EVALUATION REPORT

ACCELERATED IMPACT PROGRAM - 879-0256

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

SUVA, FIJI

April 27, 1984

EVALUATION REPORT

ACCELERATED IMPACT PROGRAM - 879-0256

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Acknowledgements:

The evaluation team wishes to thank the staff of the South Pacific Regional Development Office and the Peace Corps Country Directors of Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa for the support that made this evaluation possible. We were impressed with the dedication of all concerned to assist the self-help efforts of rural communities and villages in the countries visited.

INTRODUCTION:

A. Scope of Work:

We were charged with the responsibility of travelling directly to Fiji for consultations with the USAID/ Suva Regional Development Officer and his staff, local government officials, and U.S. Peace Corps Country Directors and staff for the purpose of assessing the suitability and effectiveness of the Accelerated Impact Program (AIP) in the South Pacific region with focus on Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa. The team's assessment of the AIP was achieved by visits to as many beneficiaries as time allowed. Approximately 10% of all AIP projects were visited - twenty-nine separate projects - spread over Fiji, Tonga, and Western Samoa. The details of these visits can be found in the Appendix attached hereto.

AIP projects are different from the usual AID funded programs in that they consist of many small scale self-help community development projects essentially initiated at the community level.

The AID staff alone cannot oversee the many diverse projects spread over 10 recipient countries and embracing some 5.6 million square miles. As a result, a symbiotic relationship has developed between AID/Peace Corps which, in our opinion, enhances the programs of both organizations.

B. The Project:

The South Pacific regional program area, comprising island nations with diverse geographic, demographic and economic characteristics, falls into three major ethnic areas: Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa are Polynesian; Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are Melanesian; and Kiribati is part of Micronesia. There is a wide variety of historical, cultural, environmental and political systems in the region.

The overall purpose of the AIP is to encourage and support self-help efforts at the local community level. The AIP has been established to undertake programs without regard to the comprehensive or sectoral strategies of bilateral assistance. Beyond reflecting U.S. interest, the immediate objective of an AIP self-help activity is to demonstrate the benefits which can accrue from a community helping itself.

Since its inception in the South Pacific six years ago, the AIP has been the source of funding for almost 300 self-help community development projects. According to South Pacific Regional Development Office records a total of $1.26 million in USAID funds has been expended in support of the AIP, reaching over 200,000 beneficiaries. Community inputs over this same period - in cash, commodities and labor - has more than equalled the U.S. contri-

bution on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Although the focus of the AIP has changed slightly over the years, including a renewed emphasis on small business development and income generating schemes in rural areas, the range of projects considered suitable for AIP funding continues to be as diverse as ever. The maximum funding level per project has been increased to $25,000 in the current year but most individual projects still average between $4,000 - $8,000. The major characteristic of an AIP grant is that it requires a substantial input from the recipients themselves.

This evaluation concentrates on AIP projects supervised by the Peace Corps although there are some grants to U.S. private and voluntary organizations and the Fiji Council of Social Services. The program has become a model for the Peace Corps "Small Project Assistance Program" worldwide. Since AIP's inception in the South Pacific it has proved to be a significant example of AID/Peace Corps cooperation. It is widely understood among Peace Corps Directors of the region that the AIP can have beneficial impact on the work of the individual Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV). Often the infusion of a few thousand dollars into a village project supervised and managed by a PCV can make the difference between a successful PCV experience and a diminished one. One point stressed by both Peace Corps and the South Pacific Regional Development Office (SPRDO) is that the AIP is not for all volunteers. In fact, with 300 to 400 PCV's working in the region at any given time, AIP funds would rapidly run out if all PCV's saw the need to tap this resource. The important role played by Peace Corps Directors, therefore, is to discourage PCV's from taking on responsibilities beyond their capacity.

We noted that the Peace Corps Directors carefully scrutinize all AIP proposals before submitting them to SPRDO and we think this is a very necessary process. At the Peace Corps Inter-American Workshop on Small Project Assistance (SPA), January 8 - 13, 1984, they concluded there is a delicate balance between Peace Corps becoming a funding source and the Peace Corps' traditional role. The general consensus was that SPA activities helped to get projects off the ground.

In FY 1979, AID started the AIP. One-third of the projects have been in the area of agriculture development. Other projects have helped to solve development problems in such areas as fisheries, forestry, community water systems and village sanitation. A series of AIP grants provided seeds and fertilizer to restore village vegetable gardens in seven remote islands of the Fiji group following Cyclone Sarah in early 1983. AIP has assisted villagers after cyclone damage in 1979, 1980, and 1981. An AIP grant with the Peace Corps in the Cook Islands helped to establish a nation-wide rural appropriate technology program, bringing capital saving improvements in energy and food production to remote island settings. Greater priority is now given to self-help projects designed to produce income and to provide import substitutes. Examples of unacceptable projects, however, include church buildings, projects involving on-going expenses not met by the recipient organization, and projects that pay for labor which could be just as readily donated.

AIP has made a significant impact in fishing by helping to transfer fish aggregation devices technology to the region, and increased fuel efficiency and safety of small fishing boats. Infrastructure has also improved through the construction of bridges, sea and river walls, schools, and community centers.

Project Impact and Analysis:

A. Beneficiary Impact:

We were impressed with the enthusiasm with which the projects visited were received by the beneficiaries. The typical comment from the village elders and Government of Fiji (GOF) officials contained genuine gratitude to the people of the United States of America for providing an AIP grant in support of a given project. We were amazed to discover that a simple installation such as a decent water storage tank to insure a potable and safe water supply for a village population have been and are still being constructed with AIP funds. With minor exception the twenty nine projects which we visited are outstanding examples, for the most part, of self-help efforts of villages and communities utilizing AIP funds. There is no question whatsoever that the improvement projects funded under AIP funds to date add to the quality of life, social organization, and tranportation capability for the beneficiaries.

