

12 11 1 257  
97249

---

# Education Goals in the Latin American and Caribbean Region

Compiled by  
Lorecia Roland  
LAC Education and Human Resources  
Technical Services Project

1994

---

## Acknowledgements

In preparation for the December 1994 LAC Heads of State Summit in Miami, the LAC Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), working with the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), conceptualized an initiative to achieve sustainable development in Latin America through education. The Partnership in Educational Reform in the Americas (PERA) was to "provide a forum for the sharing of experiences in the Americas on topics relating to education, finance, equity, quality and efficiency, education for democracy, workforce preparation, decentralization, and others." Given this focus, it was necessary to understand what educational goals had already been established for the LAC region. The current report is the outcome of such an analysis. Several organizations and individuals were helpful in providing and verifying its contents.

Gary Russell, formerly RSSA with USAID/RSD/EHR, created the draft of the initiative in its early stages with support and direction from Norman Rifkin, former chief of Education Human Resources (EHR) division of USAID's LAC Bureau—currently with the Global Bureau—and Leopoldo Garza, the then deputy chief of LAC/EHR, now Assistant Mission Director in Ecuador. When David Evans became the Team Leader of LAC/EHR, he assumed the leadership role, convening the following organizational representatives for their input on the initiative: Stuart Tinsman of the U.S. Department of Education; Nohra-Rey de Marulanda of the Inter-American Development Bank; Jeffrey Puryear of the Inter-American Dialogue; William Reese and Jim Feaster of Partners of the Americas; Beatrice Edwards and Pedro Turina of the Organization of American States; Robert Ledogar and Rosa Maria Torres of UNICEF; Donald Winkler of The World Bank; and Frances Hays, Beverly Jones, and Stephen Moseley of the Academy for Educational Development, host of the meetings.

With the assistance and participation of each of these individuals and organizations, the task of gathering LAC regional education goals for meeting attendees evolved into this report. Eleanor Abrams and Frances Hays, who edited and reviewed various drafts of the report, were particularly helpful in finalizing its form.

Many thanks to all who played a role producing this report.

Lorecia Roland  
LAC Education and Human Resources  
Technical Services (EHRTS) Project  
Academy for Educational Development

## Contents

### Introduction

### Conferences

Initiative Proposed by U.S. Government for Latin America and Caribbean Heads of State Summit . . . . .	1
Nariño Accord . . . . .	2
World Summit for Children . . . . .	4
World Declaration on Education for All . . . . .	5
Declaration of the Presidents of America . . . . .	7

### Studies, Reports, and Policy Briefs

Quality, Pertinence, and Equity in the Offer of Education . . . . .	13
Inter-American Dialogue . . . . .	15
Social Panorama of Latin America . . . . .	18

### Organization Goals Matrix

# Introduction

## Background

In preparation for the December 1994 LAC Heads of State Summit in Miami, the LAC Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), working with the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), conceptualized an initiative to achieve sustainable development in Latin America through education. The primary goal of the Partnership in Educational Reform in the Americas (PERA) was to

... provide an on-going consultative forum for governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the business community, and international organizations of the hemisphere to focus existing resources more effectively on the need to expand access to quality education in the region in order to achieve quality universal primary education. This condition is considered necessary to achieve the broader goal of enabling all citizens in the hemisphere to participate productively and democratically in a maturing economic and political environment.

As USAID and the USDOE developed the initiative, they worked closely with an Education Working Group—representatives of USAID, the Department of Education, the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, UNICEF, Inter-American Dialogue, Organization of American States (OAS), Partners of the Americas, and the Academy for Educational Development. In July and October of 1994 working sessions were held in an effort to build consensus on the approach and design of the Partnership. The current document is one tool that evolved from this consensus-building exercise.

## Methodology

Representatives from the Education Working Group were contacted for materials that described their organization's educational goals for the LAC region. From those materials, a matrix was designed comparing each organization's goals; the report evolved to provide background to the matrix.

The report is organized according to the types of materials submitted. The first section describes goals that grew from conferences: the LAC Heads of State Summit (proposed initiatives), the Nariño Accord, the World Summit for Children, the World Declaration on Education for All, and the Declaration of the Presidents of America. Sponsor organizations, dates, participant, and goals are provided. Also submitted were studies, reports, and policy briefs. Summaries are provided in the second section of the report. The final section contains the education goals matrix.

## Conferences

**Initiative Proposed by U.S. Government  
for Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State Summit  
Miami, Florida, USA  
December 1994**

***Participants***

The Partnership in Educational Revitalization in the Americas included representatives of the following organizations:

Member governments of the Western Hemisphere  
Relevant U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations  
Relevant Canadian-based nongovernmental organizations  
Relevant Latin American and Caribbean-based nongovernmental organizations  
Major business associations  
Bilateral donors  
Organization of American States  
United Nations agencies  
International Financial Institutions

***Goals***

- Attain quality universal primary education to enhance participatory democratic citizenship and employment opportunities (100 percent primary school completion throughout the Western Hemisphere by 2010)
- Improve secondary education to enhance participatory democratic citizenship and employment opportunities (75 percent secondary school enrollment throughout the Western Hemisphere by 2010)

**Nariño Accord**  
Second Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas  
Bogota, Colombia  
Sponsored by the Government of Colombia  
April 1994

***Participants***

This meeting was attended by ministers and representatives from the following countries:

Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Nicaragua
Argentina	Cuba	Panama
Bahamas	Ecuador	Paraguay
Belize	El Salvador	Peru
Bolivia	Guatemala	Dominican Republic
Brazil	Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago
Canada	Honduras	United States
Chile	Jamaica	Uruguay
Colombia	Mexico	Venezuela

***Goals***

- Strengthen efforts to universalize basic schooling, including initial/preschool education based on the family and the community
- Identify methods and strategies to increase coverage and to develop alternative models for initial/preschool education
- Increase the percentage of children completing primary school to over 50 percent by 1995
- Reduce repetition by 10 percent in grades 1 and 2 and to ensure that 60 percent complete the early years of schooling
- Raise the quality of primary education by introducing changes to the curriculum, increasing infrastructure investment, obtaining appropriate texts, training teachers, ensuring that school hours are appropriate to the needs of the country, and allowing effective learning
- Identify strategies to reduce drop-out rates
- Develop options for vocational education and technical training for the young

**World Summit for Children**  
New York, New York, U.S.A.  
Sponsored by various United Nations Organizations  
(Hosted by UNICEF)  
September 1990

***Participants***

The summit was attended by representatives from the following organizations:

All international governments  
Relevant United Nations agencies  
    World Health Organization  
    UNICEF  
    United Nations Population Fund  
    UNESCO  
    United Nations Development Programme  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
Nongovernmental organizations.

***Goals***

The following goals have been formulated through extensive consultation in various international forums. Where these goals are applicable they are recommended to be implemented by all countries with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities, and availability of resources, and with respect for cultural, religious, and social traditions. Additional goals that are particularly relevant to a country's specific situation should be added to its national plan of action.

- Improve child survival, development, and protection
  - Between 1990 and 2000, reduce infant and under-five child mortality rate by one-third or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births respectively, whichever is less
  - Between 1990 and 2000, reduce maternal mortality rate by one-half
  - Between 1990 and 2000, reduce severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by one-half
  - Provide universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal