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FEASIBILITY STUDY
for a
SOCIAL/CIVIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
in
LATIN AMERICA

A FINAL REPORT

by

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for

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The proposed project, involving the participation of non-partisan Latin American PVOs working in the area of social/civic education, is based on the expressed needs of certain issue oriented volunteer groups to extend their outreach to a greater number of citizens. The intent of these organizations is to involve more citizens in the decision-making processes that affect their lives, both individually and as members of a variety of community groups. Specifically these PVOs have indicated an interest in developing educational programs with men, women and youth from the less advantaged socio-economic sectors in their respective countries. Some of the organizations already have established programs which have had a small scale impact within poor urban and/or rural communities.

The AID project manager, in consultation with the contractor, identified organizations in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay and Perú for inclusion in a feasibility study upon which a viable regional project can be developed.

SCOPE OF WORK

As defined by the AID project manager, the contractor traveled with the AID project manager to the designated countries between 19 February and 17 March 1978 to investigate the potential for involving selected indigenous organizations in the proposed regional project. The proposed project is directed toward educating citizens on their rights and responsibilities. Specifically the task was:

1. To identify in each country visited non-partisan organizations which work to enhance citizen's awareness of their civic and political rights and responsibilities.
2. To meet with key members of these groups, in order to determine the nature and scope of their interest in and potential for expanding their programs within their own country and for joining cooperative efforts with similar organizations from other countries.
3. To determine what special skills or expertise may exist within the resources commanded by each of these organizations that might be shared with members of other groups for the mutual benefit of the groups concerned.

4. To investigate the political climate in each country to assess its probable effect on proposed project activities; i.e., the feasibility of carrying out the project without opposition.
5. To contribute to the design of the proposed regional project by recommending specific types of activities to be undertaken that will most effectively use the resources of these organizations to further the principal goals of the project:
 - to expand the scope and reach of existing programs, especially to men, women and youth living in rural areas.
 - and to promote communication and cooperation among the organizations for their mutual benefit.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This report is divided into four main sections:

- I. An Overview of Latin American PVOs
- II. Status of Social/Civic Participation Programs in Selected Countries
- III. Additional Contacts
- IV. Recommendations for a Regional Project

Additionally an attached appendix lists country-by-country the USAID personnel, national PVOs and individuals contacted during the period of this study.

The section on the Status of Social/Civic Participation Programs in Selected Countries is divided into the following subsections: Political Climate; Organizational Activities; Individual Contacts; and Analysis of Internal Resources.

Given the limited time in each country it was not possible to make indepth analyses of organizations interviewed whose work is directed toward social/civic participation. Nor was it possible to contact a wider spectrum of PVOs whose programs may well encompass an aspect of civic participation even though their main thrust is not in this direction. Therefore, the findings are necessarily based on a cursory overview which has been placed within the context of: the contractor's previous knowledge of social/civic participation programs in Latin America; the input from USAID missions; and the perceptions expressed by the PVOs and individuals contacted.

OVERVIEW OF LATIN AMERICAN PVOs

The organizational structure of Latin American PVOs involved in issue-oriented civic action programs generally parallels those of volunteer organizations in the United States. All can be divided into three broad categories:

1. Those organizations whose volunteers are limited to a Board of Directors who establish broad program/fiscal policies and review, reject, modify and/or accept programs and funding proposals developed by the organization's professional staff. Project implementation/evaluation is delegated to the executive director who supervises the professional and other required staff.
2. Those groups whose volunteers include the members of the Board of Directors and several Functional Committees. The Board establishes broad program/fiscal policies and delegates specific tasks to the Functional Committees such as the development of program and funding proposals for Board review, rejection, modification and/or acceptance. Functional Committee members and the general membership (if one exists for purposes other than financial support) frequently work as volunteer counterparts with the organization's professional staff during the implementation/evaluation phase of projects. Often the staff is responsible for training volunteers to carry out their respective tasks.
3. Those PVOs dependent upon a volunteer constituency to assume the responsibility for all organizational functions from policy making, program development, fund raising, project implementation/evaluation to the performance of clerical duties. Rarely are these organizations financially able to employ a professional staff member even part-time or contract for technical assistance on an as-needed basis.

