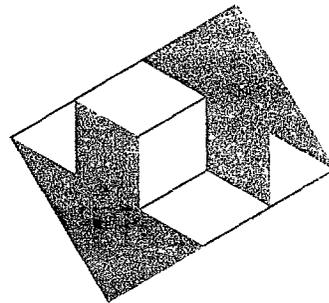


PD-ART-025  
#07847

**Grassroots Community Building Project/OAA-POA  
Quarterly Report  
Period October 1-December 31,2000**

---

**PARTNERS**  
OF THE AMERICAS



**Award No.: LAG-A-00-00014-00**  
Request ID No.654  
Organization ID: 100258  
Account No.: 00-00LCA900  
Resource Category: 410463

Prepared by: OAA Honduras  
Training Coordinator

January 29, 2001

**Grassroots Community Building Project / OAA-POA  
QUARTER: October 1-December 31, 2000**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Objectives	1
2.	Accomplishments	2
3.	Challenges	3
4.	Next Quarter	4

The purpose of this grassroots community building project is to generate a process of development in nine communities on the Atlantic coast of Honduras and Guatemala through intensive training and on site technical assistance. The objectives for the quarter focused on setting up a communications and financial system in and between the field office in Honduras, the targeted communities on the Coast and the headquarters of OAA and POA in Washington, DC; to develop and conduct a workshop on human rights issues in preparation for participation in the UN World Conference against Racism, and convene planning meetings with consulting organizations and trainers to review methodologies and tools to train trainers of trainers in community development (needs assessment, analysis, and strategic planning).

## **I. Accomplishments**

### Project Management and Administration:

The field office began operations, and equipment and software were purchased. Support staff hired on a contract basis were:

1. An Afro Leadership advisor to develop the curriculum, educational materials, training guides and training manual on African History, its impact on the development of people of African descent in the Americas and its implications on individual self-esteem.
2. OFRANEH (a grassroots organization with membership in every Garifuna community in Honduras) president, Gregoria Flores, to conduct a human rights training workshop in November.
3. The Educational Communications Support Officer to research and compile educational materials for a training manual in strategic planning, community development action planning, project proposal writing and issues books on community forums.
4. A full time project administrator to set up and manage the administrative, financial and information systems between OAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., Honduras and POA.

The training coordinator based in Honduras field office, Margarita Sanchez, visited the POA and OAA offices in Washington. She also attended meetings in Canada with development institutions to introduce AA21 (the Network of Black communities and NGOs of which OAA is a member) and seek their support for the Honduran and Guatemalan community initiatives. CUSO (a Canadian volunteer abroad program) and MATCH (a women's NGO) are interested in working in Honduras, and this was discussed with participating NGOs in Honduras upon her return. Margarita participated in a community building workshop with Afro-Puerto Ricans organized by OAA in New York in October. These networking opportunities are geared toward building a database of supporters and trainers/educators for sustainability of the OAA and AA21 projects.

### Program Activities

#### Training:

- The first Workshop on Human Rights for Honduras and Guatemala was conducted from November 30 to December 3, 2000 in La Ceiba, Honduras. Thirty-one participants from the five sub-regions in Guatemala and Honduras attended. The two institutions in Honduras responsible for human rights issues in the public and private (NGO) sectors, Comisionado Nacional de Derechos Humanos and the Comité de Derechos Humanos de Honduras provided the trainers. The project covered the costs of travel and educational materials for the workshop. The OAS's Comisión Inter-Americana de Derechos Humanos sent a lawyer from Washington to explain the Inter-American legal system. A perspective on the Honduran-Afro experience in the context of human rights was led by OFRANEH (organization representing the Garifuna community) and CONPAH (Confederation

of indigenous and black organizations representing their interests in the formulation of government policy).

The participants attended lectures for two days and prepared a plan of action to establish support committees (in communities and by sub-regions), including an inventory of cases that are in the courts in Honduras and Guatemala. These plans will be used to develop a project proposal for financial support of these activities. The participants indicated that this was the first time they had ever been provided with such comprehensive information with trainers that were from key institutions. They particularly enjoyed the role-play used by the OAS lawyer to illustrate the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

- Proceedings of the Washington Training held in September 2000<sup>1</sup> have been compiled, edited and prepared for publication by the Educational Communications Advisor. A draft presented to the Training Coordinator for final review and is pending publication on the web.
- Community Planning Training Materials were provided to the Training Coordinator. A selection of methodologies and tools used by NGOs in the United States, Canada, and in Honduras has been compiled and used to develop training modules for pilot testing with the trainers in community planning scheduled for the first quarter of 2001.
- The Afro Leadership Advisor participated in a Human Rights Workshop in La Ceiba where he introduced the materials he developed. He conducted on-site visits to Guatemala and to the Bay Islands, where he also tested these materials with community residents. The feedback on the content has been very positive, and organizations expressed interest in using these materials in their workplaces. Training of trainers in each community will follow.
- Two Guatemalans and three Hondurans from targeted Afro-NGOs and human rights organizations participated in preparatory meetings for the United Nations Conference against Racism and Xenophobia — the Experts Meeting (October 24-27) in Chile and the Andean regional meeting in Quito, Ecuador. These delegates joined other AA21 delegates from South America and the OAA Executive Director in incorporating the issues affecting Afro-Latin Americans into the Experts Conference conclusions. The position paper drafted in Chile was refined at a follow –on regional meeting in Quito and subsequently presented at the December NGO Forum.
- Three delegates from Honduras and one from Guatemala participated in the NGO Forum and the PRECON in Chile (December 3-8). AA21 delegates succeeded in incorporating language, drafted in the Experts and Andean Regional meetings, that recognized Afro populations and their condition in Latin America, into the position papers for the UN Conference. All delegates were tasked with promoting these issues with their own governments before the next PRECON in Geneva in 2001. Positive benefits to attending these meetings were: (a) learning by doing; that is, all participants learned to identify and manage issues, and the “political” process of getting them incorporated into the main agenda of international conferences; (b) meeting potential donors and supporters, that were impressed by the actions of AA21 delegates and offered their support during the Conference preparation (for example, The Ford Foundation in Chile supported the participation of AA21 delegates from South America in the NGO Forum; The Inter- American Institute of Human Rights covered the travel of two Hondurans to the NGO Forum and USAID Honduras assisted with travel for two participants from the project.); and (c) building advocacy skills.

