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GUATEMALA TRIP REPORT

WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE UNDER THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IQC

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SECTION I

Travel Dates, Destinations, and Purposes

A. Travel Dates and Destinations

Lelia Mooney, Legal Specialist for the Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLR), visited Guatemala City from February 17-28, 2006 to facilitate the signing of the new terms of cooperation with the University of San Carlos (USAC), and to monitor the status of program implementation through conducting a series of meetings with WLR partners in the field.

B. Purpose of Travel

The primary purpose of Ms. Mooney's trip was to monitor the status of implementation of the WLR Guatemala 2005-2006 country action plan. Specifically, Ms. Mooney's visit focused on achieving the following objectives: 1) facilitate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USAC and USAID/Guatemala; 2) conduct a series of meetings with WLR local partners to assess the status of program implementation; 3) share with the WLR local team Chemonics' standards of business conduct and code of ethics; and 3) meet with USAID/Guatemala to assess the status of program implementation and the potential follow-up and implementation of a pilot project after the August 2005 Fact Finding Assessment on Trafficking in Persons.

During her visit, Ms. Mooney held a series of meetings with various Guatemalan government officials, including, among others, the Chief of International Cooperation of the Public Ministry Clarissa Gonzalez Lopez, USAC's Rector Dr. Luis Alfonso Leal Monterroso, the Coordinator of the Institute of the Public Defender's Training Academy (UNIFOCADEP) and President of the Guatemala Bar Association Yolanda Perez Ruiz, the Director of the USAID/Guatemala Justice Center of Villanueva Max Marroquin and Diploma Graduate Vilma Dinora Morales, the Director of the Institute of Comparative Criminal Legal Studies Claudia Paz and Diploma Graduate Julissa Baldetti, and the Deputy Director of the Judicial School among others. Annex A contains a complete list of meetings conducted in Guatemala.

Ms. Mooney devoted a considerable amount of time to working with the WLR local team on the status of implementation of the country action plan and the challenges ahead. This included an analysis of the different program components, activities, benchmarks, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy to be implemented on a quarterly basis, and the opportunities to achieve program sustainability through the development of strategic alliances. She also facilitated a session for the WLR team on Chemonics' new Code of Ethics and standards of business practice in Spanish.

Furthermore, Ms. Mooney kept close communications with USAID/Guatemala Office of Democratic Initiative (ODI) Rule of Law Advisor Oscar Chavarria and USAID/Guatemala ODI Team Leader Jose Garzon. This included a specific session where the WLR Team updated both USAID/Guatemala officers on the new strategy. As a result of the meeting, Mr. Garzon signed the MOU with the Institute of the Public Defenders on behalf of USAID/Guatemala as a witness

of honor. Oscar Chavarria and Carry Thompson also attended the event of behalf of USAID/Guatemala. During this visit, Ms. Mooney and Ms. De Celada also met with USAID/Guatemala's HIV/AIDS Specialist Lucrecia Castillo to discuss the possibility of implementing a pilot activity as a follow on of the fact-finding assessment on Trafficking in Persons conducted by Wendy Blanpied and Lelia Mooney in August 2005. This activity could be implemented in partnership with WLR's already established contacts – the Judicial School, USAC and the Public Ministry's Training Academy – since all these institutions have expressed their interest in hosting this activity for justice sector professionals. Ms. Castillo mentioned the Mission's potential interest in linking this pilot activity to the Judicial School's academic curricula for judges and the need to launch a public awareness campaign. Ms. Castillo promises to discuss this with her colleagues within the Mission and with EGAT/WID in Washington D.C.

SECTION II

Trip Results

As a result of this trip, all activities and benchmarks planned under the three project component areas of the first quarter of the 2005-2006 fiscal year- *legal education strengthening, justice sector capacity building and civil society strengthening*- have been met. Significant trip results include:

- √ Second semester of the Master's program in *Gender, Women's Rights and Access to Justice* in current implementation
- √ MOU signed with the Rector of USAC
- √ Monitoring strategy of Master's and Diploma strategy developed and in current implementation
- √ MOU with Institute of Public Defenders in current implementation
- √ Subcontracts with the USAID/Guatemala Justice Center of Villanueva and the Institute of Comparative Criminal Studies in current implementation
- √ Continued strengthened coordination with USAID/Guatemala ODI, partner institutions, and other initiatives

A. Staff Supervision

Ms. Mooney met with the WLR local team to discuss implementation status, expected results and challenges ahead for the weeks of her visit and beyond. This included the update of the weekly set of priorities and tasks to be completed, a revision of the quarterly report contributions that the field office sends to the home office, and the importance of enhancing the monitoring system of the different activities that are currently being implemented. She also discussed challenges for program implementation for the upcoming quarter and concluded the local staff's performance review process in coordination with the chief of party. Ms. Mooney also held a special session on Chemonics new Code of Ethics and Standards of Business Conduct for the WLR team.