It is chiefly with the participation of this latter group of PVOs, whose members are principally women, that the social/civic participation project would be developed for the following reasons:

1. The organizational structure and form of government provides a malleable base for the reinforcement and internalization of

democratic processes. In effect these organizations are microcosms of a democratic society.

2. The extension of democratic practices outside of the organizational framework is possible through the individual member's outreach to both larger (community, municipal, national) and smaller (family, friendship circle) social units.
3. The organizations' constituency and low key approach to issue-oriented action projects is generally viewed without overt opposition by both political and socio-economic leaders. Yet with current members chiefly drawn from the upper-middle and middle class, the organizations have the potential for developing and exercising a high degree of political clout when sensitive national issues arise.
4. The philosophical bases of these PVOs chiefly rest on the premise that citizen action directed toward social change begins with participation in voluntary organizations.
5. Some of the PVOs identified already are successfully involving lower income groups in issue-oriented civic action programs.

The membership of most of the PVOs interviewed encompasses a unique combination of wives, mothers, professional women and occasionally a few men who are serving as social-change agents in their communities. The number of members in a single organization ranges from 10 to perhaps 1500 persons. Those with larger memberships generally are national organizations with as many as 10 federated affiliates. However, due to the tendency in Latin America for women to belong to more than one organization, the immediate outreach of all members often is multiplied three or four-fold. There are no reliable data on which to estimate the total number of volunteers involved in issue-oriented civic action programs. Furthermore, many organizations divide their membership into two or more categories; i.e., members actively involved in program implementation, those whose participation is limited to financial support of the PVOs activities and some groups have honorary or associate members whose responsibility is chiefly limited to lending their names to the organizational "cause".

A few of the issue-oriented PVOs were established as an outgrowth of women's enfranchisement; others predate the legal participation of women in civic matters and remain chiefly concerned with issues related to family and women's rights. Some

began as traditional charitable groups but now focus upon social change. The purpose of one of the PVOs contacted is to train volunteers for community groups or organizations which emphasize social justice.

STATUS OF THE SOCIAL/CIVIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS
IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

COLOMBIA

Political Climate

The question of government opposition to social/civic action programs in Colombia, which takes pride in its democratic form of government, appears to be nil. It should be noted that former President Alberto Lleras Camargo was instrumental in the founding of the Unión de Ciudadanas de Colombia, a non-partisan civic education organization established in 1957.

Organizational Activities

Interviews were arranged by the USAID/Colombia Program Officer with two PVOs, the Futuro para la Niñez and the UCC (Unión de Ciudadanas de Colombia) and a quasi-governmental agency, Acción Comunal.

Acción Comunal encourages the participation chiefly of rural citizens in the decision-making processes at the community level. Approximately 29,000 rural (90%) and urban (10%) persons with low incomes participate in developing and implementing self-help programs related to health, agriculture and housing. Technical assistance to the communities is provided by the Human Resources Department personnel of the Colombian government who train and supervise the para-professionals assigned to work directly with the communities. The audio-visual aids developed for use with rural people would have application in volunteer sponsored community/human resource development projects.

The Futuro para la Niñez (Futures for Children) appears to be a non-religious, apolitical, educational and self-help program directed toward helping rural people to first express their needs and later manifest them to the proper governmental authorities. Based on the educational psychology that man first must value his own ability before he can be an effective instrument in the community, the program is carried out on weekends by volunteers (both men and women) from Cali and Bogotá. The methodology for this educational approach to human rights was developed by Dr. Richard P. Saunders of Albuquerque, N.M. who hopes to extend this program to Guatemala, Perú and Ecuador. The organization's financial base is derived from bi-national contributions from both individuals and socially conscious business firms.

The UCC (Unión de Ciudadanas de Colombia) is a

national organization, patterned after the League of Women Voters, with affiliated groups in ten Colombian cities: Armenia, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cartagena, Ciegana, Cúcuta, Medellín, Montería and Santa Marta. Each section has been active in providing "voter service" type programs in their communities. In addition the Santa Marta and Barranquilla affiliates sponsor civic education classes which are accredited by the Ministry of Education for secondary school students.

