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Community • Habitat • Finance

January 31, 2001

Mr. Philip Jones
Project Manger
Environmental and Natural Resources Office
USAID/G-CAP
Edificio Plaza Uno
La. Calle 7-66, Zona 9
Guatemala City, Guatemala

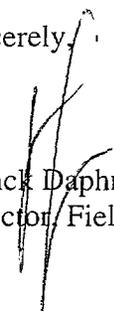
REF: Cooperative Agreement No. 596-0167-A-00-5128-00

Dear Mr. Jones,

I am pleased to send you the original and one copies of the Quarterly Performance Report for CHF's Local Environmental Policy and Program Initiatives Project (LEPPI) for the period of October 1 – December 31, 2000. The project is funded by the referenced cooperative agreement.

Should you have any questions or comments on the report, please do not hesitate to contact Arturo Villalobos, LEPPI Team Leader, or myself.

Sincerely,


Franck Daphnis
Director, Field Program Management

cc: USAID, CDIE/DIE/DIO/DEC, Washington, DC
USAID, G-CAP
Arturo Villalobos, Team Leader, CHF/LEPPI

Local Environmental Program and Policy Initiative (LEPPI)

Contractor: Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
Cooperative Agreement: 596-0617-A-00-5128-00
Reporting Period: October 1, 2000 - December 31, 2000

This report describes the Local Environmental Policy and Program Initiative (LEPPI) activities carried out during the First Quarter FY2001.

A. CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN LEPPI COMMUNITIES

1. GUATEMALA

a. Ixcán: LEPPI continues to support the local environmental steering committee, Mayor Marcos Ramirez, and the Municipal Board plan and design a solid waste collection and disposal system in the city. LEPPI plans to inaugurate the waste water project in Ixcán in January 2001.

b. Puertos Barrios: Waste Water Treatment Plant System

On October 17-18, LEPPI and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials met with the mayor, a municipal environmental official, and the president of the local environmental steering committee to discuss LEPPI's project expansion in the city. The local environmental steering committee, with the assistance of LEPPI staff, the EPA, and the municipality, will replicate the Rio Escondido treatment filter and residential waste water collection system for an additional two blocks in a nearby area (Colonia El Cangrejal). The maintenance support provided by the Municipality for the operation of the two treatment plants located in Colonia El Cangrejal, Rio Escondido was discussed. The Regional Sanitary Engineering Department or *Escuela Regional de Ingenieria Sanitaria* (ERIS) of the University of San Carlos continues to monitor and evaluate the waste water systems and treatment plants. Officials from ERIS provide technical suggestions and/or recommendations.

The EPA team inspected the plants and reported that the treatment system is working according to the technical specifications of the design and projections. As a result of a technical evaluation and a field visit made on October 17, the EPA team recommended not to include the residential areas located in the nearby Rio Zapatero watershed into the expansion activities. Reasons for this recommendation are the deteriorated residential conditions and soil characteristic prevailing in the suggested areas. In addition, the waste water solution for the area is rather expensive and according to EPA's officials, the possible environmental outputs generated by the project would have a minimal impact in the overall pollution problem. EPA and LEPPI evaluated other feasible areas and alternatives in the city and decided to recommend a residential area that is also included in the Rio Escondido watershed.

At the request of the USAID/Guatemala Deputy Director, the inauguration of the waste water and treatment plants project was reschedule for January 17, 2001. LEPPI staff, EPA, the local steering committee and the Municipality of Pto. Barrios coordinated all appropriate activities.

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LEPPI and EPA officials Bruce Henry and Louis Salguero made a follow-up visit to Pto. Barrios on November 13-14. The team met with the municipal environmental official, the president of the local environmental steering committee and other members of the municipal board to follow-up on the latest activities included in the LEPPI's project expansion in the city. LEPPI and EPA continue to evaluate expansion activities (waste water system and treatment plant) in the city.

During December 2000, LEPPI staff and the local environmental steering committee continued to follow-up on the request made to the municipality to provide an additional area in the Rio Escondido watershed for the construction of a new waste water treatment plant. The municipality is in the process of locating the most appropriate area for the project.

