

Girls' and Women's Education Project
Quarterly Report
October 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001

Prepared for:

G/WID
United States Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C.

Prepared by:

DevTech Systems, Inc.
Contract # LAG-C-00-97-00017

NARRATIVE

TITLE

Technical and Administrative Services to the Global Bureau's Office of Women in Development to Support the Girls' and Women's Education Activity Objectives. (WID-GWE) LAG- C-00-97-00017

1. Background

A five-year contract to carry out this assistance was awarded to DevTech Systems, Inc. on September 30, 1997. The objectives of the contract are to support the G/WID in: 1) monitoring the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative; 2) developing effective communications among all stakeholders in the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative; and 3) documenting programs and products concerning the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative. This contract calls for the execution of core activities and not buy-in or subcontractor activities.

2. Expected Results

The restructuring within the Global Bureau of USAID placed the implementation of the Girls' and Women' Education (GWE) Initiative in the Office of Women in Development. One result of this restructuring is the requirement for technical and administrative assistance from a contractor to support G/WID's attainment of the goals and objectives of this Initiative. Implementation of the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative is conducted in both emphasis and cooperating countries by contractors under separate procurements. The purpose of this contract is to provide assistance to G/WID to ensure that the goals of the GWE Initiative, as reflected by SSO2 (Broad-based, informed constituents mobilized to improve girls' education in emphasis countries) and its IRs and indicators, are attained.

3. Project Core Activities

The Project Core Activities for the 10/01-12/01 quarter are divided into the following three parts:

A. Activity Narrative and Task Report

The Activity Narrative and the Task Report contain both a discussion and a recounting of all the events covered during the reporting period (including events already detailed in the monthly reports for the same period). The Task Report is divided into eight general contract tasks: 1) monitor GWE Initiative; 2) develop effective communications with GWE constituencies; 3) plan and coordinate a range of GWE focused meetings and events; 4) provide technical and administrative assistance to Missions; 5) develop, or assist in, writing reports, studies, and concept papers, and develop innovative ideas; 6) coordinate development, review, revision, and dissemination as appropriate of GWE focused documents, publications, and deliverables; 7) coordinate monitoring and evaluation activities for GWE; and 8) develop and maintain reference materials on the Girls' and Women's Education Initiative.

B. Project Management - A report on what activities were accomplished to fulfill contractual responsibilities.

C. Implementation Constraints – A report of constraints that prevented the fulfillment of specific contractual responsibilities.

Section II: Administrative Report

A.1. Quarterly Narrative

Since March 2001, the position of GWE CTO has not been filled. DevTech worked to maintain open communication between the contractors and the respective acting CTOs during this interim period. The facilitation of communication was especially important during the 1st quarter of FY 2002 when three contracts (two under American Institute for Research (AIR): World Learning in Guatemala, Care in Peru; and one under World Education in their research studies) had been extended. The Equity in the Classroom Project, a cooperative agreement under Creative Associates, was also extended and a new country, El Salvador, was added. Development Alternatives, Inc., subcontracted by Academy for Educational Development (AED) added two new countries (Republic of Congo and El Salvador) that were just beginning to move into their activities.

Aside from the normal communication and monitoring activities (which are not reflected in the chart below but can be found in the monthly activity reports), from reviewing and processing terms of reference and country clearances, interacting with Missions to share data and request information on girls' education, to constructively participating in monthly, contractor meetings. The meetings serve as a vehicle for discussing current activities in the field and provide a forum for discussion and queries and reviewing and commenting upon contractor reports and studies, the DevTech team completed several major tasks.

DevTech also became part of the Strategies for Girls' Education (SAGE) conference planning team. SAGE will hold a lessons learned conference in May 2002 in Ghana. While the conference is being financed under Development Alternatives, Inc. as the prime contractor and the Academy for Educational Development (AED) Strategies for Girls' Education (SAGE), DevTech's contribution in preparing and facilitating the conference will be considerable. Specifically, planning for the conference will include traveling to the sites, participating in planning meetings, contacting Missions and GWE constituencies and developing a profile of participants and a system for compiling information for a final report as well as dissemination of the report. Additionally time will be spent reviewing and planning the conference program as well as papers and presentations that will be given at the conference, facilitating sessions and participating in the conference debriefing.

DevTech assisted and liaised between G/WID and the GWE contractors in providing examples and feedback for the Portfolio Reviews. The reviews were instituted in 2001 and are to be handed in every six months. The reviews are particularly important at this time because, as of this writing (January 2002), USAID has not yet created a system for reporting since the old system (the R4 reporting system) was discarded in November 2001. A new reporting mechanism should come out in March 2002. DevTech worked with the contractors to ensure that the reviews were handed in on time.

Care Peru was extended because the team was about to push a law through Congress. Because of the resignation of Fujimoro in October 2000, and the setting up of an interim government until the elections in July 2001, the bill was put on hold. However, on October 31, 2001, at the plenary meeting of the Peruvian Congress, the Bill to promote the Education of Rural Girls and Adolescents was unanimously passed. The 88 congressmen and women present approved the bill and underlined the importance of carrying out this law as well. DevTech circulated this information as well as other relevant current research on global and domestic girls' and women's education issues.