One of the most positive contributions of the AIP is that the funds go directly to the people the project is designed to help at the grass-roots level. The gains may appear small when viewed in the national development context, but they are extremely important to the community and what the people asked for. The speed with which funds are available after the project is approved, is a revelation to the evaluators who are all too familiar with the usually long lead times required in the technical assistance process. The only assistance delivered faster is disaster relief and the Ambassadors emergency fund for such crises. The mandatory six months time span for project completion after funding is also a positive factor forcing the community to plan work, get the show on the road, and not procrastinate.

B. Project Location:

Upon examination of AIP sites it becomes apparent that the majority of projects have gone to Fiji. The SPRDO being located in Fiji probably is a plus in this regard. Also, the fact that Fiji has more PCV's compared to other countries under the purview of SPRDO. Although Fiji boasts of having the highest GNP/per capita and standard of living in the South Pacific region, there exists a wide gap between the rural and urban areas. By focusing on rural and often remote outer-island village projects, the AIP has reached needy groups not normally served by the GOF or other donor assistance. Fiji also has a relatively well organized government administration which provides channels whereby project requests can emerge from remote and rural areas for USAID consideration. In numerous examples, AIP grants were requested by villagers through government channels and implemented in part by civil servants at the District (County) level. The degree of cooperation provided by the GOF in this way has been, on the whole, excellent.

During FY 84, the USAID RDO has directed that more effort be made to encourage PCVs and local communities to submit more good quality AIP proposals from countries other than Fiji.

Conclusions:

A. AIP Design:

The AIP was designed to primarily provide a means of extending limited assistance directly to local communities rather than bilateral assistance. Although the design has undergone some changes, the basic concept of providing project funds directly to communities remains intact.

The AIP has been operating for six years and is an effective design. There have been some minor problems - such as fiscal record keeping at the rural level. The accounting procedures are well spelled out and the paperwork is simple. Past evaluations indicated that through inexperience, funds can be alloted to the wrong account. Fiscal mismanagement rather than fraud appears to be at the root of the problem. Fortunately, there is a double check to help prevent this from occuring. In addition to the presence of PCVs at most AIP sites, SPRDO program staff also visit the sites in terms of implementation and evaluation. Such visits and subsequent trip reports prove invaluable in assessing the program, checking fiscal record keeping, assuring that local contributions are on schedule, identifying major problem areas and speeding up implementation of any lagging prcjects. PCVs also submit brief reports on the relative success or failure of the individual projects which is important feedback for the SPRDO.

In our opinion, this administrative redundancy incorporated in the design whereby two organizations check the same project results in a better, more balanced program.

Although we were only "in-country" for a very brief period, we noticed a receptive and warm climate between donors and the host countries. In the countries we visited we saw little of the total abject poverty, hunger, or severe health problems we were so familiar with in Africa and Asia. All such problems do exist but to a lesser degree. We found that the people of the countries visited requested assistance for those projects that they felt needed, and in most cases did not make frivolous requests.

B. Documentation Requirements:

The forms used - the General Agreement signed by the co-operating country and the U.S., the Individual Activity Agreement, and the Individual Activity Completion Noti-

fication are clear, effective and easily understood documents. There is not an overburden of documentation on either the host country or the villagers. AIP documents have been in use for some six years and at no time in our conversation with host country officials did anyone refer to any problems caused by arduous paperwork. We found the AIP records at SPRDO to be complete and well documented.

C. Procedures:

The official accounting station for the South Pacific Region AIP funds is the Controllers Office, USAID/Manila. We checked with the Budget and Accounting Section, SPRDO, and found that there was no problem in obtaining AIP funds within the two-month deadline after project agreement. Funding requests are cabled to USAID/Manila. We noted that in instances where unused funds remained after project completion that such funds were returned to the SPRDO.

D. Overall Performance of Projects Visited:

Refer to Appendix for individual project description and comments pertaining to our site visits.

E. Beneficiary Impact:

We believe this project directly meets the needs of village populations at the lower end of the income spectrum, and have previously commented upon this in the Project Impact and Analysis section of this report. Small is really beautiful in these instances and the projects are those that are too small to be implemented by the usual government services. They are important projects to the communities served, however, and the large

number of people they impact have engendered considerable friendship and good will for the U.S.

F. Guidelines:

We believe that SPRDO's priority to stress income generating projects to be the right thrust for this program. Income derived from the sale of increased fish and food production may best be supported through assistance providing the required tools of the trade. Improvement of the transportation infrastructure can have a direct bearing on income generating projects in that it facilitates the movement of goods to appropriate markets.

Recommendations:

- Remain on present course by supporting projects that genuinely reflect the desire of the requesting community.

- In view of the poor showing of poultry projects visited, suspend approval of like projects until the potential and suitability of this type of project can be evaluated by an expert in poultry management.

- Suggest that the six-months time frame for project completion start when the community receives the funds, rather than when the agreement is signed.

- On a discretionary basis, mount an AID emblem plaque in an appropriate location upon project completion.

- Proposals for community halls should be carefully screened to insure that the hall is not desired for its prestige value only as opposed to its use for community betterment.

- In view of the in-house paper blizzard inherent in USAID grant programs of this nature, consideration should be given to computerization of the voluminous data now manually created and maintained.

- In view of the current work load, request the establishment of a Controllers office in Suva to provide more timely fiscal support.

Attachment:
Appendix - AIP Site Visits

Edwin A. Gales & Joseph J. Russell
AIP Project Consultants
Suva, Fiji.
April 29, 1984

Appendix

South Pacific Accelerated Impact Program Site Visits

April 10 thru 20, 1984

FIJI

1. Farm Management Co-operative Workshop
2. Tailevu Dairy Co-operative
3. Nabulini Roadside Market
4. Namena Irish Crossing
5. Khalsa/Lawaki Crossings
6. Nausori Village Crossing
7. Sawa Community Hall
8. Navunimono Vehicular Crossing
9. Laqere Foot Crossing
10. Rewa Delta Sewerage Disposal
11. Nakorovou Village Community Center
12. Duavata Rice Project
13. Muanaicake Wash House
14. Ciri Swinging Bridge
15. Naveyago Goat Development Project
16. Naidiri/Malomalo Community Irish Crossing

TONGA

17. Fakatouato Piggery Demonstration
18. Fakatouato Fishing
19. Nukunuku Industrial Arts
20. Kolovai Community Hall
21. Tailulu College Agricultural Project
22. Unaki Fonua Society Urban Sewerage
23. Unaki Fonua Society Urban Drainage

WESTERN SAMOA

24. Western Samoa Pre-School Workshop
25. Fish/Ice Holding Coolers for Village Fisheries
26. George Brown High School Poultry
27. YMCA Motor Mechanics Training
28. District Hospital Water Supply
29. Poutasi Outreach Nursery

Prior to the following site visits (Fiji) we received an orientation briefing conducted by John Finnegan, Peace Corps Director and his staff. On the following site visits we were accompanied by Robert Kahn, AID, AIP Project Manager, and Jone Nakota, District Officer/Korovou.

1. IAA 0882011 - Farm Management Co-Op Workshop

The rehabilitation of a garage/workshop owned by a member farm.

US financing purchased materials to be used on the repair and maintenance of mechanical equipment $ 1,493.00

Grant made June 10, 1980.

Recipients accelerated impact input was the garage and various tools, as well as labour on the project valued at - $ 12,200.00

The immediate beneficiaries are approximately 200 people associated with member farms.

Although the project started almost four (4) years ago we found the workshop still in operation with an Australian volunteer (part-time) supervising an engine repair. The volunteer stated that while sophistication was lacking and over-all capability limited, the workshop does represent the only convenient repair facility in the local area for the use of the member farmers. Also present was a Fijian trainee working under the direction of the above mentioned volunteer. It appears that the workshop is an established facility benefitting the member farmers in the area.

2. IAA 3879014 - Tailevu Dairy Co-Op

The construction of field shelters for newly weaned calves, repair of existing calf pens and sheds, and the establishment of new pasture at Viwa Farm in Tailevu.

US financing purchased building materials, water tanks and tools - $ 5,31[illegible]

Grant made April 14, 1983

Recipients input included labor and farm management supervision valued at - $ 2,078.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 1,800 members of the Tailevu Dairy Farmers Co-Op.

Debra Rueweller, the Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) is assigned full time to this project. College trained in farm manage[illegible] her expertise in this field is evident. In addition, Miss Debra has trained a Fijian assistant who is fully capable of assuming the responsibility for the project in Miss Debra's absence. Between them they are teaching the member farmers new methods of raising calves in terms of feed, use of calf pens and pasture. The herd in general and the calves in particular are larger and healtheir than like animals raised under the former method. Prior to this project the farms were experiencing calf mortality rates of up to 50%. The project repaired existing calf pens and sheds, establ[illegible]hed new pastures, and built field shelters for newly [illegible] calves with a feed station.

This project is a good example of what a dedicated PCV can do with the addition of some financial assistance. This is rated a highly successful project.

14

3. IAA 3879016 - Nabulini Roadside Market

The construction of a building to provide shelter and a place to display and sell village produce to travellers on the Kings Road $ 2,113.48

Grant made April 14, 1983.

Recipients input included materials and labor valued at - $ 2,067.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 350 Nabulini villagers.

Nabulini is an isolated area and it is difficult and expensive for the villagers to transport produce to the nearest market at Korovou for sale. Being located on the Kings Road it was an opportunity to sell produce to passing travellers and the project funded construction of a road-side market stand.

The building was being used effectively by the villagers when we visited. The structure remains in excellent condition, it is a clean, attractive shelter and place from which to sell village produce to travellers on the main highway. The building has become a focal point for socializing by the women who actually do the selling of the produce, a safe environment for their small children, and provides complete shelter from the elements. A PCV was directly involved in the construction of this building. The building represents a very successful AIP grant funded project in that it provides a highly effective retail facility where vehicles can stop off-highway to purchase villager produce.

4. IAA 3879026 - Namena Irish Crossing

The construction of this Irish Crossing will help the villagers bring vehicles to the village and transport their goods to market.

US financing purchased building materials - $ 4,250.00

Grant made May 11, 1983.

Recipients input included cash and labor with a value estimated at - $ 4,300.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 300 villagers of Namena.

Namena village was accessible only by foot due to a stream that flowed across the road to the village. Once off the main roadway, transportation of goods becomes very difficult. This is especially true in eastern Fiji which receives the heaviest rainfall. Small streams quickly rise cutting off villages, roads are flooded and become quagmires. This bridge, which is a simple culvert type span, allows the Namena villagers access to markets despite the effect of heavy rains. The bridge, designed by a PCV and built by the villagers, would have been much more expensive had it been constructed by the Public Works Department (PWD). It was estimated by the District Officer that the PWD would have charged $F30,000 for this work. As a result of the installation, the village is no longer isolated during the rainy season in terms of commerce, medical assistance, and other services that might be required. The bridge provides all weather structure that enables the villagers to reach the markets they need.

5. IAA 3879064 - Khalsa/Lawaki Crossings

The construction of two crossings suitable for vehicular traffic to allow farmers along the Khalsa Road near Lawaki Village better access to the Korovou market for their produce. The crossing will assist in improving cash earnings through greater farm output.

