

Women in Development
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523
(202) 633-3993

Date of Acquisition
Source

PN-AAV-585

IAN-50007

53

THE POPULATION COUNCIL

WOMEN, LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND
URBAN SERVICES IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN

Annual Progress Report

October, 1983

Cooperative Agreement with USAID
Project No. 912-0007.01

The Population Council
One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
New York, New York 10017

WOMEN, LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND URBAN SERVICES
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Annual Progress Report
October, 1983

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| I. Introduction to the Project | 1 |
| II. Overview of Progress | 2 |
| III. Reports on Specific Sites | 7 |
| A. Jamaica | 7 |
| 1. Projects | 8 |
| 2. Outreach | 12 |
| 3. Group Process | 13 |
| B. Peru | 14 |
| 1. Projects | 14 |
| 2. Outreach | 17 |
| 3. Group Process | 18 |
| C. Mexico | 19 |
| 1. Projects | 20 |
| 2. Outreach | 24 |
| 3. Group Process | 25 |
| Appendix I: Working Group Members in each site | 27 |
| Appendix II: Working Group Meetings in each site | 30 |
| Appendix III: Summary of Projects | 33 |

I. Introduction to the Project

In July of 1981, a Cooperative Agreement was signed by The Population Council and the United States Agency for International Development to support a project entitled "Women, Low Income Households and Urban Services in Latin America and the Caribbean." The purpose of this agreement is to explore and promote practical ways to improve access by low income women to urban services. It enables the Population Council to expand upon its experience in facilitating local resource groups established initially in Brazil and in Uruguay.

The Council supports through collaborative working groups a practical linkage between three currently unconnected groups: planners, social scientists and leaders of action projects concerned with urban development. The broad purpose of these groups is to generate and use knowledge about low income urban women and to increase the rate at which this knowledge is applied to urban development policies.

The specific objectives of the project are:

1. To increase the flow of information on living conditions and specific problems governing the lives of low income urban women.
2. To identify and help initiate or demonstrate optimal approaches that will help women gain better access to the resources and services needed to solve these problems.
3. To raise the consciousness of planners, government and university researchers, program managers and community leaders with respect to these problems and practical solutions.
4. To promote collaborative efforts between these elements,

with the common interest of achieving these practical solutions and understanding the problems better.

5. To develop a capacity to further these objectives through information sharing and highly effective technical assistance.

The project consists of three interrelated activities. First, the Council assisted in the establishment of working groups in Jamaica, Mexico, and Peru. The working groups serve as a primary mechanism through which problems are defined and actions taken. They also constitute standing interdisciplinary resource groups that can lend their expertise to other local persons or institutions. Second, the Council supports through these working groups an action/research awards program which sponsors relatively low-budget projects such as documentation of the work of action projects, the piloting of new service approaches, the reanalysis of existing quantitative data, and the generation of new qualitative information. Finally, information and materials are disseminated locally through the working groups, and more broadly through the Council's extensive network, including the project's own series of working papers, the Regional Working Papers Series for Latin America and the Caribbean, and other outlets.

This report documents work carried out during the project's second year, from October of 1982 through September of 1983.

II. Overview of Progress

During the project's first year, local coordinators were chosen and they worked with project co-managers to interview and

select working group members from the community of planners, researchers and action group members in each site (see Appendix I). The groups began to meet on a regular basis, to define priority issues for their discussions, and to develop concrete project ideas. The second year of the project has seen the continuation of regular working group meetings (fifteen to eighteen meetings in each site - approximately one per month) with a fairly constant or expanded membership (see Appendix II).

Also during the second year, a total of fourteen action/research projects were developed and approved, exhausting the existing monies for sub-awards. Four of these have been completed, nine are underway, and the status of one is uncertain due to institutional problems. The projects cover a diversity of problems related to urban services (see Appendix III). Several are being carried out by teams involving persons with different backgrounds, and most involve direct inputs from the low income client populations. All are applied research projects that will generate information of immediate policy application. Five include direct action components. Most are short-term (under six months), and the longest is a ten-month project. Some were delayed in getting underway, primarily by the requirements of passing through several stages of bureaucratic approval. Several will extend beyond the completion date of the project of December 31, 1983. A no-cost extension of twelve months has therefore been requested.

In addition to meeting regularly and working on projects, during the past twelve months the working groups have greatly expanded their outreach to persons and institutions outside the

membership of the groups. In each site, contacts have been established with a variety of public, community, and academic institutions. Sometimes representatives have been invited to address the working group at their meetings; in other cases institutions have contacted the group to request assistance or exchange. In all three sites the working groups or individual members have worked directly with planning institutions to make concrete policy recommendations. In Peru the working group has been contacted by two other groups - one in Peru and one in Ecuador - interested in attending their meetings or forming their own group with similar aims. The degree to which the working groups are now functioning as resource groups in their local settings has surpassed the expectations of the original project design.

