

BEPS LAC/RSD-EHR
Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS) Activity
Year II Quarter I Performance Report

Contractor: Creative Associates International, Inc.
Contract No. HNE-I-00-00-00038-00
Task Order No. 08
Reporting Period: April 1, 2003 – May 30, 2003*

This Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS), LAC/RSD-HER Activity quarterly report includes Tasks, Accomplishments, Progress, Required Deliverables, Challenges and Planned Response. For further information, please see the corresponding comprehensive BEPS quarterly report submitted under separate cover.

** Excludes June, 2003 as any activities during that time are not under this task-order. They are included in Task-Order No. 26*

1. Mission, Purpose, Tasks to be Accomplished:

The mission of the LAC/RSD-EHR activity is to provide “Improved and Expanded Basic Education, Especially for Girls, Women, and Other Underserved Populations”. The overall purpose of this activity is to strengthen the quality, vitality and effectiveness of educational systems by assisting USAID missions, regional bureaus, and developing newly independent and crisis countries to examine their educational policies and programs and to implement more relevant policies and activities.

Under BEPS, CAII and its partners – CARE, The George Washington University and Groundwork – will perform seven (7) types of tasks:

- A. Undertake education policy analyses, activity and strategy assessments and program evaluations and assessments;
- B. Prepare and disseminate technical reports related to regional and country education trends, education initiatives, success stories and successful innovative programs, and special topics (Summit Education Initiative, secondary education, early childhood development, educational technology, national standards and assessments, education finance, etc.);
- C. Coordinate and provide logistical support for two components related to the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) program, including supporting the effort to generate private sector and foundation support for CETT and supporting the CETT Consultative Committee; support the educational policy agenda shared by the LAC Bureau and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through educational support activities;
- D. Provide technical assistance to selected Central American and Caribbean countries in support of the LAC Regional Education Program (i.e. Regional Indicators Project, PREAL, etc.) and Mission bilateral programs;

- E. Assist LAC missions in the development of bilateral education strategies, result frameworks, pilot or demonstration design, applied research, and policy analyses;
- F. Coordinate and provide logistical support for a regional workshop on educational policy reform for the LAC Bureau and its Missions; and
- G. Provide off-site support to LAC/RSD-EHR in the research, writing and dissemination of various documents that may include briefings, talking points, speeches, and other reports, as necessary.

Status on Required Deliverables

- ***LAC/RSD-EHR “Support of Education Policy Reform” Task Order:*** Work continued to establish foundations for development and implementation of the “Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training” (CETT), the US presidential initiative focused on improving reading instruction skills of teachers in the LAC Region. Activities included:
 - *Technical Assistance in Support of the Establishment of the Central American CETT:* Provided technical assistance to further define the conceptual framework and strengthen the overall organization of the CETT consortium. CAII’s LAC Activity Coordinator worked with the Central American CETT Director, who traveled to CAII’s offices in Washington, to identify key issues for the Executive Committee Meeting. They conducted a critical review of the conceptual framework and the current program guides for teachers in order to ensure continuity among program documentation. The Central American Executive Committee met to identify communication and coordination procedures and systems. Subsequent to the meeting, CAII provided technical assistance to the Central American CETT Director in order to support follow-up and next steps. Finally, CAII forwarded a complete set of Texas Reading Instruments teaching tools to the Central American CETT.
 - *Technical Assistance in Planning the CETT/Andean Region:* Forwarded a complete set of Texas Reading Instruments teaching tools to the Andean CETT.
 - *Technical Assistance in Planning the CETT/Caribbean Region:* Provided technical assistance to strengthen the Wireless Wide Area Network (WAN) project, a project that will serve as the electronic link for all CETT cluster schools and training institutions, as well as for inter-country communication and training. Recommendations were made for further technical assistance and project design. In addition, a complete set of Texas Reading Instruments teaching tools were sent to the Caribbean CETT.
 - *Latin American and the Caribbean CETT Networking Conference:* Organized and convened the first Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training for Latin America and the Caribbean Networking Conference, which was held April 28-May 2, 2003, in Austin, Texas. The purpose of the five-day conference was to support the successful implementation of the CETTs by bringing together CETT

management and technical staff from the three Regional Centers, USAID Education staff working with CETT, and implementing contractors. Attendees included CETT directors and coordinators and members of the technical teams from each sub-region, representing thirteen participating countries and nine institutions, six Consultative Committee members from five countries, five private sector representatives, and thirteen USAID representatives –three from USAID/W and ten from eight USAID Missions. At the conference, technical teams from the Andean, Caribbean, and Central American CETTs had the opportunity to network and build relationships, share best practices and lessons learned from around the hemisphere, reflect on the monitoring and evaluation plan, discuss effective communication and coordination strategies, and learn about selected models of reading instruction and teacher training. Potential private sector partners and CETT Consultative Committee members also had an opportunity to learn, share, and discuss potential roles for the future.

Deliverables
Year II Quarter I – April 1 – May 30, 2003*

Task Description	Deliverable	Date Submitted
<i>Undertake education policy analyses, activity and strategy assessments and program evaluations and assessments</i>		
<i>Prepare and disseminate technical reports related to regional and country education trends, education initiatives, success stories and successful innovative programs, and special topics (Summit Education Initiative, secondary education, early childhood development, educational technology, national standards and assessments, education finance, etc.</i>	1. Evaluation Criteria for CETT	May 2003
<i>Coordinate and provide logistical support for two components related to the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) program, including supporting the effort to generate private sector and foundation support for CETT and supporting the CETT Advisory Committee; support the educational policy agenda shared by the LAC Bureau and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through educational support activities;</i>	1. Consultative Committee Contact List 2. LAC CETT Networking Conference April 28-May 2, 2003	May 2003 May 2003
<i>Provide technical assistance to selected Central American and Caribbean countries in support of the LAC Regional Education Program (i.e. Regional Indicators Project, PREAL, etc.) and Mission bilateral programs</i>	1. Propuesta de Investigación para la Formación de Maestros Centroamérica, Panama y Republica Dominicana 2. Technical Report – CETT Andino 3. Criterios – Selección de Materiales 4. Analisis del Documento 5. Indice Contenido: Informe al Sector Privado	May 2003 May 2003 May 2003 May 2003
<i>Assist LAC missions in the development of bilateral education strategies, result frameworks, pilot or demonstration design, applied research, and policy analyses</i>		
<i>Coordinate and provide logistical support for a regional workshop on educational policy reform for the LAC Bureau and its Missions</i>		
<i>Provide off-site support to LAC/RSD-EHR in the research, writing and dissemination of various documents that may include briefings, talking points, speeches, and other reports, as necessary.</i>		