B. Action Plan and Implementation

B1. Legal Education Strengthening

During this visit, Ms. Mooney and Ms. De Celada conducted a series of meetings with USAC authorities and USAID/Guatemala to conclude the final round of negotiations that would lead to the signature of the MOU with USAC that will focus on the sustainability approach of the Master's program. After all the partners and stakeholders agreed on the terms of the final draft, the signing ceremony took place on Monday, February 27, 2006 with USAC's Rector, Dr. Luis Alfonso Leal Monterroso and Jose Garzon from USAID/Guatemala. Next steps involve putting the MOU in motion through the creation of a steering committee that will specifically address the Master's sustainability. For a complete version of the MOU, see Annex B.

Ms. Mooney also met with Dr. Villegas Lara and Masters Academic Coordinator Maria del Rosario Velasquez to monitor the status of the Master's implementation and the students' performance. All 25 of the students have successfully completed the first semester of the program. This was communicated to all the Master's partner institutions, as Ms. Mooney and Ms. De Celada visited them to provide them with an update on their nominees' performance.



From left to right during the signing ceremony: Jose Garzon, Director Office of Democratic Initiatives USAID/Guatemala, Lelia Mooney, WLR Legal Specialist, Dr. Luis Alfonso Leal Monterroso, President USAC and Dr. Bonerje Mejia, Dean of USAC Law School.



From left to right: Jose Garzon, Director Office of Democratic Initiatives USAID/Guatemala giving a speech on behalf of USAID/Guatemala and WLR, Lelia Mooney, WLR Legal Specialist, Dr. Luis Alfonso Leal Monterroso, President USAC and Dr. Bonerje Mejia, Dean of USAC Law School.

B2. Justice Sector Capacity Building

On November 22, 2005 WLR Guatemala officially entered into an MOU with the Institute of the Public Defenders. This MOU is working on promoting gender mainstreaming at the institutional level. It will achieve this by using a training of trainers strategy that in turn will reach the 150 public defenders spread throughout the country. Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada met with the Director of Training Yolanda Perez Ruiz, to coordinate next steps which include hiring two local consultants to begin preparing the delivery of training for the 20 tutors.

B3. Civil Society Strengthening

Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada visited the USAID Justice Center of Villanueva and met with its coordinator Max Marroquin and Diploma Graduate Vilma Dinora Morales. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with some of the paralegal community leaders and assess program status and implementation. As a result of a two-hour conversation facilitated by Max and Vilma Dinora, the WLR team could learn about the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of the 50 women and four men who are currently participating in the program. Next steps involve completing training materials and beginning with the actual delivery of trainings and development of monitoring plans.



SECTION III

Next Steps and Mission Support

A. Next Steps

The WLR Guatemala local team will continue to work to implement the current country action plan, focusing on:

- Paying close attention to the 2005-2006 country action plan, its results framework, and planned activities for upcoming quarter and begin reporting to the home office based on these guidelines
- Implementing the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system that more efficiently captures WLR activities and their impact
- Enhancing the M&E systems of the different program components
- Strengthening coordination with institutional partners and working towards the achievement of program sustainability

Ms. Mooney will supervise the local team on program status and implementation through daily e-mails and phone communications, and will work with the home office support team on administrative procedures. She will conduct another trip during following quarter. Finally, she will continue facilitating contacts with USAID/Guatemala and the new leadership at partner institutions, and supervise WLR local staff.

B. Mission Support

USAID Mission support in Guatemala has continued to be positive and supportive of WLR activities. Ms. Mooney, while in the field, keeps constant communication with Jose Garzon and Oscar Chavarria. WLR has found USAID/Guatemala's input extremely helpful and will continue incorporating all of its suggestions into the work-planning process.

ANNEX A**Interviews and Meetings Conducted in Guatemala**

Name	Position	Organization
Dr. Luis Alfonso Leal Monterroso	Rector	USAC
Lulian Toledo	Coordinator International Cooperation	USAC
Dr. Jafeth Cabrera Franco	Director International Cooperation	USAC
Dr. Carlos Sanchez Flamenco	Protocol Coordinator	USAC
Maria del Rosario Velasquez	Diploma and Masters professor	USAC
Yolanda Perez Ruiz	Director of Training	Institute of the Public Defenders
Lucrecia Arevalo	Justice of the Peace, Diploma Graduate and Masters candidate	Judicial Branch
Miriam Urbina	Justice of the Peace, Diploma Graduate and Masters candidate	Judicial Branch
Max Marroquin	Director	USAID-Guatemala Justice Center of Villanueva
Vilma Dinora Morales	Coordinator and Diploma Graduate	OAV- Justice Center of Villanueva
Ivonne Aguilar	Coordinator	Institute of Comparative Criminal Studies
Julissa Baldetti	Coordinator and Diploma Graduate	Institute of Comparative Criminal Studies
Jose Garzon	Chief ODI	USAID/Guatemala
Oscar Chavarria	ROL Advisor	USAID/Guatemala
Gabriela Nunez	Secretary for Presidential Secretariat for Women's Affairs	Presidential Secretariat for Women's Affairs (SEPREM)
Clarissa Gonzalez Lopez	Head of International Cooperation	Public Ministry
Lucrecia Castillo, MD	HIV/AIDS Specialist	USAID Guatemala
Aida Franco	Deputy Director	Judicial School

ANNEX B

Memorandum of Understanding signed with USAC

(see attached pdf)