

PD-AG-1-671

QUARTERLY REPORT

DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAS

AID Regional Project # 598-0813

OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1993

- I. NAPA/Washington Activities**
- a. Programmatic**

A large extent of the activity this quarter was devoted to disseminating information about the Citizen Participation Project to Partners' 133 member chapters in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective was to stimulate interest and awareness about the project so that partnerships would be motivated to participate actively in the project.

From October through the present date, the Project Director, Anita Friedman, briefed Partnership representatives about the project and asked them to promote the participation of their respective partnerships in the project.

In December, Partners staff developed and distributed to all 133 chapters, a Citizen Participation Project Fact Sheet and Application form. (A copy of this information is attached). All partnerships interested in participating in the project on a multi-year basis were asked to complete and submit the form by the end of January 1994. The applications will be reviewed at that date, and 20 partnerships will be selected to participate in the five-year project. Partnerships selected must: a) show a high level of commitment to developing a multi-year civic education program; b) have strong linkages with civic organizations; and c) demonstrate the ability to recruit into the partnership members with experience and interest in this field.

- b. Administrative**

Partners' Washington and Regional staff held various meetings with AID/LAC/DI Project Manager, Dr. John Swallow. Some of the issues discussed included: methodology for selecting partnerships and projects, project budget and management, role of CONCIENCIA and CCP, matching grants, definition of citizen participation, and the importance of the project for AID's work in democracy.

An annual work plan for the first year of the Citizen Participation project was formally submitted to Dr. Swallow.

1-

II. Regional Activities

Partners held its annual convention from November 18 to 20 in San José, Costa Rica. This year's convention theme was "The Consolidation of Democracy in the Americas." Given this particular programmatic emphasis, it was an opportune time for Partners' staff to distribute information about the new project to a large number of the 400 Partner volunteers that were assembled there. Two Breakfast Roundtable sessions were held on the theme of Citizen Participation. During those sessions, Partners and CONCIENCIA/OCP staff briefed Partner volunteers about the specifics of the project in both English and Spanish.

Special panels focused on how the partnerships can expand their work to strengthen civil society and voluntary movements that form the underpinnings of strong democratic nations. The keynote panel discussion highlighted the consolidation of democracy in three countries, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Argentina, and the role of NGOs, like Partners, in that consolidation. The speakers for that panel included:

- Maria Rosa Martini, Founder and Vice President of CONCIENCIA/Argentina;
- José Regunega, President of the Paraguay-Kansas Partners and Political Advisor to the "Encuentro Nacional" party in Paraguay; and
- Dr. Carlos José Gutierrez, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, former Dean of the Law School of Costa Rica, and former Costa Rican Ambassador to the UN.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Bob Barker, Professor of Law at Dusquene University in Pennsylvania. Dr. Barker is also a member of Partners' Board of Directors.

Another important panel focused on the "Role of Women in the Consolidation of Democracy." The panelists who participated in this discussion were:

- Irma Arias Duval, Co-founder and Vice President of Conciencia/Argentina, and President of the Organización Cívica Panamericana;
- Rosalie Norem, Latin American Program Officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Women in Development;
- Paula Antezana, Director of the Center for Philanthropy, Fundación Arias para la Paz y el Progreso Humano, in San José, Costa Rica, which has various programs that support women's rights; and
- Carmen Masias, Director of CEDRO, a Drug Abuse Prevention Program in Lima, Peru.

Funds from the Citizen Participation Project helped sponsor the participation of the following individuals at the Convention:

- Maria Rosa Martini;
- Irma Arias Duval;
- José Augusto Regunega; and
- Anita Friedman.

Partners and CONCIENCIA/OCP staff took time at the convention to discuss the scope of work for CONCIENCIA and the OCP in the new project over the next year.

Prior to the convention, Partners carried out a Central American Democratic Arts Skills Building workshop in Heredia, Costa Rica, from November 15 to 17. Eight Central American partnerships who were already participating in a Civic Education Project during the past year, with funds from the AID/WID office, participated in this workshop. These partnerships are interested in continuing their work in this area by joining the new Citizen Participation project. Partners promoted the new project to these partnerships at the workshop.

In December, Partners' project collaborator, CONCIENCIA/Argentina, together with the Organización Cívica Panamericana (OCP) promoted the participation of the OCP affiliates in the project by calling and writing each affiliate.

During this quarter, Regional Coordinator, Martha Cecilia Villada visited the following partnerships to promote the new project. None of these trips have been charged to the Grant.

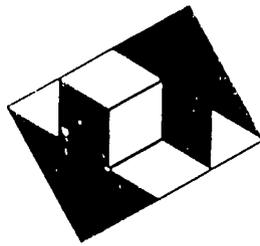
- Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia - Massachusetts Partners;
- Cali, Colombia - South Carolina Partners;
- Bogota, Colombia - Florida Partners;
- Costa Rica-Oregon Partners; and
- Guatemala - Alabama Partners.

