

SAVE THE CHILDREN
Comunidades Mayas Alfabetizadas
COMAL

Bi Annual Report
January to June, 2001

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The first half of the year 2001 was characterized by program stoppage and the implementation of radical changes requested in a letter received by **Save** from the **USAID** Guatemala Mission Director on the 29th of December 2000. Citing the disappointing findings of two evaluations carried out by **Save** and **USAID** in the preceding months of 2000, the letter requested a redesign, for only the remainder of obligated funds, which totaled \$ 6,836,933. In a supporting letter received from **USAID** on November 27, 2000, **Save** was instructed not to make further financial or contractual commitments till a new Strategic Plan was approved for activities covering the revised life of project which will now run till March, 31, 2002.

Save the Children HQs team in Westport responded taking the following actions.

- By January 10, a Transition Team convened by Westport was in place in Guatemala led by an experienced **Save** senior manager to conduct reviews, consultations, and planning sessions to produce a revised Strategic Work Plan for 2001/2002.
- During the first weeks of January, 2001, meetings were held with the participating **NGO Network**, **Data Pro** and **ADEJUC** to inform them of the changes which would take place in **COMAL**. Decisive actions were taken to close **COMAL**'s Xela Office, release the Project Director, the Technical Director, the Research Specialist and other technical and support staff. An **NGO Network** advisory committee was formed to work closely with the transition team to help in the redesign of a packet of Integrated Community Literacy ICL materials.
- Four versions of the new Strategic Plan were rejected by **USAID** and the task for drafting a final version was passed to **Save**'s Westport team. A final shortened version of this was formally cleared by **USAID**, Guatemala, in late May, 2002.
- Interviews were held to recruit two experienced field coordinators and *Lic. Mario Quim Can* and *Lic. Daniel Alvarez* were selected to work with two international training consultants, *Drs. Jennie Campos* and *Kathy Searle*, in the design and implementation of an ICL field training plan.
- In late February, criteria for the selection of **NGO** members of the planned **NGO Network** were identified and following a competitive bidding process, **NGOs** meeting accepted criteria were interviewed. 16 **NGOs** were selected to receive **COMAL** funding and participate in the first 7 month cycle of the ICL process.

- Between March 12 and 16, **COMAL** hosted and ran a ICL Training of Trainers Workshop for 38 key trainers representing the selected **NGOs**, during which participating **NGOs** were introduced to the redesigned packet of ICL materials and methodology. Participants took copies of these back to their institutions to continue the cascade training process they had been exposed to during the workshop.
- *Dr. Campos* was retained to supervise the initial phase of the new field training plan which is being implemented by **COMAL**'s two field coordinators.
- Between March, 29 and May, 10, 2001, **COMAL**'s two field coordinators carried out 17 follow up workshops for 834 technical support staff working for 16 **NGOs**.
- The following tasks were also carried out to improve field implementation of the revised ICL process.
 - 1.1.1. Clarified the ICL methodology and process.
 - 1.1.2. Carried out a diagnostic assessment of each **NGO**'s capacity to deliver ICL.
 - 1.1.3. Developed a set of instruments for registering, reporting and tracking literacy group participation.
 - 1.1.4. Began integrating **COMAL**'s work with the work being done by **NGO** technical teams.
 - 1.1.5. Re initiated a system of regular meetings with the **NGO Network**.
 - 1.1.6. Began to develop a closer working relationship with **CONALFA** Coordinators and Technical staff at the Departmental and Municipal levels.
- By early April, 2001, sufficient **NGO** facilitators had received training to begin forming their first ICL learning groups and 75% of the learning materials purchased to support ICL field groups were distributed by **COMAL** to Network members.
- After aborted attempts to recruit a local Project Director, **Save Westport** was able to identify and recruit an experienced international educator, *Frank Dall*, who arrived on May 20, 2001, to lead **COMAL** through its final close out phase, till March 31, 2002.
- Following a review of the situation and after extensive consultations with **USAID**, the **NGO Network**, **Data Pro**, **Save Guatemala**, the two **COMAL** Coordinators, **CONALFA** and other Guatemala based institutions, a plan of action was drawn up to begin a rapid implementation of priority elements in the Strategic 2001/2002 Plan.

