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Pact

Participation and Poverty Project

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First Quarterly Report

Covering July, August, September 1996

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1. Period Overview

The period July to September 1996 began with the signing of the participation and Poverty Agreement between USAID and Pact. For the greater part of this period, P&P Project Director Vincent Carbonneau was in North America after having completed a 3-year contract in Madagascar. Between July and September, Vincent spent time in Washington and Montreal to identify project resources and carry out networking activities.

Upon his return in mid-September, he joined the Pact Madagascar team for the annual retreat in Mahajunga. Project activities began upon his return to Tana on September 20.

2. Period Objectives

Objectives of this period centered around resource identification and networking.

Objectives in North America were :

- To establish relationships with key persons in the field of Democracy and Governance (D/G) programming;
- To identify and access reference materials relevant to the project's goals and activities;
- To identify possible consultancy resources;
- To undergo basic training and orientation with Pact Washington staff;
- To oversee project procurement activities.

Objectives upon his return to Madagascar were :

- To become better acquainted with Pact Madagascar staff and programming;
- To bring positive input as a senior staff member in retreat activities.
- To initiate project startup activities

3. Activities Carried Out

3.1 North America

During his stay in North America, Vincent had the following meetings :

Persons/organization	Object of meeting
Charles Costello, Director, Jennifer Windsor Global Bureau on D/G, USAID	Presentation of P&P Presentation of Africa Bureau Discussion of D/G issues in Madagascar
Curt Grimm Africa Bureau, USAID	Presentation of P&P Presentation of Global Bureau Discussion of D/G issues in Madagascar
Jean-Paul Emmert Heather McHugh CDIE	Presentation of P&P Presentation of CDIE Discussion of D/G issues in Madagascar Exploration of CDIE resources Reference material acquired
Harry Blair, Research Associate CDIE	Discussion of D/G issues in Madagascar
Ned McMahon, Senior Program Officer, and members of the Madagascar team on the National Assembly project NDI	Presentation of P&P Discussion of D/G issues in Madagascar Discussion of the NDI National Assembly project in Madagascar and possibilities for follow up activities.
Suzan Benda NDI	Presentation of P&P Discussion of D/G issues in Madagascar Reference material acquired
Maureen Burke The Advocacy Institute	Presentation of P&P Presentation of the Institute Exploration of AI resources and possibilities for consultancy Reference material acquired

Jim Fishkin Professor University of Texas (by phone)	Presentation of P&P Discussion on special projects carried out by M. Fishkin on issues development through intensified public and press involvement.
Dick Richter Pact Chairman and President of the Asia Pacific Network	Presentation of P&P Discussion on D/G issues in Madagascar
Jean Lavoie NDI project Manager in Namibia	Presentation of P&P Discussion on D/G issues in Madagascar Possibilities of consultancy work
Thérèse Bouchard Senior Program Officer, Democracy and Governance Centre canadien d'études et de coopération internationale (CECI)	Presentation of P&P Discussion on D/G issues in Madagascar Possibilities of consultancy work

Vincent also had several meetings with Pact Washington staff, which included training on LIFT¹ reporting and Logical Frameworks (conducted by Evan Bloom) and D/G issues (conducted by Richard Holloway), and individual meetings with CEO Louis Mitchell, Deputy Director for Programs Sarah Newhall, Senior Program Officer Liz Loughran, Program Officer Evan Bloom (backstopping P&P), Director of Communications Traer Sunley.

Vincent also met with Administrative staff on Pact procedures and with Personnel staff to settle standard enrolment procedures.

¹LIFT is a standard reporting format developed by Pact for the storage and retrieval of information on field experiences. The objective of LIFT is to facilitate access to information and field experiences on a variety of programming in order for lessons learned to be increasingly shared.

Both within Pact HQ, through Pact Publications and through contacts established during his stay, Vincent accessed important reference materials, bibliographies and case studies on topics relevant to the P&P project. Topics include :

- Advocacy
- NGO issues
- Intermediary NGOs
- Organizational Capacity Assessment
- Organizational and Institutional Development
- Participatory Training and Learning Techniques
- D/G reference material
- Project Evaluation techniques
- Community Participation
- Gender Issues

Through telephone conversations with Madagascar Country Representative George Scharffenburger and Management Advisor Paige Carlson-Heim, Vincent discussed administrative and procurement issues. Paige Carlson-Heim, on home leave in the United States, supervised procurement activities carried out by Pact Washington staff.

3.2 Madagascar

Upon his return to Madagascar in early July, Pact Country Representative George Scharffenburger initiated scouting activities for P&P senior staff and reserved office space for the project on the first floor of the building currently occupied by Pact.

Vincent arrived in Madagascar on September 16th. He joined Pact staff in Mahajunga on the 17th for the annual Pact Retreat. Vincent attended and participated in retreat activities as senior staff member. He also used the opportunity of the retreat to launch a contest among staff to find P&P's project name, and animated brainstorming sessions and discussions during the retreat on the project name.

The exercise provided Pact expatriate staff with valuable insight into the subtleties of the Malagasy language, especially in the multiple meanings and interpretations a word may have across regions, and within one region as well. It provided Pact local staff with some of the qualities required of project name, IE : unity of meaning across regions, clarity, legibility and pertinence to the project's purpose.

The retreat was an occasion for Vincent to become better acquainted with Pact Madagascar staff and programming, and to participate in discussions on administrative issues concerning P&P. The result of these and other discussions is the proposal by Pact Madagascar of a common administrative service for P&P and other Pact projects in Madagascar, resulting in considerable savings.

While in Mahajunga, Vincent met with Cris Julliard, CAP project Chief of Party to explore possible collaboration between CAP and P&P in Mahajunga and Fianarantsoa. Vincent and Cris have agreed to have further meetings on the subject in Tana.

Vincent returned to Tana on September 19th. From September 20th to the 30th, activities consisted of :

- Conducting meetings to continue the search for senior P&P project staff;
- Making initial contacts with potential project partners;
- Starting monitoring activities of the local press;
- Conducting animation for the name search contest with Tana staff
- Meeting USAID program officers Frank Martin and Jean-Paul Paddock, Mission Chief Donald Mackenzie and USAID staff;
- Setting dates for meetings with Embassy and USIS staff;
- Settling basic procurement issues.

4. Meeting of Objectives

No programmatic objectives were set for this period because of the Project Director's expected stay in North America during the months of July through to Mid-September. Objectives were set for this stay, however, and were largely met.

The Director of P&P had intensive meetings with numerous actors in the D/G arena, accessed valuable information and made important contacts. Pact Washington staff provided valuable orientation meetings throughout his stay in Washington. Procurement activities went smoothly, thanks to the extensive experience Paige Carlson-Heim brought to the process.

Vincent came back to Madagascar on schedule, in time to play a role in the staff retreat and use it as an occasion to get Pact employees involved in finding P&P's name, in a manner consistent with the participatory spirit in which the retreat was held.

During his first week in the capital, Vincent was able to establish contacts quickly, having been involved in civil society in Madagascar for the past 3 years.

5. Activities Planned

Period of October to December 1996

Period overview

The period October to December 1996 is the first period of activity with the project Director operative in Madagascar. Priority in this context is the enrollment of project staff and the building of project relationships. Main objectives for the period are to proceed to an official project launch with complete staff on board, and the full participation of staff in preparing the project's first work plan during the month of December.

The continued development of project relationships should enable the Project to set up the proposed Advisory Committee by December 96. This committee will be made up of key potential partners and resources from both civil society and government and will play a fundamental role in steering the project and establishing baseline values for the ME&R system. The committee will also be called upon to participate in a validation of the logical results framework through a participatory mechanism that will be developed during this period.

Exploratory meetings will be conducted with independent research groups at the University of Antananarivo and the Académie malgache to determine possible involvement of these groups in Pact's Testing Approach to P&P. These groups could be associated at different levels in ME&R and in establishing and testing theorems throughout the project, contributing to replicability and lessons learned.

Work plans

Pact Madagascar's planning year for all ongoing projects with USAID runs from October 1 to September 30, which coincides with Pact's fiscal year. Pact Madagascar proposes that the planning period for P&P be set out in such a way as to enable Pact to have one planning period for all projects. Considering the potential for collaboration and synergy between existing projects, Pact sees definite opportunity in this commonality.