Frequent contact is maintained between project co-managers and local coordinators, by correspondence, telephone and cables. Each site has also been visited at least four times by project co-managers. Marianne Schmink was present at the first working group meeting in each site and returned to help with the preparation of project proposals. On more recent visits she posed to each working group the question of their continuation, evaluation of achievements to date, and future prospects. Project co-managers have also had three meetings in New York. During the past year two meetings of co-managers, local coordinators, and the Council's regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean were held in the Mexico City office (in November of 1982 and September of 1983). These meetings have provided invaluable opportunities for cross-national exchange and

for joint project planning.

Following the November, 1983 meeting, local coordinators and selected working group members from Mexico and Peru participated in a Population Council-sponsored workshop session entitled "Women and Urban Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean" as part of the annual meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, held in Mexico. Six papers were presented by project local coordinators (reporting on the project's functioning in each site) and by working group members from Peru and Mexico reporting on specific awards (community waste management; transportation and physical security). A participant representing a similar working group in Uruguay (initially supported by the Population Council) spoke about research on support organizations for domestic servants in Montevideo. Problems in the measurement of female labor force behavior were addressed by the Argentine participant. Finally, there was a discussant from Brazil. This workshop was an opportunity to bring the project to the attention of a wider audience of planners and academics.

As the project's original completion date draws near, project co-managers have been involved in active consultation with local coordinators and working group members as to the achievements so far and prospects for continuing project activities. A no-cost extension has already been requested to permit the completion of sub-awards currently underway. In all three sites, working group members were unanimous in wishing to continue to meet regularly and to deepen and expand their activities. In two sites (Mexico and Peru) the possibility of formalizing the group has been

raised. Groups in all three sites are working to include new members, to build on their action orientation and to explore means by which their activities can have a greater impact on planning and on community organizations in low income areas. Furthermore, ideas for concrete projects are far from exhausted; an additional fourteen to twenty project ideas have emerged, and many of these are at the proposal stage.

During the next twelve months of the project, regular working group meetings will continue, membership will be expanded and outreach efforts will be broadened. Projects currently underway will be completed and each will produce one or more reports or publications. Eight reports have been completed and are undergoing final preparation to be sent separately to USAID. One is a working paper prepared by project co-manager Marianne Schmink, three more are information profiles prepared by the local coordinator in each site, and four are reports from projects in Jamaica and Mexico. Altogether, approximately eighteen to twenty reports and publications can be expected to emerge from the project by December of 1984. Each will have a dissemination strategy at the local level including circulation of the full project report or of project "briefs" as well as methods for bringing project findings to the attention of relevant planners and community groups. In addition, each report will be considered for its possibilities as a publication with wider appeal through the networks of the Population Council. A publication to be produced as the project's final report will bring together summaries of all sub-awards, overview material on the project and on selected aspects of the problem of urban

services for poor women and their families, and invited articles sharing findings from related projects in housing, food distribution and urban planning.

If additional funds are available, more sub-awards can be made. As mentioned, there are a number of project ideas already being developed. Some portion of new project funds might be earmarked for priority sectors, or for action follow-ons and wider demonstrations from projects currently being carried out. For example, support services could be designed for street vendors in Peru and in Jamaica. Technical assistance, training or credit needs for women in construction work and for women in housing programs are other possible examples. Additional funds would also permit more contact between members of the three working groups, as well as visits to other potential groups in the same countries or new countries.

III. Reports on Specific Sites

A. Jamaica

The Jamaica group was the first of the three to begin meeting, in November of 1981, and since that time has held fourteen meetings (see Appendix II). A core group of members has remained constant, and several new members have joined during the past twelve months (Appendix I). The group is based at the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), which has ceded the time of Ms. Alicia Taylor to serve as local coordinator. Ms. Taylor is trained in sociology and has several years of experience in urban

planning. She is working with her colleagues at UDC on the West Kingston Market Redevelopment Plan. The working group has focused discussions on this well-defined geographical area, where their recommendations and projects can have a direct impact via the UDC project. The group includes representatives from the Bureau of Women's Affairs, the National Planning Agency, the University of the West Indies, the Master Builder's Association, and a private social services organization called Organization Friendship (see Appendix I).

1. Projects

A total of five awards have been approved through the Jamaica working group, of which one has been completed, a second is nearing completion, two more are underway and the other is just getting started. Two are expected to extend into 1984. Four of the five focus specifically on the West Kingston area where UDC is carrying out its Market Redevelopment Plan. Three of the five fall within the housing sector.

The first award approved in the overall project, "Housing and Service Needs of the Elderly," was begun in August of 1982 and completed in December of that year. Under the direction of Karlene Evering of Operation Friendship, the project focused on housing arrangements for elderly populations. An in-depth survey assessed the needs of the 46 elderly persons in West Kingston who are to be relocated by the UDC project. Despite the small size of the sample, the study was timely in producing findings of immediate relevance for relocation policies. Findings from the

survey revealed a higher proportion of women among the elderly target population, more than half of whom live alone (a proportion that is higher for women than for men). Women were also more likely than men to have lived alone previously. Most of the elderly have no other contributors to their meager incomes, and indeed many support other dependents outside their own household. Forty percent had no children to help them financially, and 65% were unemployed. Virtually all of the women were previously employed as either higglers (informal salespersons) or domestic servants.

