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Summarizes in 5/80 activities of the Chilean National Commission for Food and Nutrition (CONPAN) in implementing an integrated national nutrition project.

Pilot projects and studies being implemented in the following areas are briefly described: 1. interventions to improve the Government of Chile's institutional feeding programs; 2. information systems related to the food and nutrition sectors; and 3. intersectorial coordination at the local, regional, and national levels.

In the 5 years since project inception, malnutrition in children aged 6 years and under declined from 15.5% to 12.2%, while infant mortality fell from 55.4 to 36.3 per 1,000 live births.

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Nutrition Development Loan (T-066): Submission to AID/W of
Project Narratives

I. SUMMARY:

Over the next several months, the USA submit to AID/W a series of project narrative activities being carried out under its Nutritic

II. Background:

The Chilean National Commission for Food and Nutrition (CONPAN) is currently implementing a USAID \$5.0 million Nutrition Development Loan. This loan, signed in October, 1975, has as its purpose the establishment in CONPAN of a nutrition planning system responsive to Chile's requirements and problems in the field of nutrition. The loan paper anticipated that the achievement of the project purpose, which envisioned the development and implementation of attendant policies, strategies and programs, should lead to the reduction of the malnutrition rate by 50% in 10 years among the most nutritionally vulnerable groups. The latter are defined as children 0 to 15 years old, and pregnant and lactating women in the lowest one-third income group.

In support of these objectives, the loan is providing financing for the following purposes:

1. Technical Assistance: This assistance is currently being provided by Community Systems Corporation (CSC), a U.S. nutrition consulting company affiliated with Community Systems Foundation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Seven full time Chilean employees, supported by three short-term U.S. personnel are presently rendering services under CSC's contract with CONPAN.

2. Consulting and Professional Services: These activities are being undertaken through CONPAN agreements and contracts with local firms, individual specialists, universities, research institutes, and other public and private entities to carry out particular problem solving, investigative or analytic tasks.

3. Pilot Projects: These projects involve field trials, controlled and limited interventions, and practical research.

Those activities carried out under number two and three and which will be reported on separately are shown in paragraph IV below.

III. Progress in Achieving Program Goal: In the last five years, the decline in the levels of malnutrition in Chile has been significant, while for infant mortality, the drop has been dramatic as indicated in the following figures:

	<u>Malnutrition</u> (0-6 years old)	<u>Infant Mortality*</u> (0-1 year old)
1975	15.5%	55.4
1976	15.9%	54.0
1977	14.9%	47.5
1978	13.0%	39.7
1979	12.2%	<u>36.3</u>
		(*) Per 1000 live births

Source: Ministry of Health

The credit for these changes can be not attributed to a single source. CONPAN has undoubtedly been one important contributor both in the broad sense of stimulating and promoting improvements in the health/nutrition sector and in the specific sense through its support of organizations such as CONIN, a Chilean non-profit organization which operates a nationwide network of recuperation centers for severely malnourished children 0-2 years old. Further improvements in the infant mortality and malnutrition rates can be expected as the on-going CONPAN pilot activities are translated into nationwide programs by the appropriate implementing agencies.

IV. CONPAN Activities: The CONPAN activities which will be summarized individually can be divided into the following three categories:

- (1) interventions to improve the GOC's institutional feeding programs.
- (2) information systems related to the food and nutrition sectors.
- (3) intersectorial coordination at the local, regional, and national levels.

A brief summary follows of the diagnosis, studies, and pilot projects to be reported on under each area:

1) Nutritional Interventions:

a) Programa Nacional de Alimentación Complementaria (PNAC): Standing for the "National Complementary Feeding Program" of the National Health Service of the Ministry of Health, this Program provides for the free distribution of milk and high protein blended foods (locally produced) for children 0-6 years old and pregnant and lactating women. An estimated 1,200,000 infants and children under six years old participate in the program. (90% of the total 0-6 year old population).