US financing purchased cement, steel re-inforcement, aggregate, tools and transportation - $ 4,170.00

Recipients input included labor for the construction of the crossings and yearly maintenance of the road, valued at - $ 1,500.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 50 farmers in the Khalsa Road settlement.

The farms in this area supply much of the green vegetables for the Korovou Market, in addition to pineapples, root crops, and yagona. One farmer is rearing goats with the help of a Fiji Development Bank loan. Two crossings were badly needed to keep the farm-to-market road operational.

As in the project directly preceeding this, the two bridges at this site are very durable, simple culvert structures which will allow farmers to reach markets in all weather conditions. The farmers constructed the bridges under technical supervision of a PCV. The Commissioner/Central was involved in this project because due to its small size, it was not economically feasible for construction by the PWD. We consider this project, which is income generating, to be highly beneficial to the villagers.

During the following site visits we were accompanied by Robert Kahn, AID, AIP Project Manager; George Guivalu, Commissioner/ Central Division; Fred Archari, Planning Officer/Central Division, and Tom Greene, Peace Corps, Minor Works Engineer, Central Division.

6. IAA 287900? - Nausori Village Crossing

The construction of a foot crossing to replace the dilapidated and dangerous bridge now in use by Nausori villagers.

US financing purchased construction materials and transportation of materials to the bridge site - $ 1,860.70

Grant made February 9, 1982.

Recipients accelerated impact input included two culverts already on hand and labor, valued at - $ 2,700.00

The immediate beneficiaries are the approximately 200 Nausori villagers.

A creek runs across the middle of Nausori Village and the farmers footbridge made of old timber and coconut trunks became dangerous due to heavy use and the weather.

Our comments on this project are similar to those pertaining to the two preceeding projects. We queried Tom Greene PCV, who designed the bridges, as to the construction cost, the labor contribution of the villagers, etc. This again is the type of small project which benefits villagers but which is not considered a suitable project for construction by PWD.

7. IAA 3879069 - Sawa Community Hall

The construction of a 36' x 18' community hall to serve as a village meeting place and kindergarten at Sawa, Tailevu.

US financing purchased building materials and transportation - $ 3,565.00

Grant made August 31, 1983.

Recipients input included cash for materials, roofing iron and labor, valued at - $ 2,243.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 70 people from Sawa Village.

We visited this community hall and it was evident that the structure was used extensively. It is a well constructed building and has become the focal point of the community. Questions have been raised whether AID participation in the erection of community halls represents the best use of AIP funds. One school of thought is that projects satisfying basic human needs, e.g. water and sanitation systems, food production, etc., or those resulting in income generation should perhaps take priority. It is safe to say that the community hall does serve as a place for wholesale quaffing of kava but there is not evidence to show that this is the primary use to which structures of this type are put to use. Community halls can also serve as a marketing and handicraft development center, a place for community education meetings, a place to exchange ideas, and a place of participation on the villagers part. We recommend that proposals for community halls be carefully screened on a case-by-case basis. Proposals of this nature should be disapproved if it appears that the villagers, or the village leaders, desire the hall essentially for its prestige value as opposed to the use of the hall for community betterment.

8. IAA 3879027 - Navunimono Vehicular Crossing

The construction of a vehicular crossing to enable villagers to carry goods to the village and produce to market.

US financing purchased cement, reinforcement steel, wire, gravel and transport - $ 3,080.00

Grant made May 11, 1983.

Recipients input included labor valued at - $ 3,000.00

The immediate beneficiaries are 200 people of Navunimono Village.

The former bridge to Navunimono village built six years ago was washed away a few months after its construction. Prior to the village was over logs placed over the creek. This was ineffective and dangerous and an AIP bridge was constructed.

This bridge spans a river that rises extremely high at flood times. However, it is not in use - an example of petty politics at the grass root level. The PCV stated that the siting of the bridge became a political issue among the villagers. Some opted for the bridge to be sited approximately 50 yards upstream from the actual construction site ; reason or reasons not exactly clear. Allegedly, about the time the decision was reached to construct the bri[illegible] it.. present location, certain villagers proceeded to [illegible] sizeable tapioca crop on the village side of the b[illegible] sit with a view toward receiving monetary compensation from the GOF for the removal of the crop. As stated above, this is a petty, local issue that hopefully can be resolved. We suggest that the SPRDO resolve this issue with the Commissioner's Office, the offending crop removed, and the bridge dedicated for the effective utilization by all villagers.

During the following site visits we were accompanied by Robert Kahn, AID, AIP Project Manager; Ratu Tanoa, Assistant District Officer/Suva; Akuila Baro, Assistant Roko/Rewa, and Rollie Crandall, Peace Corps, Minor Works Engineer/Central.

9. IAA 2879022 - Laqere Foot Crossing

The construction of a new foot crossing using concrete posts and steel beams to replace the wooden bridge that had collapsed.

US financing purchased materials to reconstruct the bridge - $ 4,969.35

Grant made May 11, 1982.

Recipients accelerated impact input included labor valued at - $ 5,292.00

The immediate beneficiaries are the approximately 300 school children and over 1,000 workmen who use the bridge daily to school and work.

This footbridge construction utilized concrete posts and steel beams that formerly supported a pipeline across the river. It is the only means of crossing the Laqere River to reach the Kings Road for school children and workmen. Rollie Crandall (an older PCV who heads his own general construction firm in the USA) effectively used the above mentioned construction in his plan for this foot c[illegible]g which is heavily utilized by the community with a[illegible] traffic flow of some 1000 - 1500 people per day. The pipeline and its superstructure were demolished during the 1982 hurricane which was used by the community as a foot bridge although not specifically designed nor constructed for that purpose. The force unleashed by swollen rivers and high winds dislodge any structure not firmly rooted and AIP grant funds have been used with good effect for a numb[illegible] of rehabilitation projects following natural disasters.