The study found that despite the strong ties of the elderly to the West Kingston community (average length of residence was 24 years), their needs during their old age were not necessarily taken care of by relatives or other community members. Most had very limited resources, and three-quarters had medical complaints (especially arthritis, hypertension, and vision problems) for which they were treated locally at facilities within walking distance. The project's final report presented these findings along with a set of concrete recommendations for meeting the housing and service needs of this population to be relocated. The report was discussed at a working group meeting in February of 1983, and revised by April. Additional suggestions for revision were made by project co-manager Marianne Schmink, and the final revised report has now been completed. In addition, Karlene Evering has worked directly with UDC planners responsible for the relocation of the target population. One of these, architect Ann Hodges, was motivated by these interactions to become a new member of the working group. Ms. Evering has also

been approached by Jamaica's Council for the Aged to provide assistance in both architectural and social aspects of housing for the aged in all income groups.

A second project in the housing sector also nearing completion in Jamaica, entitled "Performance in Repayment of Mortgage Loans by Women and Men in Jamaica", is being carried out by Florette Blackwood of the Women's Bureau. The study focuses on the characteristics of recipients of mortgage loans from Jamaica's National Housing Trust during a six-year period, and their repayment performance, comparing women to men. A more in-depth phase of research will examine the problems leading to delinquency in loan repayment. The final report for the project will be completed by the end of October, 1983.

A third research/action project is well underway in West Kingston. "Research Study/Proposal to Establish Feasibility of Food Preparation Outlet in West Kingston" is under the direction of Sonja Harris-Williams of the Cultural Development Institute. The project will investigate the feasibility of creating employment for unemployed women through the marketing of a dried fruit/baked vegetable snack using surplus fruits and vegetables from the markets in West Kingston. The feasibility study, which is now underway, will focus on (1) identifying the women in need of training and employment with the appropriate characteristics to participate in a common enterprise, (2) establishing the social and economic feasibility of producing the snacks, (3) initial training of women in the solar drying technology and baking skills required for the dried fruit and vegetable patties, (4) testing three principal markets for the snacks, (5)

projecting the possible employment to be generated against the prospective demand for the product and the cost of producing it, (6) identifying future sources of technical assistance and credit for the women producing these goods, and (7) identifying a suitable location for a production and sales outlet and assessing the cost of these facilities. Aside from the feasibility study, the project will include the initial stages of a demonstration project.

A fourth Jamaica project is being carried out by Ruth McLeod of the Masterbuilders Association and the Building Research Institute. It is entitled "Proposal to Support and Document the Entry of Ten Unemployed Women Aged 17 to 25 into the Construction Labour Force of Jamaica." Ms. McLeod has been working with all levels of the construction industry to investigate the problems confronting women in gaining skills training in construction work. As a first product of the award she will document her findings in this research. She also negotiated with the UDC to arrange for hiring a group of women on a construction site in the West Kingston Market Redevelopment program, and monitoring their performance with a view to offering them training in construction skills. These women have already been selected and a worksite has been found. Their experience will be documented, and recommendations made to the public sector concerning the provision of training for women in construction skills.

The final Jamaica project, just getting underway, is a study to be carried out jointly by Alicia Taylor (UDC), sociologist Elsie LeFranc (University of the West Indies) and economist Donna McFarlane-Gregory (Paul Chen Associates) under the auspices of

the Institute for Social and Economic Research. The project, entitled "Proposal for a Study on the Informal Distribution Network in the Kingston Metropolitan Area," will focus on women who work in informal sales as higglers, and will cover the evolution of this economic activity, a typology of higglers, and the socioeconomic characteristics of higglers and their economic enterprises. Based on this diagnosis, recommendations will be produced for improving their work conditions. These recommendations could serve as the basis for improvements to be made by the UDC through the West Kingston Market Redevelopment Plan. Since most food produced in Jamaica passes through this one market area, interventions on behalf of these higglers could have an important impact on the island's food distribution system, as well as on their own working conditions.

2. Outreach

Aside from their own continued discussions, the working group has expanded contacts with persons and institutions not directly represented in the group. Contacts have been established with representatives of the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Council for the Aged, the Equity Policy Center, USAID, Women's World Banking, the Small Business Association, UNDP, and the Inter-American Foundation. During the past twelve months several outsiders have been invited to address the group on their work related to women and urban services, including two (Blossom White from the University of the West Indies and Ruth McLeod of the Building Research Institute

and Masterbuilders Association) who stayed on as members. Meetings were also addressed by others from the University of the West Indies, from the Women's Bureau, from the United Nations Development Programs and from Jack Hjelt, of the USAID Mission in Kingston, who spoke about the mission's involvement in housing programs. A representative of Jamaica's Small Business Association attended a meeting to speak on their programs, and offered assistance for potential income-generating projects. Finally, local coordinator Alicia Taylor has been actively involved in the establishment of a Jamaica branch of Women's World Banking, which should take place by the end of 1983. Contacts with the latter two institutions greatly enhance the potential for action projects undertaken by the group because of the possibility of financing.