Solid Waste-Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

On September 18, LEPPI requested the funding support of the USAID's Making Cities Work Matching Grants Program to finance the plans and design of the Pto. Barrios new landfill and a complementary composting facility. On September 28, USAID approved the proposal presented by CHF/LEPPI in the amount of \$10,000. On October 15, LEPPI contracted engineer Cesar Barrientos, a well known local consultant, to prepare the plans and design. Barrientos expects to conclude this consulting work by February 15, 2001. The local environmental steering committee continues to look for funding sources to finance the construction of subject facilities.

c. Antigua: Construction of the material recovery facility (MRF) for the city of Antigua in Finca Florencia continues as planned. The MRF is part of the new city solid waste management program. LEPPI is providing \$20,000 for the construction. The total project's budget is \$97,000. The project includes a recycling and composting program, an environmental education program and the construction of a new landfill. Construction is scheduled to conclude by mid-January 2001.

d. Livingston: The last three community workshops were held on October 18, November 21 and December 5. The local environmental steering committee identified the waste water problem as the first pollution priority in Livingston. LEPPI staff and the local environmental steering committee are preparing the final version of the Local Environmental Action Plan that includes alternatives and strategies for the solution of the three most important environmental pollution problems. Based on the plan, CHF/CHF/LEPPI staff will define the most appropriated course of action to support the community in the implementation of a local pollution reduction project. The city lacks both solid waste and waste water collection and disposal systems.

e. Departamento de Sacatepequez

The Environmental National Commission or *Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente* (CONAMA) continues with the technical revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the solid waste project to be implemented in the community of Alotenango. The cities of Antigua, Alotenango, Jocotenango and Ciudad Vieja are included in the project. The project includes a MRF, a recycling project and a composting program for subject cities. When the EIA is approved, CHF/LEPPI staff will present subject design and plans to the Mayors of the above mentioned communities so they can identify the appropriate funding sources for the project. The estimated cost of this macro-project is \$2.0 million.

2. **PANAMA**

a. Bocas del Toro: On October 26, CHF/LEPPI staff met with the local environmental steering committee, the mayor and other municipal authorities of Bocas del Toro regarding the current status of the EIA for the solid waste management project and the required soil and hydrological tests from the site. CHF/LEPPI staff signed a contract with *Consultores Ecológicos Panameños* (CEPSA) to include these studies and other technical adjustments into the EIA to be presented to the Ministry of Health and the National Authority for the Environment or *Autoridad Nacional del Medio Ambiente* (ANAM) in Panama City.

On December 6, the Ministry of Health approved the soil and hydrological study and test results from the site for the construction of the solid waste MRF and landfill. On December 12, the study along with the Ministry of Health recommendations, were transferred to the ANAM in Panama City for its review and approval. Once the EIA is approved by ANAM, CHF/LEPPI staff will proceed with the implementation of the project.

b. Chilibre: On October 25, CHF/LEPPI and CEPSA met with a municipality representative to discuss progress on the actions required to implement the solid waste MRF project. Prior to the implementation of the project it is required to have a topographic study, a legal segregation of the proposed site from the original farm, and the construction of an access road. CHF/LEPPI staff offered to co-finance the cost of the topographic plan while the municipality offered to have these actions ready by November 15. Construction of the access road will start as soon as the topographic plan is finished. A follow-up meeting was held on October 26.

On December 6, the topographic study/map was completed. The legal segregation of the proposed site from the original farm and the construction of an access road are still pending. On December 7, CHF/LEPPI staff and CEPSA staff met with USAID/Panamá officials to inform of the Chilibre project status and progress. CHF/LEPPI staff and CEPSA will deliver the EIA study on January 4 to the municipality who will then submit it to the Ministry of Health and ANAM for appropriate revision and approval. USAID/Panama will continue to follow-up on the complementary actions required for the final implementation of this solid waste management project.

c. Panama Canal/Watershed Area: On December 4, CEPSA prepared and delivered a final version of the solid waste technical proposal and feasibility study for the communities of Buena Vista, Nuevo San Juan, Nueva Providencia and Limon. CHF/LEPPI staff reviewed the document and provided appropriate comments to CEPSA. On December 5, CHF/LEPPI staff and CEPSA made a formal presentation of the study to USAID officials in Panama City. A similar study was prepared for the community of Escobal and was delivered to CHF/LEPPI staff on November 15. On January 3, CEPSA and CHF/LEPPI staff will make a formal presentation of the study's results and recommendations to USAID officials, community representatives and municipal authorities in a meeting to be held in the community of Escobal. Mission officials indicated that they are interested in reviewing the documents and to finance some activities.

3. **HONDURAS**

a. Choluteca: Waste Water System and Treatment Plants

USAID/Honduras reported that the construction of the integrated waste water collection and treatment system in Choluteca began in November 2000. The estimated budget for the system and treatment plants is \$1.5 million. The new system will reduce the discharge of untreated waste water into the Rio Sampile and Rio Choluteca with a direct impact in the Golfo de Fonseca.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Project

On September 21, CHF/LEPPI staff, Rigoberto Sandoval (a solid waste expert) and Carlos Verdial of USAID/Honduras visited Choluteca to evaluate the possibilities of implementing a solid waste project. The group visited a site purchased by the municipality for the construction of a new landfill. The area seems to have the appropriate technical conditions for the project. CHF/LEPPI staff is in the process of defining the Terms of Reference for the design and other required studies for the project.