10. IAA 3879022 - Rewa Delta Sewerage Disposal

The construction of a sewerage system to help serve the disposal problems in three villages. The novel system, devised by Peace Corps Volunteer is particularly suited for inhabitants of swampy areas.

US financing purchased the equipment needed to construct a special block-making machine and materials - $ 600.00

Grant made May 4, 1983.

Recipients input included labor and transport, estimated value - $ 1,000.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 100 villagers of Nabalili, Nakorovou and Waivou.

The present system of sewerage disposal in high water level areas involves a never ending process of digging holes that quickly fill up. Rollie Crandall designed not only a septic tank and water storage tank made of curved concrete block, but also the innovative machine with which to make (manually) this type of construction block. Septic tanks and water storage tanks have been successfully installed at a number of villages, according to Rollie Crandall, and that additional villages will be benefitting from this type construction in the near future. It was heartening to note that Rollie Crandall has trained a mature Fijian in this construction process and it is he who is now responsible for supervising this type of self-help project in other villages. Several sewerage systems constructed by community members in a number of villages including swampy areas of the Rewa delta that we reached by boat. In one village, villagers were busy using the block-making machine. We do not know if a similar type machine is being used in other developing countries. This

particular scheme is very suitable for villages and especially for those in high-water table and swampy areas. We recommend that the SPRDO determine whether or not this technique is worthy of disseminating to other countries under his aegis.

11. IAA1879006 - Nakorovou Village Community Center

The construction of a Village Community Center in Nakorovou Village.

US financing purchased building materials including timber, iron, concrete and steel - $ 10,000.0

Grant made December 15, 1980.

Recipients accelerated impact input is the labor, both skilled and unskilled to complete the job - $ 24,000.00

The immediate beneficiaries include all 450 villagers.

The community center appears to be well utilized for a variety of village events. The building is in good repair and is classified as a very successful project. Note our comments regarding such facilities under project number 7, above.

12. IAA 3879011 - Duavata Rice Project

The establishment of a rice project covering ten acres of land in the Rewa Province.

US financing provided funds to purchase one pair bullocks, farm implements, and fencing wire - $ 1,343.00

Grant made April 11, 1983.

Recipients input included land and labor valued at - $ 5,600.00

The immediate beneficiaries are 10 farmers and their families, about 70 people from three neighboring villages.

The villagers in this project formerly worked at the Suva dock, but lost their jobs due to the mechanized and ship container schemes now in operation. They had land, but it was difficult to work without ploughing, weeding, etc., to prepare the land for planting. They asked for assistance. Bullocks, farm implements, and pesticides were purchased with AIP funds. The farmers provided labor and land.

We observed the site, farm implements and use of the bullocks. The visit here was cut short by a sudden tropical storm, but from all appearances and comments made by the District Officer, this is a successful project. The Commissioner/ Central has expressed interest in this project as an income generating activity.

13. IAA 1879050 - Muanaicake Wash House

The construction of an addition to the village community hall to include toilet and wash house facilities.

US financing will purchase materials needed in the construction of the addition - $ 1,340.00

Grant made September 17, 1981.

Recipients accelerated impact input includes labor, sand and gravel, estimated at - $ 900.00

The immediate beneficiaries include all the Muanaicake Villagers, about 250 people in all.

This is one of the early AIP projects located in swampy delta land where sewerage disposal is a particular problem. Due to the wet substructure of the land the facilities sink deeper into the soil than on dry land, but this has not been a problem. Although the usage time of such facilities is estimated at approximately ten (10) years, we believe the villagers will retain the know-how to build similar structures in the future. We consider this to be a worthwhile, highly successful project.

On the following site visits we were accompanied by Taniela Tabu, District Officer, Nadroga/Navosa, Sigatoka.

14. IAA 1879014 - Ciri Swinging Bridge

The purchase of building materials to construct a suspension bridge between Ciri Village and the school in Maro to facilitate pedestrian traffic of school children and farmers in the area.

US financing provided funds to purchase cement, cable bolts and tie wire - $ 8,358.59

Recipients accelerated impact input is the labor needed for construction, valued at - $ 2,500.00

The immediate beneficiaries include about 400 school children and about 150 families in the area.

The bridge was a casualty of the 1983 cyclone. It is located in the sugar cane country of southwestern Fiji. We looked at the remains of the concrete tower on one side of the river along with the snapped steel support cables. This is a sizeable river crossing and it is evident that a solid concrete and steel bridge will be necessary to withstand high waters and strong winds. We spoke with many of the former beneficiaries and they all expressed their desire to have a replacement bridge constructed. We drove a number of miles in a round-about fashion to reach the opposite bank of the river and it was very evident what a shortcut the bridge had been. The villagers are now awaiting the opinion of a qualified construction engineer as to where to site a new crossing. They indicated that AIP assistance would be requested. This is a deserving project and should receive favorable consideration available funds permitting.

15. IAA 1879015 - Naveyago Goat Development Project

The establishment of ten individual goat-raising schemes for poor farmers in the Sigatoka River Valley.

US financing provided funds to purchase shed building materials, tools and stock for the ten farms - $ 10,000.00

Grant made March 17, 1981.

Recipients accelerated impact input includes labor and materials valued at - $ 2,500.00

The immediate beneficiaries are ten farmers and their families, about 80 people in all.

This is a very impressive project with well constructed buildings and obvious good planning and management. The stock looked healthy and a ministry technician is assigned to the project. He described his daily work routine, called in a herd of goats from the pasture for our inspection, and explained how the sale of goats had benefitted the member farmers in the locale. Unlike other areas of the world where goat herds decimate the environment by eating everything green in sight, it appeared, on casual observation, that they did not seem to affect the heavy tropical foliage. This is a highly successful project. The ministry technician was very knowledgeable, efficient and dedicated. He indicated a desire to travel to the US for added training in goat rearing. We indorse this type of training and feel this individual would be a very worthy candidate.