Section II: Administrative Report

A.2. WID-GWE Provided Technical and Administrative Assistance to G/WID in:

General Contract Tasks	Specific Tasks Completed (Selected)
<p>1. Monitor GWE Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed American Institutes for Research’s (AIR) monthly report from Peru throughout the quarter, particularly noting the efforts of Florecer to restructure to push through the legislature on rural girls education since the congressional committees who supported the bill changed with the advent of a new president, Alejandro Toledo. Along with many actions taken during these two months, were the community level actions that included the systemization of the role and procedures of the actions that are to be taken by community educational promoters. The October report incorporated a detailed description of the arduous and effective process by which the rural girls’ education bill was unanimously passed in the Peruvian Congress. FLORECER’s (National Network for Girls’ Education in Peru) strategic lobbying of the media, local and national government authorities, public and private institutions, and leaders in various sectors culminated in the creation of a critical mass in support of the bill which in turn informed Congress’s decision to unanimously pass the legislation. The November report focused on the policy reform processes that needed to be implemented in order to effectively enact the recently passed bill that promotes the education of rural girls and adolescents. • Reviewed SAGE/El Salvador’s October monthly report and noted that preparations for the first round table were underway where high-level participants from the private, banking and media sectors are to discuss actions in support of girls’ education issues relevant to the El Salvadorian context. In addition, an alliance has been established with a children’s newspaper that plans to support girls’ education through sensitizing children on the importance of encouraging girls to stay in school. A thirteen-minute video on important girls’ education issues was completed and utilized during the first SAGE roundtable in which the El Salvadorian First Lady hosted a working breakfast for an upper-level group of comprised members of the media and the business sector as well as the U.S. Ambassador, USAID Mission Director and the Minister of Education. SAGE was able to elaborate on the importance of girls’ education for the socio-economic development of the country in a forty-five minute discussion on the most popular early morning television show called Frente A Frente (Face to Face). • Reviewed and provided feedback on Creative Associates’ Quarterly Report for July – September 2001. Highlights include: the addition of an eighth country, El Salvador, to Creative’s program (Equity in the Classroom – EIC); a section on lesson learned; addressing the issue of sustainability through the integration of EIC into the systemic education reform being conducted in various

Section II: Administrative Report

	<p>countries; and the effectiveness of utilizing modeling and experiential learning in helping participants of EIC training to better understand the concept of child-centered and learner centered education.</p>
--	--

<p>2. Develop Effective Communications with GWE Constituencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated communication between USAID/Guatemala Education Office, World Learning/ Washington and Guatemala and G/WID in regards to the one-month extension of the GWE project and the role USAID/Guatemala should play in this time period. • Circulated an advisory to GWE contractors on visitor procedures to USAID. • Disseminated an advisory to GWE contractors regarding the termination of the usage of R4 format for reporting data. • Drafted a revised country clearance template at the request of a CTO, which more appropriately reflects the changes in security due to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. • Disseminated several articles with topics such as Human Rights Education to GWE constituencies. • Actively participated in the following sessions on topics of girls' and women's education: A PACT sponsored presentation on the Women's Empowerment Program in Nepal; A SID/WID sponsored program on girls' education in the Pakistani refugee camps for Afghani girls, organized by the Afghani Women's Revolutionary Association (RAWA); and A World Learning and the RISE Institute sponsored roundtable discussion on "Education post September 11, 2001". • Circulated a detailed description (written by the Country Director of the Girls' Education Activity in Peru) of the process that culminated in the unanimous passage of the Peruvian Bill to promote the rural girls' education on October 31, 2001. • Disseminated the November 14, 2001, Washington Post article by Judy Mann "No Time to be Shortchanging Foreign Aid" in which she mentions girls' education and women's literacy as catalysts for development. • Disseminated the November 11, 2001, Boston Globe article in which Dr. Shirley Burchfield, a GWE Project Director, was interviewed. • Disseminated the November 15, 2001 Washington Post article by Jennifer Seymour Whitaker, "Don't Betray the Women", in which Afghani women and the need to include them in the new political structure are discussed. • Circulated an article on Women as Partners for Peace in Africa (WOPPA). This organization is an African women's organization that aims to bring together women from war-torn African countries in order to discuss women's role and the importance of their participation in the peace process in their respective countries. • Circulated a critical analysis by Supriya Akerkar on current, cutting edge methodologies linking gender and participation. The focus is on mainstreaming gender
--	---

