

# QUARTERLY REPORT

First quarter FY 2001 (No. 6)

## Guatemala Mitch Special Objective: Rural Economy Recovers from Mitch and is Less Vulnerable to Disasters

**Summary:** U.S. grant assistance under the Hurricane Mitch Special Objective (SpO) is helping Guatemala's rural economy recover from the devastation brought on by the hurricane while offering technical support and other assistance to help the rural communities both mitigate effects of the disaster and better prepare for future disasters. During the quarter ending December 31, 2000, USAID and its partners continued to make good progress with reconstruction activities.

**Key Intermediate Results:** (1) Disaster preparedness enhanced; (2) Agricultural productivity recovered on more sustainable basis; (3) Community disease prevention and control systems strengthened.

### **Quarter Highlights:**

- (1) **December 4 to 15, 2000**, the General Accounting Office (GAO) fielded a two-person team to review Mitch reconstruction activities. This was the first of two planned GAO visits to Guatemala. A second visit is tentatively scheduled for September 2001. During this first installment, the team met with the Ambassador and with the USAID Mission Director, and with the USAID intermediate result team leaders, USGS, USACE and Cooperative Housing Foundation representatives, and made a courtesy call on the Comptroller General of Guatemala. Field visits were made to the Motagua and Polochic valleys to observe disaster preparedness and watershed/agriculture rehabilitation projects being implemented by USACE/MAGA, CRS, SHARE, Defensores de la Naturaleza, ANACAFE and CARE. In their exit meeting with the USAID Mission Director they presented preliminary observations and indicated they were impressed with progress made. They remarked that G-CAP has fewer staff for implementation and oversight compared to other missions with comparable budgets, e.g., Dominican Republic with \$29 million, where a large reconstruction staff was newly hired. The Mission Director responded that USAID Guatemala's approach relies on installed capacity both within existing mission teams and with partners. They also wondered about sustainability after Mitch, and it was suggested that Congress needs to think about activities that could provide some continuing effort to consolidate the systems started under Mitch.
- (2) **November 29, 2000**, Missions from Guatemala and Honduras, with support from the Regional Water and Sanitation Network (RASCA) convened a technical meeting at USAID/Guatemala to exchange experiences in the implementation of Post-Mitch Water and Sanitation activities in both countries.

(3) **November 16 and 17, 2000**, U.S. Ambassador Prudence Bushnell, accompanied by USAID deputy director Deborah Kennedy-Iraheta, visited Ixcán department, and area affected by Hurricane Mitch. During the two-day visit, Ambassador Bushnell visited Mitch reconstruction activities being implemented by the Cooperative Housing Foundation which consist of road reconstruction and bridge construction and rehabilitation. Ambassador Bushnell also visited a women's small business center that is manufacturing bed nets as part of malaria control activities being implemented by the Centers for Disease Control under their Mitch reconstruction work.

## IR 1: Disaster Preparedness Enhanced

**Key Intermediate Results:** (1) Mapping, data collection, and targeting most vulnerable communities; (2) community organizations strengthened; (3) CONRED network strengthened.

**Performance and Prospects:** Procurement of equipment and services for CONRED for funds remaining (\$100,000) under IRs 1.1 and 1.3 was initiated. Meanwhile, IR 1.2 *Community Organizations Strengthened*, both CRS and CARE made good progress this quarter toward their targets.

The CRS target for the life of the SpO is to develop disaster-coordinating committees in 100 communities. CRS' accumulative progress this quarter is:

- Identified 98 communities in which to form local community disaster coordination committees (COLRED).
- Formed COLRED in 49 communities.
- Training initiated in 43 COLRED.
- Emergency action plans completed in 35 COLRED
- Legalized 45 of the COLRED (officially sworn into CONRED system).

CARE, is targeting the formation of 5 municipal (COMRED) and 25 community disaster coordination committees (30 total), developing risk maps for each, and strengthening local disaster committees in an additional 77 communities. CARE's cumulative achievements are:

- Five municipal emergency committees legalized with the departmental government.



Senahú, Alta Verapaz. CARE disaster preparedness team members meet with the Senahú municipal government. CARE's bilingual – Q'eqchi' and Spanish – team recently completed the formation of Senahú's municipal emergency management committee. Before the training, a mudslide in May caused by heavy rains killed 13 people in Senahú. As a result, the municipality has responded enthusiastically to CARE's efforts.

- Twenty-five community emergency committees legalized with the municipality and with liaison established with the departmental disaster coordinating committee (CODRED).

- Thirty (5 municipal and 25 community) committees trained in the cycle of disasters and in development of emergency disaster plans for the community.
- Five municipalities (Tamahu, Tucuru, Teleman, Panzos and Senahu) have completed their emergency disaster plans.
- In coordination with CONRED installed 12 radio early warning systems.
- Work continues to organize an additional 55 community disaster committees in Tucuru and 22 in Tamahu.

Implementation of this IR has depended on close cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Under an Inter Agency Agreement (IAA), FEMA is providing technical assistance (TA) to strengthen CONRED's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that includes maximizing space utilization, technology requirements, and physical layout. FEMA's field report became the basis for USAID's procurement of \$ 97,500 of equipment.

Meanwhile, OFDA is providing TA directed at streamlining personnel organization, staffing protocols and operations manuals, and staff training needs. As part of this activity OFDA staged a one-day disaster simulation at CONRED in December to evaluate the new systems. CONRED personnel conducted the simulation with OFDA observers monitoring its implementation.

Complementing this effort is a disaster exercise seminar to be presented by SouthCom in 2001 through the MilGroup in Guatemala. SouthCom has also delivered material and equipment to CONRED in support of disaster readiness.

The OFDA fund cite transfer of \$500,000 under its Central America Mitigation Initiative (CAMI), is being used to bolster Mitch reconstruction resources for enhancing disaster preparedness through the provision of equipment and training. So far, purchases include over eighty computers and related equipment and software valued at \$243,000. Also purchased to date has been additional technical equipment for the EOC valued at \$113,900. The remaining \$143,100 is being programmed for a training and orientation activity to support implementation of CONRED's new personnel and procedures structure and use of the new equipment at coordinating units at the regional and departmental level.

## IR 2: Agricultural Productivity Recovered on More Sustainable Basis

**Key Intermediate Results:** (1) River, land and small scale irrigation systems rehabilitation, (2) Polochic and Motagua watershed management, (3) Seed recovery and multiplication, (4) Microenterprise recovery and credit, (5) Rural road repair in Ixcán, Quiché, and Alta Verapaz.

### IR 2.1 River, land and small scale irrigation systems rehabilitation

USAID partners working to achieve results in this IR include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Ministry of Agriculture-Cipreda (MAGA-Cipreda), the National Coffee Growers Association (ANACAFE), the Center for Tropical Agricultural Research and Education (CATIE), and CRS.

USAID and MAGA-Cipreda have seven project designs totaling \$1,422,885 signed up under a Fixed Amount Reimbursable (FAR) arrangement. Following a review of additional USACE designs, a decision to commit about \$1,000,000 remaining in IR for additional works under the FAR mechanism to be carried out in Cabañas and El Rancho (as well as two projects at La Tinta and Cahaboncito to be carried out under IR2.2).

Last quarter two of the seven sites were completed, the Santa Lucia Irrigation rehabilitation project, and the La Playa highway protection project. This quarter, a third site is added to the list, Site 1 of the El Rancho-El Jicaro irrigation canal, which was completed in December and dedicated by MAGA.



El Rancho. The final touches being put on the El Rancho-El Jicaro irrigation canal in December. The project rehabilitates 900 hectares of agricultural land. A formal inauguration will take place in January 2001. The site was visited by the General Accounting Office team in December along with USACE and USAID personnel.

Also completed during the quarter, was USACE's Polochic valley feasibility report.

ANACAFE, under this IR, is assisting communities in Alta Verapaz. Their life of SpO target is to rehabilitate 1,600 hectares of coffee plantations, and rehabilitate 18 coffee processing plants benefiting 14,000 small coffee farmers. To date ANACAFE has:

- a) Rehabilitated 1,600 hectares of coffee plantation.

b) Rehabilitated 14 coffee processing plants.

CRS is targeting four objectives for this IR: (1) sustainable management of soil, water and forest resources in 25 micro-watersheds, (2) improve crop productivity of 3,000 hectares damaged by Mitch, (3) promote land tenure security in 100 communities to contribute to sustainable management of soil, water and natural resources, and (4) improve income generating capacity of 3,000 farm families.

Cumulative achievements for objective one:

- a) Management plans established in 25 selected micro watersheds.
- b) Area reforested = 195,000 trees on 78 hectares.
- c) Area under agroforestry = 63,333 trees on 98 hectares.

Cumulative achievements for objective two:

- a) Workshops and training underway.
- b) Hectares under improved practices to date = 227.

Cumulative achievements for objective three:

- a) Cadastral investigation underway in 31 communities.

Cumulative achievements fourth objective:

- a) Training of 15 members of 3 village banks completed.
- b) Trained 34 bank boards on credit recovery.
- c) Number of families receiving credit to date = 2,894.
- d) Producers of improved seeds with ICTA = 13.
- e) Number of grain storage units (silos) = 200.

Under its IAA the USDA/Forest Service continued its technical assistance to fire management and watershed rehabilitation in the Sierra de las Minas biosphere reserve managed by the Fundacion de Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN). During the quarter, the Forest Service installed the first of three meteorological stations that will monitor rainfall and weather conditions throughout the three watersheds included in their project area, and provided training to two FDN staff in Puerto Rico at the Caribbean National Forest on the operation of the stations.

## **IR 2.2 Polochic watershed management**

CARE and MAGA-Cipreda are the two partners working under this IR. CARE's two objectives are: (1) rehabilitation of agricultural and watershed areas through reforestation and improved natural resource management in 270 communities along the Polochic and Cahabon river valleys and their tributaries, and (2) assist 10,800 farming families from 270 communities in the departments of Alta and Baja Verapaz adopt soil conservation, agroforestry and diversified agricultural techniques. Under its first objective CARE is targeting 8 results. A cumulative summary of achievements including this quarter is as follows:

- 1) SpO Target: work with five municipalities to develop land use planning maps – Cumulative result: completed five 1:50,000 scale thematic cartography maps for San Pedro Carchá, Lanquín, Cahabón, Panzos, and Senahú.
- 2) SpO Target: develop an environmental education program for primary school kids in 52 schools – Cumulative Result: with CONAMA (national environment commission) assistance given to 65 schools with 2000 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- 3) SpO Target: develop a municipal strategy for forest fire prevention and control – Cumulative Result: No activity reported this quarter.
- 4) SpO Target: develop forest management plans in four intervention municipalities including identifying and training a municipal forestry technician – Cumulative Result: Forest management plan completed for Tukurú, and two 80% complete for San Pedro Carchá and Lanquín.
- 5) SpO Target: develop a training program for 12 municipal forestry technicians – Cumulative Result: no advancement pending a course in forest inventories.
- 6) SpO Target: develop a reforestation incentive scheme for 669 hectares in 270 communities paying \$488,185 to 2,851 families who will also plant 712,750 multipurpose (pine, cyprus, maple) trees – Cumulative Result: 180 communities organized, 380,000 seedlings distributed for a total of 350 hectares reforested.
- 7) SpO Target: 2,851 families adopt rational use of forest resources - Cumulative Result: 63 municipal extension workers and 470 forestry promoters trained in soil conservation, crop diversification, analysis of the use, sub-use and over-use of soils, and forestry incentives.
- 8) SpO Target: strengthen the capacity of the 15 municipal governments in the two Verapaz departments in natural resource management – Cumulative Result: 70 pro-improvement committees trained in two municipalities.

Under its second objective CARE is targeting 2 results. Cumulative achievements to date are as follows:

- 1) SpO Target: Reforestation adopted by 5,680 families who will plant 1,424,300 coffee, macadamia, cacao, citrus, and pepper trees – Cumulative Result: 415,500 agro-forestry (coffee, avocado, macademia, allspice, red cedar, ingas) trees planted on a total of 238 hectares benefitting 5,474 families.
- 2) SpO Target: soil conservation techniques imparted to 1,340 families; 37 extensionists and 486 promoters trained; 174,000 vegetative soil protection materials distributed – Cumulative Result: 60 talks given to 2000 families in soil conservation techniques; 35 extensionists and 350 promoters trained; 300,000 vegetative soil protection materials distributed.

### **IR 2.3 Seed recovery and multiplication**

The Ministry of Agriculture, through Cipreda and its technology unit ICTA, is the partner for this IR. MAGA-Cipreda-ICTA signed a project implementation letter for \$1.0 million for seed recovery and multiplication.

During the quarter, MAGA-Cipreda-ICTA began the implementation of the program, which will bring improved seed to 17,000 producers who lost seed stocks during Mitch.

MAGA-Cipreda-ICTA is reproducing and disseminating ten varieties of corn, six varieties of rice, six varieties of bean, five varieties of potato, and one variety of sesame. ICTA's cumulative achievements including this quarter are:

- Reproduction plots planted for: corn = 60 acres, rice = 66 acres, sesame = 29 acres, bean = 39 acres, potato = 8 acres.

#### **IR 2.4 Microenterprise recovery and credit**

MAGA-BANRURAL is the main partner for the \$2.0 million provided under a project implementation letter. To date, MAGA- BANRURAL has extended \$1,536,000 in micro enterprise credits benefiting 3,200 families.

#### **IR 2.5 Rural road repair in Ixcán, Quiche, and Alta Verapaz**

ANACAFE, under its \$3.0 million Cooperative Agreement is the largest partner for this IR. Their SpO targets include: 130 kilometers of road rehabilitated that will benefit 52,000 small coffee growers. Progress to date:

- Rehabilitated 53.2 kilometers of a road. (Note: the Regional Inspector General/EI Salvador concluded an audit of this activity registering concern whether ANACAFE would meet its target. The Mission reviewed ANACAFE's work plan and they intend to mobilize local communities to help achieve the 130 kilometer target).

Through its \$1.95 million Cooperative Agreement, CHF is rehabilitating rural roads and bridges in Ixcán. Their SpO targets are: (1) reconstruct 13 concrete vehicular bridges; (2) reconstruct one Bailey vehicular bridge, (3) repair one Bailey vehicular bridge, and (4) reconstruct 100 kilometers of gravel roadway. Cumulative achievements are:

- Eight bridges completed and open to provisional or normal traffic.
- Reconstruction of one Bailey Bridge underway.
- Repair of one Bailey Bridge underway.
- Rehabilitated 85 kilometers of roadway.



Playa Grande, Ixcán. Ambassador Bushnell and USAID Deputy Director Debbie Kennedy, visit the North Access Highway being rehabilitated by CHF. James Schenck, CHF field director, describes the progress to the visitors.



Ambassador Bushnell discusses with Play Grande mayor Roberto Ramírez how the Municipal Transport Association, which has responsibility for road maintenance in the municipality, functions in Ixcán.

## IR 3: Community Disease Prevention and Control Systems Strengthened

**Key Intermediate Results:** (1) Local malaria prevention and control programs strengthened, (2) Household water and sanitation programs established in selected areas, and (3) Capacity to prevent and control infectious diseases enhanced.

**Performance and Prospects:** CARE and CRS, principal partners in this IR for water and sanitation activities, made good progress against their respective work plans, and MERTU-CDC made notable progress as well.

### IR 3.1 Local malaria prevention and control programs strengthened

MERTU-CDC is the main partner in this sub-IR. MERTU-CDC has three results for this activity: (1) the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets (ITN) in high risk malaria villages; (2) improved malaria case detection and treatment among lab workers in the affected health areas of Ixcán, Izabal and Escuintla; and (3) epidemiological surveillance. MERTU-CDC 's progress to date includes:

#### Result #1 – Bed nets:

- Identified 44 villages in Ixcán for the ITN component (once bed nets are distributed 25% of the population of Ixcán will be protected against malaria).
- A census and knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAPs) survey in the 44 villages was implemented, which identified the need for 12,000 bed nets. A preliminary analysis of the KAPs reveals that 64% of respondents had used a bed net at some time, 34% had used one within the last week, 99% believe they protect against mosquito bites, 87% believe they protect against malaria. On the downside, 67% reported they tear too easily, 72% find them expensive and 65% prefer colored ones that easier to keep clean.
- Bed net production through three women's micro-enterprises has so far produced 11,275 units at a price of Q70 each.



Ladies cooperative in Playa Grande, Ixcán, making bed nets with own sewing machines. The CDC provides material and thread.



A completed bed net. One seamstress can prepare up to six bed nets per day earning Quetzales 20 per unit for their labor.

- Bed net impregnation has been partially delayed due to an original underestimate of the amount of Commadore insecticide needed. Additional stocks arrive in January 2001.

**Result #2 – Malaria case detection and treatment:**

- Malaria cases are being promptly diagnosed and treatments delivered by trained personnel. Febrile survey and treatment of positive cases was developed in November 2000. In addition to active surveillance, passive case detection has been strengthened through the systematic supervision of volunteer collaborators.
- Twelve malaria diagnostic centers serving 179 villages are functioning, four were added during the quarter.
- In three health areas 905 volunteer collaborators are serving over 170,000 at risk residents.
- The study population is aware of malaria with 94% able to recognize the disease and 76% reporting that they or a family member has had the disease.
- An evaluation of chloroquine effectiveness and the presence of chloroquine-resistant strains of malaria will be started in 2001. The protocol is with CDC Atlanta for approval.

**Result # 3 – Epidemiological surveillance:**

- Computer facilities have been installed at Vector Control Offices and computerized data entry is underway. This system is capable of producing the official E-1 form and monthly reports of the status of malaria at the local level.
- Production of guidelines and training of personnel involved in vector control have been developed.
- Entomological studies carried out from June to November reveal six species of **anopheles** mosquitoes may be incriminated as malaria vectors, the specific contribution in Ixcán will be defined in the course of the project.
- Before this entomological assessment the MOH vector control activities were operating on the assumption that **An. albimanus** was the only vector species present in Ixcán. Since vector behaviors differ among species, this new information will help evaluate and modify interventions to decrease malaria transmission in the area.
- Training for MOH staff is scheduled to take place during the next quarter. A training strategy is being designed in collaboration with the Mitch regional CDC program.

**IR 3.2 Household water and sanitation programs established in selected areas**

CARE and CRS are the principal partners in this sub-IR with a technical support role being played by MERTU-CDC.

CARE, CRS and MERTU/CDC coordinated the presentation of the findings from the health base line surveys. These surveys, which benefited from CDC technical assistance in design, implementation and analysis, demonstrated just how high the percentage of contamination is among the various water sources.

## **CARE**

CARE's objective for this IR is by August 2001 to have reduced by 15% the prevalence of diarrheal diseases in children less than 5 years of age in 14 rural communities in 5 municipalities of Alta and Baja Verapaz. To achieve this result, CARE is making available community water systems and latrines to 6,029 beneficiaries (1,176 families), and promoting adequate hygiene practices. CARE is constructing 12 water systems that will serve 14 communities, distributing 1,446 water receptacles for household treatment and storage of water, and constructing 1,176 latrines. Cumulative progress to date is:

- Ten (10) of the overall target of 12 water aqueducts are under construction.
- Construction work is underway in 13 of the 14 beneficiary communities.
- 1,269 water receptacles have been distributed.
- Completed 57 latrines. The rest of latrines are actually under construction.
- Hygiene practices education initiated with the training of 73 community informants from the 14 target communities.
- Monitoring of water quality is underway.

## **CRS**

CRS' objective for this IR is to reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease, especially in children under five years of age, by improving household water and sanitation conditions, and hygiene knowledge and practices. Expected results for CY 2000 are: (a) complete a diarrhea incidence baseline and hygiene knowledge, attitudes, and practices survey; (b) construct/rehabilitate 10 small community water systems; (c) construct/rehabilitate 175 wells; (d) construct/rehabilitate 1,200 latrines; (e) distribute 2,000 water receptacles with chlorine disinfectant. CRS is working with three local counterparts, the Social Pastorate of Ixcán, the Social Pastorate of the Verapaces, and Caritas of Zacapa. CRS provides technical supervision and guidance to the counterparts in addition to the financial resources and materials to carry out the work.

Cumulative progress to date for CRS is:

- 3 new water systems under construction, 1 complete.
- 13 communal water wells rehabilitated/constructed, 16 others under construction/rehabilitation.
- 1,720 5-gallon receptacles distributed and chlorine doses distributed in 10 communities.
- 86 pit latrines and dry composting latrines installed
- 71 community facilitators identified and trained in hygiene education.
- 21 health educators and sanitation experts and CRS personnel trained in participatory health education techniques.
- Health education materials given to counterparts.
- In coordination with CDC health and hygiene practices monitoring and evaluation plans being followed up.
- Monitoring activities for water quality are under way.

### **RASCA Meeting**

November 29<sup>th</sup> Missions from Guatemala and Honduras developed a technical meeting at USAID/G to exchange experiences in the implementation of Post-Mitch Water and Sanitation activities in both countries.

With the support of Regional Water and Sanitation Network (**RASCA/UNICEF**) our partners, Official Counterparts, other Agencies and Donors discussed key aspects related to sustainability of W&S interventions, community involvement and successful interventions as the “Chlorine Banks” also children and women training in system maintenance.

Follow up will be done by observation visits by CRS and CARE technical personnel in some communities based in Guatemala-Honduras border, also Guatemala will share latrine improvements with technical staff from Honduras.

### **CDC**

- As external advisor for CRS and CARE, MERTU-CDC continues to provide technical assistance for water quality and diarrheal morbidity monitoring and evaluation
- Sample collection and analysis from water sources and water receptacles were carried out. Results were discussed with CARE and CRS and corrective measures were programmed.
- Training activities for water sample collection and chlorinating activities were developed for CRS and CARE personnel.

### **IR 3.3 Capacity to prevent and control infectious diseases enhanced**

- MERTU/G-CDC and Ministry of Health officials prepared a plan for a “National Offensive for the Prevention and Control of Dengue”.
- MERTU/G-CDC has managed to go further than just technical assistance and will be able to fund several operational activities included in the plan.
- The plan has been sent to USAID-G to be reviewed and the implementation phase will take place in early 2001.

### **Financial Summary**

As of December 31, 2000, the Mission had sub-obligated 92% of all funds under the three intermediate results, i.e., had committed funds with implementing agencies (see following table). Approximately \$2.4 million of the \$28.0 million obligated under the Special Objective Agreement remain to be sub-obligated with implementing agencies. Most of these funds are under IR2, and will be allocated to MAGA-Cipreda under the FARs mechanism for the construction of the irrigation and flood control infrastructure being designed by USACE for the next construction season.

Accrued expenditures for the quarter for all three IRs reached 67.8%, i.e., \$19.0 million (see graph below). The Mission's accumulative expenditure target for all three IRs for the quarter was 60% or \$16.9 million.

When considering only CACEDRF funds for IR1 and IR2, the total sub-obligation percentage is 91%. The accrued expenditures for these two IRs is \$17.4 million, or 70%. The accumulative expenditure target for these two IRs was \$15.2 million, or 61%.

As suggested in the last quarter, once construction resumed in November, following the 2000 rainy season, expenditures were expected to be back on track. That has proven to be the case.

