

BEPS' LAC/RSD-EHR "Improved Human Resource Policies"

Year 2001, Annual Performance Report

Contractor: CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Contract No.: HNE-I-00-00-00038-00, Task Order #10
Reporting Period: October 1, 2000 – September 31, 2001

This Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS), LAC/RSD-HER Activity annual report includes tasks, accomplishments, progress, status on required deliverables, challenges and planned response. For more detailed information, please refer to the corresponding quarterly reports submitted for year one of this activity.

1. Mission, Purpose and Tasks to be accomplished:

The mission of the LAC/RSD-EHR activity is to provide "Improved and Expanded Basic Education, Especially for Girls, Women, and Other Underserved Populations." The overall purpose of this activity is to strengthen the quality, vitality, and effectiveness of educational systems by assisting USAID missions, regional bureaus, and developing newly independent and crisis countries to examine their educational policies and programs and to implement more relevant policies and activities.

Under BEPS, the LAC/RSD-EHR team, CAII and its partners --CARE, The George Washington University, and Groundwork-- will perform seven (7) types of tasks:

- A.** Undertake education policy analyses, activity and strategy assessments, and program evaluations and assessments (e.g. PREAL, CASS, etc.); prepare and disseminate technical reports related to regional and country education trends, education initiatives, and special topics (e.g., U.S. Brazil Partnership, Summit Education Initiative, secondary education, early childhood development, educational technology, national standards and assessments, education finance;
- B.** Assist LAC/RSD/EHR to develop a revised regional education strategy through an assessment of the current LAC strategy and SO 2 result framework that yields recommendations for a revised regional education strategy;
- C.** Support the educational policy agenda shared by the LAC Bureau and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through educational support activities;
- D.** Provide technical assistance to selected Central American and Caribbean countries in support of the LAC Regional Education Program and Mission bilateral programs;
- E.** Coordinate and provide logistical support for a regional workshop on educational policy reform for the LAC Bureau and its Missions; and

- F. Provide off-site support to LAC/RSD/EHR in the research, writing and dissemination of various documents that may include briefings, talking points, speeches, and other reports, as necessary.

Overview on Activities and Deliverables

Numerous tasks were begun during the first year under the BEPS LAC/RSD/ERH activity, which will provide final documents and deliverables within the next year. An important shift to be noted commencing the third quarter, however, is the extensive time and effort that is now to be focused on the Summit Education Initiative and creation of Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training.

The main activities falling under this new initiative for which CAII has responsibility are:

- Assessing regional teacher training needs and potential capacity of institutions to serve as Hemispheric Centers for Teacher Excellence.
- Produce three regional needs and capacity assessments—one each for the Caribbean, Central America, and Andean region of South America.
- Conduct an inventory of US institutions with exemplary resources in the areas of teacher training and reading instruction.
- Identify possibilities of forming Center of Excellence partnerships with participating countries.
- Supporting the Advisory Committee

The activities related to both the CETTs and the original Task Order are reported within the original Task Order deliverable categories.

- A. Reports on Initiatives - Creative Associates International Inc. is currently ensuring quality field research, assessment and technical assistance in three major areas – the Evaluation of PREAL, fieldwork pertaining to Private Sector Partnerships within the CETTs, and regional and institutional background research in the Caribbean which provides the basis for future success with CETTs. Prior to commencement of field work, CAII developed Scopes of Work, located and contracted quality consultants to carry out the task currently in progress. In addition, CAII coordinated and/or facilitated numerous sessions with stakeholders, including USAID at various levels, to detail objectives and design work plans.
- B. Preal Evaluation – Scope of Work and Work Plan were developed and fieldwork took place during the months of November and December of 2000. The final report was submitted to USAID during the second quarter.
- C. Revised Regional Strategy – Two consultants, Christina Nougton and Daniel Morales Gomez, facilitated an initial one day session and weekly follow up sessions with the LAC/RSD-EHR team in order to define regional frameworks and strategies. As a part of this effort, BEPS staff attended the G/HRD LAC Regional Education Conference held in Antigua, Guatemala for purposes of dialogue with regional LAC education officials regarding the regional strategy. Subsections were drafted and reviewed by LAC/EHR staff resulting in a Regional Education Strategy Plan,

