

Progress Report - Nutrition Project

USAID/Bolivia

Period: December 1 - 31, 19781. This Month's Activities

- 1.1 The progress of the project was analyzed by GTNAN and the new Under Secretary of Planning from the Planning and Coordination Ministry Architect Jorge Urquidi. Mr. Urquidi recognized our accomplishments and was interested in supporting GTNAN, INAN and the Development Corporation's Offices of Food and Nutrition. Also, the Minister of Planning approved the appointment of the coordinators in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Chuquisaca, as well as the appointment of Dr. Jaime Barron as the Director of GTNAN.
- 1.2 The 1979 detailed work plans were prepared for GTNAN and INAN. The plans have been submitted to MINPLAN authorities for revision. Copies of the plans will be sent next month.)
- 1.3 The project paper for extension of the new phase was prepared and submitted by the Chief of the Human Assistance Division to the Chiefs of the Mission for their analysis and revision, which should be completed in January, 1979.
- 1.4 We continued to promote the meetings between the technical group from USAID/Bolivia's Agricultural Division, staff from the Global Social Programming Office of Minplan, and the long term advisors, for the purpose of deciding the general theme, content and methodology of the Rural Bolivian Home Study. Due to our efforts, Minplan is giving high priority to this study, which includes components for income and expenses, an evaluation of the nutritional and feeding state of the population, the type and degree of the participation of women in the rural home. It is feasible that this study, originally proposed to be coordinated by the

Ministry of Agriculture and Peasant Affairs (MACA), may be transferred to Minplan, where GTNAN and the Sectoral Offices and the Global Social Programming Offices will be able to actively participate in the study.

- (1.5 The data for 70% of the departments has been collected for the food assistance study. The Departments of Oruro, Cochabamba and Potosi will be completed in January and February. The entire study should be completed in the beginning of March.)
- (1.6 The collection of data for the study on the prevalence of malnutrition, using the arm circumference measure, in rural areas has been completed. Tabulation will begin in January.)
- (1.7 The decree on INAN's organic statute has been completed and submitted to the Under Secretary of Minplan for his consideration and revision.)
- 1.8 The food gap study has begun and should be finished by the end of February.
- (1.9 The study on the establishment of weight and height standards has been approved by USAID/Bolivia in the amount of \$520,000.00 to cover local costs. However, USAID/Bolivia is waiting for the Ministry of Social Welfare and Public Health (MPS/SP) to fulfill the administrative requirements necessary for the payment of project expenses. Even now, MPS/SP administrative deficiencies has delayed payment.)
- 1.10 The Evaluation Advisor, Mr. Guillermo Varela, and the Director of GTNAN supervised the Cochabamba Office of Coordination and developed a plan of action for the next trimester.

2. This Month's Problems and Solutions

(As was explained in the November 1978 report, there was a changeover in the Bolivian government. This delayed project activities for one month.) However, four meetings were arranged with the new Under Secretary in order to explain the project's progress and obtain his approval for the continuation of our activities.

(Due to Minplan's administrative deficiencies, payment of AID's expenditures has been inadequate, slowing payment of new expenditures and thereby interfering with the project's progress.) The Director of GTNAN has been asked to solve this

problem as quickly as possible.

3. Next Month's Activities

- 3.1 Make the necessary revisions to the food and nutrition work plan for 1979.
- 3.2 Begin the analysis of the data for the study on the prevalence of malnutrition in the rural area.
- 3.3 Begin the dairy system study.
- 3.4 Complete 90% of the food gap study.
- 3.5 Collect 90% of the collection of data for the food assistance study.
- 3.6 Continue working on the appointment of the Director of INAN.
- 3.7 Select four candidates from GTNAN or INAN so they will be ready to make the trip in April of 1979.