3. Group Process

Membership in the Jamaica working group has been fairly constant over the project's two year period, with some substitution taking place of representatives from the same institutions. The group has reached out more and more to outside persons and institutions, and some of those invited to address group meetings have stayed on to become members. An effort has also begun to expand membership. In recent meetings the group has discussed their perspective on future activities, as the original project period draws to a close. Members expressed their conviction that group meetings are a necessary forum for addressing the participation and special needs of urban women,

and that the working group should continue to meet.

B. Peru

The first meeting of the Lima working group was held in December of 1981, and they have met sixteen times since that initial meeting (Appendix II). Membership in the working group has remained constant over the past twelve months (Appendix I). The group rents a small office to serve as its institutional base and site for meetings, and most of their discussions center on Lima's pueblos jóvenes (outlying squatter settlements). Local coordinator Amelia Fort has a Master's degree in sociology from Sussex University and held a responsible position in the Ministry of Transport for four years. Other working group members include sociologists and anthropologists involved in research and action work with a number of different institutions, and representatives of UNICEF, the Ministry of Labor, and the Municipality of Lima. Two group members are currently candidates for election as municipal level officials, from different political parties. Activities of the working group have taken on renewed importance during the past twelve months due to the economic crisis facing Peru, and the marked deterioration in the standard of living of low income urban dwellers. Some experts now predict that Lima will be the "next Calcutta."

1. Projects

There are now three projects underway in Lima. Two of these will be finished by the end of December of 1983, both surveys of particular service sectors that will produce a diagnosis and policy recommendations. The third is an action/research project that was delayed by a serious automobile accident suffered by its Principal Investigator. The project is now underway and will be completed by April of 1984. Two of the three projects focus on food provision systems, an urgent need given the deteriorating economic situation in Lima. Researchers for both have heavily involved the target communities in the planning of their research.

"Communal Kitchens in Lima," is being carried out by Violeta Sara-Lafosse of the Catholic University. It is a study of about 100 existing communal kitchens in Lima that have arisen in response to a growing problem of food provision for the poor. The study will document the location, quality and types (government, private, community) of communal kitchens and their clientele. Research will also focus on the role of women as consumers and as service providers in the kitchens, and on their effects on consumption patterns and the division of labor within the domestic unit. Specific policy recommendations regarding the design and functioning of communal kitchens will be generated and channeled to relevant officials of the Municipality of Lima, which intends to expand its program of communal kitchens. Initial survey work has been completed, and in-depth research as well as analysis and write-up will be finished by the end of December, 1983.

A project entitled "Transportation and Security: Limitations

on the Use of Urban Services by Low Income Womer" is being carried out by anthropologist Jeanine Anderson and transport specialist Nelson Panizo, under the auspices of the Feru-Mujer Association. The study focuses on the limitations posed by transportation and physical security considerations on the use of urban services, and on the informal means used to deal with these problems. Women's use of services is determined not only by the existence of bus services but also by such factors as the time spent waiting for transportation and walking to and from bus stops, and the danger of injury or theft such activities may entail for women and their families. The findings of the study will form the basis for the elaboration of recommendations for the design of support services that can increase real access to existing services. Research has been completed in one of the two neighborhoods to be studied, and the project will be finished by the end of December of 1984.

The third Lima project entitled "Women Street Vendors of Prepared Foods" is being carried out by Estrella Picasso of INPET. Following a delay of several months for medical treatment, she began work in August of 1983 on this research/action project that will focus on a growing occupational sector for low income women that also provides low-cost meals for urban workers. Social and economic characteristics of street food vendors are being surveyed, to form the basis for a diagnosis of the work conditions of women in this activity. Recommendations for actions to improve their situation will be outlined, and discussed with the working group and with the target population. On the basis of these discussions,

participative pilot training programs will be carried out with a group of street vendors. The results of the project will be communicated to planners, researchers and action groups through a public seminar. The project should be completed by April of 1984.

2. Outreach

As in Jamaica, the Lima working group has increasingly broadened its contact with persons and institutions not directly represented in the group membership. Contacts have been established with the Ford Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation, USAID, the Peruvian National Population Council, and INANDEF (a national population studies institution). During the past twelve months speakers were invited to address the group from UNICEF and from ESAN, an institution for training and research on public and private administration. Contact has also been established with Equity Policy Center, which is planning research on street foods in both Jamaica and in Peru. The group was approached by the Peruvian National Population Council for help in the consolidation of their policies with regard to women. The Lima Mission of USAID requested feedback from group members on its planning for future programs on women. During one working group meeting they discussed a document on training for women, and channelled their comments to the mission. Local coordinator Amelia Fort has also been asked to review the overall AID program planning document.

The group has also been approached by other similar groups

interested in their activities. A group currently being formed in Piura, Peru, site of devastating floods during the past year, has requested advice from the working group on their activities. This group is involved in urban reconstruction programs and wishes to incorporate a focus on women into its work. A second group in Quito, Ecuador has also contacted the working group and has been invited to attend a group meeting in Lima in the near future. This group, the Fundacion Mariana de Jesus, is working with USAID on a housing and urban development project in Quito in a low income area with 6,000 families of which 27% are headed by women.

Finally, the Lima working group took a public stand as a group on the issue of co-educational policy. In March, 1983, when the government announced that co-educational programs were to be suppressed, the group sent a letter to the Minister of Education, as well as a statement to the press, opposing this suppression.

