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**Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
Post-Mitch Infrastructure Reconstruction**

Quarterly Report – First Quarter FY2001

Date:	December 15, 2000
Contractor:	Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
Reporting Period:	October 1 to December 31, 2000 (<i>Report dated 12/15/00</i>)
Grant Number:	Cooperative Agreement No. 520-A-00-00-00004-00
Program Leader:	James S. Schenck, Director CHF/CIT Guatemala

I. Background

In late October and early November 1998, tropical storm Mitch ripped through Guatemala, severely affecting the northern municipality of Ixcán in the department of El Quiché. Approximately 1,000 families were left destitute and required immediate humanitarian assistance in the Ixcán alone. Most farmers in the area lost all or a portion of their corn crop, the principal source of income for these communities. The storm also battered the already scarce infrastructure, particularly the transport routes throughout Ixcán.

In early January 1999, the Communities in Transition project of the Cooperative Housing Foundation in Guatemala (CIT/CHF) presented a proposal for emergency funds to repair and/or replace the infrastructure damaged in Ixcán by tropical storm Mitch. The transport corridors, both vehicular and pedestrian, were particularly affected, as well as a few schools. Their immediate reconstruction was necessary to guarantee the local population's access to health care, education services and markets.

On November 3, 1999, USAID awarded CHF \$1,994,622 under Cooperative Agreement No. 520-A-00-00-00004-00 to implement the project referred to as, "Rural Economy Recovers from Hurricane Mitch and is Less Vulnerable to Disaster."

II. Activity Objectives

A. Primary Objective

To reconstruct vehicular transport routes in the Ixcán in order to restore access to health care, education services and markets.

B. Specific Objectives

- Reconstruction of thirteen (13) concrete vehicular bridges;
- Installation of one (1) Bailey vehicular bridge;
- Repairs to one (1) Bailey vehicular bridge; and
- Reconstruction of 100 kilometers of gravel roadway.

C. Objectives/Results/Indicators

Objective: Thirteen (13) Bridges Built

<i>Sub objectives and Results</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
(1) Bridges Constructed Cantabal Bridge - Bridge in use	Passage over the bridge remains open. Work on the bridge (the concrete slab) will continue after the rainy season.
Petrolero Bridge - I-Beams launched	July 13 - Passage opened and provisional bridge removed
Tzutuj Bridge	July 7 -- Steel I-beams launched and concrete forms mounted July 26 -- Concrete slab poured August 14 and 15 -- Security railing installed and area cleaned August 16 -- Passage opened
Santo Tomas Bridge	July 14 -- I-Beams installed August 3 -- Concrete forms mounted August 11 -- Slab poured August 31 -- Construction completed and passage opened
Cux Bridge	July 14 -- Construction of the bastions completed August 2 -- I-Beams launched and welded August 17 -- Concrete forms and steel reinforcement mounted on August 24 -- Concrete slab poured September 17 -- Construction completed September 22 -- Passage opened
Olivos I Bridge	August 1- 18 -- Construction of the bases September 7 -- I-Beams launched September 18 -- Concrete forms and steel reinforcement mounted September 27 -- Concrete slab poured October (various) -- Security railing placed, bridge accesses built and provisional bridge removed

<p>Las Tortugas Bridge (Kilometer 31.5 – Road to Tres Ríos)</p>	<p>August 22 - Construction of the bastions began</p> <p>September 22 – Bastion construction completed</p> <p>October (various) -- Work crews poured concrete slab was, bridge accesses built, security railings installed, and temporary passage removed.</p> <p>October 22 -- Bridge opened for vehicular traffic</p>
<p>La Sonora Bridge (Kilometer 25.3 Road to Tres Ríos)</p>	<p>September 23 – Construction began</p> <p>October (various) -- Work progressed from 15% to 85% complete with the construction of the bastions, launching and mounting of the steel I-beams</p> <p>November (various) -- Concrete slab poured and security railing installed</p> <p>December -- Bridge accesses built and passage opened to vehicular traffic</p>
<p><i>(2) Installation of one Bailey Bridge</i></p> <p>Santa María Dolores Bailey Bridge</p>	<p>Bailey bridge arrived in-country and transported to the Ixcán</p> <p>Environmental impact evaluations completed and submitted to USAID for potential revision</p>
<p><i>(3) One Bridge Repaired</i></p> <p>Xalbal Bridge</p>	<p>Bailey Bridge parts received and transported to the Ixcán Due to the damage caused by heavy rain emergency repairs on the Xalbal Bridge were necessary. Temporary repairs were implemented in a period of two weeks, and finishing touches were completed on November 2 enabling the passage of traffic up to 25 tons. From November 13 to November 24 gabions were placed on the right hand side of the river to prevent further erosion of the slope.</p>