CONPAN is providing technical support to a major on-going economic evaluation of the PNAC program and to a Gallup survey sampling the attitudes and socio-economic characteristics of the program's recipients. In addition, CONPAN is financing studies which are evaluating the biological quality of the blended foods made available under the PNAC as well as the degree of acceptability and intra-family dilution of these products. Acidified, iron-fortified milk has also been developed and is being pilot-tested under CONPAN's auspices.

b) School Feeding: CONPAN has been working for several years in close collaboration with the JUNAEB, the dependency of the Ministry of Education in charge of the nationwide school feeding program which serves 750,000 breakfasts and 300,000 lunches daily. At the present time, major emphases are being directed

to a cost/benefit analyses of the program, the development of a standardized method for the selection of the beneficiaries under the program, and an evaluation of the canned food method which covers 75% of the program's beneficiaries.

c) Breast Feeding: CONPAN is supporting a multi-faceted program to test various approaches for promoting increased duration of breastfeeding. These include the development and testing of didactic materials for training health clinic teams and the pregnant and lactating women attending the clinics as well as the testing of a specially-developed food supplement for these women.

d) CONIN: As noted above, the private, non-profit "Corporation for Infant Nutrition" operates 30 recuperation centers nationwide for the treatment of severely malnourished children. CONPAN has provided significant financial and technical support to CONIN which has successfully recuperated over 4,000 children.

e) Nutrition Education: CONPAN has developed a comprehensive program in nutrition education whose purpose is to enhance the health status of the family with specific emphasis on improving the family diet. Separate but coordinated efforts will be carried out through the schools (pre-school and basic), the health clinics, mass media, community organizations, and labor unions. During 1980, emphasis is being placed on the first three.

f) Integrated Evaluation of the Systems for Recuperating Malnourished Children Within a Regionalized Health Service System: CONPAN is studying, evaluating and developing proposals for improving programs for treating malnourished children within a regionalized context. The working hypothesis is that major improvements in cost-effectiveness can be achieved through systematic coordination among the institutions involved in the treatment of malnourished children including CONIN, hospitals, health clinics, and day-care centers.

2) Information

a) "Sensors" Pilot Project: CONPAN developed and the Ministry of Health is testing in Santiago a system which will evaluate periodically the nutritional status of the target population through the utilization of seven health clinics carefully selected to ensure a representative sample of the varying socio-economic conditions within the Santiago area.

b) Mechanized Data System (MDS): Originally developed by the USAID, CONPAN is coordinating the implementation of this system which utilizes automatic data processing to maintain control of food inventories in various GOC and PVO feeding programs.

c) Encuesta Continuada Nutricional de la Población Chilena (ECEN): Standing for the "Continuous Survey of Nutritional Status", this survey was completed in 1975 but not fully analyzed. It represents the broadest nationwide survey of the nutritional state of the Chilean population ever conducted and provides the basis for relating nutritional status to a wide selection of variables such as socio-economic factors, eating habits, and bio-chemical characteristics.

d) Sistema de Vigilancia Epidemiológica Nutricional (SIVIDE): Standing for the "Continuous System of Vigilance for Families Vulnerable to Infant Malnutrition", this system maintains continuous vertical and horizontal information on the prevalence rates of malnutrition by degrees of severity, and seeks to identify by utilizing some nineteen variables, "at risk" children, u.e., children with a serious possibility of becoming malnourished in the absence of preventive action. It is currently being tested for reliability.

e) Malnutrition and Biodemographic Factors: Using data collected over the last three years by the nationwide health clinic services of the Ministry of Health, CONPAN is employing the services of data processing companies to analyze the relationship between malnutrition and infant mortality, morbidity, and related factors.

f) Basis for A Food and Nutrition Surveillance System:

Presently in the developmental stage, this system is designed to provide a continuous feedback of information on those factors conditioning malnutrition, prevalence rates, and alternative actions for resolving problems. As such, it will draw on information developed from other studies including those described above and will encompass data on environmental sanitation, ecology, demography, agricultural resources, production, income, consumption and health status.

3) Intersectoral Coordination:

a) Regional Pilot Project: In conjunction with the GOC's decided administration focus on decentralization and regionalization, CONPAN has embarked on pilot programs with two regions to develop and test a methodology for regional nutrition planning involving all of the different Ministries whose activities impact on malnutrition problems.

Particular attention is being given to linking these efforts with the Social Action Committees (CAS) being formed in each of the country's 286 Municipalities as the centerpiece of the GOC's extensive drive to reduce the level of extreme poverty, estimated at 20 - 25% of the population.

Encl; CONPAN booklet.

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