

Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program
Leadership & Advocacy for Women In Africa
(LAWA)

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QUARTERLY PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT
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Summary

By Cooperative Agreement effective March 25, 1993, A.I.D. has undertaken financial support for the pilot project, Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA), sponsored and administered by the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program.

The LAWA project will recruit, select and train twenty women lawyers from Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda interested in advancing the cause of women's rights upon return to their countries. Selected participants will come to Washington, D.C. for a sixteen month period of advanced legal study and work assignment on legal and policy issues affecting the status of women. They will participate in a Masters of Law degree program at Georgetown University Law Center. Following their studies and receipt of their LL.M. degrees, each participant will be assigned to work as a staff attorney with a legal or public interest organization in the Washington, D.C. area where she will work for six months on legal and policy issues affecting women. At the conclusion of the sixteen months at the end of the month of November, participants will return home to their countries.

The estimated completion date of the Cooperative Agreement is December 31, 1997. The Agreement provides for reimbursement of allowable program expenditures beginning January 1, 1993. The estimated A.I.D. amount is \$1,299,392, with \$500,000 obligated by A.I.D. for program expenditures through June 30, 1995.

The first four participants were scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C. from Ghana and Uganda on July 11, 1993. Three arrived on that date and one arrived one week later on July 17, 1993.

This report is the first quarterly program performance report describing the accomplishments of the LAWA Program during this first quarter of actual operation, July - September, 1993.

I. Project Accomplishments

A. Goals of the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program

The broad goals of the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program are described in the Program Implementation Plan and will not be detailed here. The same is true of the overall goals of the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa Program.

The goals for the Program's First Quarter: July - September, 1993 were as follows:

1. Complete recruitment and selection for the first year of the program.

2. Complete arrangements for the arrival and participation of the first four program participants.

3. Complete academic program design and course selection by participants.

4. Ensure the smooth operation of the program in its first quarter.

5. Facilitate the integration and participation of the program participants into the LAWA program, into the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, into the law school community and into their new life.

B. Accomplishments during the Program's First Quarter, July - September, 1993, regarding these goals:

1. Complete recruitment and selection for the first year of the program. Recruitment and selection were completed before this first quarter of training, having been concluded in May, 1993. See Trip Report submitted in late June, 1993.

2. Complete arrangements for the arrival and participation of the first four program participants. On July 2, 1993, four airplane tickets were sent by courier to the participants. Arrangements were made for travel advances of \$100. for each participant. During June, the AID missions to Ghana and Uganda had completed their portion of the travel forms, visas and medical clearances required for the participants. Volunteers met the participants as they arrived at their Washington D.C. airports and delivered them to their housing at the training site at the Georgetown University campus.

3. Complete academic program design and course selection by participants. During July, the final meetings were held with the appropriate Georgetown Law School officials to complete the design of the 20 credit Masters of Law program concentrating on women's issues. Three courses were required and nine others were recommended for their 20 credit degree program. In mid-July, the two Program Directors met with the four participants for a half day of counselling and advising. The Directors then arranged the participants' enrollment in courses which no longer had open enrollment. By the end of the month, all four had an academic schedule for the 1993-94 academic year in place.

4. Ensure the smooth operation of the program in its first quarter. From July 13 - August 6, 1993, the four participants joined some 200 other international lawyers to participate in a program entitled "Orientation to the U.S. Legal System", sponsored by the International Law Institute and Georgetown Univer-

sity Law Center and coordinated by the Foreign Student Coordinator at the Law Center. During this time, the four LAWA participants were housed on the Georgetown University campus in Northwest Washington with the other participants in the orientation program. During this month, the LAWA staff assisted them in locating affordable housing for their remaining fifteen months in the program. Several informal social gatherings were also held to facilitate their adaptation to their life in Washington. These activities are more fully described in the Training Report submitted at this same time.

5. Facilitate the integration and participation of the program participants into the LAWA program, into the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, into the law school community and into their new life. Following completion of the orientation course, the LAWA participants had a two week period before their Masters program began in earnest. During this two week period, they completed their moves into their chosen housing in Maryland and participated in typing and computer courses arranged specifically for them and conducted at the Law Center. On August 20, 1993, they began orientation into their Law School program and their classes commenced on August 23, 1993.

On September 9, 1993, the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program officially began its year with a full day orientation attended by the LAWA participants. Since that time, the four LAWA participants have joined the eight Women's Law Fellows for all of their planned seminars and activities. This

is in addition to their obligations as Masters degree candidates to attend classes and lectures and perform the required class assignments and course requirements.

In August, a monthly non-academic seminar were inaugurated solely for the LAWA participants. The purpose of this seminar was to ensure the smooth transition of the participants in the life of their new community. The August session covered the requirements and expectations of AID participants involving such issues as allowances, ability to work, travel. It also dealt with shopping, food purchasing and health. The September session involved weather and clothing. More description of these seminars are provided in the previously mentioned Training Report.

II. Finances and Expenditures

A. Accounting Systems

Because this is a first award to the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, A.I.D. had a pre-award survey done. Following the intial visit by the auditor in December 1992, the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program Directors and accountant created some additional accounting systems to comply with his recommendations. Evidence of these efforts was delivered to the accountant before December 31, 1992.

At the time of the signing of the Cooperative Agreement at the end of March 1993, arrangements were made for a cost reimbursement system of performance. Following clearance of our accounting systems by the auditor, a letter of credit system would be established.

On July 12, 1993, a second auditor visited the program. Throughout the meeting, the usual reponse to her questions was that the information she was requesting had been provided to the auditor in December, 1992. She returned to her office and discovered the documentation that the Fellowship Program had submitted. She then forwarded her recommendation through her supervisors that our accounting systems were in compliance with federal grant requirements. To date, no system for operating with a letter of credit has been established.

Expenditures. As of September 30, 1993, no request for reimbursement of expenses had been submitted.

Conclusion

This brief description of the goals and accomplishments of the first quarter of the actual operation of the program cannot describe the intense work effort involved in getting the program in place and operating so soon after the signing of the agreement on March 27, 1993. Program staff only hope that with the second quarter, the pace of operation becomes more orderly.