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PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION FOR LATIN AMERICA

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY AND IMPROVING THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AND

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CITIZEN EDUCATION IN THE LAW

SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT

March, 1993 through June, 1993

ECUADOR

**Curriculum Design and Development**  
**March, 1993 through May, 1993**

The goal of this phase was to develop a process for designing the PLE (public legal education) curriculum, conduct PLE training workshops, and develop the curriculum. The goal was achieved through law school seminar workshops which were devised so that law school students could identify specific areas in existing schools and community curricula where PLE best fits, and the substantive legal information needed by the Ecuadorian communities.

With the assistance of Ms. Sanchez, Dr. Wray and Dr. Garcia examined the materials created by the law school students in the pilot course to decide how they could use some of those materials permanently, which could be revised and which areas should be assigned to the new students starting during this academic semester. Ms. Sanchez advised CIDES (Center of Law and Society) in how to develop substantive and methodologically sound lesson plans for their law school students and for the community curriculum materials. Ms. Sanchez also assisted in reviewing and critically analyzing criteria to conduct evaluation procedures in the community and to assess the law school student's performance.

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With the assistance of Ms. Sanchez, the IPD (In-Country Program Director) and the PC (Program Coordinator) planned and designed the syllabus of the law school seminar and the substantive, as well as, educational materials to be used in the law school seminar. In preparation for the law school students sites and subject area assignment, the students filled a questionnaire stating their substantive law teaching preference.

At the beginning of the semester, law school students had to participate in a training phase. The training, offered by Dr. Wray, was geared to develop attitudes and skills which would promote participatory teaching. The training started with a series of seminars devoted to "legal culture", "popular legal culture" and law related education. This phase also had law school students conduct interviews to find out the community's perception regarding the legal system. During this preparatory phase, community resources were invited to some workshops in order to provide some insight and assistance in community teaching.

Once the initial phase ended, the Ecuadorian staff started to analyze with the students the possibility of designing, and implementing the program, thereby, defining the sites, and the new topics they would develop. Law school students started drafting the new lesson plans as if it were a project. The law school students were assigned a sector in the community in order for them to conduct an initial legal information needs assessment and establish preliminary contact in the site where they would field test their materials.

The seminar turned its focus into a peer teaching laboratory, where law school students could test their materials, practice their teaching techniques, as well as exchange ideas on how to improve their performance and their materials. Most of these peer teaching lessons were related to: Constitutional law, Family Law, Labor Law, Political Power, Urban Life.

During the month of May, CIDES staff visited educational establishments, correctional institutions, and popular organizations in order to establish the necessary contacts and define the interest the organizations had expressed in allowing law school students to teach public legal education. The class was taught in the following organizations:

#### Educational Establishments

Liceo Fernandez Madrid  
Centro Educativo Benjamin Carrion  
Colegio Mixto Nocturno Abdo Calderon  
Unidad Educativa Quitumbe

#### Community Settings

Comite Empresas de Trabajadores Hotel Quito  
Cruzada Social UNOCAPE  
Iglesia Bautista Maranatha  
Centro de Muchachos de la Calle La Caleta  
Personal de Servicios del Hospital de la Policia

#### Correctional Institutions

Women's Rehabilitation Center  
Provisional Detention Center

## **Pilot Program Implementation May, 1993 through July, 1993**

The goal of this phase is to implement lessons that have been developed in the previous phase. In June, law school students who had already completed their work and revise the materials, begin to start teaching in their assigned sites.

The law school students taught the areas of greatest interest to the sites, and assisted in the problem solving by referring some problems to the legal clinic at the University. Law school students attended the seminar once a week in order to share ideas, experiences, and find solutions to problems they had faced in the field. Ms. Sanchez was particularly helpful at this time, where law school students clarified doubts, obtained new ideas on how to teach, as well as obtained one to one assistance in editing their final project.

CIDES staff attended some of the workshops in order to supervise student performance and assess the impact of the class in the community.

The law school students prepared an analytical final research project which includes the substantive materials they have prepared, the methodological lesson plans and a journal summarizing their field and seminar experiences.

During this phase Ms. Sanchez and CIDES staff also coordinated meetings, and provided awareness workshops for lawyers, law professors, government officials, potential sources of funding and representatives of community based organizations in public legal education programs. These meetings were coordinated in order to familiarize the above named groups with the methodology and materials used to institutionalize public legal education programs. Ms. Sanchez also solicited community and government (Municipality of Quito, Ministry of Education) support for the program. With AID Mission's assistance, Ms. Sanchez identified and worked with individuals and organizations in order to initiate awareness and elicit support for the legal education program. During Ms. Sanchez stay in Quito, she had the opportunity to meet with Ellen Leddy, and Christoff Baer in order to inform them regarding the program's advance and future plans.

Ms. Sanchez also continued to provide assistance concerning methodology training, curriculum development and other programmatic issues. This technical assistance also included scope and sequence of the project, fundamentals of conducting a PLE program and basic knowledge of the teaching methodology to be employed in the training of law school students and in the curriculum development.

Other goals for this phase were to develop a one year plan and budget, begin outreach, recruitment, and awareness activities in the community. CIDES designed and had their contract with NICEL approved in order to utilize their seed money to assist in the institutionalization of the program. The In-Country Program Director and Program Coordinator conducted a series of activities to achieve the goals, which included:

- \* identifying and hiring a part time supervisor to work on the project. Dr. Wray and Dr. Garcia hired an ex alumni to assist in the coordination of the project and the supervision of law school students.

- \* performed outreach and recruitment activities for law students, and those educators working in community based programs and community leaders who could be interested in participating in the project. These awareness meetings helped to provide necessary materials, and to obtain a commitment from those interested to participate in certain site-based tasks to be conducted during the course of the grant period.

The Dean of the Law Faculty, Dr. Gonzalo Zambrano, supported the program and presented the course plan to obtain University approval. The Faculty Committee of the Pontificia Universidad Catolica immediately approved our program as an elective course for the curriculum at the law faculty. The law school seminar meets twice a week for three hours of class instruction. The law school students will receive three academic credits for their one semester participation in the program.

During this stage, CIDES was able to secure subagreements with the Municipality of Quito, the Ministry of Education, the Asociacion Estudiantes Escuela de Derecho, and the Ministry of Information thereby obtaining a long term commitment to aid in the institutionalization of the public legal education programs. The Municipality will be providing their print shop in order to pay for the printing of the law related education materials developed during the pilot stage. The Ministry of Education will be covering all costs of printing the material for nationwide use. The Ministry has also signed an agreement with CIDES which states that the Ministry will "lend" a curriculum development specialist who will edit the materials developed. CIDES has received the assistance of the Department of Education from the Quito Municipality. The Ministry of Interior will provide free radio space in broadcasting the public legal education nationwide.

CIDES was able to sign an important agreement with Asociacion Escuela de Derecho in order to start designing and broadcasting public legal education by radio. A new group of students will participate in the newly created aspect of the law school program. Law school students will participate together in the initial training phase but they will separate into two groups in order to develop the materials needed to conduct the classes in the communities, or by radio.

## **BOLIVIA**

### **Program Development March through July, 1993**

The goals of this phase is to develop a one year plan and budget, begin outreach, recruitment, and awareness activities. In order to achieve the above mentioned goal, CDC (Center for Citizen's Rights) with NICEL's assistance was able to perform the following activities:

- \* solicited community support for the project.
- \* identified and worked with individuals and organizations to elicit support for the program. CDC had a series of meetings with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education and the Parliament Commission on Human Rights, and

ONAMFA (the National Organization for Women, Children and Family Affairs). At the private sector, CDC contacted the Catholic University, Fundacion San Gabriel, Colegio Itaiti, Federacion de Juntas Vecinales de la Paz, the Asociacion Latinoamericana de Derechos Humanos, and

- \* visited community settings to determine need for future law classes and to provide the atmosphere which would develop trust between the beneficiaries and the law school students.

