

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

Year 2001, Quarter Performance Report

Year I, Quarter III

Contractor: CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Contract No.: HNE-I-00-00-00038-00, Task Order #10
Reporting Period: April 1, 2001 – June 30, 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:

The LAC/RSID-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. Reports –

- CETT – Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training

LAC/EHR announced the new Strategic Initiative this quarter giving it high priority. Main activities falling under this Task Order:

- 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

2. Preal Evaluation

- The final document delivered to USAID May 23.

3. Technical Assistance to Missions/Countries (4+)

- Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic for Developing an Evaluation System for the Quality of Education
- LAC/EHR asked BEPS to provide a consultant to USAID/DR for purposes of assisting to MOE development

Progress: fieldwork conducted from June the 17th to 21.

4. Special Topics

- Evaluation of the Falconbridge Foundation School Sponsorship Program

Progress: BEPS was requested by LAC to conduct an evaluation/assessment of the Foundation School Sponsorship Program/SOW, BEPS recruited and fielded an evaluation team of three consultants (Patricia Craig, Joel Gomez and Virginia Lambert). The team developed a strategy, the methods and tools for the evaluation and conducted fieldwork in the Dominican Republic. The draft report is currently being developed.

- First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Education.

The Access to Bilingual Intercultural Education Project (PAEBI) of World Learning, together with USAID, the Government of Guatemala and other national and international institutions, is organizing the First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Education to be held in Guatemala City from 25 through 27 July, 2001. The purpose of the Conference is to stimulate a formal and free exchange of ideas, strategies and experiences across countries of the Western Hemisphere related to the design and implementation of education for the multicultural and multilingual societies that characterize the region. Main Activities for BEPS

- Gather, format and compile the various formal papers and speeches presented at the conference to prepare a formal record (Proceedings) of the conference.
- In collaboration with PAEBI in Guatemala, create a document that synthesizes the major themes and highlights of the presentations and dialogues that occurred during the conference.
- Design a strategy for the electronic dissemination of both documents to parties identified by World Learning.

Progress: developed SOW and proposal

5. LAC Regional Strategy Review

Two consultants (Amanda and Mike Viola) elaborated the Scope of Work, Work plan, drafted meeting report, and began development of indicators and matrix.

Third Quarter (deliverables are highlighted)

Proposed Deliverable	Activity/document	Progress to Date	Date
<i>Evaluation #1, PREAL</i>	Evaluation of the Programa de Promocion de la Reforma Educativa en America Latina (PREAL)	Work plan Fieldwork	11/24/00 11/28/00- 12/19/00
<i>CASS</i>			
<i>5 Policy Assessments</i>			
<i>10 Reports</i>	CETT Initiative Commenced	SOW developed	
<i>LAC Regional Education Strategy Review and a Revised 5-year LAC Education Strategy.</i>	LAC Strategy Evaluation	SOW/Work plan/draft report meeting indicator and matrix	
<i>5 Education Activities</i>			
<i>Technical Assistance to 4+ Missions/Countries</i>	Towards the Development of an Education Strategy for El Salvador	Work plan Fieldwork	11/28/00 12/3-19/00
	Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic for Developing an Evaluation System for the Quality of Education	Fieldwork	4/17-21/01
<i>10 Ad Hoc Reports</i>			
<i>5 Special Topics Papers</i>	Evaluation of the Falconbridge Foundation School Sponsorship Program	Fieldwork	
	First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Education	SOW developed and research commenced	
	Consultative Committee	Tasks and Responsibilities Drafted	
<i>LAC Education Policy Workshop</i>			