On December 11, CHF/LEPPI staff met with Carlos Flores and Carlos Verdial of USAID/Honduras to discuss the Terms of Reference for the required technical studies and design of the new landfill in the city. Verdial will review the terms and discuss with CHF/LEPPI staff on January 11. Once the terms are completed, CHF/LEPPI staff will proceed to bid out the project. An evaluation committee will be formed to evaluate and review the technical and economic proposals submitted.

b. Tela

The first three community workshops were held in Tela on October 19, November 16 and December 13. The local environmental steering committee chose the lack of waste water collection and treatment as their priority. Based on the local action plan, CHF/LEPPI staff will assist the steering committee define the most appropriate course of action to support the community proceed with the pollution project.

USAID informed CHF/LEPPI staff that a private consulting firm financed by the IDB is already working in the design of the city's waste water collection system and treatment plants. Since CHF/LEPPI staff is not interested in duplicating technical assistance efforts, CHF/LEPPI staff efforts and technical/economic assistance will focus on Omoa.

c. Omoa

Omoa, a small coastal community located in the Gulf of Honduras is affected by both solid waste and waste water pollution problems. CHF/LEPPI staff will continue to support the city of Omoa with the plan and design of a pilot waste water collection /treatment project in Colonia Costa Rica. CHF/LEPPI staff will transfer the technical and economic support originally planned for the city of Tela to Omoa. Representatives from the municipality and the private sector of Omoa have attended the community workshops held in the city of Tela. Municipal authorities, community leaders and other government representative have prioritized solid waste collection and final disposal as the most significant pollution problem in the city. USAID/Honduras representatives expressed that funding is available for the project. Representatives from the municipality and the private sector of Omoa are

attending the community workshops held in the city of Tela.

d. Trujillo: Construction of the waste water collection system and treatment plants is underway. The estimated construction budget for the treatment plant and waste water system is approximately \$1.5 million.

4. **EL SALVADOR**

a. La Union: On October 12, CHF/LEPPI staff met with the mayor of La Union, representatives of the Municipal Board and members of the local environmental steering committee to discuss the follow-up project activities in La Union. As reported, a visit was made by CHF/LEPPI staff and an EPA technical team to La Union on September 12-13 to evaluate the a site for the implementation of a waste water pilot project. USAID officials, representatives from the Association of Engineers and Architects of El Salvador (ASIA) and technical personnel from the National Administration for Sewer and Aqueducts or *Administracion Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados* (ANDA), the mayor, members of the municipal board and the environmental steering committee attended the visit. If technically feasible, CHF/LEPPI staff will replicate the waste water treatment system implemented in Puertos Barrios, Guatemala. CHF/LEPPI staff provided the EPA with specific technical information on the current waste water collecting system (discharge volumes from the three major discharge channels in La Unión). This information is required for the design of the proposed waste water system and treatment plants. CHF/LEPPI staff, the steering committee and the Mayor have identified two sites for the construction of the treatment plant.

b. Usulután: Solid Waste Project On December 19, an EPA, CHF/LEPPI, and USAID technical team visited the Usulután's landfill construction site to observe and evaluate the construction progress of the facility. The EPA recommended the installation of specific materials for the collection and treatment of leachates. According to the general manager of the private enterprise in charge of the management and administration of the solid waste management, collection and disposal project for the communities of Usulután, Puerto El Triunfo, Ereaguayquin and Concepcion Batres, the first landfill cell will be concluded on January 15. A CHF/LEPPI and EPA staff will conduct a follow-up and evaluation visit on February 6. The project continues to receive technical support from the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). The enterprise is also receiving technical support from the S.M. Group International a private consulting firm from Canada.