Section II: Administrative Report

	<p>through participatory methods both at the project and institutional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requested, from Equity In the Classroom (EIC), and circulated a write-up on the adoption of EIC's gender equity module by the Moroccan Ministry of National Education.• Updated and circulated the GWE Personnel Contact List.
<p>3. Plan and Coordinate a Range of GWE Focused Meetings and Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinated a meeting between AIR, G/WID CTO and the DevTech team, where the R4 data submitted by AIR was discussed and feedback was provided.• Coordinated a SAGE meeting where the country coordinators from Guinea, Mali and Ghana will provide first hand information on the progress of the girls' education activities in their respective countries.• Actively participated in SAGE's Lessons Learned Conference Meeting (December 10 and 19, 2001) as member of the planning committee. The following agenda items were discussed: 1) Confirmation of purposes, participants, and audiences, and dates. 2) Principal SAGE lessons to be (a) disseminated and (b) put into discussion for analysis and adaptation. 3) Other country and program/project information to be introduced/disseminated at the event. 4) Initial inventory of logistics and finance considerations. 5) Calendar for planning and organization.• Actively participated in SAGE's monthly meeting in which the country coordinators for Ghana and Mali were present as well as the team leader for El Salvador.
<p>4. Provide Technical and Administrative Assistance to Missions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed SOWs for technical assistance and processed the following country clearances: Howard Williams, Mona Habib and Andrea Rugh's trip to Ghana, Giselle Mitton and Jumionne Tiako's trip to Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo and Hortense Dicker's trip to El Salvador.• Facilitated communication between USAID/Guinea and SAGE consultants in regard to the consultants' need for assistance in country.• Reviewed SOWs for technical assistance and processed the following country clearances: Theresa Miles' trip to Ghana and Boubacar Bocoum's trip from Mali to Guinea.• Processed a travel notice for Creative Associates' Wendy Rimer's trip to El Salvador.• Facilitated communication between DAI and USAID/Guinea in which a proposed travel was postponed to a time when the Mission's Education team would have more time to accommodate the DAI visitors.• Facilitated the receipt of a country clearance for Bocoum Boubacar whose trip was postponed from November to December 2001.

Section II: Administrative Report

<p>5. Develop, or Assist in, Writing Reports, Studies, and Concept Papers, and Develop Innovative Ideas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and gave detailed, written feedback on World Education’s longitudinal study on Bolivian Women’s Integrated Literacy and Basic Education Programs. • Reviewed and gave detailed, written feedback on AIR’s proceedings from the August 2001 Lessons Learned Conference. • Updated the GWE timeline, which indicates the starting and ending dates of each GWE country as well as the respective contractors, associated with each emphasis country. The new SAGE countries (Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo and El Salvador) were added. • Reviewed and submitted written feedback on the final draft of AIR’s proceedings from the August 2001 Lessons Learned Conference. • Collaborated with USAID/Guatemala and USAID/Washington on developing the first draft of a Scope of Work for training Guatemalan public school teachers in the use of a teachers’ manual designed to enhance gender equity and student retention.
<p>6. Coordinate Monitoring and Evaluation Activities for GWE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully reviewed the R4 information submitted by AIR on GWE activities in the three emphasis countries that just ended. Provided feedback, to make the document clearer and more reflective of the required data. • Reviewed, discussed and provided feedback on SAGE/Mali’s Progress Review and Achievements Update Report which primarily focused on clarifying the SSO2 indicators included therein. • Coordinated the submission of portfolio reviews by GWE contractors that includes activities from April 1, 2001 to September 30, 2001. • Coordinated submission of, reviewed and gave feedback on GWE contractors’ portfolio reviews which contained activities accomplished from April 1 to September 30, 2001. • Reviewed and submitted detailed, written feedback on AIR’s Qualitative Report, “Description and Analysis of the USAID Girls’ and Women’s Education Activity Projects in Guatemala, Morocco and Peru.”
<p>7. Develop and Maintain Reference Materials on Girls’ and Women’s Education Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On going

Section II: Administrative Report

B. Project Management

General Contract Tasks	Specific Tasks Completed
Contract Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitted monthly reports.• Attended GWE and G/WID staff meetings.• Participated in DevTech Management Meetings.• Submitted the DevTech quarterly report for July –September 2001.• Began preparations for moving the GWE/DevTech office at the end of November.• Completed GWE/DevTech office move from Dupont Circle, D.C. to Rosslyn, Virginia.• Submitted DevTech’s portfolio review, April 1 to September 30, 2001.

C. Implementation Constraints

While the G/WID team is still incomplete in that the CTO position is vacant, DevTech and GWE contractors continue to work through the acting CTOs. In spite of this, the contractors and G/WID staff are working hard to facilitate all activities that need attention in a smooth and efficient manner. In addition, the stunning and tragic events of September 11th required our flexibility in making the necessary changes to normal operating processes and procedure.

Performance

Despite the above constraints, the DevTech team made great strides in facilitating G/WID program management of contractors and communication with G/WID-assisted missions. DevTech is also beginning to work more on the technical side of the contract by responding in a more academic fashion to papers, projects and drafts. The DevTech team is making an attempt to remain current in the field of girls’ and women’s education.

4. Statement of Work

The DevTech team has not determined that a modification of the statement of work is necessary for this quarter. While the team is relatively new, effort has been made to redefine the lines of communication. However, this issue may need to be revisited when a new CTO arrives.