3. Group Process

Membership in the working group in Lima has remained constant over the two years of the project. During recent meetings group members discussed their achievements and future prospects. They recognized a series of functions for the group: serving as a technical resource for other persons and institutions; stimulating debate on priority issues; generating concrete project ideas; and disseminating findings and ideas to a wider community. The group members expressed their strong

commitment to continuing their work and expanding their membership. In the face of a deteriorating economic situation, they have a clear recognition of the need to continue their role in discussion, documentation, and dissemination. The possibility of a more formal identity for the group was discussed. A strong need was also expressed to find ways to have a greater impact both on policy formulation and in orientation and technical support for organizations of low income women. The group will work to enhance their action orientation in future work.

C. Mexico

The first working group meeting in Mexico took place in March of 1983, and the group has met a total of eighteen times (Appendix II). In addition, various sub-committees of the working group, created for specific tasks or projects, have met frequently between working group meetings. Local coordinator Liliana Kusnir is provided institutional support by the Population Council's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Mexico City. Ms. Kusnir has training in sociology and many years of experience in planning and action projects with the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture and Husbandry, the WHO, and the United Nations. The project also has the official support of CECODES (Center for the Study of Ecology and Development), where working group meetings are sometimes held. Working group members include representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Secretariate of Health and Assistance, CECODES, CONACYT (the Mexican equivalent of the National Science

Foundation), the National Minimum Salary Commission (mixed government/private sector), the Secretariate of Labor, and various Universities and action groups (Appendix I).

1. Projects

Six projects have been approved through the working group in Mexico City. Two have been completed, three are underway, and the sixth is temporarily in suspense due to institutional problems. Service sectors covered by the projects are diverse, but there is an emerging concern within the working group for developing forms of communication accessible to women in low income areas. Two of the projects reflect this interest in designing simple pamphlets intended to inform low income populations about available services.

"Urban Services for Women in Mexico City" was carried out by Lourdes Romero of the Center for Social Studies and Programs and completed in September of 1983. The project consisted of an inventory and evaluation of existing services for low income women in Mexico City in the health, education, consumption, employment, training, and infrastructural services sectors. The findings of the study will provide a timely input into the new government's redefinition of priorities in urban areas. Interest has already been expressed by the Department of the Federal District and by the National Population Council. The report will also provide background for a short course on women, the state and the planning system, to be taught by local coordinator Lilian Kusnir at the Colegio de Mexico.

A second project completed in September of 1983, entitled "Evaluation of Traditional and Alternative Experiences in Handling of Urban Waste in Low Income Areas of the Valley of Mexico, with Emphasis on the Role of Women and Community Participation," was coordinated by Fernando Ortiz Monasterio of the Colegio de Mexico. The team involved in the project included technicians as well as representatives of low income community organizations. The study traced the history of waste management in the Valley of Mexico, and described the magnitude of the current problem. A promising experience using an alternative waste management and recycling system was then documented. The Group for Alternative Technology, from Merida, Mexico, has designed an "Integral System for Recycling Organic Waste" that is managed by members of a cooperative in a low income urban neighborhood. The system recycles both gray and black waters using a combination of aerobic and anaerobic processes, and produces a high quality fertilizer that can be sold to generate income for the cooperative. It thus has income-generating potential in addition to its merits in improving sanitation and strengthening the potential for community organization. Aside from the project report, the award will also produce a simple manual explaining the system to other communities interested in alternative systems of waste management. This pamphlet is now being tested. Co-manager Marianne Schmink has also visited the original pilot system installed in Merida, and is preparing a report on that experience for wider dissemination.

A third project that is underway in Mexico, entitled "Preparation of Two Pamphlets for Low Income Women with Emphasis

on Training and Work" is being carried out by Melba Pinedo of the Labor Secretariate. Preliminary findings reveal that women lack information about existing services to assist women in their search for and choice of training and employment opportunities. The project will carry out a critical evaluation of existing training and employment services and opportunities, in order to compile necessary information in pamphlets on training and employment. The pamphlets will use an accessible design to orient low income women in their use of these services, and the study will investigate the means by which the information generated can be updated and disseminated. The project will be completed in November of 1983.

The fourth Mexico project that is currently underway also has as its objective the production of a pamphlet for use by low income women. Entitled "Self-Help Pamphlet on Women and Health in Mexico," it is being carried out by Elsa Rodrigues of the Autonomous National University of Mexico. The pamphlet is intended to improve the information available to low income women and to health institutions regarding priority health problems from the user's perspective. Women in low income urban areas have traditionally been responsible for handling their own and their family's health needs. Such practices are particularly crucial given the inadequacy of public health institutions to respond to demand. More orientation is needed for women as to which health problems can be treated in the home, and which require treatment by modern institutions. In order to improve women's ability to effectively evaluate their health service needs and hence to rationalize the use of these services, the

project will help improve the information as a basis for self-help actions. The focus of the pamphlet will be on the most common health needs of low income women and their families, how these problems can be prevented and treated, and available health services. The project's methodology is based on extended consultation with health providers and clients, which is currently underway. The project will be completed in January of 1984.