As a national organization the UCC was instrumental in the recent passage by the Colombian congress of the equivalent of the the US's Equal Rights Amendment.

In 1977 the national organization sponsored a privately financed international conference on "Women in the Work Force" attended by representatives from Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Perú, Russia, the United States and Venezuela as well as Colombia. From this conference the UCC is selecting one area related to working women from which study and action programs will be developed for the 1978-1980 program period. Additionally the Bogotá section is planning to initiate a pilot program to provide legal counseling for women in the lower economic brackets.

The organization uses radio, television and simple audio-visual aids to carry their civic education messages to the masses. According to the UCC there still exists in Colombia a somewhat limited understanding of the difference between apolitical activities and intervention on behalf of political parties. Therefore, during the period immediately preceding national elections the UCC suspends their usual civic education programs. In this interim many of the UCC members actively campaign for political candidates reportedly utilizing the group education skills they have acquired as UCC members.

Individual Contacts

No persons other than those working with the organizations interviewed and USAID/Colombia were contacted.

Analysis of Internal Resources

Audio-visual materials developed by Acción Comunal could be used in the social/civic participation programs of PVOs. The direct, yet simplistic, approach the Futuro para la Niñez employs to begin discussions in rural communities (i.e., "What is needed in your community so that it will be a better place for your children?") might be used by PVOs who frequently ask: How can we directly approach people in rural communities? The UCC appears to possess strength in the development of audio-visual materials. They have indicated a willingness to share these skills with other PVOs. The consultant and AID project manager already have shared some of the UCC materials with other groups in Latin America.

Conversely the UCC expressed a need for technical assistance in the theory and methodology of working with adult and adolescent groups and developing programs with the less culturally and economically advantaged. The Futuro para la Niñez indicated a need for financial support but did not specifically request technical assistance in fund raising. The Bogotá representative said she would share their educational approach to citizen participation with other groups if a workshop were to be held.

COSTA RICA

Political Climate

Like Colombia, Costa Rica enjoys a democratic government that champions educational programs designed to involve the citizenry in the political process.

Organizational Activities

The USAID/Costa Rica personnel arranged for meetings with DELFI, the OCC (Organización de Ciudadanas Costarricenses) and an informal visit with FOV (Federación de Organizaciones Voluntarias).

DELFI is a non-profit, apolitical, multicultural organization working on a volunteer basis at a professional level to help women become independent and productive members of the community. It operates a multi-faceted information and orientation center for referral counseling, career and educational orientation and at the request of business firms recruits appropriate employees. It also operates a child care center in which parental education is an integral facet of the program. It has established a cooperative savings and credit union for women in all economic levels. DELFI provides training and placement for people interested in serving their community.

The income generating activities of DELFI (e.g., governmental and business contracts for specific services provided) permit the organization to defray the cost of their volunteer activities. Currently it is contracted by the National Apprenticeship Training Institute (a government agency) to provide self-awareness training for low income persons enrolled in the Institute's skills-training program. Additionally, under contract with the government social security agency, DELFI provides information to economically disadvantaged individuals about appropriate entitlements and assists them in applying for same.

The OCC (Organización de Ciudadanas Costarricenses) has three on-going basic educational programs: a course concerning citizen participation in the electoral process; another on the function of municipal governments and how they operate; and basic training for volunteers who wish to participate in community action programs. In addition to sponsoring lectures and

seminars on topics such as "Incorporating Women in the Development Process" (1977) and "The Legal Reality of Women in the Labor Force" (1976), the group is now compiling a public services directory for the San José metropolitan area. It will include information about health, sanitation, employment and housing services provided by both public and private entities.

According to USAID/Costa Rica, OCC's membership remains fairly static and the organization is almost 100% dependent on USAID and the Costa Rican government in order to finance their major projects and the part-time services of a professional staff member. USAID/CR does not plan to renew their financial support and unless OCC is able to raise matching funds from some other source the Costa Rican government's contribution to the OCC program will also cease.

