

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

Year 2001, Quarter Performance Report

Year I, Quarter II

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

This Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS), LAC/RSD-EHR Activity quarterly report includes Tasks, Accomplishments, and Progress; Status on Required Deliverables; and Challenges and Planned Responses.

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, 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 (i.e. Regional Indicators Project, PREAL, etc) and Mission bilateral programs;
- E.** Assist LAC missions to develop bilateral education strategies, result frameworks,

design pilots or demonstration activities, applied research, and policy analyses;

F. Coordinate and provide logistical support for a regional workshop on educational policy reform for the LAC Bureau and its Missions; and

G. 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.

2. Status on Required Deliverables (quarter activities/documents in bold):

The LAC/RSD-EHR contract specifies several deliverables to be accomplished during the project period under this task order. Once accomplishments related to these deliverables are achieved, this will be reported. The required deliverables that have been worked on during this quarter are:

1. Evaluation #1-PREAL Evaluation

Progress: The consultants debriefed the Director of PREAL and received comments regarding the first draft of their report. BEPS, after incorporating comments from USAID Washington and the Nicaraguan, Peruvian mission as well as PREAL submitted the report to USAID.

2. Technical Assistance to Missions/countries (4+)

- Towards the Development of an Education Strategy for El Salvador.

Progress: The draft report was completed and sent to USAID for review. The final report was presented for review to USAID/El Salvador on January 23, 2001.

3. LAC Regional Education Strategy Review and a Revised 5-year LAC Education Strategy

Progress: On May 11th the LAC/RSD-EHR team had a one day meeting with the purpose of continuing to define their strategy. The meeting was facilitated by Christina Noughton and Daniel Morales Gomez. The BEPS team continues to hold weekly meetings with LAC/RSD-EHR to further discuss the framework. BEPS/LAC consultants and team worked with LAC/RSD-EHR staff to further develop the strategy. 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. Input was offered to draft subsections which were reviewed by LAC/HER staff.

3. Challenges and Planned Responses:

No specific challenges worth noting for this quarter.

Second Quarter (deliverables are highlighted)

Proposed Deliverable	Activity/document	Progress to date	Date
Evaluation #1, PREAL document.	Evaluation of the Programa de Promocion de la Reforma Educativa en America Latina (PREAL)	Work plan Fieldwork Second draft	11/24/00 11/28/00- 12/19/00 3/1/01
<i>Evaluation #2, document.</i>			
<i>5 Policy Assessments</i>			
<i>10 Reports</i>			
LAC Regional Education Strategy Review and a Revised 5-year LAC Education Strategy.	LAC Strategy Evaluation	Work plan LAC/RSD-HER meeting	1/17/01
<i>5 Education Activities</i>			
<i>Technical Assistance to 4+ Missions/Countries</i>	Towards the Development of an Education Strategy for El Salvador	SOW/Work plan Fieldwork Final report submitted to the mission	11/28/00 12/3-19/00 1/23/01
<i>10 Ad Hoc Reports</i>			
<i>5 Special Topics Papers</i>			
<i>LAC Education Policy Workshop</i>			
<i>Report, LAC Education Policy Workshop</i>			