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USAID/PARAGUAY

SEMI-ANNUAL PROJECT STATUS REPORT

APRIL 1, 1994 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1994

USAID/PARAGUAY SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW

December 1994

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I. USAID REPRESENTATIVE'S NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The Mission conducted the semi-annual review (SAR) exercise during the month of December, 1994. This review has revealed that none of the projects in USAID/Paraguay's portfolio have major implementation problems. All the projects have met their proposed objectives and are on schedule. Therefore, with one exception, they have been rated in the "A" category. More details on individual project status can be found in the activity narrative by project.

USAID/Paraguay is in the process of revising its strategic objectives framework to ensure a more focused program priorities and adapt its portfolio consistent with its new status as a sustainable development country. Most of USAID/Paraguay's activities in recent years have been limited in scope, owing to its more developed country status when targets of opportunity rather than long-term projects predominated.

The new portfolio, however, will switch from pilot type activities to more focused, long-term activities, very closely atuned to our strategic objectives, namely: 1) strengthened democratic institutions, systems and practices; 2) more sustainable management of natural resources; and 3) increase use of voluntary family planning services. USAID/Paraguay is in the process of refining the strategic objectives, as well as defining performance indicators and relevant impact evaluation tools for each area. This process has just been completed for family planning services, and similar exercises will soon be underway for the environment and democratic activities.

To ensure a sound analytical base, USAID/Paraguay will undertake sector assesments in the democracy and environmet areas.

II. ACTIVITY NARRATIVE BY PROJECT

1. Account: INTERCOUNTRY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
Number: 598-0616.06
Activities:

Activity Title: Health Systems Mmgt. & Accountability

PACD: September 1, 1995

Activity Purpose: To provide technical assistance to the Paraguay Ministry of Health in three key areas:
a) costing/budgeting
b) reorganization
c) management training.

Funding: LOP: \$1,450,000 - Obligations: \$1,450,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

The new Minister of Health, appointed in July 1994, fully supports the USAID financed project and actively participates in its implementation.

The most significant accomplishments of the project, now in its third year, include:

- a) A computerized budget and financial management information system new fully functional;
- b) A complete administrative reorganization of the Ministry headquarters. Reorganization of a model health region is in progress.
- c) Health services comparative cost studies completed in two health regions;
- d) The training of more than 100 top and mid-level managers in modern methods of health administration and decision-making.

Under a contract extension beginning in September 1994, the following new activities have been initiated:

- a) implementation of an inventory control system;
- b) development of quality improvement activities at the secondary care levels in two health regions;
- c) expansion of the budgeting information system to a model region;
- d) expansion of the management training program to include:
 - more mid-level managers
 - National Directors (Senior MOH Staff)
 - Regional Directors
 - Hospital Directors

Project Designation: A

<u>Activity Title:</u>	Development Services & Training Program
<u>PACD:</u>	December 31, 1995
<u>Activity Purpose:</u>	To support the creation of a cadre of Paraguayans well-trained in economic planning, business management, and in other selected fields for the development of the country.
<u>Funding:</u>	LOP: \$1,512,870 - Obligations: \$1,512,870

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Short-term training: the project organized an NGO management training course in Asunción, with about 50 attendees. This training was organized in collaboration with "Instituto FES de Liderazgo", a Colombian organization specialized in leadership

Liderazgo", a Colombian organization specialized in leadership training. This type of in-country training has a high impact at a relatively low cost per capita.

Long-term training: to date, the program has seven participants in universities in the US, seven in Chile, and seven in INCAE/Costa Rica.

The selection Committee, composed of representatives of USAID, the Paraguay-Kansas Information and Resources Center for Development, the Master in Business Administration Program of the Catholic University, and the private sector (it is expected that a representative of the Ministry of Education will be part of the Committee soon) is in the process of selecting participants for next year.

To recruit participants for long-term training in economics and business administration during 1994, the program was given wide publicity through the press, at meetings held in the IRCD with potential candidates, and through specific organizations such as alumni associations and the volunteers of the Paraguay-Kansas Committee.

No major problems exist in the implementation of this program.

Project Designation: A

<u>Activity</u>	Drug Abuse Prevention
<u>Title:</u>	
<u>PACD:</u>	June 30, 1995
<u>Activity</u>	To provide support and technical assistance
<u>Purpose:</u>	services to Project Marandú in institutional strengthening and with programmatic activities in drug awareness education.
<u>Funding:</u>	LOP: \$600,000 - Obligations: \$600,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Project Marandu assisted the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) prepare the prevention components of their anti-drug strategy plan. Work and training sessions with reading materials have been completed with the Commission on Drug Trafficking and Health of the Chamber of Deputies.