Also underway is a project entitled "Child Care Strategies in the Metropolitan Area of Mexico City" by Maria Luisa Acevedo of CECODES. The study focuses on formal and informal means of child care. A survey will be carried out to detect informal means of child care, their effectiveness and possible ways to support them. Rough estimates of demand and of existing supply of formal child care services will be calculated. Institutional programs will be evaluated, and recommendations produced for integrating child care services with other programs. The study will be completed in January of 1984.

A sixth project entitled "Analysis of Women's Role in Self Help Housing and in the Management of Basic Services" was approved but has not yet gotten underway due to institutional problems. The project would use information collected in a survey carried out by CECODES in 1981 in self help housing projects in several urban areas. Household survey data collected permits the identification of particular constraints faced by households that lack a male head. Taped in-depth interviews contain more detailed information regarding the role played by women in self help housing projects. A final decision is

expected by December as to the feasibility of proceeding with the project; if not, a substitute project on a similar topic will be encouraged.

2. Outreach

Both individually and as a group, working group members have consulted influential institutions other than those represented in the membership. Contacts have been established with the Ford Foundation, the Human Settlements Directorate of Urban Ecology, the Department of the Federal District, the Secretariate of Public Education, the Mexican National Population Council, the UN Economic Commission on Latin America, and with representatives of Mexico's dominant political party have continued. Three working group members participated in an invitational commission to suggest guidelines for social development policies for the city, providing background reports that highlight low income women as one important target group. The Department of the Federal District has expressed an interest in the results of group's work, as have the Secretariate for Public Education and the Secretariate for Health and Assistance, whose Director of Communications and Special Projects in the Federal District, Maricarmen Elu de Lenero, is now a working group member. The National Population Council has consulted with the group, and members attended a seminar sponsored by the Council. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America project on women has expressed interest in coordinating their work with that of the group, and several group members attended an ECLA seminar on

women, education and mass media. Contacts have also been established with academic institutions. The working group was invited to give a radio show presentation on their work on the Women's Forum sponsored by the Autonomous National University of Mexico. The Colegio de Mexico's Permanent Seminar on Research on Women has invited the group to present a series of talks based on their work. Finally, local coordinator Lilitana Kusnir has been asked to give a short course at the Colegio on the topic of women, the state and the planning system.

3. Group Process

Group membership has changed somewhat, particularly as a result of the change in government which had an impact on the work schedules and priorities of members. There is a stable core group of seven or eight original members, as well as four or five new members and two to four who are irregular attenders that continue to maintain close contact with the activities of the group. Aside from regular group meetings, members stay in contact through more frequent meetings of the sub-committees established by the group to oversee specific projects or tasks.

During recent meetings group members discussed their perspective on future activities. A commitment was made to continue meeting throughout 1984. Members also expressed a need to meet more frequently, perhaps twice a month, in order to consolidate their work as a group. An interest was expressed in developing an "umbrella" group project that would function over a two to three year period. The possibility of formalizing the

group's status was also discussed.

Appendix I: Working Group Members in each site

A. Working Group Members (Jamaica)

| <u>Name and field</u> | <u>Institution</u> |
|---|---|
| Alicia Taylor (Coordinator) sociologist; planning/research | Urban Development Corporation |
| Florette Blackwood planning | Women's Bureau |
| Karlene Evering social work; action/research | Operation Friendship |
| Sonja Harris-Williams sociology; planning/research | Women's Bureau |
| Daphne Hurge social work; action/research | Urban Development Corporation |
| Lorna Leslie social work; action/research | Urban Development Corporation |
| Donna McFarlane-Gregory economist; research | Paul Chen Young & Associates |
| Hermione McKenzie sociology; research | University of the West Indies |
| Dorian Powell sociology; research | University of the West Indies |
| Gloria Royale sociology; planning | Urban Development Corporation |
| Blossom White sociology; research | University of the West Indies |
| Ruth McLeod journalism; action | Building Research Inst. Masterbuilders Assn. |
| Ann Hodges architecture; planning | Urban Development Corporation |
| Affette McCaw planning | National Planning Agency |
| Amy Lee medicine; research/action | University of the West Indies |

B. Working Group Members (Peru)

| <u>Name and field</u> | <u>Institution</u> |
|---|--|
| Amelia Fort (Coordinator) sociologist; research/planning | Population Council |
| Jeanine Anderson anthropology; research/action | Peru Mujer |
| Vilma Vargas de Balmaceda sociology; research/planning | Ministry of Labor |
| Maruja Barrig journalism; action/research | |
| Willy Bezold architect; action/planning | UNICEF |
| Susana Galdos action/planning | Center for Initial Education |
| Ana Martinez social work; action/planning | Ministry of Health |
| Estrella Picasso social work; action | Peruvian Institute for Self-Managed Businesses |
| Violetta Sara-Lafosse sociology; research/action | Catholic University |
| Alicia Sebastiani sociology; research/planning | Ministry of Culture |
| Nelson Panizo Vera transport; planning/research | |
| Alejandro Icochea de Vivanco architect; planning | Municipality of Lima |
| Mario Zolezzi sociology; research/action | Center for Studies and Promotion of Development |

