

ECPR
ISSUES PAPER

Country : Congo
Project Name & Number : Congo Manpower Training Project
(679007)
LOP Funding : \$2,000,000
Obligation this FY : \$312,000

The issues meeting was held on December 16, 1986 attended by Lee Braddock, Division Chief, Capital Projects, USAID/Kinshasa; and representatives of AFR/PD, AFR/CCWA, PPC/PDPR, AFR/TR/E, BIFAD/S, AFR/TR/PRO, AFR/DP/PAB/ and AFR/PRE.

I. Major Issues:

A. Should this project be a bilateral agreement solely managed by the mission and the GPRC or a buy-in to the Human Resources Development Assistance (HRDA) program?

According to AFR/DP/PAB the added flexibility of the HRDA program allows for signing a bilateral agreement with a total buy-in to HRDA. The project committee concluded that a bilateral agreement having this buy-in capability would be more effective than a bilateral participant training project provided that HRDA funds could be used to purchase administrative support.

B. Can HRDA funds be used to provide administrative support?

The committee's concern is whether the new HRDA program will permit purchase of needed administrative support. USAID/Kinshasa contends that the project requires administrative support from a Congo-based individual since border problems prevent adequate USAID management. Although financing management would be a departure from practice under AMDP, the project committee recommends having the flexibility to respond where justification is provided. Also to be looked into is the most cost effective approach to providing needed field management services. (See item II.A.)

C. Should USAID/Kinshasa seek a waiver to the required 25

percent contribution or can the mission find other alternatives to yield the required amount?

The project committee recommends that the mission explore other funding alternatives such as salaries, assistance to management support, cost of in-country administration, or contribution of non-government sources. Should this not prove to be a viable direction, the PP should seek a waiver on the political grounds that the project is a priority because the Congo's President is the head of the OAU this year.

II. Subsidiary Considerations:

A. The Training Plan should compare several alternatives for managing the project with a view to cost effectiveness. The project committee suggested the following management options: PVOs, TDY assignments, a resident PSC, an HRDA contractor, or a USIS representative.

B. The Training Plan must define identification and selection criteria for trainees with a view to concentrating training on free market approaches and private sector management principles. The training plan should specify to what extent private sector and government employees whose tasks relate to the private sector are being selected for training.

C. The Training Plan must also specify the anticipated fund level which will be used as justification for a Code 935 procurement waiver for training in OECD countries.