16. IAA 2879013 - Naidiri/Malomalo Community Irish Crossing

US financing contribution - $ 9,913.32

Local contribution $ 4,100.00

The Malomalo Feeder Road crosses a tidal creek near Naidiri Village and in the absence of a bridge over the creek, it becomes difficult for people, students, cane farmers and motor vehicles to pass through. The problem is usually at peak during high tides and floodings when it virtually becomes impossible to cross at this point. Approximately 2500 tons of cane is also transported through the access road and the cane farmers, mainly Fijians, are the ones who suffer the most.

Cane farmers and villagers from Naidiri, Malomalo, Sanasana, Vunabua and Lolo settlements benefit from the project along with 45 students and teachers attending area schools. Now that the bridge is completed, the risk of crossing the creek during high tides no longer prevails.

We were very impressed with the strength of this bridge constructed of concrete over long, steel beams. It required voluntary labor from the two villages connected by the crossing as well as surrounding Indian settlements approximately two (2) months to complete the 120' crossing. According to villagers, tidal surges during the 1983 cyclone period completely submerged the bridge, however, only minor damage was inflicted. This project is a complete success.

Prior to the following site visits (Tonga) we received an orientation briefing conducted by Jeffrey Schorr, Peace Corps Director, and Maureen Delaney, APCD On the following two (2) projects we were accompanied by Betty Peltier, PCV, and Lesieli Galloway, Director, Fakatouato Center.

17. IAA 3879059 - Fakatouato Piggery Demonstration

The construction of a pig pen to demonstrate to the community how they can pen and care for pigs in an economic manner and upgrade village sanitation.

US financing purchased building materials to construct a single pig pen under the supervision of the Fakatouato Community Training Center staff - $ 237.00

Grant made August 8, 1983.

Recipients input included labor, pigs, feed trays and land valued at - $ 1,049.00

Immediate beneficiaries are a family of 7 persons, and indirectly, the entire community if they adopt this solution to the problem of pigs roaming freely and causing damage to the village environment.

This project was intended to teach people how to pen and care for their pigs rather than having pigs roaming freely rooting and causing destruction. It was intended as a pilot project under the supervision of the Fakatouato Community Training Center staff and a PCV who has since departed. The project is essentially a failure but fortunately represents very minimal US$ input. The failure is a result of neighborhood pigs allowed to run loose and they are rooting and causing destruction and pose a health hazard to the children playing in the area. An isolated project such as this is doomed to failure unless the entire community pens its pigs at the

same time. The law of the land dictates that all pig owners pen their animals or at least prevent their straying to neighbor's property. As with other laws in developing countries this one goes ignored and the Tongan authorities do nothing to enforce existing statutes.

18. IAA 3879060 - Fakatouato Fishing

The purchase of a fishing boat and safety equipment to assist fishermen in Ngele'ia community better utilize their fishing resources.

US financing purchased a 20' boat and accessories - $ 8,980.00

Grant made August 8, 1983.

Recipients input included operating expenses and maintenance for the boat, the director's salary, and labor, valued at - $ 10,120.00

Immediate beneficiaries are the 20 village fishermen and their families totalling 160 persons. The Fakatouato Center supervises the project and retains ownership of the vessel.

The majority of Ngele'ia fishermen did not have regular access to a reliable fishing boat and were dependent upon offshore line fishing. There was also an unsatisfied demand for fresh fish. Now the boat, which we visited, is in daily use and maintained by the center. The supply of fish to the community has been increased. The maintenance and fuelling of the boat is financed by the sale of the fresh fish. It appears at this time that the project is functioning well permitting fishermen who have their own fishing gear, but no access to a boat, to participate in offshore fishing.

On this visit we were accompanied by Rick Hoag, PCV. A graduate architect, Rick Hoag designed the building.

19. IAA 3879012 - Nukunuku Industrial Arts

The construction of an industrial arts building for the purpose of introducing an industrial arts program at Nukunuku Secondary School in the Western Division of Tongatapu.

US financing purchased building materials to construct a building with classroom and storage space - $ 9,997.16

Grant made March 17, 1983.

Recipients input included land, labor, materials and a cash contribution to complete the building, valued at - $ 10,529.06

Immediate beneficiaries are the students at the school and indirectly, the 1,300 inhabitants of the Western Division.

As a matter of national policy, the GOT has encouraged the teaching of vocational courses needed for development in rural village life. The middle school had acquired tools through government channels, but had no adequate facility to make full use of them. The project provided the construction material for a large work room with a classroom and storage room built at one end. We examined the record of receipts for the material purchased and found it in order. The industrial arts building was in full use with an Australian teacher conducting a practical workshop when we arrived. The building is well designed and a highly successful project teaching Tongan skills applicable to village and community life.

On this visit we were accompanied by Masima Sefesi, Town Officer/ Kolovai and Salesi Taholo, Secretary.

20. IAA 3879039 - Kolovai Community Hall

The reconstruction of the community hall destroyed by cyclone in 1982. The center, originally built with AID funds, was used to make and sell handicrafts and as a meeting hall for the village.

US financing purchased materials to rebuild the community hall - $ 10,000.00

Grant made July 11, 1983.

Recipients input included labor and a cash contribution, valued at - $ 3,310.00

The immediate beneficiaries are the women, children and youth engaged in handicrafts and the 1,000 Kolovai residents.

