A. Total \$ 320,673 B. U.S. \$ 136,425	7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION	
A. First FRC-AG or Equivalent FY 79	B. Final Obligation Expected FY 81	C. Final Input Delivery FY 81		From (month/yr.) May 1979	To (month/yr.) April 1980

8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR		
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., airgram, SPAR, PIO, which will present detailed request.)	B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED

1. Amend the project financial plan to provide for an increased absorption by the Liga of project recurring costs.	Sra. J. Macchi de Gonzalez	March 81
2. Implement the accounting and administrative practices recommended by the independent auditors Price Waterhouse in their letter to the Liga dated May 20, 1980.	Sra. J. Macchi de Gonzalez	Immediately

**BEST AVAILABLE DOCUMENT**

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) (Financial Plan)	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		

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)  William Oglesby Program Officer	12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval
	Signature: <i>Paul A. Montavon</i>
	Typed Name: Paul A. Montavon
	Date: 8/16/80

13. SUMMARY

This evaluation concluded that the Liga, in spite of certain difficulties related to the timely supply of certain inputs, has been able to achieve most of the planned outputs and make satisfactory progress toward the End of Project Status conditions. Likewise, the project has been able to achieve targets at the goal level by reaching a total of 655 direct beneficiaries. The only area of concern is the absorption of program costs by the Liga after AID inputs are exhausted.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

This is the first annual evaluation of the project as called for in the Mission's annual evaluation schedule. As a customary practice in dealing with FVO's, USAID/P has made a major effort to establish a capability within the Liga to undertake the major responsibility of the evaluation process. To this effect a series of meetings were held by the USAID Project Manager and Evaluation Officer with the key staff of the Liga for the purpose of guiding the Liga in the evaluation requirements and techniques. These work sessions revealed the need to revise the logical framework with respect to the lack of specificity in the definition of certain indicators at the goal and purpose levels. Thus the design of the project has been clarified and a new logical framework has been prepared which served as the basis for this evaluation. The FVO undertook full responsibility for data collection and analysis and prepared a report in Spanish. The report, as well as the source data, was reviewed by the Mission Evaluation Officer and the information was used for the drafting of this PES.

15. EXTERNAL FACTORS

There were no changes in project setting which have had an impact on the project. The assumptions made continue to be realistic and continue to hold.

16. INPUTS

AID inputs include funds for salary supplements, the cost of short term technicians, one vehicle, audiovisual and office equipment, and miscellaneous expenses. The cash and in-kind contributions committed by the Liga include salaries of project personnel and office facilities and equipment.

One main problem in the delivery of project inputs was the inability of the Liga during the early stages to contract a capable and stable technical staff to carry out the project. This resulted in a delay of approximately four months in starting project activities. The cooperation received from voluntary personnel mobilized by the Liga has been outstanding.

Another factor that hindered the implementation has been a delay in procuring AV equipment and a vehicle due to problems related to source and origin requirements. This delayed the initiation of activities planned in more remote areas where no public transportation facilities exist.

One area of concern has been the project budget which does not provide for a gradual absorption by the Liga of key recurring costs such as personnel costs and travel expenses. It is believed that in order to avoid a decline in activities at the end of the project, the Liga should progressively increase its counterpart contribution. Therefore, it is recommended that the Liga take steps to increase its income and absorb a higher percentage of project personnel costs in the third year.

#### 17. OUTPUTS

The Liga has succeeded in achieving most of the planned project outputs. For example, it has carried out all the six planned information programs for an audience slightly larger than originally estimated; it has carried out the planned training course for leaders and has succeeded in carrying out a second follow-up course to address specific areas of special interest identified during the first training event. The Liga has also been able to train a total of 57 local leaders instead the 30 originally planned, has prepared and distributed printed material, and has established a legal advisory service. Steps were also taken to ensure an adequate cooperation from the Servicio Nacional de Promoción Profesional of the Ministry of Labor and the Instituto Superior de Educación of the Ministry of Education. The only shortfall was in the area of radio broadcasts where only 50 of the 70 planned programs were prepared. This was due to the unanticipated need of translating the programs into the Guarani language which took additional time and effort on the part of project personnel.

#### 18. PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to consolidate the Liga as an entity capable of carrying out socio-civic activities for rural areas through its branch offices in the interior.

This evaluation found that the Liga has made significant progress toward consolidating program activities aimed at improving the socio-economic condition of needy women and their families.

Progress toward each End of Project Status condition was found to be as follows:

EOPS No. 1: "The Liga is capable of carrying out information/diffusion programs of socio-civic nature on a continuous basis."

The Liga has been able to plan and implement all the information programs scheduled for the first year. These programs were all carried out in conjunction with the existing branch offices functioning in rural areas. Future activities will expand to other areas where the Liga does not yet have branch offices and where its programs are not yet known. The Liga is presently devoting efforts to elaborate a strategy on how to better explain the work of the Liga in communities where normally some adverse reaction can be expected.

ECPS No. 2: "The Liga has demonstrated its capacity to absorb all program costs after AID inputs are terminated."

So far, the Liga has adequately fulfilled all its financial commitments under the project. However, the Liga has not yet prepared a financial plan aimed at ensuring financing after AID funds are terminated. Therefore, it is recommended that during the last year of the project the Liga attempt to absorb a higher percentage of project recurring costs, and take whatever steps are necessary to increase its current income.

ECPS No. 3: "The Liga has trained personnel capable of providing services to its branches and rural communities."

All planned personnel have been contracted and are performing well. The recruiting of voluntary personnel and their performance has exceeded all expectations.

ECPS No. 4: "A capability developed at the branch offices to carry out training activities and socio-civic services."

The implementation plan for the first year of the project did not include activities specifically directed toward this target. Nevertheless, the branch offices have gained a valuable experience through their participation in the educational activities carried out by the central office. There are four branches that are functioning regularly and which have cooperated actively in all programs. The rest are either inactive or in the process of reorganization.

#### 19. GOAL

The goal of the project is to assist rural women to know and exercise their rights and obligations. The measure of goal achievement calls for a target of 2,000 people directly benefitted at the end of the third year. There has been enough information developed to demonstrate that good progress has been already achieved toward this goal. At the end of the first year of activity the project has reached 655 people who benefitted directly from the informational programs. From this total 70 requested

assistance from the voluntary lawyers working for the Liga to handle specific legal cases (60 in the civil area and 10 in criminal matters). A total of 55 cases are presently in process and 15 have already been resolved.

20. BENEFICIARIES

Planned direct beneficiaries are about 2,000 persons. Of these, 1,900 will be rural women attending the information courses and taking advantage of the legal advisory services, and 100 will be community leaders, promoters and staff members of the Liga. Indirect beneficiaries will be the approximately 8,000 persons representing the families of the direct beneficiaries.

From the total of 655 people so far directly reached by the project, 40% are illiterate and the rest have barely completed the first three grades of primary school. In general, the beneficiaries come from a very low socio-economic strata.

21. UNPLAINED EFFECTS

This evaluation has not uncovered any unexpected results or impacts as a result of the project.

22. LESSONS LEARNED

None.

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