Ms. Sanchez provided the In-Country Director, with intensive training that included scope and sequence of the project, fundamentals of conducting a PLE program and a basic knowledge of the teaching methodology to be employed in the training and the curriculum. The training also included the budgetary planning process for the site.

The IPD is also identifying and interviewing candidates for the project coordinator position. Dr. Suxo begun outreach and recruitment to law school students, secondary level teachers, and other educators working in the community. Presently Ms. Suxo is conducting meetings with law school students, teachers, and other educators to determine the scope of the program, to provide them with necessary materials, and to obtain a commitment from them in order to participate in certain site-based tasks to be conducted during the course of the grant period.

Dr. Suxo has contacted individuals to serve on the advisory board and she has had a meeting where she assisted and informed the advisory committee members. The board is comprised of: Lupe Cajias, President of the Press Association; Ernesto Machicao, Deputy Director of the Parliament's Commission in Human Rights; Alberto Luna, Sub-Secretary of Justice; Corina Machicado, District Attorney; Luis Boza, Catholic University Rector. The advisory board assisted CDC in planning their budget and assisting in obtaining some other funds.

Ms. Sanchez provided assistance in fundraising efforts to obtain funds from AID La Paz. The proposal was written and has been delivered to Mr. Carl Ciria and Mr. Gerardo Villalobos for further consideration.

At the law school seminar starting in March, twenty participants spent the first four weeks conducting a diagnosis of the legal needs in the community. The month of June was devoted to drafting curriculum materials which fulfill those needs. These law school students decided to continue their work into their new academic semester in order to pilot test the materials in the community sites.

CDC has signed several agreements with the following organizations:

Catholic University: in order to allow the subject matter to be taught at the law faculty and offered in the law campus. The law faculty has also provided CDC with a centrally located office.

Ministry of Interior: training of inmates throughout the country. Ms. Suxo is bargaining an agreement where NICEL and CDC will present the program to all the law schools nationwide.

Club de Madres Barrio Cotahuma and Ladrilleras in order to provide law school students to teach poor women in the community such topics as: labor law, family law and women's rights.

## **THIRD COUNTRY**

### **Preliminary Site Determination Through July 1993**

The goal of this phase was to research, assemble and analyze information about the site in order to make a preliminary site determination. During this phase NICEL has gathered information on key persons, organizations and institutions involved in the educational and legal communities. NICEL has gathered information on Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica. NICEL has solicited referrals for establishing these contacts through conversations with Human Rights attorneys, AID Chile, AID Ecuador, AID Bolivia.

Through further information and political circumstances, AID Washington, suggested we gather information regarding the possibility of implementing a program in Guatemala. Through telephone calls and by letters, Ms. Sanchez approached Ms. Elizabeth Hogan and Todd Sloan of the AID Mission. They have requested some information regarding NICEL's work in other countries in order to decide whether Guatemala is ripe for this public legal education program. Ms. Sanchez has been contacted by Ms. Hogan and is arranging an assessment trip for the month of July.

## **SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

### **Technical Assistance Manual**

In support of the institutionalization activities described above, Ms. Sanchez is developing the manual for use at the three sites during the course of the project. Ms. Sanchez has been researching and writing the PLE Technical Assistance Manual as well as gathering the best of the country's lesson plans in order to include them in the manual. (See attached outline)

**Planning of Directors Conference  
March through June, 1993**

Ms. Sanchez is planning the substantive format of the conference as well as arranging all the programmatic aspects of the conference. The conference will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico and in Humacao, Puerto Rico from October 3rd to October 9th. Ms. Sanchez has sent the hotel information and the tentative agenda to all the participants in order to obtain feedback from them. Ms. Sanchez has secured the participation of some Puerto Rican individuals involved in public legal education who could provide some insight. The substantive content for the conference has been chosen based on the needs of the participants. The conference is geared to provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences as well as to strengthen the network of Latin American leaders working in setting up these programs.