

OVERSEAS EDUCATION FUND of the League of Women Voters
1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - AID Contract No. La/711
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I. Introduction

During the reporting period the field staff spent three weeks in January at Washington headquarters. This time was assigned to: evaluating and replanning with the Washington staff the program to date; sharing the progress of the program with the board and committee members; consulting with the field supervisor; consulting on future Latin American programs; meeting with AID desk officers and private development organizations to exchange ideas; and participating in special training on funding techniques and transactional analysis as applied to management.

During this period, OEF field personnel met with the following volunteer organizations in Latin America: three coordinating agencies in Colombia, and the Union of Colombian Women Citizens (UCC); the Federation of Voluntary Organizations in Costa Rica (FOV); the General Secretariat of Volunteer Service (SEGESVOL), Quito, Ecuador and the Agency for the Coordination of Volunteerism in Guayas (ACORVOL), Guayaquil, Ecuador.

II. Self Help

Colombia. Study days on self-help were held with the three coordinating agencies, COVOLMAG, COODEVOL and COVOLTO in Santa Marta, Cartagena and Ibaguè respectively. The twenty-five women from COVOLMAG included the president, vice president, treasurer and delegates from its 10 affiliated organizations; the thirty women from COODEVOL included the board members and delegates from its ten affiliated organizations. The 35 women from COVOLTO included its board, the training team, and delegates of its 15 affiliated organizations.

A study day on self help involves a review of each affiliate's program followed by an analysis of the various kinds of help (emergency, palliative, promotional, self-help), together with an analysis of the concept of self-help. This analysis is followed by an exploration into the ways the respective programs can move to becoming more developmental.

A COVOLMAG affiliate's program illustrates its self-help nature in succeeding to get the entire community -- local government, church, business and the community at large -- involved in a clean-up campaign for the entire city. Radio, loud

speakers, press, hand-outs, etc., provided the motivation and publicity. The Ministry of Public Works provided 50,000 pesos (\$1,500) worth of broom and litter carts to be available at strategic areas of the city. A committee in each barrio is in charge of supervising and coordinating the campaign on an on-going basis.

Costa Rica. An analysis of the self-help concept and a study of the various kinds of help as outlined in the OEF training design manual have resulted in the FOV's holding a Feria de Juguetes instead of distributing toys to poor children at Xmas-time, as was the traditional custom. All the affiliated organizations participate in organizing this event which enables parents (beneficiaries of affiliate programs) to buy at modest prices toys for their children. This method of giving does not offend anyone's dignity.

III. Data Collection

Colombia. Training courses in the community given by the volunteers have increased the ranks of COVOLMAG and CODEVOL by two new very active affiliate organizations each.

Costa Rica. Training courses have also increased the ranks of the various FOV committees; finance and training committees have each a new member and the public relations committee has two.

As a result of the redefinition of criteria for membership and responsibilities and rights of members, two affiliates have dropped from FOV's membership and others are in recess to better define their purpose. FOV is assisting two affiliates in redefining their objectives based on discussions with other affiliates in the same service area in an effort to better meet the needs of the community.

IV. Training

Colombia. Evaluation of COVOLTO's year-old training team involved: a review of materials supplemental to the training manual, e.g., two movies on change and change agents; a review of materials provided by the team themselves; an in-depth study of the concept of self-help and its relation to existing programs.

The Field Representative gave the COVOLTO team the second level of OEF training: Philosophic and Technical Bases of Volunteerism.

Costa Rica. Consultation with the FOV training team resulted in a work plan for the remaining semester as follows:

1. offer two courses on Philosophic and Technical Bases of Volunteerism and three on Human Relations, with special emphasis on the areas of need of the group;
2. offer special training to new members of the training team;
3. offer special training to FOV board;
4. continue to offer training in rural areas given the positive response by the participants of the courses given in the two rural areas of Punta Arenas and Puerto Limon;

5. focus training on youth groups and adapt training team schedule to their convenience.

The FOV training team gave a third level course, Human Relations, to FOV members.

The Women's Club affiliate has requested training courses in English since most of its members only speak English.

Ecuador. Weekly executive committee meetings of ACORVOL are being held despite it's being vacation time. A first level motivational course will begin April 5 in the city of Salinas. The SEGESVOL training team has given two courses, one Motivational and the other in Human Relations to a total of 21 volunteers representing 12 affiliate organizations and is planning a third course to begin April 19.

