

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

## **Year 2001, Quarter Performance Report**

### **Year II, Quarter I**

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

This Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS), LAC/RSD-EHR Activity quarterly report includes Tasks, Accomplishments, and Progress; Status on Deliverables; and Challenges and Planned Response. For further information, please see the corresponding comprehensive BEPS's quarterly report submitted under separate cover.

#### **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.

Note: The CETT was sole focus and priority during this quarter.

The required deliverables that have been worked on during this quarter are:

### **1. Reports (10 in total)**

- **Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) –**

#### **Caribbean**

The draft from the first visit with the assessment was presented to USAID.

**Progress:** A second trip to Jamaica was conducted (Phase II Assessment) by a team including a teacher training specialist, and members of USAID and CAII. The purpose of the trip was to start conversations with the University of West Indies and its Joint Board of Teacher Education. A concept paper for the project was drafted as a result of the trip

#### **Central America**

**Progress:** A first trip to Central America was conducted (Phase I Assessment). The team made up of two teacher training experts and three educational generalists traveled to Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Mexico. The focus of the assessment was on teacher training needs, country capacity and on identifying institutions that could serve as the host for the CETT. The team concluded that no single institution could host the center by itself and proposed a consortium model.

The Central America team produced a short report with the findings has been distributed to the Consultative Committee.

- Private Sector

Progress: Private sector companies were approached. CETT South America - preparation began for field work in. At this stage the field team has been formed and 80 potential donors were identified.

Progress: the brochure for the private sector participation has been finalized and is ready for distribution. The team produced an updated report on public-private partnership.

## 2. Special Reports

- CETT – Consultative Committee

Progress: The second meeting of the Consultative Committee was held in the offices of CAII. The main topics for the meeting were the presentation of the assessment findings from the Caribbean and Central America, and the search for best practices in the region and the US. The meeting was facilitated by CAII staff members, and among the attendees were the regular CC members, Aguirre International, the Department of Education, USAID and CAII. An “ad hoc report” was produced with meeting conclusions and distributed among the participants after incorporating USAID’s comments and suggestions. The meeting was held and the report was submitted to USAID on October 1, 2001.

CETT – Consultative Committee’s second meeting report was presented to USAID and sent to the participants.

## 3. **Challenges and Planned Responses:**

The following challenges confronted the LAC/RSID-HER team as they moved forward to conduct the planned activities under the task order. Following the explanation of the challenge is the planned response of the LAC/RSID-HER team to address the challenge.

- Challenge: Heterogeneity of the reports

The assessment reports - written by the team leader of each assessment team - tend to be very heterogeneous in style and in the criteria on how to present the information. This situation created many inconveniences to the process, with CAII staff having to rewrite reports in order to adjust them to USAID’s expectations and standards.

Planned response: a technical writer will be hired by CAII to work on fine tuning reports meeting a certain pre-establish style criteria established in advanced with

USAID. The editor will be involved in all the report writing to be submitted to USAID. He/she will review USAID's comments and incorporate suggestions from missions, delivering a final product according to USAID's expectations and needs.

- **Challenge: Clear definition of the CETT for private sector participation**  
The private sector effort has been reiterating a clearer outline of the CETT, at a time when the design of the centers has not been yet developed. The private sector outreach team has been expressing a need of clarification in order to engage and commit private sector partners.

We received a SOW for a modification in the task order, we prepared the proposal and the budget.

**Planned response:** a number of documents will be developed in order to clarify the process and highlight the advantages of contributing to a project such as the CETT. This includes the compilation of the Frequently Asked Questions by the Private Sector and a brochure for public sector solicitation.

**Fifth Quarter (deliverables are highlighted)**

Proposed Deliverable	Activity/document	Actual Deliverable	Date
<i>Evaluation #1, PREAL document.</i>	Evaluation of the Programa de Promocion de la Reforma Educativa en America Latina (PREAL)	Report Submitted to USAID	Year 1
<i>Evaluation #2, CASS document.</i>			
<i>5 Policy Assessments</i>			
<i>10 Reports</i>	<b>CETT- Caribbean</b>	SOW/Work plan Phase I Fieldwork Phase I draft report Phase II Fieldwork	8/28/01 9/1-29/01  11/5-9/01
	<b>CETT- Central America</b>	SOW/Work plan Phase I Fieldwork	9/29/01- 10/27/01
	<b>CETT- Private Sector</b>	SOW/Work plan 9-17-02 weekly report 9-24-01 weekly report 10-1-01 weekly report 10-8-01 weekly report 10-15-01 weekly report 10-22-01 weekly report 10-29-01 weekly report 11-5-01 weekly report 11-26-01 weekly report 12-3-01 weekly report 12-12-01 weekly report	9/6/01 9/21/01 9/28/01 10/5/01 10/12/01 10/19/01 11/2/01 11/2/01 11/9/01 12/7/01 12/7/01 12/14/01
<i>LAC Regional Education Strategy Review and a Revised 5-year LAC Education Strategy.</i>	LAC Strategy Evaluation	SOW/Work plan Draft documents submitted	Year 1
<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	11/28/00 12/3-19/00 8/1/01
	Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic for Developing an Evaluation System for the Quality of Education	Fieldwork Final Report	4/17-21/01 7/1/01
<i>10 Ad Hoc Reports</i>	CETT- Private Sector	<b>Final brochure for private sector solicitation</b> Update report on public private partnership	<b>10/1/01</b>  12/13/01
<i>5 Special Topics Papers</i>	Evaluation of the Falconbridge Foundation School Sponsorship Program	SOW/Work plan Fieldwork Final Report	Year 1

	CETT- Consultative Committee	First Meeting	8/14-15/01
	CETT- Consultative Committee	Second Meeting	11/15-16/01
	First Hemispheric Conference on Indigenous Education	SOW Conference 8 documents submitted	5/23/01 7/25-27/01 Quarter 4 Year 1
<i>LAC Education Policy Workshop</i>			