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# CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

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United States Catholic Conference

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 31, 1983

Ms. Jane Nandy  
NE/TECH/SARD  
Agency for International Development  
Washington, D. C. 20523

SUBJECT : JWB - AID/NE-G-1650  
Rural Development Project

Dear Ms. Nandy:

Enclosed please find three (3) copies of a CRS evaluation of the above referenced Grant for the period of 31 August 1979 through 31 August 1982.

This report delineates the positive impact on the Arab villages of the completed subprojects and reasons why more could not be completed. In August 1982 only 23 sub-projects were finished. By July 1, 1983, 28 (5 more) sub-projects have been completed, 8 sub-projects are on-going, 7 sub-projects have been submitted for approval and 2 have been identified.

We hope you will find this report informative and useful and welcome your comments.

With personal best wishes,

Sincerely,



Grace B. Hauck  
Contract Officer

Enclosures (3)

GBH:rb

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- Project Evaluation covering the period 31 August 1979 through 31 August 1982 (at the end of the third year of operation i.e. end of the Grant).
- On 31 August 1979 the sum of \$ 1,580,700 was granted by AID to Catholic Relief Services to provide support to a program for rural development self-help projects in the areas of Agriculture, Health/Sanitation, Education and Electrification in villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 50 sub-projects in 45 rural villages were to be implemented over the 3 year period of the Grant. Of the 50 sub-projects at least 2 or 3 were to be undertaken in the Gaza Strip. According to the Evaluation Guidelines, completion of 40 sub-projects would be considered success of the over-all project.
- In fact, only 23 sub-projects were completed during the three year period of the original grant, requiring an extension of the Grant for an additional 2 years, to reach the original goal of 50 sub-projects. (See Table A for details on implementation schedule).
- There are a number of reasons as to why the Grant has fallen so far behind its sub-project implementation schedule, and they all involve factors beyond CRS/JWB control. The reasons have all been enumerated and explained in the five earlier Semi-Annual Progress Reports on the Grant. To recapitulate, however, they were as follows:
  1. Late arrival of actual Grant documents - )  
(at Grant beginning
  2. Late arrival of Grant operating funds - )
  3. The great slowness on the part of the West Bank Military Gov't. in granting sub-project approvals (still the major reason for falling behind);
  4. A shortage of some construction materials in the country;
  5. The shortage of skilled & unskilled labourers available ) during 1st &  
for sub-project work during the summer months; ( 2nd years of  
( Grant
  6. Severe inflation which has pushed up the cost of sub-projects making it that much harder for the villagers to raise their share of sub-project costs: because it takes them longer to collect their share, actual implementation of the sub-project is slowed down;
  7. There were more disturbances in the area of operations than foreseen, causing a lot of operating delay. The general situation in the area over the past 3 years has made it a more difficult place to work in.
  8. In retrospect, we ourselves set a sub-project target that was overly ambitious. In hind sight, it is now clear to us that attempting to carry out in only 3 years time a grand total of 50 sub-projects was setting our sights much too high. The goal of 50 sub-projects remains as worthwhile as ever, but achieving it requires a 2 year extension of the Grant.

- The extension requires additional funding as well, due to the drastic increases in costs of materials and wages, brought about by the staggering inflation in Israel & the West Bank: over 100% annually.
- Although the Grant agreement called for a joint CRS-AID Evaluation at the end of the third year, no AID evaluator was sent out to conduct the evaluation. This is based on the assumption that the grant will be extended for 2 years: the joint evaluation will be conducted at the end of the extension, as part of the Final Report on the project.
- In the year since the 1st Evaluation (i.e. the 3rd Project Year) we have completed 10 sub-projects, compared with a total of 13 for the first 2 years. Some of these 10 were begun during the 2nd project year; also, previous problems of manpower and material shortages are no longer as severe.
- The 23 sub-projects which we managed to complete during the three year period, and which we have already listed in our Sixth Semi-Annual Progress Report, were all successful: all met the General Goal or Broad Objective: the development of under-developed rural villages. All achieved the General Goal Result, as set out in the Evaluation Guidelines: improvement in one sector of the infrastructure of a rural village. Each completed sub-project met its Specific Purpose, as set out in the Evaluation Guidelines:

## I. AGRICULTURE

### A. Agricultural Access Road

One sub-project has been completed, for Assira-Al-Qibliyeh village (07) bringing an additional 2600 dunums (2,600,000 sq.m.) of land under cultivation. Tractors and threshing machines are now being used in the area for the first time.

Transportation of produce to market has been significantly improved: prior to this sub-project, donkeys had to be used. This means of transport was not only slow, it meant that only a small amount of produce could be transported at a time; as a result, most of the produce reached market in poor condition, bringing low prices. Now, more produce reaches market quickly, enabling the farmers to get a higher return. Ease of access now means that extension agents of the Agriculture Dept. can reach Assira for inspection and expert advice

### B. Village Access Roads

We have managed to complete six sub-projects (02, 03, 13, 19, 21, 22). The benefits from these sub-projects include:

1. Villagers have bought pick-ups that are carrying their agricultural produce out to the market where they can sell it, in some cases for export to the Arab countries through Jordan

2. School-age children can commute to distant schools whereas before they either had to leave home to pursue their education, or - as in most cases - abandon their studies.  
Trucks now bring in far greater quantities and varieties of food and consumer goods, giving villagers access to a higher standard of living.  
Men can more readily commute to higher-paying jobs in distant towns; their increased income also helps to raise the standard of living of their families.
3. In Missilieh(02), where the sub-project only asphalted the worst sections of road, the villagers were so enthusiastic that they took advantage of the presence of asphaltting machines to have the rest of the road asphalted completely at their own expense.
4. In Al-Taram (03) the village access road serves a dual purpose: it is also an agricultural access road, connecting the village with its fields.
5. A number of families living outside, have moved back to these villages. Village to town migration is reduced.