Waste Water and Treatment Plant Project

An agreement was signed of November 30 in San Salvador with ANDA, ADESCO (organized group of citizens from Colonia Puerta del Sol) and the Municipality of Usulután. The agreement states the roles and the budget responsibilities for each component. A follow-up and planning meeting was held in Usulután on December 5 to discuss and prepare the construction schedule and other related activities. CHF/LEPPI staff will provide \$30,000 for construction materials. ANDA will be in charge of the project's administration. The value of this technical supervision and other contributions is \$39,000. The Municipality of Usulután will contribute with \$53,000 (non-skilled labor, skilled labor and materials). The municipality of Usulután already acquired the area for the construction of the treatment plant. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MARN) informed the municipality that a formal

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EIA is not required to implement the project. The chief of the Engineering Department for the Municipality of Usulután will be in charge of the project coordination. A follow-up visit is scheduled for January 18.

a. La Unión

On November 8, CHF/LEPPI staff met with the mayor of La Unión, representatives of the municipal board and members of the local environmental steering committee to follow-up on the waste water and solid waste projects in La Unión. Frank Daphnis, Director of Field Program Management at CHF/HQ, attended the meeting. The site was visited and evaluated by a CHF/LEPPI, EPA, USAID, and an ANDA technical team on September 12. Representatives from ASIA accompanied the team during the visit.

CHF/LEPPI staff already provided EPA with specific technical information on the current waste water volumes from the three major discharge channels in La Unión. This information is required for the design of the proposed waste water system and treatment plants. CHF/LEPPI staff defined the terms of reference for the project and will discuss them with EPA, ANDA and the municipal board. The project's ground breaking ceremony is planned for January 18. CHF/LEPPI staff, ANDA, USAID and other interested parties will attend the event. A follow-up technical visit is scheduled for February 5.

On December 18, CHF/LEPPI staff, EPA (Alberto Korgi and Kathy Gaynor) and USAID/El Salvador officials visited La Unión to evaluate the most appropriate site for the implementation of a solid waste collection and disposal project for the communities of La Unión, Conchagua and Pasaquina. The project includes the construction of a new landfill. The mayor, members of the municipal board and the environmental steering committee attended the visit. Three sites were visited and evaluated by the CHF/LEPPI and EPA team. The government of El Salvador will provide funding for the project.

5. **COSTA RICA**

Puerto Viejo-Manzanillo

CHF/LEPPI staff continues to follow-up on the implementation of the solid waste management project. The group continues to look for additional funding to purchase a new collection truck and to acquire some specific solid waste recycling equipment.

6. **NICARAGUA**

a. San Juan del Sur

On October 18, November 29 and December 18, CHF/LEPPI staff met with Marvin Palacios and Juan Sandoval/INIFOM and members of the municipal board to discuss the status of the solid waste collection and disposal project in San Juan del Sur. INIFOM reported that the construction (rehabilitation of the current trash dumping area, the installation of a new perimeter fence and the construction of a MRF) suffered some delays due to unexpected problems with a local construction firm. A new mayor has been elected as well as a new municipal board, causing some delay. They will take over the municipality in February 2001. CHF/LEPPI staff will negotiate with the new municipal authorities for the completion of the project.

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b. Villanueva-Somotillo: The first two community workshops were held in Villanueva and Somotillo on October 26 and November 23. The steering committees of both cities identified the solid waste collection and disposal as one of most important pollution problem in the region. The third community workshop is scheduled for January 18. The purpose of the third community workshop is to identify the most critical pollution problems and situations already ranked and to develop strategies and specific actions that allow for effective application of available resources and funds. Mayors of both cities agreed to unified efforts to find an appropriate solution. They have already identified a suitable area for the construction of a landfill. CHF/LEPPI staff will continue to provide technical assistance during the implementation of the project.

D. CASE STUDIES

One case study (Puerto Barrios, Guatemala,) has been reviewed and edited by a journalist contracted by CHF/LEPPI staff. The other two case studies (Usulután, El Salvador and Chilibre, Panamá) continue to be reviewed. The main purpose of these formal publications is to disseminate CHF/LEPPI's experiences and lessons learned during the project's implementation phase in the Central American.

E. MEETINGS

1. On October 2-4, CHF/LEPPI staff attended the USAID Central America, Caribbean and Mexico Environmental Conference and PROARCA Roundup in Antigua, Guatemala.
2. Coordination meetings are held on a regular basis with USAID/G-CAP officials, to discuss CHF/LEPPI staff's most important issues and actions-activities in the region.
3. Coordination meetings are held on a regular basis with partner entities and organizations participating in the PROARCA regional program: COMISION CENTROAMERICA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO (CCAD), PROARCA/COSTAS and PROARCA/CAPAS to discuss CHF/LEPPI staff's most important issues and actions-activities in the region.
4. Information and coordination meetings are also held with other key personnel in environmental, private and government agencies, institutes and ministries in the region.

F. GENDER AND ETHNIC CONSIDERATIONS

Gender and ethnic issues continue to be considered under the CHF/LEPPI staff project. The presence and active participation of indigenous groups and women in CHF/LEPPI's workshops and other project activities will continue to be encouraged.

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G. ACTIVITIES

Schedule of the activities/actions planned for January 1-February28, 2001.

COMMUNITY/COUNTRY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
ESCOBAL-WATERSHED REGION, PANAMA	January 3-4	Presentation of the solid waste feasibility Study to USAID A.Villalobos
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR	January 11-12	Meeting with municipal officials and government repres. to discuss waste water project activities. N.Gamboa
TELA, HONDURAS	January 9-10	Third community workshop M.Bolaños
TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS	January 11	Meeting with CHF/Honduras, USAID and CERNA officials to coordinate CHF/LEPPI staff implementation activities in Honduras. M.Bolaños
PUERTO BARRIOS, GUATEMALA	January 17	Inauguration waste water system & treatment plants EPA, USAID, Municipality A.Villalobos, N.Gamboa
LA UNION-EL SALVADOR	January 18	Inauguration of the waste water project activities. N.Gamboa, A.Villalobos
USULUTAN, EL SALVADOR	January 19	Meeting with ANDA officials and Municipal repres. to discuss waste water project Usulután/Pta. del Sol M. Bolaños, A.Villalobos
SOMOTILLO-VILLANUEVA, NICARAGUA	January 23-24	Third community workshop M.Bolaños
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA	January 28-February 2	Attend CHF Regional Conference A.Villalobos

COMMUNITY/COUNTRY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
LA UNION, EL SALVADOR	February 5	Training session solid waste management & disposal practices EPA-CHF/LEPPI staff N.Gamboa
USULUTAN, EL SALVADOR	February 6	Inspection and evaluation visit landfill construction activities EPA, USAID M. Bolaños, A.Villalobos
SOMOTILLO, VILLANUEVA-NICARAGUA	February 7-8	Fourth community workshop M.Bolaños
SAN JUAN DEL SUR-NICARAGUA	February 7-8	Follow-up meeting solid waste project INIFOM-CHF/LEPPI staff A.Villalobos
LIVINGSTON, GUATEMALA	February 13-14	Presentation of the Environmental Action Plan to municipal board N.Gamboa, A.Villalobos

H. ACTIVITIES AS OF 12/31/00

ACTIVITIES	Achieved during Reporting Period	Cumulative	Goal for life of the project (FY 2001)

I. Outputs/Deliverables			
a. Technical support provided to communities to deal with Solid Waste and Waste Water problems.	2	18	19
b. Municipalities prepared/implemented related municipal regulations/ordinances to mitigate, lessen or avoid environmental contamination in key areas (urban, national parks, biological reserves, etc.)	1	6	10
c. 5 environmental monitoring systems for key pollutants designed and in operation.	1	3	5
d. 5 communities/municipalities obtained additional funding (loans/grants) from local or external sources, through well designed project proposals/studies.	1	9	10
e. National workshops/seminars (3) and regional conferences (2).	5	5	5
f. 3 case studies prepared and presented in regional/national conferences and workshops.	3	3	3
g. 3 formal publications prepared and published.	3	3	3
II. CHF/LEPPI staff Expansion Panama			
a. New Municipalities/communities identified in Panama CHF/LEPPI staff expansion	-	5	4
b. Community-based development of ISWM plans for four (4) corregimientos.	-	4	4
c. Construction of transfer station	—	---	2
d. Formation of micro-enterprise(s)	—	1	1
e. Number of residents of the Inter-Oceanic region served according to ISWM plans.	---	7,000	10,000
III. Impact Indicators			
a. Households benefitted from CHF/LEPPI st	5,000	6,000	5,000
b. People learn of CHF/LEPPI at workshops and other meetings	5,000	12,000	5,000

b. Villanueva-Somotillo: The first two community workshops were held in Villanueva and Somotillo on October 26 and November 23. The steering committees of both cities identified the solid waste collection and disposal as one of most important pollution problem in the region. The third community workshop is scheduled for January 18. The purpose of the third community workshop is to identify the most critical pollution problems and situations already ranked and to develop strategies and specific actions that allow for effective application of available resources and funds. Mayors of both cities agreed to unified efforts to find an appropriate solution. They have already identified a suitable area for the construction of a landfill. CHF/LEPPI staff will continue to provide technical assistance during the implementation of the project.

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a. Households benefitted from CHF/LEPPI st	5,000	6,000	5,000
b. People learn of CHF/LEPPI at workshops and other meetings	5,000	12,000	5,000

I. Level of Effort

The level of effort expended during the reporting period is below:

LEPPI Staff	Person Months
Expatriates	5.13
Host Country Nationals	13.98

J. Financial Information

CHF will send the financial information for the reporting quarter to USAID as soon as it has been received and entered into our books.