Individual Contacts

A brief meeting was held with Sra. Clara de Araya, presently with the women's office in the GOCR Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. She was seeking advice about sources of funding for a rural women's project that the Instituto Americano de Ciencias Agrícolas (entity of the Organization of American States) is planning. The relationship between AID funds and the OAS was explained to her.

Analysis of Internal Resources

DELFI's innovative financing methods might well be considered by other PVOs as an alternative means for funding their programs.

The OCC feels that their expertise lies in organizing and directing short courses on civic participation topics. On the other hand they contend that they need technical assistance with membership recruitment and retention, fund raising and training for trainers. Apparently previous training for trainers focused on the replication of preestablished content rather than providing the trainers with the knowledge and techniques essential to developing creative training designs based on the "needs assessments" of the trainee group.

ECUADOR

Political Climate

Considering that the military government submitted the choice of a constitution to referendum vote (January 1978), it would appear that the current government would also encourage the proliferation of social/civic participation programs. However since individual perceptions of civic participation and political intervention vary widely in this country, it seems imperative that these differences be clarified. It might be advisable to encourage the PVOs that are implementing civic

education programs to develop a monitoring system for maintaining an apolitical position particularly during the coming pre-election period.

Organizational Activities

The Comité Ecuatoriana de Cooperación de CIM (Inter-American Commission of Women), SEGESVOL (Secretariado General de Servicio Voluntario) and UNME (Unión Nacional de Mujeres del Ecuador) were the organizations with which contact was made.

The Comité Ecuatoriana de Cooperación de CIM is involved in education programs for rural women in the areas of law, economics, health, culture and civic education. In order to assure the outreach of their program, six provincial committees have been organized and trained to carry the programs to rural women, particularly Indian women. With the passage of the new national constitution the civic education program of this organization takes on a new dimension -- the education of illiterates, among the Indian population and other groups, concerning the various forms of government, the electoral process and their right to vote if they so desire (voto no-obligatorio).

SEGESVOL is comprised of approximately 25 social welfare PVOs, some of which are involved in more issue-oriented action programs than others. Approximately two years ago this federation of PVOs undertook a needs survey within an economically deprived community but seem to be experiencing some difficulty in encouraging their affiliates and/or other private and public entities to develop projects to meet these needs.

UNME is a federation reportedly with affiliates in six cities and Quito. Civic education is one aspect of its four-fold program chiefly directed toward women's rights and cultural development. Founded in 1963 with the assistance of the Unión de Ciudadanas de Colombia, UNME has recently renewed its alliance with the UCC. In 1975 UNME revised its statutes which now emphasize the participation of rural women in the UNME groups. It claims to have spearheaded the efforts to: include non-illiterate women under the mandatory voting law (voto obligatorio); assure the passage of the equal rights amendment to the national constitution in 1970; and more recently to establish a movement directed toward granting 30-year retirement benefits to women. Prior to the recent constitutional referendum UNME distributed pamphlets to encourage voter participation in the referendum. During presidential election periods this organization invites the candidates to speak at open forums.

Individual Contacts

At the suggestion of USAID/Ecuador a contact was made with Carl Wilhem and Sara Risser of the Hospital Voz Andes (Seventh Day Adventist). Ms. Risser is organizing a seminar

for health service PVOs working in Ecuador. Neither she nor Wilhem knew of organizations involved in social/civic participation projects other than those already mentioned.

Analysis of Internal Resources

The work of the Comité Ecuatoriana de Cooperación de CIM merits sharing with other Latin American PVOs, especially their efforts to help rural women obtain their birth certificates and corresponding citizen identification cards (cedulas de identidad). The failure to officially document their births, marriages and citizenship plagues the poor throughout most Latin American countries.

SEGESVOL has a training team from which members might be drawn to assist with regional workshops.

