

A.I.D. EVALUATION SUMMARY - PART I

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1. BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS FORM, READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS.  
2. USE LETTER QUALITY TYPE, NOT "DOT MATRIX" TYPE.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

|   |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| A. Reporting A.I.D. Unit:<br>Mission or AID/W Office <u>USAID/Belize</u><br>(ES# _____)   |  | B. Was Evaluation Scheduled in Current FY Annual Evaluation Plan?<br>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slipped <input type="checkbox"/> Ad Hoc <input type="checkbox"/><br>Evaluation Plan Submission Date: FY _____ Q _____ |  | C. Evaluation Timing<br>Interim <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/><br>Ex Post <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| D. Activity or Activities Evaluated (List the following information for project(s) or program(s) evaluated; if not applicable, list title and date of the evaluation report.) |  |  |  |   |  |

| Project No. | Project /Program Title                    | First PROAG or Equivalent (FY) | Most Recent PACD (Mo/Yr) | Planned LOP Cost (000) | Amount Obligated to Date (000) |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 505-0024    | Village Level Water and Sanitation (VLWS) | 1984                           | 6/88                     | 700                    | 700                            |

ACTIONS

| E. Action Decisions Approved By Mission or AID/W Office Director  |  | Name of Officer Responsible for Action | Date Action to be Completed |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Action(s) Required  |  |  |                             |
| 1. National Coordinating Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation should be re-activated.   |  | Eleanor Hall, MNR.                     | June 1987                   |
| 2. Additional staff for health education and community organization should be assigned to the project.  |  | Frank Brechin CARE                     | June 1987                   |
| 3. Indicators of community development and organization should be developed and more emphasis placed on developing staff skills in this area. |  | Frank Brechin CARE                     | August 1987                 |
| 4. Expertwell drilling advisors on long term basis to be sought.  |  | Eleanor Hall MNR                       | Dec. 1987                   |
| 5. Management practices for drilling/repair crews should be improved.   |  | Eleanor Hall MNR                       | June 1988                   |
| 6. Development of standardized manuals on maintenance of handpumps, latrines, and rudimentary water systems                                   |  | Frank Brechin CARE                     | Jan. 1988                   |

APPROVALS

F. Date of Mission or AID/W Office Review of Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Day) of \_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

G. Approvals of Evaluation Summary And Action Decisions:

| Name (Typed) | Project/Program Officer              | Representative of Borrower/Grantee       | Evaluation Officer                      | Mission or AID/W Office Director  |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Signature    | <i>[Signature]</i><br>Samuel Dowling | <i>[Signature]</i><br>Frank Brechin CARE | <i>[Signature]</i><br>Arturo Villanueva | <i>[Signature]</i><br>Peter Lopez |
| Date         | 5/11/88                              | 26/5/88                                  | 5/24/88                                 | 5/19/88                           |

**ABSTRACT**

**H. Evaluation Abstract (Do not exceed the space provided)**

The VLWS project was initiated in July 1984 and an agreement was signed between CARE/Belize and USAID on August 30, 1984. The project is financed by \$700,000 from USAID \$340,000 from CARE, and \$260,000 of in-kind contributions and cash from the Government of Belize (GOB).

The Project is designed to provide water supply and sanitation (latrines) to 16 villages in the Orange Walk and Corozal districts. Installation of approximately 100 new wells with India Mark II handpumps and two rudimentary water systems (RWS) -- distribution systems that use either electrical or diesel-driven pumps is planned. The project will also install up to 1,600 latrines intended to serve an estimated 8,500 beneficiaries.

To evaluate project performance, the evaluation team visited 9 of the 16 communities in the Project and also interviewed USAID, CARE, and Government of Belize personnel. The evaluation was conducted from March 27 through April 10, 1987.

On the basis of the observations made and information gathered, the evaluation team believes that the project has developed a good health education program for both adults and school children. Project personnel are using the system of health education modules to work closely with the communities to increase the impact of the water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Furthermore, the facilities being constructed are sound although implementation of the project is slow. Despite the many positive aspects of the project, the team is concerned that the project is addressing inadequately those issues that may impair long-term sustainability of the project. For example:

1. Lack of counterpart personnel assigned to the work with the VLWS project.
2. Poorly planned operations and maintenance training at the community level.
3. Low community involvement in planning and evaluating the project.
4. Financial self sustainment of system operations and maintenance.
5. Low GOB capability to respond to maintenance and repair needs.
6. Deficient GOB well drilling capability.

Detailed findings and recommendations are addressed specifically to USAID, GOB and CARE.

**COSTS**

| 1. Evaluation Costs   |                              |  |  |                       |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Name  | Affiliation                  | Contract Number OR<br>TDY Person Days                                      | Contract Cost OR<br>TDY Cost (U.S. \$) | Source of Funds       |
| 1. Evaluation Team  |                              |  |  |                       |
| J. Ellis Turner   | WASH (Camp Dresser<br>McKee) | 11 pd  | 11,400                                 | VLWS Project<br>Funds |
| Shirley Buzzard   | " (Camp Dresser<br>McKee)    | 11 pd  |  |                       |
| 2. Mission/Office Professional Staff<br>Person-Days (Estimate) <u>8</u> |                              | 3. Borrower/Grantee Professional<br>Staff Person-Days (Estimate) <u>20</u> |  |                       |

## A.I.D. EVALUATION SUMMARY - PART II

### SUMMARY

**J. Summary of Evaluation Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations (Try not to exceed the three (3) pages provided)**

Address the following items:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of evaluation and methodology used</li> <li>• Purpose of activity(ies) evaluated</li> <li>• Findings and conclusions (relate to questions)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal recommendations</li> <li>• Lessons learned</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

|                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Mission or Office:<br>USAID/Belize | Date This Summary Prepared:<br>April 5, 1988 | Title And Date Of Full Evaluation Report:<br>Mid Term Evaluation of the CARE Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Belize (May 1987) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|

Purpose of Activity Evaluated: The purpose of the VLWS project is to assist the GOB in developing an integrated program in Water and Sanitation by providing improved water supply and adequate sanitation to 16 villages in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. Essential elements of the project are programs in health education, drilling of wells equipped with handpumps, the construction of two Rudimentary Water Systems and pit latrines.

Purpose of Evaluation and Methodology Used: The purpose of the evaluation is to measure the general progress of the program, to identify strengths and weaknesses in project implementation, to assess the long-term prospects for project sustainability, and to make recommendations to strengthen the program.

The Methodology included:

- . Review project documentation at USAID/Belize and CARE/Belize.
- . Interview project personnel at AID, CARE, and the Government of Belize.
- . Visits to project villages in the Orange Walk and Corozal districts to discuss project goals and implementation with villagers, village councilors, and members of the Water and Sanitation Committee and to examine the work completed.
- . Review the progress of and the problems encountered in all aspects of project implementation, including well and latrine construction, health education, and community development.

#### Findings and Conclusions

The CARE VLWS Project appears to have followed sound practices in the purchasing of material, control of inventory, logistical arrangements, and in meeting project reporting requirements. Of major concern to the consultants is the lack of adequate staff for CARE to implement the project. At least two additional staff, one for each district, are needed to provide closer supervision of the field activities. Further, the consultants find that staff also lack critical skills in the following areas:

- . Community organization and development.
- . Technical capability and experience.
- . Project planning and monitoring.

## SUMMARY (Continued)

The Village Water and Sanitation Committees are an effective vehicle for implementing the project. Because most Village Councils are factionalized and have difficulty overcoming political differences, the WASH consultants found a consensus that the VWSCs have been able to set politics aside and work together. However, the project lacks planning for longer-term institutionalization.

All VWSCs, especially those where an RWS will be installed, need training in conflict resolution, motivation, adult education techniques, and system maintenance and repair.

