

PD-ABG-818

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**PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT**

845300

**PROJECT TITLE:** Partners of the Eastern Caribbean Training Project  
**PROJECT NUMBER:** 538-0160  
**FUNDING PERIOD:** 07/07/86 - 07/06/89  
**LOP FUNDING:** \$1,600,000.00  
**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:** Partners of the Americas  
**PACD:** 07/06/89

**1. PROJECT PURPOSE**

To increase the number of vocational, technical and professional training opportunities for the public and private sectors of the eight caribbean partnerships in the areas of business, tourism, non-traditional agriculture, youth leadership (including drug abuse education) and to a lesser extent emergency preparedness.

A secondary purpose of the project was to establish the Grenada-Broome County partnership.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Partners of the Americas, a private voluntary, inter-American organization, works to improve the quality of life in the Americas. Partners operates through volunteer committees in countries in which partnerships exist, to plan and execute technical assistance and cultural exchange activities in the fields of agriculture and rural development, special education and rehabilitation, health, sports and arts.

In 1983, Partners was chosen to implement one component of the AID/Washington financed Caribbean Basin Scholarship Fund (CBSF). Under this component, training was organized and administered through partnerships already in existence between the U.S. and the Eastern Caribbean. AID/Washington provided \$1.0 million to finance up to thirty person months of long-term training and 266.7 person months of short-term training in the United States.

In December 1985, Partners submitted an unsolicited proposal, for a three year program, through which two hundred and forty persons from the Eastern Caribbean partnerships would receive training in the United States. Additionally, three regional seminars focussing on tourism development, small business development and high impact agriculture were planned for each year of the project.

Based on its experience with Partners under the CBSF, RDO/C felt that their existing networks and support systems in the United States augured well for the successful implementation of this project. Accordingly, in July 1986, a grant was signed with Partners of the Americas to implement the Partners Eastern Caribbean Training Project.

### **3. INPUTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **(A) INPUTS**

RDO/C            \$1,600,000.00

#### **(B) ACHIEVEMENTS**

Two hundred and twenty-three (223) short-term and one (1) long-term candidate received training in the United States. Of the total number of persons trained, one hundred and twenty-five (125) or 55% were women, exceeding the Agency's requirement that 40% of the trainees should be female.

One hundred and seventy trainees were from the private sector.

Of the fields of study offered under the project, business was the most popular, with one hundred and forty-nine (149) persons being trained in this area.

Additionally, the Grenada-Broome County Partnership was successfully established and twelve Grenadians received training through this Partnership.

### **4. LESSONS LEARNED**

1. The project was affected by a number of implementation problems stemming from the weak institutional framework of the Eastern Caribbean Partnerships. This was largely reflected in the partnerships inability to process applications and prepare relevant documentation for training in a timely manner. One result of these slow implementation efforts was that project achievements with respect to individual training were less than planned and RDO/C was forced to intervene and use the group training mechanism in order to attain the targets originally projected.

2. Strictly volunteer organizations operating without the necessary support staff often lack the essential framework to execute developmental programs of any significant magnitude. Lack of support staff particularly affects participant training programs which are extremely labor intensive.

Lack of support staff also affects the trainee recruitment process as in some cases the best caliber candidates were not selected for training.

The aforementioned problems ultimately affected the impact of the training program in terms of reaching the targeted beneficiaries and ensuring the anticipated multiplier effects.

**Clearance:**

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(SAS)  
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8/31/93 pax*