The national board of directors of UNME appears to be dominated by several highly individualistic women who admit that they have difficulty in working with other organizations. UNME probably would benefit from having these board members participate individually in a variety of learning experiences with PVOs in other countries. In so doing, the board might recognize their own need for the services of an organization development specialist to work with the federation and its affiliates in the area of "team building" and inter-organizational communication and cooperation.

EL SALVADOR

Political Climate

With the continued high incidence of terrorist activities and a new administration, reportedly more conservative than the former, it is difficult to assess what the government's reaction might be to accelerated social/civic education programs. The current low key citizen participation programs do not appear to be in jeopardy at this time.

Organizational Activities

Organizations contacted were CODECAVOL (Comité de Capacitación del Voluntariado), FEDESAP (Federación Salvadoreña de Asociaciones Femininas) and the OCS (Organización de Ciudadanas Salvadoreñas).

CODECAVOL is a change agent group providing training and organization development services for community groups and institutions involved in social justice programs or those indicating a desire to develop such programs. Among their clients are the School of Social Work, a secondary girls' school that has a compulsory information, training and service component in their curriculum on the social responsibility of volunteer organizations, and several PVOs including the Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña and FEDESAP. They currently are applying

to USAID/ES for an OPG to expand their activities and train additional members to serve as consultant/trainers. With the cooperation of the Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña, one or two other institutions and FEDESAF, they are planning to design and staff an information booth on volunteer opportunities at the annual international fair to be held in San Salvador in November 1978.

FEDESAF is in the process of obtaining government sanction and the corresponding legal status accorded PVOs. As with many emerging federations, some of the board members seem to be experiencing some difficulty in disassociating their board role from that of their membership in affiliated organizations. With the technical assistance of CODECAVOL they sponsored a women's information booth during a national industrial fair (August 1977) but to date have not met again with their affiliates to develop a long term program plan.

The OCS's citizen education program has been relatively dormant for three or four years. The current president is professionally involved in a number of national and international programs and stated that she has little time to chair meetings which are poorly attended. One of the younger members of the group has indicated an interest in reviving the organization as she feels that it may be timely to raise broad civic issues.

Individual Contacts

Due to limitations of time none could be made.

Analysis of Internal Resources

CODECAVOL's understanding of organization development and documented effectiveness as trainers might be helpful to a number of PVOs. However, it might overtax this organization's resources to involve them as a group outside of El Salvador. Possibly one or two consultants might be available to assist a regional consultant on a short term basis.

Information about FEDESAF's women's information booth during the industrial fair was shared in conversations with a number of other Latin American PVOs. Some of these groups seemed to think that the idea would be adaptable in their respective countries.

If the OCS needs technical assistance they will probably request the services of CODECAVOL as some of the members of the latter group formerly were active in the OCS.

PARAGUAY

Political Climate

There appears to be no overt opposition to social/civic

educational programs particularly in the area of family and women's rights. The terminology used in the National Five-Year Plan for the Development of Human Resources and that of the Women's Labor Office (both departments of the Ministry of Justice and Labor) would indicate that democratic processes have been institutionalized in theory if not totally in practice.

Organizational Activities

USAID/Paraguay arranged for visits with CONEB (Consejo Nacional de Entidades de Beneficencia) and the Liga Paraguaya de los Derechos de la Mujer.

CONEB is currently working under an OPG to develop its internal resources and assist designated affiliated organizations establish additional skills training that will lead to income generating employment for the low income beneficiaries of these organizations' respective programs. With the assistance of USAID/Paraguay CONEB has contracted for the organization development services of a local firm (GARS) and hired professional and para-professional staff to provide technical assistance for their affiliates involved in the income generating projects. It should be noted that some of these affiliates already were involved in skills training for the underprivileged however CONEB's OPG will permit the upgrading of this training and open new avenues of revenue.

During the past three years the Liga Paraguaya de los Derechos de la Mujer has attempted to reactivate its membership and refocus its programs toward the integrated development of rural women. In this period of time, with some financial assistance from USAID/Paraguay, they have organized sub-groups in the interior of the country and with both national and international technical assistance have provided leadership training for new members. They work closely with the Ministry of Justice and Labor's women's office which assists in implementing some of the Liga's projects.