The health education component of the project is likely to continue in the schools. The materials are well designed, and the lesson plans have become a welcome part of the school curriculum.

The latrine program is well designed and offers communities two alternatives -- either the standard VIP latrine or the raised latrine. In a few isolated instances, the compost VIP latrine also was used. The VIP latrine appears to be well accepted, and both completion and usage rates are high. A VIP latrine, however, is too expensive for the average family to construct without some subsidy, and it is, therefore, unlikely that a young family just starting out would be able to build one.

The consultants found that severe technical and management problems continue to plague the well-drilling operations. The equipment that is being used is old and subject to frequent breakdowns, drilling techniques need to be improved, and there are competing demands for drill rig time.

### Principal Recommendations

1. Additional staff from both CARE and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) are needed to speed implementation of the project and to develop project capabilities within the Government of Belize. CARE also should focus on the need to develop the long-term organizational and management capabilities of communities. CARE should improve its own staff capabilities in this area.
2. CARE should develop (along the lines of its health education program) training modules that can be used in this project and others for O&M training and for management training of the Village Water and Sanitation Committees. The training should be field oriented (for maintenance) and cover such areas as conflict resolution, setting and collecting fees, record-keeping, and so forth.
3. CARE should review and use the technical assistance information that has already been provided by WASH and addresses principal areas of concern. This information is contained in the "Framework and Guidelines for CARE Water Supply and Sanitation Projects," WASH Technical Report No. 40, and "Report on Technical Assistance to the Village-Level Water and Sanitation Project," WASH Field Report No. 193.
4. The Ministry of Natural Resources should provide additional funds to support the handpump maintenance crews to increase their effectiveness and reduce the downtime of broken handpumps.

5. To increase well-drilling effectiveness, USAID should provide a long-term (1-1/2 to 2 years) advisor to train MNR drilling crews. If possible, new light-weight drilling equipment should be provided to replace the aging existing equipment.

#### Lessons Learned

- Traditional water sources, particularly rainwater and dug wells, will continue to be used where potable water is supplied from handpumps that are located 150 to 200 feet or more from the house.
- The quantity of water used and even the willingness to use a handpump decline as the distance from the house to the handpump increases.
- For long-term project sustainability and community development, good organizational and problem-solving skills have to be passed to the community. This requires that the project staff (including counter-parts) have skills and training in community development and that the community be involved in many more aspects of a project.
- The development of a Village Water and Sanitation Committee in each community has been an extremely effective method of avoiding the political conflicts that tend to polarize efforts to organize at the community level.
- The success of the latrine construction program in Orange Walk and Corozal is most likely due to both the health education efforts of the VLWS program and an existing awareness that latrines are necessary.
- Community studies that use villagers as surveyors and focus on observations of existing conditions and practices can be far more useful than elaborate baseline studies in assessing needs and monitoring health education efforts.
- The VLWS Project has shown that a narrowly focused water supply project -- using only handpumps -- does not adequately address the needs of all of the communities.
- The self-help nature of the VLWS program has introduced the important concept that villagers can accomplish improvements in their communities through their own efforts, with less reliance on the Government.
- Community development means more than participation in either project implementation or self-help.

## ATTACHMENTS

K. Attachments (List attachments submitted with this Evaluation Summary; always attach copy of full evaluation report, even if one was submitted earlier; attach studies, surveys, etc., from "on-going" evaluation, if relevant to the evaluation report.)

Full Evaluation Report including Scope of Work.

## COMMENTS

L. Comments By Mission, AID/W Office and Borrower/Grantee On Full Report

This evaluation established that the project was basically sound, and well implemented. It highlighted particular areas, which, if not urgently addressed could compromise the success and sustainability of the project. The evaluation, while limited to this project, identified sectoral problems which Belize with the assistance of external donors will have to resolve if true development is to occur in the sector.

Overall mission was satisfied with the findings and recommendations. The response of the grantee, CARE, in implementing the recommendations, despite objections to some of the findings, may be considered testimony to their soundness.