Working closely with the Ministries of Education and Health, and using handbooks prepared by MARANDU, 120 school teachers from 40 primary and secondary schools in Central, Itapúa, Alto Paraná and Amambay, were trained. Teachers who were trained after 9 seminars worked with nearly 5,000 students. Discussions with the Ministry of Education and the Members of the Council for the Educational Reform has started to elaborate didactic materials

Activity Title: Economic Policy/Trade/Investment (CEPPRO)
PACD: December 31, 1995
Activity Purpose: To carry out a program of economic policy reform activities, including reviews of the legal framework and impediments to economic growth.
Funding: LOP: \$525,000 - Obligations: \$525,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

The document "Economic Policy Proposal: A General Outline", finished and presented to different political parties before the Presidential elections in May 1993, was edited as a book to reach a larger number of readers in the public and private sectors.

CEPPRO signed an agreement with the Foreign Investment Advisory Service of the World Bank, to prepare a report on Paraguay's Strategic Plan for Attracting Export-Oriented Foreign Investment. This important report was presented to the Government in July 1994.

In October, an amendment to the grant agreement was signed with CEPPRO to increase USAID Financial assistance by \$275,000 to a new total of \$525,000. The new funds will be used to review several draft laws related to economic policy. It is expected that the results of these studies will improve the legal framework to promote a greater participation of the private sector in the economy.

Another activity of CEPPRO is to train teachers at secondary and at tertiary levels, to analyze and discuss the meaning of economic and social problems and economic concepts. This training is expected to have a multiplier effect among students and the general public who will be able to understand basic economic concepts and permit a greater participation in the decision-making process on economic issues.

The other important activity to be carried out by CEPPRO with the new funds is an evaluation of the environmental impact resulting from ongoing or projected economic development.

Project Designation: A

Activity Title: Peace Corps Training

PACD: N/A

Activity Purpose: To strengthen and expand health and environment sector activities by PCV's and their local counterparts.

Funding: LOP: \$150,000 - Obligations: \$150,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

The project funded workshops for over 160 PCVs and over 200 of their Paraguayan counterparts, many of whom participated in more than one of the activities. All first year Volunteers and their counterparts participated in training for Project Design and Management, an event which serves as a springboard for planning and implementing community projects for the next 18 months of service.

Technical area training promoting environmental improvements included workshops covering agro-forestry, environmental education, soil conservation and integrated pest management. Through USAID funding, Peace Corps was also able to support the Ministry of Health Childhood Survival campaign through workshops covering nutrition and disease prevention as well as through training aimed at improving community water sources and environmental sanitation.

Project Designation: A

2. **Account:** HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES
Number: 598-0591.06
Activities:

Activity Title: Legislative Strengthening (Legislación 2000)

PACD: December 31, 1995

Activity Purpose: To establish a cooperative mechanism between the Center for Legislative Studies and Assistance, CEAL, from Valparaiso, Chile, and local organizations to provide information, technical assistance and training to modernize the legislative process in Paraguay.

Funding: LOP: \$919,800 - Obligations: \$919,800

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Progress has been constant in Congress staff-training assistance, where congressional authorities have given full support to the

activity, and have permitted staff to attend training events as planned by IRCD and CEAL.

Locally, cooperation mechanism with NGOs and universities have been slower but are now acquiring momentum. Resources will be geared towards the establishment of local congressional staff training facilities in cooperation with universities, and the intensive use of Paraguayan professionals in advisory services, mainly hired through NGOs.

Important contributions have been made through consultants to the discussion of IDB loan agreements, the law on environmental impact, international agreements and other legislative matters. The activity has now included advisors in international relations, decentralization, and health. The strategy of working with local experts backed by international consultants only when required, has created a strong link of confidence between the legislators and the program. Local capacity has been strengthened.

Advisory services to legislators will continue to be based on predominantly Paraguayan professional resources, backed-up by international consultants as required. The areas of concentration derive from the identification of national priorities, USAID's country plan and active projects, and the areas of involvement of other agencies such as the IDB and the United Nations. Some of the present advisory activities of IRCD with the Congress include areas such as: local government strengthening and decentralization, strengthening enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, improving Paraguay's access to international information sharing networks, etc.