Recently, in cooperation with the Association of Women Lawyers and the Ministry of Justice and Labor, the Liga undertook an informational project on legal rights. Their target audience was rural women. When asked to define what they mean by rural women, they stated that campesinas are all women who live in rural cities and their environs but admitted that the project had been directed toward middle class professionals and homemakers who object to being referred to as campesinas.

Presently the Liga is developing a proposal for an OPG to extend their sphere of action through the employment of professional personnel in rural training programs.

Individual Contacts

USAID/Paraguay arranged for interviews with Judy Laird, Ph.D., who is conducting a survey of rural women's socio-

economic status and an informal meeting with the director of the Bureau of Statistics and Census which is implementing the rural women's survey. Also a dialogue was held with the director of the Ministry of Justice and Labor's Human Resources Development program and his counterpart in the women's office of this ministry. During the informal visit with CPES (Centro Paraguayo de Estudios Sociológicos), which has carried out research on the participation of women in the economy, there was an opportunity to discuss evaluation components of PVO programs.

A luncheon meeting was held with Vitalina Paez, dean of the School of Philosophy of Catholic University, and Herenia Ruiz, a faculty member of the International College. Both had previously worked with the contractor as training team members during a community development leadership training course sponsored by CONEB and the Overseas Education Fund in 1973. These women continue to serve as members of a civic-action training team which works with Guaraní Indians. Both expressed a need for linking up the resources of Latin American PVOs involved in social/civic participation projects.

Analysis of Internal Resources

When the mid-point results of CONEB's income generating human development project are available it can be determined how this information can best be shared with other PVO councils/federations. Similar projects, which include civic education components, might be stimulated in other countries if such information were available to them. USAID/Paraguay and CONEB should be commended for their efforts to employ local resources in the implementation of the CONEB project.

The format of the Liga's program on the rights of family members and women possibly could be adapted for implementation in other countries. However, it might be beneficial for the Liga to participate in some brainstorming sessions with PVOs in other countries about the methodology of reaching out to the less economically advantaged rural women in Paraguay.

PERU

The political situation appears to be highly sensitive at this time particularly in areas related to Human Rights. The government reserves the right to approve or reject all forms of technical and/or financial assistance including that extended to PVOs. It is doubtful that a regional social/civic education project could be implemented in Perú until after a constitutional government is restored.

Organizational Activities

Since USAID/Perú did not seem to fully understand the purpose of the contractor and AID project manager's presence in Perú, no appointments were made for them prior to the USAID

briefing which was followed by a briefing at the Embassy with the DCM and Political Officer.

After these briefings USAID/Perú arranged for the consultant and AID project manager to visit an ACOMUC (Asociación de Cooperación con la Mujer Campesina) project. Also, it was possible to talk with the president of the Comité Peruano de Cooperación de CIM as well as one of the divisional directors of the newly formed governmental agency, INAPROMEF (Instituto Nacional de Asistencia y Promoción del Menor y la Familia since the contractor continues to maintain a professional relationship with both of the women.

ACOMUC is a PVO affiliated with the Secretariado Nacional de Bienestar Social, a private sector coordinating agency. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, ACOMUC is planning to implement a non-formal educational program for rural women and youth during a two-year period beginning in 1978. ACOMUC claims to have sub-groups in 14 interior cities whose members will be involved in assisting professional and para-professional personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture with the implementation of a multi-faceted program. Approximately 5% of the total program will be devoted to the rights, responsibilities and role of women as mothers, wives, daughters and citizens according to the tentative program plan.

The Comité Peruano de Cooperación de CIM consists of professional women who are using the limited time they are able to devote to volunteer activities to draft proposals for income generating projects for rural women. They expect to receive financial assistance from CIM/Washington (Interamerican Commission of Women) to implement one or more of these projects through the Ministry of Agriculture. They hope to continue sponsoring informational seminars focusing on the integration of women in the socio-economic development process within Perú.

