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**Nicaragua Child Survival VIII Project
Report: Second Quarter FY93**

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Contract Number: FAO-0500-A-00-2029-00
Project Number: 938-0500
Project Title: Nicaragua Child Survival VIII Project
Contractor's Name: World Relief Corporation
AID Project Office: FHA/PVC/CSH, Jaime Henriquez
Publication Date: April 27, 1993

**WORLD RELIEF INTERNATIONAL
NICARAGUA CHILD SURVIVAL PROJECT
SECOND QUARTER FY93 REPORT**

January - March 1993

1. Main Achievements

Achievements on project objectives will be reported later when the health information system (HIS) has been set up and is functioning.

2. Geographical Growth

At present, work is continuing in the following municipalities of Rio San Juan: San Carlos, Las Azucenas, San Miguel, Morrito, Sábalo and El Castillo.

The CS project has initiated its work in SILAIS Oriental, which includes District VI of Managua and the municipality of Tipitapa. District VI is divided into two areas, Silvia Ferrufino and Villa Venezuela with a population of 94,626 and Tipitapa with a population of 76,410.

3. Conferences and Visits

a. January 18-19

Meetings were held with Dr. Hugo Barquero, Project Hope CS Director, in Boaco and in Managua to revise and adapt all the educational materials.

b. February 4-5

Dr. Mario Ortiz, MINSA SILAIS director in Rio San Juan invited the seven CSP health promoters and the area coordinator in Rio San Juan to participate in a workshop for brigadistas and health personnel on malaria.

c. February 7 - March 12

Lisa Filoramo, HQ CS Administrative Coordinator advised and coordinated, together with the CS Nicaragua staff, the baseline surveys done in Managua and Tipitapa and the writing of the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP).

d. February 11-13

Felix Jimenez, Development Associates Specialist in Monitoring and Evaluation, attended the baseline survey training.

- e. **March 24 - April 3**

Dr. Alberto Araica and Aminta Ferrufino attended the Third Latin American CS Congress in Yacuata, Tarija, Bolivia, sponsored by USAID for PVO's involved in Child Survival projects.

- f. **March 29**

Rachel Hogue, Dr. Jairo Campos and Dr. Zorayda Gomez, WR CS staff attended the Technical Discussion #3 "Family Health in Nicaragua" sponsored by Development Associates and PROFAMILIA. The discussion was held with regard to the results of a recent survey conducted by PROFAMILIA/USAID regarding women's health knowledge and practices in Nicaragua.

4. Training

- a. **Health Coordinators**

A training workshop for Area Coordinators was held January 11-14 with the attendance of the three CSP Area Coordinators. Content of the workshop included a description of the CSP and its organizational structure. The workshop gave participants an explanation of the strategy and methodology of CSP training, several administrative aspects of World Relief, coordination relationships with MINSA and the churches, a revision of the educational materials to be used, activity schedule planning and the development of workshops.

- b. **Health Promoters**

The second training session for seven Health Promoters and the Area Coordinator for the Rio San Juan region was held from January 17-23. The topics covered were Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), population census taking, and discussion over the results of the baseline survey.

The first training session for the fourteen Health Promoters from District VI and Tipitapa (7 from each) was held January 25-29. The topics covered included an introduction and overview of the CSP program, population census taking, and EPI.

From February 11 to 13, 14 Health promoters were trained in the process and methodology of the baseline survey. Other participants in the training were: Felix Jimenez, Development Associates; Daysi Lopez, MINSA representative from District VI and Lisa Filoramo, HQ CS Administrative Coordinator.

c. Health Volunteers (Brigadistas)

On February 15, 42 Brigadistas in Rio San Juan were trained in the methodology for the census. The census was performed from February 22 - March 12.

From March 15-19, 42 Brigadistas in Rio San Juan were trained in the implications of the baseline survey and in EPI. The training included prevention of contagious diseases and the vaccination schedule for a child's first year of life.

5. Coordination Activities

Meetings with MINSA Area Directors from Silvia Ferrufino and Villa Venezuela were held January 5, 12, and 15. In Tipitapa similar meetings were held on January 6, 13 and February 2. Topics discussed in these meetings include the selection of brigadistas, Community Health Committees (CHCs), the baseline survey and the organizational strategies of the CSP. Also present in the meetings were specialists from Center for Investigation and Studies on Health (CIES) who were interested in the development of the CSP.

On January 22, a meeting was held with the MINSA SILAIS director in Rio San Juan to discuss the results of the baseline survey and the development of the project and the strategies for implementation.

On March 3, a meeting was held with PROFAMILIA to discuss their education program and the possibilities of coordination.

On March 3, a meeting was held with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Child Survival Director to discuss ways to increase community involvement and strengthen project organizational structures.

On March 4th and 9th, a meeting was held with the MINSA SILAIS Oriental Director in Managua to discuss MINSA norms for various interventions.

Meetings were held on March 5 and 8 with the Director of the National Program on Malaria Control, to discuss priority strategies, the necessity of the antimalarial program and the educational needs of mothers in malaria prevention.

6. Planning Activities

From February 22 - March 12, World Relief Nicaragua CSP personnel held daily meetings to define the strategies for each intervention, to collect the necessary information for the DIP and to define the organization of the CSP in each area, as well as to write the DIP.

7. Community Participation

Throughout the month of February and March there has been active community participation in the three project areas in the identification and selection of brigadistas to work voluntarily with the program, as well as the individuals which will serve as block representatives and be representatives in the CHCs. Community and church leaders have been very supportive of the program in Managua and Tipitapa and many have assisted the brigadistas in obtaining data for the community census and introducing the program to the community.

9. Project Constraints

- a. The change in the DIP due dates from June to April has affected considerably the start-up activities in all three regions as key training personnel were heavily involved in gathering information for the DIP rather than providing support to the field staff.
- b. The project in the Rio San Juan region has and will continue to face difficulties in the recruitment and retention of trained personnel due to its location and difficult terrain. To date, three promoters have quit and great efforts will need to be made to replace them and train these new promoters.
- c. In order to deal with the above and other constraints in the Rio San Juan project area, project management will need to investigate ways to deal with the limited funding.

8. Plans for the Next Quarter

- a. Define the Health Information System.
- b. Continue training of Promoters and Brigadistas.
- c. Consolidate the census information.
- d. Hold further meetings with MINSA to define the training priorities and strategies for health personnel and the community.
- e. Coordinate with PROFAMILIA with regard to educational training.
- f. Train the CS field personnel in the HIS and put it into place.

ACRONYMS

CHC	Community Health Committee
CIES	Center for Investigation and Studies on Health
CS	Child Survival
CSP	Child Survival Program
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
EPI	Expanded Program of Immunization
HQ	Headquarters
MINSA	Nicaragua Ministry of Health