Project Designation: A

<u>Activity Title:</u>	USAID/USIS Administration of Justice Joint Project
<u>PACD:</u>	September 30, 1995
<u>Activity Purpose:</u>	Expose representatives of the Paraguayan Judiciary to US institutions, systems and practices
<u>Funding:</u>	LOP: \$297,500 - Obligations: \$297,500

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

With project financing, four judges attended last February the USIS FY-94 IV Program on Administration of Justice in the United States.

In September, 1994, a Superior Court Judge of San Diego, California, traveled to Paraguay as Academic Specialist. His two-week program (Sept. 19-30) spanned two university law schools, three cities, and a variety of segments of the

Paraguayan Judicial system, including conferences, meetings with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General, visits to penitentiaries, and a mock trial with National University law students.

Project Designation: A

3. **Account:** REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
Number: 598-0642.06

Activity Judicial Reform

Title:

PACD: September 30, 1995

Activity Purpose: Strengthening of an independent and efficient judiciary

Funding: LOP: \$942,000 - Obligations: \$942,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

During 1994 the project carried out the following activities:

1. **Creation and Implementation of a Judicial Training System**

The draft law on the creation of the Judicial Training School has been completed and was submitted to the Congress by the Supreme Court for enactment.

In June, 1994, with project sponsorship, two members of the Judiciary, and an Education specialist attended the conference on Judicial Education and Career Development in San José, Costa Rica.

2. **Integrated Program for the Computerized Systematization of Legal Information.**

USAID/Paraguay has provided funds to set up a system for case tracking and other administrative needs.

Procurement of equipment was completed and the system is in full operation.

3. **Revision of existing Criminal Codes.**

Technical assistance was provided to the judiciary to begin reform of the penal system.

The Working Group designated by the Supreme Court and the Public Ministry completed the development of a draft Criminal Procedures Code. This law will be discussed all

over the country and the final version sent to Congress for study and enactment.

4. Judicial Library

USAID/Paraguay is helping to create a Judicial Library in the Palace of Justice. This activity will strengthen the existing library and anticipate the bibliography needs of the future.

Mission has started the procurement of books, furniture and equipment and the design of a modern administrative system with computerized catalogin and control.

5. Education campaign on alternative dispute resolution techniques

The goal of this activity is to get judges, prosecutors, lawyers, professors, and university law students to become better acquainted with the rich variety of dispute resolution options that exists today.

Two of four planned seminar-workshops were already conducted in the field, during the month of November, 1994.

Project Designation: A

**4. Account: OTHER USAID/W ACTIVITIES
Activities:**

Activity Voluntary Family Planning (IPPF)

Title:

PACD: January 31, 1995

Activity To provide voluntary family services through CEPEP
Purpose: clinics in Asunción and the interior.

Est. Funding: \$400,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Funds provided by "The LAC Transition to Sustainable Program Project" has initiated the following specific activities during the period January 1993 to June 1994:

- a) Family Planning Services at CEPEP clinics located in Pedro Juan Caballero, Coronel Oviedo and Encarnación;
- b) Training courses for Contraceptives Community Distributors and Associated Medic and Para-medical personnel;

- c) Voluntary Surgical Contraception services in CEPEP centers located at the following cities: San Ignacio, San Lorenzo, Coronel Oviedo, Encarnación, Yalve Sanga and Pedro Juan Caballero;
- d) Community Contraceptives Delivery Services throughout the entire country and the implementation of the Associated Physicians Program.

During the present SAR period, the same activities were continued.

Gender Issues: the project addresses all of its activities to the women.

Project Designation: A

Activity Title: Labor Management Relations - AIFLD

PACD: N/A

Activity Purpose: Assist in the promotion of improved labor/management relations.

Est. Funding: \$200,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Basic trade union training and democratic participation education workshops and seminars were held for a total of 1,124 trade unionists (of which 432 were women) who participated in courses that included topics such as labor's role in a democratic society, labor legislation, modern labor-management relations, and basic union development.

Six union leaders (including one woman) attended training courses at the George Meany Institute in Washington. Topics included Labor Education Techniques, Social Dimension or Economic Integration, and Contemporary Issues for Working Women.

Project Designation: A

Activity Title: Low-Cost Cooperative Housing (CHF)

PACD: September 30, 1995

Activity Purpose: To strengthen and/or establish private sector oriented cooperative housing delivery systems in South America through the systematic and sustainable development of national and local structure and systems.