INAPROMEF was created in January 1978 to combine the functions of several former governmental agencies concerned with the strengthening of the family as the basic social unit. It will attempt to coordinate the efforts of both the public and private sector in this direction. The organizational structure includes a Volunteer Center and all PVOs are being requested to register with this center. The intent is to involve these PVOs in an advisory capacity as well as assist them in coordinating their efforts in the area of family services.

For lack of financial resources INAPROMEF has not been able to hold a proposed informational meeting with the PVOs. Resultantly many misunderstandings have arisen among members of the volunteer sector about the requirement for registering with INAPROMEF. USAID/Perú's program office indicated that they will follow up on this need for the informational meeting that the INAPROMEF official feels is vital to the future of the institution and volunteer groups.

The previous professional experience of the INAPROMEF official has provided her with unusual sensitivity to issues related to volunteer work within the private sector and her input into a regional project would be a valuable asset.

Analysis of Internal Resources

It appears that there are adequate national human resources to provide the needed technical assistance to ACOMUC but both this PVO and others lack the financial means to obtain the technical services needed. Some international PVOs apparently are currently unable to provide services to Peruvian organizations given the current political situation. Thus Peruvian PVOs, which formerly depended upon such international assistance, are not receiving technical assistance at this time. Utilizing the individual expertise of Peruvians as consultants in a regional social/civic participation project may be the most feasible way of including Perú in the project at this time.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Three additional contacts within Latin America are mentioned because of their significance in relation to social/civic participation projects.

During a weekend stop-over in Bolivia the contractor met with Ruth Maldonado, M.D., a founder and active member of ABES (Asociación Boliviana de Educación Sexual) which is a local PVO that provides sex education information for women and adolescents. Also present at Dr. Maldonado's invitation were two women lawyers and a secretary from the Israeli Embassy. The discussion centered on Human Rights issues in the context of social/civic participation. The women present suggested that one way of reaching lower-income women might be through a meeting of the entrepreneurs who buy the handicrafts produced by the Indians. Both the social responsibility of the entrepreneurs could be discussed in such a meeting as well as the need for establishing a center to upgrade the Indians' skills and provide them with information about their social/civic responsibilities and rights. Such a center might be administered by a volunteer board of directors and possibly could provide some health and child care services.

During the hour-and-one-half between plane changes in Guatemala it was possible to meet and talk with one of the pioneers in the social/civic education field, Graciela Quan Valenzuela, a lawyer and social worker. Lic. Quan reiterated the importance of social/civic participation PVO programs and particularly the use of Latin American resources in the extension of these programs. The contractor believes that Lic. Quan's previous membership on the United Nation's Human Rights Commission, her marked interest in extending social/civic education programs and acceptance by her Latin American peers qualifies her as a candidate to serve in an advisory position in relation to the proposed regional project.

Although there was no opportunity to make personal contact with this group during the feasibility study trip, there is an organization in Mendoza, Argentina which is actively involved in helping PVOs develop civic action programs. CEDICRUP (Centro de Dinamica Grupal) is a non-profit, apolitical organization which has assisted with the development of goat herders/raisers cooperatives, consumer advocacy groups and in helping health, welfare and legal institutions (both private and public) improve their professional-client relationships so that the consumer assumes a more active role in the development of institutional programs. The organization consists of a small group of professional men and women who serve as CEDICRUP's consultants and trainers and occasionally undertake organization development work for business firms and professional organizations in order to finance their volunteer activities. Their resources might be called upon for projects in the Southern Cone.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT

Although the order of priority varied with each group during the dialogues with the PVOs contacted, six areas of mutual concern surfaced. They included:

- financial management
- time management (i.e., the magnitude of the program tasks vs. personal time limitations of the volunteers, especially the married professionals)
- coordination and/or knowledge of available technical assistance
- appropriate techniques for reaching specific target groups
- inter-organizational communications
- counter-productive effect of the current tendency to focus on women's participation rather than co-equal citizen participation in national affairs.

It appears that a number of these concerns could be addressed and acted upon utilizing the internal resources of the PVOs contacted. Most organizations did not know that groups with programs similar to their own exist in other countries. Nor were they generally aware of possible technical assistance that might be available within their own countries.

