

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

Quarterly Report – Second Quarter FY2001

Date: March 15, 2001
Contractor: Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)
Reporting Period: January 1 to March 31, 2000 (Report dated 03/31/01)
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 granted CHF \$1,994,622 under Cooperative Agreement 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

Objectives	Results to date	Indicators
13 Bridges Built	1) Cantabal Bridge - Bridge in use (95% completed)	1) On February 26, work commenced again with the removal of the provisional structure and the placement of concrete forms and steel reinforcement. The concrete bridge surface was poured and security railing installed in March with the passage opened during the middle of the month.
	2) Petrolero Bridge (100% completed)	2) On July 13, passage was opened and the provisional bridge was removed.
	3) Tzutuj Bridge (100% completed)	3) Work began on July 7. The bridge was opened to vehicular traffic on August 16.
	4) Santo Tomas Bridge (100% completed)	4) Work began on July 14. Construction was completed and passage opened on August 31.
	5) Cux Bridge (100% completed)	5) Work began on July 14. Construction was completed on September 17 and passage was opened on September 22.
	6) Olivos I Bridge (100% completed)	6) Work began on August 1 and concluded on August 18. The bridge was opened to traffic in October 2001.
	7) Las Tortugas Bridge -- <i>Kilometer 31.5 – Road to Tres Ríos</i> (100% completed)	7) Work began on August 22. The bridge was opened for vehicular traffic on October 22.
	8) Las Flores Bridge -- <i>Kilometer 25.3 Road to Tres Ríos</i> (100% completed)	8) Work began on September 23. The construction was completed and the bridge opened to vehicular traffic in December 2001.

<p>13 Bridges Built (continued)</p>	<p>9) Lagarto Bridge -- <i>Kilometer 29.5 – Tres Ríos</i> (100% completed)</p> <p>10) Lorena - <i>Kilometer 2.5 FTN</i> (100% completed)</p>	<p>9) Work began on December 3 with the excavation of the bastions. During early January, the steel I-beams were launched and mounted and the concrete bridge surface poured. The bridge was opened for vehicular traffic on January 23.</p> <p>10) Work began on January 11 and construction of the bastions was completed in the same month. In February, the structure was mounted, the road surface poured and the security railings mounted. The bridge was opened for vehicular traffic on February 25.</p>
<p>Installation of one Bailey Bridge</p>	<p>Santa María Dolores Bailey Bridge</p>	<p>Bailey Bridge arrived and was transported to the Ixcán. The environmental impact evaluation was completed and submitted to USAID for revision. Infrastructure and Environmental Mitigation staff coordinated to determine the exact site of bridge installation. On March 11, USAID Regional Environmental Officer visited the Ixcán to inspect the bridge site.</p>
<p>One Bridge Repaired</p>	<p>Xalbal Bridge (100% completed)</p>	<p>Temporary repairs were completed in November enabling the passage of traffic up to 25 tons. CHF has sent letters to FONAPAZ and MICIVI¹ regarding the short-term solution provided by the emergency repairs, the need for more permanent, long-term repairs and absolving CHF of any further responsibility for the repair or maintenance of the bridge.</p>

¹ MICIVI represents the Guatemala Ministry of Communications, Housing and Infrastructure

Rehabilitate 100 kilo-meters of gravel road **		Progress During Quarter	Progress To Date
	1) Grading & road conformation	1) 20%	1) 90%
	2) Drainage pipe transportation and installation	2) 35%	2) 90%
	3) Gravel extraction	3) 5%	3) 90%
	4) Gravel transportation and on-site use	4) 25%	4) 85%
	5) Clay extraction, transportation and on-site use	5) 24%	5) 90%
<p><i>**Rehabilitation of the 100 kilometers of road along the Franja Transversal del Norte (FTN) reached 90% completion. Both 50-kilometer stretches of the FTN received some work. On January 10, 2001, however, work was suspended on rehabilitation efforts at the request of MICIVI personnel, due to the awarding by the MICIVI of FTN road maintenance contracts to firms from outside the Ixcán. CHF is coordinating with USAID in the use of remaining funds on stretches of roads outside the FTN.</i></p>			

III. CHF Counterpart Bridge Construction with FONAPAZ funding:

As counterpart to the USAID/CHF Mitch Reconstruction project, CHF is building an additional seven 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. Objectives/Results/Indicators

Objectives	Results	Indicators
<i>Seven Bridges Built</i>	1. Primavera Bridge (100% completed)	1. Work began on February 21 and was completed in the first week of July 2000.
	2. San Juan Chactela Bridge (50% completed)	2. The bastions have been built and are now awaiting the launching and mounting of the I-beams and steel reinforcement.

<i>Seven Bridges Built (continued)</i>	3. Saacté Bridge (100% completed)	Work began on July 12. The completed bridge and passage opened in December 2001.
	4. Veracruz II Bridge (100% completed)	Work began on September 18. The bridge was completed and passage opened on December 2001.
	5. Rio Negro	The steel I-beams were launched on February 9. The pouring of the concrete road surface, the mounting of the security railings and the construction of approaches is pending.
	6. Rio Jute (35% completed)	Work began on February 14 with the excavation and partial construction of the bastions.
	7. Esquipúlas Bridge	CHF began the elaboration of construction plans for this steel structure bridge. The initial disbursement is pending. Once it is received, work will begin on the bridge.

IV. Narrative Report

CHF’s flexibility, ability to respond and assign resources rapidly, its systematic approach and innovative construction methodologies have all contributed to the success of this project. *Ten (10) of the thirteen (13) bridges are completed and the remaining bridges are under design and in the planning stages.*

The project has experienced a setback in the area of road rehabilitation, however. With work at 95% completion, the Ministry of Communications, Housing and Infrastructure (MICIVI) awarded the road maintenance contracts to two firms from outside the Ixcán. This happened despite the support of the Government of Guatemala through FONAPAZ in the strengthening of the Ixcán Road Maintenance Association (AMVI) and the combined efforts of CHF, AMVI and USAID to be taken into consideration as a pre-qualified service provider. Due to the awarding of these contracts, Project Director Jim Schenck informed USAID of the discontinuation of the remaining rehabilitation efforts that now fall under the responsibility of the MICIVI contractors. CHF is currently in the process of analyzing where the remaining resources can be best put to use.

During March, USAID Regional Environmental Officer Anne Dix visited the Ixcán. Her purpose was two fold:

1. Visit the site and review environmental mitigation efforts of the Santa Maria de Dolores Bailey Bridge; and
2. Provide input on the site selection of two concrete vehicular bridges.

V. Success stories/Vignettes

In early January, Infrastructure Component staff conducted an informal project evaluation to analyze the experience to date in the implementation of the project. Averaging less than two months time constructing the most recent bridges and CHF's ability to work on various bridges at different stages of construction served to validate the ambitious implementation strategy developed by CHF. *Barring any unforeseen events, CHF is confident that activities will be completed by the month of July 2001.*

Please see the CHF/Communities In Transition website for photographs on the Mitch Reconstruction activities.

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

V. Expenses during this Period

Activity	Amount Budgeted	Previously Disbursed ²	Disbursed this quarter	Disbursed to date	Available
Road Infrastructure	\$ 1,994,622	\$1,141,091	\$200,000	\$1,341,091	\$ 653,571

² Based on audited FY 2000 figures