Intermediate Results Diagram, Indicators Development Paper, and a Regional Education Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

- D. Technical Assistance – CAII completed two specific requests which incorporated development of Scopes of Work, locating appropriate consultants, developing work plans, on the ground information gathering and compilation of various drafts with final submission of completed documents. The first document and deliverable submitted in the third quarter is entitled “Towards the Development of an Education Strategy for El Salvador” which provides USAID/El Salvador mission with the detailed trends and strategies it requires to move forward. The second document and deliverable submitted to USAID in the fourth quarter was for Developing an Evaluation System for the Quality of Education in the Dominican Republic.
- E. Provide logistical support for workshops – In quarter three, Creative was asked to provide support leading up to the July 25-27 First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Education. CAII researched and developed eight documents which constituted a major portion of the conference guide. This included Curricular Participation Guide, Introduction, Overview and Announcements, Official Opening Plenary and For a, Workshops, Symposia, Thematic Plenary and Fora, Pedagogy Workshops, Dialogue and Fora, Conference Programs. The conference took place during the first month of the fourth quarter. All materials were reviewed and submitted to USAID during this last quarter.
- F. Briefings and Talking Points/Special Topics – During the third quarter the Evaluation of the Falconbridge Foundation School Sponsorship Program was executed by a team of three consultants. The final report was submitted to USAID during the fourth quarter, and findings were presented at USAID’s Global Human Capacity Development Conference. Pertaining to the CETT Consultative Committee, seven members were recruited representing the LAC region and US. Creative put together the tasks and responsibilities for the group, which held their first meeting during the last quarter.

Challenges:

During the first half of the year, the only challenge was due to time constraints which did not have detrimental results on project activities, as consultants were assigned, field work executed and reports delivered within the time frame.

The major challenge took place early in the third quarter which shifted the specific tasks, scope of work and expected deliverables from overarching to accommodate specifically the Presidential Initiative launched at the Summit of the Americas which tasked Creative with the design and set up of Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training. The efforts of the BEPS LAC task order shifted to address the support of the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT). This project has the characteristic and challenge that a very short period of time has been allotted for development of activities in the region and respond to the varied political concerns.

While this alone is its own challenge given the territory and cooperation needed to start in a positive light, the Creative team continued to respond to additional requests under the original task order. The challenge was juggling a variety of diverse tasks within a one year period. Responses have been to work as efficiently and effectively as possible within the existing time frames. It should be noted that the level of effort and increase in activities around the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training will only further overtake tasks highlighted in the original Task Order. Expectations are that all resources and energy will center solely on the Centers of Excellence.

Deliverables for October 1, 2000 – September 31, 2001

Proposed Deliverable	Activity	Deliverable	Date
<i>Evaluation #1, PREAL document.</i>	Evaluation of the Programa de Promocion de la Reforma Educativa en America Latina (PREAL)	Final Report submitted to USAID	Fourth Quarter
<i>Evaluation #2, CASS document.</i>			
<i>5 Policy Assessments</i>			
<i>10 Reports</i>	CETT- Caribbean CETT-Private Sector	SOW/Work plan Phase I Fieldwork SOW/Work plan	Third and Fourth Quarter
<i>LAC Regional Education Strategy Review and a Revised 5-year LAC Education Strategy.</i>	LAC Strategy Evaluation	Drafts of Regional Education Strategy Plan, Intermediate Results Diagram, Indicators Development Paper and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Second and Third Quarter
<i>5 Education Activities</i>			
<i>Technical Assistance to 4+ Missions/Countries</i>	Towards the Development of an Education Strategy for El Salvador Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic for Developing an Evaluation System for the Quality of Education	Final report Final Report	Fourth Quarter Fourth Quarter
<i>10 Ad Hoc Reports</i>	Evaluation of the Falconbridge Foundation School Sponsorship Program CETT- Consultative Committee	Final Evaluation Tasks/ Responsibilities & First Meeting	Third Quarter Fourth Quarter
<i>5 Special Topics Papers</i>			
<i>LAC Education Policy Workshop</i>	First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Education	Eight Documents on Sessions Submitted	Fourth Quarter