The 3 years of P&P would normally start in July and end in June. If the first work plan was to begin in January 97, it would run 6 months to reach the end of June, and two one-year work plans would follow to reach June 1999 and the end of project.

Pact proposes that the first work plan start in January 97 and run 9 months to reach the end of September. It would be followed by a 12-month work plan to reach September 98, and a 9-month work plan to reach June 1999.

Planning format

As previously stated in the P&P Technical Proposal, page 22, the highly interrelated nature of the project's three proposed outputs leads Pact to propose an integrated program of activities as opposed to isolated components directed at each output. Activities programmed for the period of October to December 1996 are laid out under the four groups initially presented in the technical proposal.²

Objectives for period

Partnerships, Networking and Coalition Building

- Establish initial relationships with players (CSOs, donors, Power Holders) to evaluate D/G environment, scout for staff and identify potential partners;
- Identify potential key partners and key partnerships;
- Further reflection with partners on strategy and tactics
- Collect baseline data and a monitoring system early on.
- Office operational
- Awareness of project is strong among target groups

Research

- Dispose of initial data on the presence of CS in print media.
- Dispose of up-to date information on CS organizations

Civic IEC and Advocacy

- Identify the contours of the Csnet

² The three principal outputs of the Participation and Poverty program are:
1) an increased openness of power holders to the participation of civil society in governance;
2) a qualitative and quantitative expansion of civil society in terms of broader participation, greater representativity and increased capacity; and
3) a social and political environment more conducive to citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of policies, rules/procedures and resource allocation decisions affecting the poor.

The four activity groups are :

- 1) Partnerships, Networking and Coalition Building;
- 2) Research;
- 3) Civic IEC and Advocacy;
- 4) Organizational and Institutional Development

OD/ID

No activities specific to OD/ID are planned in this period.

Activity planing format

This planning of activities is presented in a format developed by Pact Madagascar and used on all Pact projects. Pact proposes this model to AID for reporting on P&P project activities. Use of this model in planning activities has proven successful in reinforcing the planning capabilities of Pact staff. It has also proved functional and practical in working with USAID.

The format is composed of 5 columns. The *activity* column identifies each specific planned activity. The *means* column identifies the means by which the activity will be carried out. The *indicators* column identifies the elements by which the Pact and USAID can verify that the activity has taken place. In subsequent columns, the period of activity and the persons responsible for carrying out the activity are identified.

Partnerships, networking and coalition building
1996

Period of October to December

Activity	Means	Indicators	Period	In charge
Establish initial relationships with players (CSOs, donors, Power Holders) to evaluate D/G environment, scout for staff and identify potential partners;	Conduct meetings and interviews, attend events relating to D/G issues	List of project relations, candidates for staff positions found, participation in events	10/96 11/96	Director
Identify potential key partners and key partnerships;	Meetings and discussions	Documents describing potential partnerships	10/96 11/96	Director
Further reflection with partners on strategy and tactics	Set-up the Project Advisory Committee	Documents exist on Committee make up and functions, list of members is available	11/96 12/96	Partners/ Director
Collect baseline data and establish a monitoring system early on.	Develop the ME&R system;	Document exists	12/96	Partners/ Director/ USAID
Office operational	Hire staff	Staff is in place	12/96	Director/ Admin staff
Awareness of project is strong	Conduct national level project launch and information campaign	News reports	12/96	Director

Research 1996		Period of October to December		
Activity	Means	Indicators	Period	In charge
Collect initial data on the presence of CS in print media.	Begin press clipping activity to evaluate CSO advocacy activity, initially for project refinement and orientation;	A clipping and classification system is in place	ongoing	Director/ Documentalist
Collect up-to date information on CS organizations	Conduct research to identify existing studies and sources of information on CS.	Databank exists	12/96	documentalist

Civic IEC and Advocacy October to December 1996		Period of		
Activity	Means	Indicators	Period	In charge
Identify the contours of the Csnet	Explore with potential partners the possible scenarios for the scope, reach and focus of the Csnet and it's feasibility.	Document exists	11/96 12/96	Partners/ Director