C. Working Group Members (Mexico)

| <u>Name and field</u> | <u>Institution</u> |
|--|---|
| Liliana Kusnir (Coordinator) sociologist; planning/action | Population Council |
| Maria Luisa Acevedo sociology; research/action | Center for Eco-development; National Institute for Anthropology and History |
| Lourdes Romero Aguilar research/action | Center for Social Studies and Programs |
| Maria de los Angeles Leal architect; planning | Human Settlements Directorate |
| Jorge Legoreta architect; research/planning | Center for Eco-Development; National Council for Science and Technology |
| Larissa Lomnitz anthropology; research | National Autonomous University |
| Fernando Ortiz Monasterio engineer; planning | Colegio de Mexico |
| Margarita Nolasco anthropology; research | Center for Eco-Development; National Institute for Anthropology and History |
| Ely Rayek psychology; planning | Ministry of Education |
| Alvaro Sanchez architect; planning | National Autonomous University |
| Elsa Rodrigues communications; planning/action | Autonomous National University of Mexico |
| Jorge Arango architecture; research | Autonomous National University of Mexico |
| Melba Pinedo communications; action/planning | Labor Secretariate |
| Maricarmen Elu de Lenero sociology; planning/research | Secretariate of Health and Assistance |
| Norma Samaniego planning | National Commission on Minimum Salary |

Appendix II: Working Group Meetings in each site

A. Working Group Meetings (Jamaica)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Major Discussion Themes</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| November 10, 1982 | UDC West Kingston Market Redevelopment Plan |
| December 10, 1982 | Higglers (street and market venders); employment generation for women in food preparation at the market site |
| January 14, 1982 | Continuation of themes of previous meeting |
| February 11, 1982 | Proposal review process; housing and services for the elderly |
| March 16, 1982 | Proposal review and preparation; housing and services for the elderly |
| June 24, 1982 | Ministry of Construction procedures for allocation of housing and collection of arrears; project proposals |
| September 2, 1982 | UDC income-generating project with seamstresses; UDC community organization project; self-employed women |
| October 7, 1982 | Higglers project; ISER study of women in the Caribbean |
| November 4, 1982 | Small Business Association; income-generating projects |
| March 17, 1983 | Women in construction work; National Family Planning Board fertility study |
| April 21, 1983 | AID shelter projects; group projects in housing |
| May 19, 1983 | Women's Bureau plastics recycling project for women |
| June 16, 1983 | ISER study of women in the labor force in Jamaica |
| September 15, 1983 | Project progress reports; evaluation and future prospectss |
| October 13, 1983 | UNDP projects for women |

B. Working Group Meetings (Peru)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Major Discussion Themes</u> |
|-------------------|--|
| December 8, 1982 | Introduction to the project and to group members |
| February 5, 1982 | UNICEF/Health and Education Ministries integrated services project; urban problems |
| March 12, 1982 | Urban planning and housing; future agenda |
| May 7, 1982 | Evolution of women's employment |
| June 11, 1982 | Family survival strategies |
| June 18, 1982 | Project proposal review procedures |
| July 16, 1982 | Ambulatory sales; domestic service; pieceworkers; artisans' cooperatives |
| September 3, 1982 | Project proposals; women in urban food services |
| October 22, 1982 | Conceptualization of urban services |
| November 26, 1982 | Urban transport |
| December 17, 1982 | Health services supply and demand; state policy |
| January 21, 1983 | Co-education policies |
| February 25, 1983 | Evaluation of working group |
| April 29, 1983 | Project progress reports; agenda for future meetings |
| July 1, 1983 | UNICEF services planning; AID document on training and education for women |
| August 12, 1983 | Evaluation and future prospects |
| September 2, 1983 | Continuation of theme of previous meeting |

C. Working Group Meetings (Mexico)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Institution</u> |
|--------------------|---|
| March 10, 1982 | Introduction to the project |
| March 30, 1982 | Typologies of low income women; definition of priority groups |
| April 27, 1982 | Basic profiles of low income women; critiques of existing service coverage; priority service needs |
| May 25, 1982 | Education, water and transport services |
| June 17, 1982 | Costs of services; vocational training |
| July 29, 1982 | Project proposals |
| August 11, 1982 | Project proposal preparation |
| September 14, 1982 | Urban ecology; community participation (held at the Human Settlements Directorate) |
| September 30, 1982 | Non-formal adult education |
| October 7, 1982 | Education policies for low income women |
| November 9, 1982 | Project administration; child care |
| January 31, 1983 | Project administration; pamphlets for low income women |
| March 22, 1983 | Family planning manual for rural Mexico |
| April 26, 1983 | Political participation of low income Mexican women |
| June 28, 1983 | Project progress reports |
| July 19, 1983 | Evaluation and future prospects |
| August 30, 1983 | Continuation of theme of previous meeting |
| September 28, 1983 | Project progress reports |