This project represents the rebuilding of the community center which was badly damaged in the 1982 cyclone. It consists of a main meeting house, modern kitchen and toilet. Approximately 25 women were engaged in the making of handicrafts when we arrived. The building is in excellent condition, spotlessly clean, and well organized. When queried Masima Safesi said that adult education plus nutrition/cooking classes were offered at the community hall in addition to its use for handicraft production. Our impression was that this center enjoys varied use and is highly beneficial to the community. Although we are somewhat cautious about the major utilization of community centers, this particular center seems to be an exceptional example of a project with wide appeal for the general community.

14

On this visit we were accompanied by Semisi Fomua, Principal, Tailulu College.

21. IAA 2879006 - Tailulu College Agriculture Project

The establishment of demonstration gardens and poultry farms at the three campuses of Tailulu College located at Nuku'alofa, Pangai and Neiafu.

US financing purchased tools, fencing materials, chicken coops and chickens - $ 9,557.68

Grant made January 15, 1982.

Recipients accelerated impact input includes land, labor, tools, transportation and chicken feed and medication. The estimated value of the local input is - $ 5,494.15

The immediate beneficiaries are the 800 students enrolled at the Tailulu Colleges and the farmers in the surrounding areas.

We were informed by Semisi Fomua that most of the student body leave secondary school after Form 4, which is equivalent to Grade 10 in the US. The gardening tools and implements all appeared to be in good condition and accounted for. The perimeter fencing was in excellent repair and many varieties of crops were under cultivation. Another tranche of AIP funds under this project was utilized to construct a chicken house in order to keep some 200 laying hens for the teaching of poultry skills and egg production methods to the college students and local farmers enrolled in an adult education program. The chicken house is extremely well constructed, in excellent repair but not being used other than as a storeroom. The reason offered for its not being used was that the PCV who had assisted in the establishment of the chicken house had finished his tour and

departed prior to the completion of the structure. Apparently there is no one volunteer of any nationality available with the necessary expertise to get this project off the ground. We believe that chicken production projects are too risky, at least in the countries we visited to be considered for future AIP funding. Chicken hatcheries require a good deal of time in that someone must conscientiously be there to feed the chickens on time, provide water particularly in the hot season, and know something about chicken diseases, etc. An additional drawback is that feed mills produce an inferior brand of chicken feed which aggravates the problems inherant in these schemes.

On this visit we were accompanied by Floyd Bell, WHO Project Director, Urban Drainage and Sewerage Project.

22. IAA 2879003 - Unuaki Fonua Society Urban Sewerage

The construction of safe functioning sewerage and waste disposal systems by individual families in the Pahu area.

US financing purchased septic tanks, water and sewer pipes, toilet fixtures and tools - $ 9,127.49

Grant made December 21, 1981.

Recipients accelerated impact input included all labor needed to complete 11 sewerage systems. The estimated value of the local input is - $ 1,374.45

The immediate beneficiaries are the 150 people living in the Pahu area, with indirect improvements to the lagoon benefitting about 5,000 people.

Toilet facilities for the people living in proximity to the Pahu area were inadequate and constituted a serious health hazard. Human waste material was being discharged directly into the lagoon. Many people from the surrounding area use this body of water for swimming, washing, as well as for fishing. Due to the high water table the utilization of normal septic tank installations is impracticable. WHO designed a septic tank for this high water table situation that can be constructed by individual families thus providing them with a safe method of sewerage disposal. This system could easily serve as a prototype for other countries with a similar problem of human waste disposal in swampy areas. Our impression was that this area was a water logged slum before WHO supervised landfill and adequate septic

tanks were installed. AIP funds were used to procure ten (10) complete systems. The situation is vastly improved now and serves some of the poorest of the poor in Tonga.

23. IAA 2879004 - Unuaki Fonua Society Urban Drainage

The construction, filling and levelling of a proper drainage system around houses in the Pahu area of Tongatapu.

US financing purchased wheelbarrows and coral rock to be used as filler - $ 9,943.96

Grant made December 21, 1981.

Recipients accelerated impact input included all labor, surveying the plots to be improved and transportation of coral rock. The estimated value of the local input is - $ 16,065.00

The immediate beneficiaries are approximately 90 people in the Pahu area.

In Tongan society everyone receives a land grant from the GOT. The plots of land given to approximately ninety (90) families in the Pahu area, next to the lagoon, were readily flooded by heavy rain especially when it coincided with high tide. The Unuaki Fonua Society raised funds to improve the flooding situation faced by the low income residents of the area. As usual, the local effort was financially inadequate and an AIP grant was obtained which was used primarily for the purchase of coral rock for fill. Labor was performed entirely by the community residents. We viewed a number of before and after photos taken by WHO and the value of the project is easily understood after seeing said photos. This project like the project described immediately above, serves one of the most disadvantaged group of people in Tonga. The GOT can be justly criticised for providing such sub-marginal land to its people.

Prior to the following site visits (Western Samoa) we received an orientation briefing conducted by Peter Jurney, Peace Corps Director. On the following projects we were accompanied by Catherine Christie, Associate Director.

24. IAA 3879001 - Western Samoa Pre-School Workshop

The renovation of the main building at the Western Samoa Pre-School Association in Apia to house a toy workshop to provide training and educational learning aids.

US financing purchased tools and equipment, building materials, and salaries for two master carvers - $ 8,596.87

Grant made June 7, 1983.

Recipients input included the Association's "fale" type building, labor, maintenance, materials and advertisements, valued at - $ 6,852.86

Immediate beneficiaries are approximately 1,500 parents, teachers, and children who are trained by the Association and the children who utilize the educational toys.

Due to a lack of learning and teaching material for children many of them lack certain development skills such as eye-hand co-ordination, manual dexterity, etc. The Western Samoa Pre-School Association acted to establish a manufacturing toy shop to develop and produce the necessary learning training and educational material for children in Apia instead of importing them from other countries. It is anticipated that the revenues received from the sale and distribution of the toys will enable the project to become self sufficient. AIP funds were utilized for the procurement of tools, equipment, logs and paint for the "fale" type

building to house the workshop. AIP funds were also utilized to train two (2) master woodworkers. The educational wooden toys are very strong and durable and can take a lot of abuse. We were favorably impressed with the workshop and consider this a successful project.