(4) Rehabilitate 100 kilometers of gravel road

Results	Progress During Quarter	Total Progress to Date
Grading and Road Conformation	20%	90%
Drainage pipe transportation and installation	35%	90%
Gravel Extraction	5%	90%
Gravel transportation and on-site use	25%	85%
Clay extraction, transportation and on-site use	24%	90%

III. CHF Counterpart Bridge Construction with FONAPAZ funding:

As counterpart to the Mitch Reconstruction project, CHF is building an additional seven (7) bridges with funding from the Guatemalan Government National Peace Fund (FONAPAZ). Total funding for these bridges is approximately \$635,000.

A. Specific Objectives

- Reconstruction of seven (7) vehicular bridges.

B. Results and Indicators

RESULTS	INDICATORS
Primavera Bridge (100%)	February 21 – Construction began July (first week) – Construction completed
San Juan Chactela Bridge (50%)	Bastions built. Awaiting the launching and mounting of the I-beams and steel reinforcement.
Saacté Bridge (90%)	July 12 – Construction began. The structure has been built and the concrete slab poured. The construction of bridge accesses and security railings is pending.
Veracruz Bridge (95%)	September 18 – Construction began. The steel I-beams and steel reinforcement was mounted in November.

IV. Narrative Report

Over the last ninety days, CHF has made significant progress on all fronts in achieving expected results. Seven (7) of the 13 vehicular bridges have been finished and road rehabilitation is more than 90% completed. All remaining projects have been planned and construction is under design or has been initiated for all components.

An illustrative list of specific activities follows:

- ◆ On December 11, USAID and CHF signed an amendment to the Mitch Reconstruction Cooperative Agreement. The amendment permits a more efficient use of project resources.
- ◆ During the week of October 15 and part of the week of October 22, the geological and wildlife surveys were carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Study for the 45-meter Bailey Bridge that will be built the beginning of the year. The evaluation was prepared and presented to USAID for review and discussion.
- ◆ Infrastructure and Environmental Mitigation staff continued coordination in all bridge construction and road rehabilitation activities. The on-going review by the environmental mitigation team, in conjunction with Infrastructure personnel, has resulted in immediate detection and resolution of environmental issues.
- ◆ CHF coordinated with local authorities and communities in the emergency repair of the Xalbal Bailey Bridge.

IV. Success stories/Vignettes

Just as it seemed that rainy season was coming to a close, the last vestiges of a storm front settled over the northern region of Guatemala and brought with it the corresponding rise in the water levels of local rivers. Due to the heavy rain and rising water levels, the abutments on the eastern side of the Xalbal Bridge were washed away and a nine-meter section of the bridge was left hanging. The Xalbal Bridge, a 90-meter Acro Bridge in a serious state of disrepair, is the only bridge connecting the eastern and western halves of the Ixcán. Located on the Franja Transversal del Norte, it also serves as a major connection between the Departments of Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz. Due to the damage, the only means of crossing the river was by boat or dugout canoes, which put residents in danger and posed a serious threat to local and regional commerce.

CHF, in coordination with the Municipality of the Ixcán, sent construction crews to implement emergency repairs. Repairs consisted of extending the length of the bridge and reinforcing the abutments with an estimated minimum of 22 days to implement the repairs. By suspending work on other projects, CHF was able to complete the temporary repairs in a period of two weeks, seven days less than original estimates. The bridge opened for traffic under 25 tons on November 4.

Parts to complete the repair of the bridge were taken from the Bailey Bridge to be installed in Santa María Dolores (to be replaced). CHF Infrastructure staff conducted a technical evaluation and prepared a tentative budget for the cost of providing a permanent solution regarding this bridge.

On October 19, the community of Los Olivos inaugurated the bridge and organized a typical lunch in appreciation for the hard work of the of the CHF construction crew. CIT Project Director, Jim Schenck, AMVI/ISI Associate Director, Carlos Campos, other CHF staff and AMVI personnel also attended.

Please see the CHF – Communities In Transition website for photographs on the repair of the Xalbal Bridge and other Mitch Reconstruction activities.

<http://www.chf-ixcan.org>

V. Expenses

Project Budget (11/3/99– 09/30/01)	Previously Disbursed (11/3/99-09/30/00)**	Estimated disbursement this quarter (10/1/00-12/31/00)	Estimated disbursement as of 12/31/00**	Estimated Expenses Available for 1/1/01 – 09/30/01**
\$ 1,994,622	\$1,048,424	\$150,000	\$1,198,424	\$796,198

**Subject to adjustment. Anticipated disbursement pending FY2000 audit verification.