Appendix III: List of Projects Approved

1. Housing and Service Needs of the Aged (Jamaica)
Survey of target population of elderly women and men and assessment of their needs and capabilities. Recommendations for the process of relocation of the target populations, to be presented both to the working group and to planners. Project completed December, 1982. Principal Investigator: Karlene Evering, Operation Friendship. Budget: \$6,243.
2. Urban Services for Women in Mexico City (Mexico, No. LAC/83.401A)
Overview of institutions that target their services to low income women in the Federal District and evaluation of their implementation. Recommendations to planners to improve effectiveness of service provision. Project completed September, 1983. Principal Investigator: Lourdes Romero Aguilar, Centro de Estudios y Programas Sociales. Budget: \$2,433.
3. Waste Management (Mexico, No. LAC/83.400A)
Documentation of technical and social aspects of the "Integral System for Recycling Organic Waste" currently being used in a community in the Valley of Mexico, with emphasis on the role of women. Preparation of pamphlets and reports for dissemination of the experience. Project completed September, 1983. Principal Investigator: Fernando Ortiz Monasterio, Human Settlements Secretariat. Budget: \$4,315.
4. Communal Kitchens (Peru, No. IB3.13A.)
Study of forms, locations and beneficiaries of existing communal kitchens. Analysis of role of women as consumers and service providers, and of effects of communal kitchens on consumption patterns and the division of labor within the domestic unit. Recommendations for the design and functioning of communal kitchens. Report due December, 1983. Principal Investigator: Violeta Sara-Lafosse, Catholic University. Budget: \$9,625.
5. Women Street Food Vendors of Prepared Foods (Peru, No. IB3.14A)
Survey of social and economic characteristics of street food vendors. Recommendations of actions to improve their work conditions. Participative pilot training programs followed by a public seminar to discuss results. Report due April, 1984. Principal Investigator: Estrella Picasso, Instituto Peruano de Empresas de Propiedad Exclusiva de Trabajadores. Budget: \$9,910.

6. Transportation and Physical Security (Peru, No. I83.21A)
Study of limitations posed by transportation and physical security considerations on the use of urban services, and of the informal means used to deal with these problems. Recommendations for the design of support services that can increase real access to existing services. Report due December, 1983. Principal Investigators: Jeanine Anderson Velasco and Nelson Panizo Vera, Peru-Mujer. Budget: \$14,910.
7. Food Preparation Outlet (Jamaica, No. I83.34A)
Feasibility study of employment creation for women in marketing of prepared foods using surplus market produce. Initial skills training, market testing, identification of sources of technical assistance and credit, assessment of costs. Report due October, 1983. Principal Investigator: Sonja Harris-Williams, Cultural Development Institute. Budget: \$8,850.
8. Self-Help Housing and Basic Services (Mexico, No. LAC/83.402C)
Survey of patterns of participation in self-help housing and service management, comparing households headed by men and by women. Analysis of in-depth interviews with community leaders and government officials regarding the role of women in self-help housing projects. Project status in question due to institutional delays. Principal Investigator: Jorge Legorreta, Centro de Ecodesarrollo. Budget: \$5,400.
9. Repayment of Mortgage Loans (Jamaica, No. I83.33A)
Study of data at National Housing Trust on mortgage loans awarded since 1976. Documentation of socioeconomic characteristics of female loan recipients as well as their repayment performance compared to men. Focus on the problems leading to women's delinquency in loan repayment. Report due October 1983. Principal Investigator: Florette Blackwood, Women's Bureau. Budget: \$3,300.
10. Booklets on Training and Work (Mexico, No. LAC/83.403A)
Evaluation of existing services and opportunities for training and employment for low income women. Compilation of two pamphlets to orient women in their use of these services and in decisions about income-generating activities. Recommendations for up-dating and dissemination of information. Report due November 1983. Principal Investigator: Melba Finedo Guerra. Budget: \$3,300.

11. Self-help pamphlet (Mexico, No. LAC/83.404A)
Design of pamphlet containing information to serve as a basis for self-help health care. Focus on most common health needs of low income women and their families, how these problems can be prevented and treated, and available health services. Dissemination of pamphlet to public health education institutions and programs. Report due January, 1984. Principal Investigator: Elsa Rodriguez Rojo. Budget: \$4,866.

12. Child Care Strategies (Mexico, No. LAC/83.405A)
Study of informal means of child care, their effectiveness and possible ways to support them. Estimation of supply and demand for institutional services. Evaluation of existing services and suggestions for integration with other programs. Report due January, 1984. Principal Investigator: Maria Luisa Acevedo. Budget: \$7,621.

13. Higglers (Jamaica, No. I83.49A)
Study of the informal commercial sector in Kingston, including historical and socioeconomic characteristics of higglers and their enterprises. Recommendations of policies to improve their economic activities. Report due March, 1984. Principal Investigators: Alicia Taylor, Elsie LeFranc, and Donna McFarlane-Gregory, Institute of Social and Economic Research. Budget: \$19,300.

14. Women in Construction Work (Jamaica, No. I83.50A)
On-the-job training of ten women in construction work and continued skills upgrading. Documentation of women in the construction trade. Recommendations to the public sector concerning the provision of training for women in construction skills. Reports due December, 1983 and December, 1984. Principal Investigator: Ruth McLeod, Building Research Institute. Budget: \$8,255.