

PD-ABM-729
98986

PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES II

PROJECT 511-0623

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Goal

The goal of the Special Development Activities II Project (SDA II) was to improve the economic condition of rural communities, preferably those in remote areas of Bolivia, where there was no assistance from the Bolivian Government. The project contributed to USAID/Bolivia's Strengthening Democracy Strategic Objective of "Improved Effectiveness and Accessibility of Democratic Institutions and Practices" through enhancing the participation of rural communities in the decision-making process.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project was to assist small rural communities and local organizations to undertake self-help activities, having an immediate impact on the communities' social and economic welfare.

A unique feature of the SDA II is that the assistance provided is identified to come directly from the people of the United States. The assistance is provided directly to the beneficiaries with no intermediaries. In dedication ceremonies a plaque in recognition of the efforts and assistance from the community and the United States is mounted on a visible site of the dedicated project.

The activities carried out under SDA II improved the socio-economic conditions in the rural communities where they were implemented. Water systems, latrines and small sanitation activities reduced the number of sick people and increased efficiency. New schools, as well as rebuilt or remodelled ones, including the construction or remodelling of housing facilities for the teachers, provided better and more attractive learning environments. Income generating activities helped people to improve and increase their incomes.

The SDA II provided that project funded activities should have immediate impact on the well-being of the beneficiaries living in the communities. The different type of activities implemented under the SDA II such as education, water, income generation and others, have had immediate, positive impacts on the welfare of the beneficiaries.

The activities under the SDA II are "self-help" in that the communities must provide counterpart contribution corresponding to at least to 25% of the total activity cost. The contribution from the community is usually provided in local materials, local unskilled labor, cash to pay for skilled labor, transportation of the donated materials, design, and implementation of the activity. In the case of agricultural tools, the community must provide a cash equivalent to at least 40% of the total cost of the tools. The SDA II provided up to \$10,000 for each activity for the purchase of construction materials such as cement, windows, doors, lime, nails, lumber, and others.

The activities carried out under the SDA II contribute to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of key democratic institutions through enhancing the participation of rural communities in the decision making process. The communities normally organize around a local institution in order to determine needs, design an activity to solve a problem, request external assistance, carry out the activity, and finally supervise and monitor the completed activity. Depending on the type of activity to be carried out, the community organizes itself around the agriculture or education union or will choose to go through an artisan or other kind of union. In any case, the community has to demonstrate it has the appropriate organization in place before an activity is considered for funding under the SDA II.

2. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

History

The Special Development Activities Project (SDA) has been active in Bolivia for more than thirty years and has assisted hundreds of small, needy, isolated communities all over the country, in carrying out self-help development projects. The initial Project, The Special Development Activities No. 511-0412, started in 1964 and lasted until 1991, with a total LOP of \$2.1 million in USAID funding. In FY 1991, USAID/Bolivia authorized a new project entitled Special Development Activities II, (SDA II) Project No. 511-0623, for a total LOP of \$500,000 in USAID funding. The SDA II was authorized on June 26, 1991, the Project Assistance Completion Date (PACD) was September 30, 1995.

Project Indicators

The Project Paper (PP) for the SDA II did not include a Logical Framework, consequently, End of Project Status and Major Output Indicators were developed at a later date. Estimates were reported in the Project Status Report (PSR), of the Semi Annual Report (SAR). Three types of activities were considered for funding: a) water, sanitation and health, b) school construction and remodelling, and c) income generating activities.

As of September 30, 1995, the project's PACD, the final indicators were:

A. PURPOSE INDICATORS (EOPS) ^{1/}

	PLANNED	ACCOMPLISHED
- Water, sanitation and health.	35	22
- School construction and remodelling.	19	15
- Income generating	15	15
TOTAL	65	56

B. MAJOR OUT PUT INDICATORS ^{1/}

MAJOR OUTPUTS ^{1/}	PLANNED	ACCOMPLISHED
- Approved projects	58	56
- Completed projects	58	56
- Counterpart contribution ^{2/}	\$167,000	\$199,062

1/ The estimated number of completed projects was reduced from 65 to 56 in order to adjust to reduced funding availabilities due to higher costs of the activities and inflation.

2/ The original estimated counterpart contribution of \$167,000 increased to \$199,062. Overall the total counterpart contribution was 29% of the total project costs.

Project Impact

Project impact can be measured from two different perspectives: democracy and well-being.

Democracy Impact.

The project encouraged increased participation of local governments and community organizations in support of Bolivia's democratic initiatives, and contributed to accelerate the decentralization process and to enhance local decision-making. The SDA contributed to local empowerment by assisting communities which had democratically elected leaders. During the Life of the Project (LOP), 94 rural communities organized around some type of institution, i.e. education or agriculture board, agricultural union, artisan center, received assistance under the project, benefitting approximately 16,571 people, of which between 40 and 50% are women. No SDA assistance was provided to communities lacking an organizational structure.

Well-being Impact.

The project activities implemented under the project were designed to improve the lives of the beneficiaries. The water, sanitation and health activities undoubtedly improved the health status in the communities. The provision of good quality water, for drinking, cooking and other hygiene uses, as well as the latrines and health posts built, helped in partially reducing the incidence of diarrhea, the leading cause of sickness and death in the country. The school construction, remodelling and equipment, following better designs and structures, and the provision of housing facilities for the teachers, motivated school children to attend classes and remain in the school. Teachers were also motivated to go to the communities that were able to offer good housing facilities. In the income generation area, through small activities such as construction of artisan centers and donation of small agricultural tools, the project assisted in the diversification and increase of the income of the beneficiaries.

3. FUTURE ACTIONS.

The Special Development Activity constitutes a traditional project not only in Bolivia, but in most of the developing countries receiving assistance from USAID. Since its inception in Bolivia, around 789 small self-help activities have been carried out by the SDA I & II Projects. USAID/Bolivia wanted to continue with this successful project and decided to include in the FY 1994 - 1995 Annual Budget Submission a New Project Description - concept paper - for the Special Development Activities III (SDA III), which was authorized by the USAID/Bolivia Director on June 10, 1994.

Two previous evaluations, the first one carried in 1988 and the second in 1994, coincide in pointing out that during the more than thirty years of implementation, the project met its purpose of assisting poor communities through the helping hand of the people of the United States of America. The final conclusion of the evaluations is that the project is a success.

4. PROJECT DATA.

Development Assistance Grant Funds *

- Amount Authorized:	\$500,000
- Amount Obligated:	\$500,000
- Amount Committed:	\$495,240
- Amount Disbursed:	\$485,797
- Amount Undisbursed:(to be deobligated)	\$ 9,443

Counterpart Contribution

- Estimated per Project Paper:	\$167,000
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- Actual Contribution: *	\$199,062
Number of Communities benefitted:	94
Number of Beneficiaries:	16,571
Number of Completed Projects:	56

* Per Controllers reports.

Draft:

Hector Diez de Medina, DP: HDM Date: 2/22/96

Clearances:

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