V. Community Needs Assessment

Colombia. The field representative worked with the COVOLMAG training team in an analysis of the data compiled for the community needs assessment. She helped them with the draft of the final report.

Ecuador. The SEGESVOL community needs assessment is now finished with the final report having been made available to other community development groups (the 50-page report is available in Spanish. See English Table of Contents Attachment I).

SEGESVOL held a meeting to publicize the results of the needs assessment, inviting the presidents and delegates of its affiliated agencies. The assessment identified needs in the areas of housing, literacy, vocational education, adult education, health and child care. The SEGESVOL service area meetings are studying the needs identified.

VI. Organizational Technical Assistance

Colombia. The field representative worked with the COVOLTO board on the procedures to follow in holding a General Assembly. She assisted them in the preparation of a report covering 2 years' activities to be presented at the Assembly and also assisted in motivating and informing the affiliates re the Assembly. The COVOLMAG board received special assistance in the restructuring of its organization, especially in the area of affiliate involvement. Four major problem areas were identified by the board for attention: communication, training, limited human resources and consultant services for affiliates. The problem of communication was chosen for analysis since it affects all other areas. Using group techniques, conclusions, recommendations and solutions were arrived at and the following plans for implementation in the next five months were established: personal contact with visits to affiliate programs; distribution of an informational bulletin; special training of delegates regarding their role's affiliate involvement in annual work plan of COVOLMAG. OEF assistance to CODEVOL was also in the restructuring of the organization. An important change is delegate involvement in board decisions, since they are the major link between the agency and the affiliates. The by-laws are being changed to include them on the board.

Costa Rica. The field representative worked intensively with the Public Relations, Finance and Training Committees in setting priorities and establishing a coordination and communication system. The work plan for the PR committee is to:

establish contacts with TV, radio and newspapers; publication of a pamphlet on purpose of FOV; maximize use of Bulletin; maximize use of OEF publication Intercambio and contribute articles for publication therein; have a newspaper covering national and international news on volunteer work and specifically the work of FOV.

The FR worked with the Finance Committee in developing a work plan for funding activities in 1976 which included the following; growing pines in the vacant land owned by FOV for sale at Xmas time; hold a Fair in May of next year; design Xmas cards and calendars for sale, the latter based on the League of Women Voters model. Committee coordinators have been established to: write reports on their respective committee activities; be the communications link between the committees and the FOV board and the other committee coordinators.

Ecuador. SEGESVOL's health service area, made up of seven affiliates, is receiving support from the Ministry of Health in forming a hospital volunteers' association. The Ministry will assist in the training of the volunteers and in delineating their functions within the hospitals which will help in getting the backing of hospital administrators.

The education service area, with 6 affiliates, is organizing itself in order to offer better services in the areas of vocational education, economic aid for schools/scholarships, care of deaf-mutes, camp sites for youth groups and day-care. The ACORVOL group is writing up a proposal requesting continuance of OEF technical assistance.

VII. Intercambio

One issue of Intercambio was published in this period with an English Translation (see Attachments II and III). It contains reprints of articles by Hilikka Pietila, Secretary General of Finland's United Nations Association, and Miguel A. Ram6n of the Ministry of Education, Republic of Panama.

Attached are copies of correspondence received from readers during this period regarding the impact of Intercambio in the field (Attachments IV, V, VI).

VIII. Other

Colombia. OEF sent Mona Gordon, a volunteer consultant from the League of Women Voters of Puerto Rico, to consult with the UCC group. A seminar was held to take up the main areas of interests in membership and voters service. Using group participatory techniques, the group was able to set the following priorities: election-year voters service, information to community about the constitution and evaluation of the program. This is an election year of municipal and state officials.

The new pamphlet on the Constitution will be available shortly and will also be used for finance visits. It is the consultant's strong recommendation that future training come from within the organization rather than from without. She has identified individuals within the organization who could carry on as trainers. She recommends that OEF provide funds for these women to travel to the various chapters.

Attachment I - SEGESVOL Community Needs Assessment, Table of Contents

Attachment II - February issue of Intercambio

Attachment III - English Translation of Intercambio

Attachments IV, V, VI - Letters on Impact of Intercambio

-Final Report on Socio-Economic Study of-
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