---

<sup>1</sup> The training workshop covered topics of strategic planning, leadership development, and project identification, community development issues and international donor relations. This was cost shared by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

On Site Technical Assistance:

The Training Coordinator and the Afro-Leadership advisor traveled in December to Guatemala and the Bay Islands of Honduras to introduce the content of the Afro-leadership historical module, and to plan for the community planning phase that will be implemented in the first quarter of 2001.

□ In Guatemala (December 15-19) the visit was coordinated by the Coordinadora de Organizaciones Negras de Guatemala (CONG), the organization responsible for coordinating community planning workshops in Livingston. Needs assessment, planning and evaluation meetings were held with the Board. Rather than conduct training for participants from the 16 communities of the city of Livingston, one neighborhood will be targeted initially for a community-planning workshop in the first quarter of 2001. The trainers will work alongside the planners/participants as they execute their plan of action. Once this has proven successful, trainers will coordinate community-planning workshops in the other neighborhoods.

Two training sessions were organized to test the Afro-leadership component, one with adults and one with youth. Both were very successful in motivating the participants to engage in work to improve their communities.

□ The last component of the Guatemala visit was a day mission to Guatemala City with four members of the board of directors of CONG to visit potential, future donors to this project. At USAID a meeting was held with Nelly de Leon (Municipal program) to brief her on the project, and she briefed the group on other projects in the Lake Izabal region. Other informational meetings were held with PRODECA, a Danish program supporting human rights organizations in Central America, and the Canadian Embassy's Canada Fund.

□ The Bay Islands trip (December 27-30) was organized by NABIPLA, the Bay Islanders Professional and Laborers Association. In addition to testing the Afro leadership material at a community presentation in Sta. Helena (target community), a Board of Directors meeting was held to evaluate progress to date and plan the community planning workshops.

The community responded very well to the Afro-leadership presentation, which was done in English, and NABIPLA requested a copy of the materials to be included in the training of trainers for this component. Sta. Helena was confirmed as the pilot site for the community-planning phase; the community was briefed again on the topic, and was asked to identify by mid-January the two promoters that will be hired and trained.

## II. Challenges

Project Administration:

A computer was purchased in the U.S., but delivery, obtaining customs clearance and the holiday season delayed set up and implementation of the information and financial systems and internet connections. Communications costs for the quarter were higher than anticipated, but should decrease considerably once the systems are functioning.

Filling the position for a project administrator further delayed training in accounting and cost sharing and project management under the POA mentoring plan.

### Community Activities:

During the Human Rights Workshop, the weather proved an unexpected problem. It rained intensely in La Ceiba the last two days of the workshop, and by Sunday (the day of departure) the roads and airport were closed due to floods. As a result 20 people, the Training Coordinator and advisors were stranded for an additional day in La Ceiba and the project had to cover the additional costs of accommodation.

On the positive side, the partner organizations were very cooperative in the recruitment of trainees, and in participating in the organization and implementation of the Human Rights workshop.

The administration of activities will become formalized with the community-planning phase of the project. Contracts with defined terms of reference will be signed with the coordinating NGOs, and their involvement will be remunerated on the basis of activities executed in the scope of work and expected results. This arrangement is agreeable to the NGOs involved.

At every opportunity additional funding is sought to ensure sustainability of the project and to enhance the participation of Guatemala and Honduras in international advocacy networks.

### **III. Next Quarter Objectives**

Overall the next quarter's activities will focus on testing the most suitable tools and methodologies for community mobilization and participatory planning to strengthen the capacities of participating NGOs in institutional management, administration, project design, proposal writing and to train NGO leaders in community planning skills.

#### Project Administration

1. Complete set up of the internet communication systems in the field office.
2. Complete set up of a financial accounting system and to streamline the financial management of the OAA.
3. Contract local NGOs to conduct community-planning workshops in targeted communities and contract for technical assistance as follow up to these workshops.

#### Community Activities –Training

1. Organize and conduct the training of facilitators and promoters for the community-planning phase.
2. Implement the community planning phase (to include community mobilization, neighborhood and community SWOT analysis sessions, community planning sessions, and preparation of community plan documents).
3. Define the community and institutional training plan for the rest of the project.
4. Conduct an information/ communications Honduras-Guatemala training to establish a network of community information officers to gather and transmit information from and to the community.
5. Conduct a training of trainers Honduras-Guatemala training to develop Afro-leadership trainers for the participating communities and organizations.
6. Conduct a training of trainers (Honduras-Guatemala) in project design and planning for participating NGOs and community patronatos.
7. Conduct institutional strengthening workshops to strengthen the AA21 process nationally, and for individual NGOs participating in the project.

### **IV. Financial**

Due to delays in hiring and training a project administrator no financial report was completed at the end of the quarter and no additional funds were disbursed to OAA since the quarterly report in October 2000.