In Colombia, in addition to meeting with the Civic Education subcommittees of the partnerships, Marta Cecilia also visited with a civic organization called "CONCIENCIA-Colombia."

III. Financial Report

A financial report for the October 1 - December 31, 1993 period is not available at this time. Due to the fact that Partners closes its accounting books at the end of the calendar year, final financial reports for this Grant have not yet been produced by our Accounting Department. A financial report for this period will be sent to AID by the end of February.

**PARTNERS
OF THE AMERICAS**



1424 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone 202-628-3300 Cables: NAPAR Telex 64261
FAX: 202-628-3306
TYMNET: (On Tyme) DNA. NAPA

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Partnership President and/or Executive Director:

I am pleased to announce the launching of Partners of the Americas' new **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** program. This five-year initiative, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, will promote the strengthening of democratic societies in the Americas by training citizens in the skills they need to work and live in a democracy, increasing citizen participation in the governance process, and strengthening civic organizations and their ability to carry out effective civic education.

Attached you will find three **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** documents:

- 1) fact sheet about the program;
- 2) application form to participate in the program; and
- 3) suggestion sheet with ideas about potential **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** activities.

If your partnership is interested in participating in this program, you should fill out the application form and return it to the Partners office in Washington, DC no later than **January 31, 1994**. Your partnership can either fill out one application jointly, or have each committee fill out its own application. If you fill out one form jointly, you should include information about both sides of the partnership.

Since only 20 out of 60 partnerships will be selected to participate, we would like to start the selection process in February. So, if for some reason, you cannot get the application in on time to the Washington office, please let us know via fax or phone that your partnership is interested in participating in the program.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Anita E. Friedman
Director
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

What: Partners of the Americas announces an opportunity for partnerships to join in a new, five-year initiative, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. This effort, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, will promote the strengthening of democratic societies in the Americas by:

- 1) training citizens in the skills they need to work and live in a democracy;
- 2) strengthening civic organizations and their ability to carry out effective civic education; and
- 3) promoting the participation of women and youth in civic and public affairs.

Why: The Western hemisphere has participated in a worldwide democratic revolution over the last decade. This has caused a high demand for resources to promote and maintain this positive trend. Citizens all over the Americas wish to understand the changes that are taking place in the governance of their countries and to play active roles in shaping the future of their governing systems and society as a whole. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION focuses on educating the public on their rights, responsibilities and opportunities as citizens and motivating them to participate actively in community and public affairs.

How: The CITIZEN PARTICIPATION project will enable partnerships to carry-out the following types of activities:

- Training and technical assistance for civic organizations to strengthen their ability to carry out civic education projects and improve their own internal management;
- Workshops in "democratic arts" skills such as: consensus-building, negotiation, conflict resolution, dialogue and feedback;
- Networking of organizations that promote citizen participation and civic education;
- Fellowships for leaders of Latin American civic organizations to work with U.S. counterparts; and
- Professional exchanges that support the partnership's CITIZEN PARTICIPATION project.

Who: Twenty (20) partnerships will be selected to participate in this initiative. Partnerships interested in participating need to show a high level of commitment to developing a multi-year civic education program, strong linkages with civic organizations, and the ability to recruit into the partnership members with experience and interest in this field.

5

Participating partnerships will be expected to:

- 1) carry-out a specific needs assessment for civic education and democracy strengthening in their country.
- 2) work with a diverse group of leaders and organizations from local civic organizations; and
- 3) develop a long-term civic education program involving both the Northern and Southern committees of the partnership.

When: *Apply now* by filling out the attached form and sending it to:

Anita Friedman, Partners of the Americas, 1424 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20005. For more information call: (202) 628-3300, ext. 131 or toll free in the U.S. 1-800-322-7844, or FAX: (202) 628-3306

or call or write to: Martha Cecilia Villada, Regional Representative, Partners of the Americas, Apartado Aéreo 250710, Bogotá, Colombia, tel. (57) (1) 614-4224, FAX: 259-4528.

Applications are due by January 31, 1994.

4. List the names and professional credentials of the individuals within your partnership that work in the area of civic education or democratic initiatives.

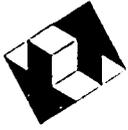
5. List the names and professional credentials of the potential new members your partnership could recruit to work in the area of civic education or democratic initiatives.

6. Does your partnership have a Civic Education or Democratic Initiatives Sub-committee in the North or the South or both? When was it established?

7. List the name and professional credentials of the individual in your partnership (North and South) who could become or already serves as the Chairperson of the Citizen Participation Sub-committee.

For questions relating to filling out this application, please contact your partnership representative or Anita Friedman, Director of the Citizen Participation Program, Partners of the Americas, 1424 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20005, tel. (202) 628-3300, ext. 131, FAX: (202) 628-3300 or Martha Cecilia Villada, Regional Representative, Apartado Aéreo 250710, Bogotá, Colombia, tel. (57) (1) 614-4224, FAX: 259-4528.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE BY JANUARY 31, 1994.



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Partners of the Americas is offering an opportunity for partnerships to get involved in a new program called, **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**. This comes under the broader title of "Democratic Initiatives." A number of partnerships have already been working in this area, but for many this will be a new initiative.

Due to the increasing shift toward democracy in the region over the last decade, there has been greater demand for resources to promote and maintain this positive trend. Citizens all over Latin America and the Caribbean want to understand the changes that are taking place in the governance of their countries and want to play active roles in shaping the future of their governing systems and society as a whole. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** focuses on educating the public on their rights, responsibilities and opportunities as citizens and motivating them to participate actively in community and political affairs.

Types of Volunteers to Get Involved:

We encourage all partnerships to take this opportunity to recruit new volunteer members into the partnership to work in **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**. Here are some ideas on where to find individuals interested in this area:

- volunteers and staff from civic education organizations such as the League of Women Voters (state and local chapters), Model State Legislature programs, municipal government associations, etc.; in the South, look into the affiliates of CONCIENCIA or the Organización Cívica Panamericana, among others;
- volunteers and staff from civic groups or associations that have strong civic education components--e.g. some Boy/Girl Scouts or 4-H groups conduct extensive activities in civic education;
- volunteers and staff from local organizations that counsel and support voluntary associations, volunteer bureaus, philanthropy centers, especially those individuals who work with non profits on issues of staff and board development, organizational development, planning, management etc.;
- journalists who cover politics, civic events, local government;
- educators who teach governance, civics, political process -- e.g. political science, history, or sociology professors; high school civics teachers;
- cooperative extension agents who work with "family community leadership";
- city council members, city managers, part time legislators;
- staff of state legislatures and court systems.

Types of Activities that can be Funded within this Area:

1. Training in "Democratic Arts"/Participatory Leadership Skills:

Partnerships can conduct training for civic organizations in the South that would serve to:

- strengthen their planning, implementation and evaluation abilities for use in civic education programs;
- strengthen the ability of those organizations to conduct civic education for the public;
- encourage those organizations' to develop internal decision-making processes and structures that are more democratic and participatory.

Examples of participatory leadership skills which could serve as the basis for training are:

- ⇒ active listening, giving and receiving feedback;
- ⇒ dialogue;
- ⇒ negotiation;
- ⇒ delegating functions and responsibilities within the target organization;
- ⇒ facilitating group decision making;
- ⇒ coalition building;
- ⇒ advocacy;
- ⇒ consensus building;
- ⇒ project planning and evaluation;
- ⇒ sustainable fundraising.

2. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance can be provided to civic organizations through international travel opportunities for the Northern and Southern committees. Some examples of technical assistance that fall within the scope of the program are:

- Members of the participating civic organizations travel North/South to the partner state or country to see how their counterparts conduct civic education projects and to obtain new techniques and methodologies useful for institution-building or in civic education programs;
- Travel to North/South to consult on project design, lead workshops, train staff, design materials and other activities that support the civic education project.

3. Civic Education Projects

Small grants are available for civic education projects. A few ideas for projects are:

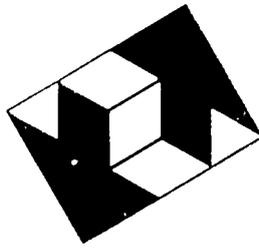
- education on upcoming elections and how to vote;
- organizing public debates relating to the process of governance and the law;

- educational campaigns on how to become more involved in the community and exercise your responsibilities as a citizen;
- development and incorporation of civic education into school curricula;
- sponsoring mock parliaments and stimulating debate and public speaking in high schools or youth groups on specific issues and how students can get involved;
- organizing fora on the process of democratization in a given country;
- development of materials and dissemination of information on the functioning of the government and its laws; society; and citizens' rights and responsibilities;
- an education campaign for the public on new laws that apply to them.

Important Things to Keep in Mind:

- ⇒ Be creative and run your ideas past your partnership representatives!
- ⇒ Always be non-partisan. Do not allow your projects or activities to be dominated by people with strong party affiliations or who have political ends. The goal here is to serve the greater public.

PARTNERS
OF THE AMERICAS



1424 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone 202-628-3500 Cables: NAPAR Telex 64261
FAX: 202-628-3306
TYMNET: (On Tyme) DNA. NAPA

January 31, 1994

Mr. John Swallow
Program Officer
AID/LAC/DI
Room 3253
Department of State
Washington, DC 20523

Dear John,

Enclosed please find five copies of Partners of the Americas' Quarterly Report for the Citizen Participation Project, AID Regional Project # 598-0813, for the period of October 1 - December 31, 1993. This report does not include financial information for this quarter. Given that Partners closes its Accounting books at the end of each calendar year, our 1993 books have not yet been closed. Therefore, I cannot provide you with final financial data for this period until the end of February. Please accept my apologies, and let me assure you that you will be provided with this information as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the report, please do not hesitate to let me or Barbara Bloch know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anita E. Friedman
Director
Citizen Participation Project

CC: AID/POL/CDIE/DI