Est. Funding: \$100,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Based on the success of this activity CHF's grant was amended to allow for a second year of technical project support which was not anticipated in the original grant agreement. CHF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Credicoop which lays out Credicoop's role and responsibilities as a shelter technical service organization (TSO) for the cooperative sector, as well as the technical assistance and training that CHF will provide. Additionally, a similar agreement was signed between the Peace Corps, CONAVI and Credicoop in which all three parties committed to continue to support the cooperative housing project. CONAVI has agreed to continue to provide funding for this initiative through calendar year 1995.

Other achievements include development of a report on housing finance and delivery mechanisms in Paraguay as a basis for additional studies on the possibility of a housing guarantee loan for FY 96.

Project Designation: A

Activity Title: Farmer-to-Farmer (Partners of the Americas)
PACD: N/A
Activity Purpose: To improve the effectiveness of farming and marketing operations in selected Latin American countries (Paraguay) through technical assistance provided by volunteer U.S. farmers.
Est. Funding: \$100,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

Twelve volunteer U.S. farmers and project coordinators provided technical assistance in: fruits & vegetable harvesting/marketing; milk production and processing; beef cattle nutrition; meat and cattle grading/classification systems; horn fly control, boll weevil control; and wheat quality evaluation. The experience generated through the interface between the FTF volunteers and the local producers, as well as the technical recommendations made by the volunteers, continue having a positive multiplier effect through demonstration and extension work implemented by Ministry of Agriculture's extension agents and producer organizations.

Project Designation: A

Activity Title: "Parks in Peril" (The Nature Conservancy)
PACD: N/A
Activity Purpose: To ensure long term protection of Mbaracayú Nature Reserve and prepare a master plan for managing the national parks system of Paraguay.
Est. Funding: \$300,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

The PIP program has contributed over \$500,000 to the protection of the Mbaracayú Nature Reserve in Northeastern Paraguay. This reserve protects one of the last large tracts of Interior Atlantic Forest in the region and the largest area of continuous sub-tropical humid forest left in Paraguay. The success of the program has led to the "graduation" of this park from the "Parks-in-Peril" program, leading the way for possible inclusion into the program of the 780,000 hectare, Defensores del Chaco National Park in the Paraguayan Chaco. This program is centrally-funded, but USAID/Paraguay oversees some aspects of its execution here in Paraguay and expects to be extensively involved in the future phases of the program

Project Designation: A

Activity Title: Environmental Awareness-Capacity for Environmental Action
PACD: N/A
Activity Purpose: An increased awareness and capacity at the local level for carrying out environmental action and sustainable development.
Est. Funding: \$450,000

Brief Overall Assessment of Activity:

This program is in its initial stages, having recently completed design and planning of activities. The program seeks to create, organize, and implement a system of technical assistance to strengthen capacity to deal with environmental problems in the Central State Government, with replication possible for the governments of Cordillera and Paraguari states. The planned activities also support USAID/Paraguay's efforts in the areas of decentralization and local governance.

Project Designation: A

Indic.	1 PROJECT NAME AND NUMBER	2 DATE OF INITIAL OBLIG.	3 PROJECT DESIG. (A,B,C)	4 STATUS OF CP's	5 SIZE OF PIPELINE	6 AGE OF PIPELINE	7 ACCRUED EXPEND.	8 UNCOMM. BALANCE	9 EOPS 1	10 EOPS 2	11 AUDIT 1	12 AUDIT 2	13 EVAL. 1	14 EVAL. 2
1-	<u>598-0616.06 - ITT</u>													
-	IRCD - Development Training	09/28/1992	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	- Drug Abuse Prevention	07/28/1993	B	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Econ. Policy/Trade/Inv. (CEPRO)	03/02/1992	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Health Management	09/18/1992	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Environmental Awareness (FMB)	09/28/1992	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Peace Corps Training	04/29/1993	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2-	<u>598-0591.06 - Human Rights Initiatives</u>													
-	IRCD - Legislative Strengthening	09/28/1992	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3-	<u>598-0642.06 - Administration of Justice</u>													
-	Judicial Reform (*)	09/25/1992	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	USISA.I.D. Grant (*)	05/31/1991	A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4-	<u>Central and Regional Projects</u>													
-	Parks in Peril		A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Family Planning Program/IPPF		A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	AIFLD - Labor Management Relations		A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Low Cost Cooperative Housing		A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
-	Farmer to Farmer		A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(*) Also has a limited Human Rights Initiatives funding component

References:

EOPS -
CP -

End-of-Project Status
Conditions Precedent