- As a result, a four pronged strategy is currently being implemented which will simultaneously tackle improving the quality of service delivery to literacy groups in the field, revise and develop a packet of clearly defined quality materials to support the ICL curriculum and methodology, use the copious data and rich research findings generated by **DataPro** to improve the gender, community development and bilingual aspects of ICL and develop and strengthen capacities, linkages and working relationships between **COMAL**, the **NGO network**, **CONALFA** and potential donors.
- To accelerate the ICL materials development process and ameliorate a conflict situation , **COMAL** drew up a contract with members of the **NGO Network** for the revision and production of a final package of ICL materials by November, 2001. **NGO** Members who have now legally formed themselves into an Association of Adult Educators for this purpose, have organized themselves into four working groups under the oversight of **COMAL's** new Director, and have begun the process of revising and producing a final ICL package. The **COMAL/SAVE** sub contract strategy aims at restoring ownership of the ICL process to the national **Network** of **NGOs**, strengthening the **NGO Network's** capacities to work together as a well organized group, while achieving the major objective of providing a well designed ICL curriculum and methodology, supported by appropriate low cost materials with a clear Guatemalan imprint.
- Between July and December 2001, three ICL remedial methodology workshops for key technical personnel are being planned to boost and strengthen **NGO** capacities to deliver ICL at the facilitator level. With the help of the University of Landivar's **EDUMAYA** Project, a Mayan Language Policy Clarification Seminar was held on the 24th of July at the University's Linguistic Center. This event was closely followed by two Language Methodology Upgrade Workshops conducted by **URL**, in Ixil and K'iche, for language supervisors and technical staff responsible for language training, from all 17 participating **NGOs**, in early August, 2001.
- Focused and participatory monthly policy planning meetings have been re initiated between the **NGO Network**, **CONALFA** and **COMAL**. Well prepared agendas and clearly written minutes are an agreed and necessary ingredient for the new cycle of meetings.
- **COMAL** has also agreed to work with the **NGO** Association to find new funding sources for a needed **COMAL** follow up phase and a second ICL cycle, in 2002-2003.

- **DataPro's** preliminary analysis of initial literacy enrolment figures for 2001, suggest that **COMAL** and **Network** partners will, by the end of the current cycle which finishes in November, 2001, have exceeded the 35,000 participant target set as the Project goal in the revised Strategic Workplan for 2001/2002. Adding the annual total literacy participants for 2000 of 23,553 to the 2001 total of 31,994, we get a preliminary aggregate total of 55,547 ICL learners enrolled since **COMAL's** first literacy groups were formed, in 2000. Our current estimates show that the **average cost per ICL participant is now as low as \$41 per person**. Field visits to several randomly chosen sites indicate a growing demand for the ICL literacy model among communities within the five targeted departments. More requests to be brought into the ICL process are being received from NGOs not currently members of the **COMAL NGO Network**.

** Table of 2001 COMAL Data here.*

COMAL Project - Monitoring and Evaluation
Programmed versus Real Initial Group and Participant Counts - 2001 Literacy Cycle
(see note 1. below)

NGO	Groups			Participants			Average Group Size
	Programmed	Real	%	Programmed	Real	%	
ADEJUC	125	125	100.0%	3,750	3,564	95.0%	28.5
ADERSO (see note 2. below)	41	41	100.0%	1,230	1,230	100.0%	30.0
ADESMA	45	50	111.1%	1,125	1,053	93.6%	21.1
ADISA	30	30	100.0%	900	928	103.1%	30.9
ASOREMA	45	46	102.2%	1,350	1,455	107.8%	31.6
Belejeb Batz	30	28	93.3%	900	744	82.7%	26.6
CDRO	80	81	101.3%	2,000	2,057	102.9%	25.4
COINDI	40	43	107.5%	1,000	1,048	104.8%	24.4
Consejo de Pueblos Mayas	35	30	85.7%	900	867	96.3%	28.9
Fé y Alegría	110	93	84.5%	2,200	1,830	83.2%	19.7
Foro de la Mujer	15	15	100.0%	450	363	80.7%	24.2
FUNDAZÚCAR	120	120	100.0%	3,000	3,046	101.5%	25.4
FUNDES	81	91	112.3%	2,430	2,569	105.7%	28.2
FUNRURAL	103	103	100.0%	2,575	2,575	100.0%	25.0
IXMUKANÉ	147	147	100.0%	4,772	4,772	100.0%	32.5
PRODESCA	68	68	100.0%	1,674	1,668	99.6%	24.5
SIDERGUA	69	78	113.0%	2,070	2,225	107.5%	28.5
TOTAL	1,184	1,189	100.4%	32,326	31,994	99.0%	26.9

July 26, 2001

Notes:

1. Real figures are based on data entered into the system where available, otherwise based on reports from NGOs.
Programmed figures are based on latest "convenio" modifications
2. We have been unable to communicate with ADERSO or obtain the real figures from Mario Quim.
We have therefore used the programmed figures as real until such data become available.
3. Consejo de Pueblos Mayas is pending information on 5 groups added to their convenio.