To respond to the perceived needs of PVOs involved in social/civic action programs and assist them with program extension and more effective utilization of available Latin American resource (financial, material and human), it is recommended that a Center for Social/Civic Development be created.

Unless sustained by Latin American organizations, it is not envisioned that the Center would serve more than an ad hoc function for a period of approximately three years. Its purpose primarily would be that of an information, resource and referral center although, at the request of the PVOs utilizing the above services, some joint activities might be developed such as substantive workshops and organization development services.

Such a center might be able to utilize the post office box of an existing Latin American PVO for correspondence and possibly share office space and part-time secretarial services provided by the same organization during this three year period.

As a first step in the creation of a Center for Social/Civic Development it would seem advisable to form an eight or nine member task force/advisory council comprised chiefly of members of Latin American PVOs. The knowledge, interest and expertise of this group in the area of social/civic matters would enable it to:

- establish guidelines for the functioning of the Center
- develop a means for obtaining more specific information about existing social/civic organizations in Latin America
- determine how to collect data on existing resources (publications, technical assistance, funding sources) within Latin America
- decide on an appropriate media for sharing the above information
- discuss and develop a tentative 3-year program plan taking into consideration the needs, interests and resources of the PVOs involved in social/civic education programs.

Depending upon the recommendations of the task force/advisory council the scope of work of the Center could either be expanded or remain essentially that of an information, resource and referral center.

Based on the contractor's 12 years of experience in interfacing with Latin American volunteer organizations, it would seem both inadvisable and contrary to democratic principles to develop the proposed regional project beyond the scope of an information, resource and referral center without first involving

the aforementioned task force/advisory council in the decision-making process. Secondly to take any further action would negate the basic philosophy of organization development -- people must be involved in the planning process in order to feel committed (motivated) to the implementation of a project.

APPENDIX

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>USAID</u>	<u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>	<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>
Colombia	George McCloskey Yolanda Forero	Acción Comunal Futuro para la Niñez Unión de Ciudadanas de Colombia	Angela Gomez de Martine Amalia Samper Helena de Tavera Isabel Pinzon Lopez
Costa Rica	Steve Knable Rudy Fascell Ed Butler Flora Ruiz	DELFI Federación de Orga- nizaciones Voluntarias Organización de Ciuda- danas Costarricenses GOCR Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports	Irma de Morales and other members of DELFI Yiya Ortuño (OEF: Gilma Palacios and Linda Lynch) Amalia Alvaréz and other members of O.C.C. Clara de Araya
Ecuador	Joe Sconce Pat Maldonado Manuel Rizzo	Comité de Cooperación de CIM SEGESVOL Unión Nacional de Mu- jeres del Ecuador Seventh Day Adventist Hospital	Piedad Galvez Berta de Terán Elsa de Terán Irene Paredes Carl Wilhem Sara Risser
El Salvador	Adelmo Ruiz Sid Chernenkoff <u>Peace Corps</u> Ana Barger	CODECAVOI FEDESAP Organización de Ciu- dadanas Salvadoreñas	Elizabeth de Rodriguez Marguerita de Cevallos Antonia de Galindo Rosa Judith Cisneros
Paraguay	Abe M. Peña Paul Montavon Jon Gant Judy Laird Betty Schwartzman <u>US Embassy</u> Ambassador Robert White Everett E. Briggs	CONEB Liga Paraguaya de los Derechos de la Mujer	Hortensia de Mersan Dominga O. de Samaniego Julia M. de Gonzalez and other Liga members

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>USAID</u>	<u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>	<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>
Perú	Leonard Yeager Barry Heyman Dr. Orlando Rojas Ma. Isabel de Rodriguez	ACOMUC Comité de Cooperación de CIM	Dea de Ojeda Carmen Cornejo
	<u>US Embassy</u> Mr. Preeg Bill Lofstrom Jaqueline Portal	INAPROMEF	Carmen Centurion de Ramirez
Bolivia			Dr. Ruth Maldonado
Guatemala			Lic. Graciela Quan Valenzuela