25. IAA 3879002 - Fish/Ice Holding Coolers fro Village Fisheries

The provision of the ice/fish holding coolers to help rural fishermen store their fish catches longer to take advantage of markets in the larger centers.

US financing purchased 122 Coleman ice coolers, packing and freight from the USA - $ 8,000.00

Grant made December 15, 1982.

Recipients input included a cash contribution, labor, and Ministry of Fisheries supervision valued at - $ 8,000.00

Immediate beneficiaries are the 800 fishermen who operate about 80 fishing "alia" in Western Samoan waters.

Our meeting at this project was with Alfonso Phillips, Chief Fisheries Officer, who discussed the Tongan fishing industry in general, and the 112 AIP funded ice chests in particular. We were also given a tour of the wharf and the large fish market established at the end of the wharf. Prior to the AIP funding of the 112 ice chests fishing was a limited occupation as there was no way to preserve a catch. The need for a means of providing some type of refrigeration for the fishing boats is best attested to by the fact that the 112 ice chests when offered for sale, sold out in a matter of three days. The ice chests were in evidence all over the wharf area and in the fish market. This appears to be a very successful project.

26. IAA 3879003 - George Brown High School Poultry

The construction of a poultry farm to teach basic care, maintenance, and marketing skills of poultry to High School students.

US financing purchased cages, fencing, water and electric facilities, and chickens to start up the project - $ 1,676.04

Grant made December 15, 1982.

Recipients input included labor to construct the cages, maintenance, supervision by the headmaster, and cash, valued at - $ 800.00

Immediate beneficiaries are the 15 - 20 boarding students at George Brown High School involved in the project.

At this stage we were met by Joel Erickson, PCV, who explained the project to us. The PCV who had the expertise in poultry management and in fact was instrumental in initiating the project has long since departed. Joel Erickson's area of expertise is grain production and not poultry. The original concept for initiating the project was sound, e.g., to teach poultry management to the students and provide sufficient eggs for the 15 - 20 boarding students. We found the project still active but it certainly did not appear to be very healthy. The flock looked emaciated and was suffering from some undefined condition which causes wholesale loss feathers. Joel Erickson indicated that the poor quality feed grain obtained locally might be a contributing factor but he wasn't sure this was the case. As mentioned earlier in this report regarding another poultry project, caution should be the watchword in future consideration of this type project. The penning of animals and the intensive care

that poultry schemes require are foreign to the Samoan culture. The fact that a PCV is available and involved in the request for an AIP grant for a poultry scheme is not of itself enough reason to look favorably upon the project. This must be classified as a marginal project and the prognosis is poor.

27. IAA 3879058 - YMCA Motor Mechanics Training

The establishment of a training program in the maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and in basic fabrication skills to provide a sense of self-sufficiency to students in a country where ready-made parts are both rare and expensive.

US financing purchased tools, calibration equipment, gas and arc welders - $ 2,177.00

Grant made August 5, 1983.

Recipients input included the construction of the workshop and cash, valued at - $22,500.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 40 people per year who will be trained and become eligible for jobs in the Apia area.

At this project we met with Terry Kelly, PCV, who teaches the motor mechanic course. Terry provided a tour of the facility and we are pleased to report that almost 100% of the AIP funded small hand tools are on hand in the tool storage shed. This is achieved through a tight inventory control system vigorously applied. Terry stated that he has graduated a number of classes to date with varied success ratios. Western Samoa represents an area with an annual increase in the number of motor vehicles in operation and there are job vacancies to be filled by trained motor vehicle mechanics. We believe this is an excellent project.

28. IAA 3879007 - District Hospital Water Supply

To construct and install elevated water tanks with hand operated pumps to provide a pressurized water supply for hospital facilities at Tuasive, Lalomanu, and Falelatai villages.

US financing purchased materials to construct the tanks, solar collectors for hot water generation, and pumps - $ 6,850.80

Grant made February 4, 1983.

Recipients input included labor from students at the Western Samoa Technical Training Institute, transportation, and materials, valued at - $ 3,792.00

Immediate beneficiaries are patients at the District Hospital facilities numbering about 570 per year.

Although sort of 'Rube Goldberg' in design and appearance, nonethless this project is a success. The goal was to provide hot water at the taps within the hospital for a variety of uses, and this has been accomplished. Our visit was to Falelatai village only.

Peter Jurney, Country Director, Peace Corps and his charming wife Patricia accompanied us to this project.

29. IAA 3879008 - Poutasi Outreach Nursery

The establishment of a nursery to provide a reliable source of seedlings for reforestation and the support of conservation, through an educational program in Western Samoa.

US financing purchased nursery tools, equipment, construction materials, and promotional materials - $ 9,808.75

Grant made February 4, 1983.

Recipients input included labor for land clearance, nursery construction and maintenance, valued at - $ 5,455.00

Immediate beneficiaries are 1,500 farmers in three villages. Eventual beneficiaries number 12,000.

Indigenous forest resources are being rapidly depleted in Western Samoa due to demand for firewood, timber and increased land clearance for food crops. It is estimated that by 1995 the richer forest reserve will have been cut out and current planting reaching maturity will fall short of overall requirements. Efforts are now underway to persuade villagers to undertake commercial scale timber, pole and fuelwood afforestation on their own land. This outreach nursery is providing seedlings directly to farmers as well as promotional material to village councils and school age children. AIP funding provided tools; construction material for the germination house and promotional material such as film strips, slides, poster paper, etc. This is a fine, impressive project and serves an important role in the future of Western Samoa and its people.