## II. HEALTH/SANITATION

### A. Out-Patient Health Clinic

The out-patient health clinic sub-projects provided 'Aroura & Taffouh (08, 09) with improved out-patient health facilities. The benefits from these sub-projects include:

1. In 'Aroura (08), had this clinic not been constructed, there would be no Health Service available at all. Before, the village had been renting three small rooms in a private house which did not include any waiting rooms: patients had to wait outside under the hot sun in summer and the heavy rain in winter. Moreover, the landlord asked the villagers to move their clinic somewhere else, as he was in need of the rooms for his own personal use. The villagers could find no other premises. The only alternative for them was to build a proper health facility, or lose health services altogether. The new out-patient health clinic ensures them continuing health services in the village, and represents a tremendous improvement over the old makeshift rented rooms.
2. The new clinic in Taffouh replaced the small makeshift "health clinic" which consisted of a small movable wooden barracks measuring 4 x 2.5 m2. The completed clinic consists of 3 rooms (for the doctor, nurse and pharmacy) in addition to a waiting hall, a kitchen and w.c. units. It also possesses its own independent water supply system, installed completely at the expense of the village.

B. Water Delivery System

Two sub-projects have been completed, for Al-Midya and Al-Shawawreh villages (15, 29) connecting them with a supply of clean and running drinking water. The two villages are now linked to a supply of running water, which is protected, at its source and during delivery, from contamination. Instead of having to haul water by the bucketful from public distribution points (as originally planned), the villagers have, for the first time, an ample supply of running water in their homes. This greatly increases the likelihood that they will use water in sufficient quantities to properly clean their food, clothes, house and their own bodies. A number of families came back from the city and settled in these villages.

C. Interior Village Streets

Five sub-projects were completed (01, 04, 07, 18, 28). These sub-projects have brought about the following benefits:

1. The general sanitary environment has been improved. This is due to the fact that a smooth hard surface allows the removal of accumulated garbage and animal excrement which are breeding grounds of disease-carrying insects.
2. Vehicles, including ambulances, have access to the heart of the village, for the first time.
3. Mud in winter and dust in summer in parts of these villages is also reduced.

III. E D U C A T I O N

A. Primary Schools

These sub-projects improved primary level education facilities in Zababdeh, Al-Salatin and Raq'a villages (05, 16, 17). Zababdeh sub-project has achieved its expected results in that impractical, cramped rented rooms were replaced with a proper school. More space was created allowing for increased enrollment while eliminating overcrowding of classes. For the first time, Raq'a now has a girls' school, and Al-Salatin has a school for boys and girls. This relieved the pupils from their daily burden of walking to far away schools, which they could not do in heavy rains; this used to cause them to miss out on their education during much of the winter (Nov. - March). The Three schools have all the modern facilities. The Education Department of the West Bank has provided all the necessary furniture for the schools. It also provides the text books and pays the salaries of the teachers.

B. Community Center

These sub-projects improved community-sponsored and oriented activities in Till & 'Aroura villages (10, 11). The two new centers replaced small

rooms rented in private houses. More space was created allowing for increased enrollment in the existing activities: Kindergarten, literacy classes, sewing and knitting classes. A number of women are attending the mother and child care classes ( under the supervision of CRS Health Education Project 79/2, AID-NE-G- 1652). These classes did not exist prior to the construction of the community centers.

C. Vocational Training Equipment For Community Centers

One sub-project has been completed (23) : Taybeh Community Center has been provided with vocational training equipment . The Taybeh Women's Benevolent Society and the Reformation and Welfare Association have acquired 22 more improved, industrial knitting and sewing machines plus two typewriters. The societies teach the art of knitting and sewing and has graduated over 70 women from the sewing and knitting sections. The societies engaged the graduates in production work: Now they are employees, who have sufficient income that may be used in buying healthy food, better clothes, thus reaching a higher standard of living. The societies also help those trainees who acquire typing skills find employment.

IV. ELECTRIFICATION

In the area of village electrification we have succeeded in achieving one sub-project (20). The completed sub-project provided Zbouba with electrical power. Electrical lighting is available in the village for the first time in its history. On their own, the villagers went on and connected most of their houses with electricity from the main internal electrical network. A carpenter bought an electric saw to improve his work. A small shop has also brought a used refrigerator to the village. Now any electric machine may be used in Zbouba.

TABLE A

A LIST OF RURAL VILLAGE PROJECTS CARRIED OUT  
AND TO BE CARRIED OUT DURING ENTIRE LIFE OF  
GRANT - 1650 - PROJECT 79/1  
AS OF 31 AUGUST 1982

A. AGRICULTURE				B. HEALTH/SANITATION				C. EDUCATION				D. ELECTRIFICATION			
Sub-project Type	No. to be Carried Out	Carried Out	Bal.	Sub-project Type	No. to be Carried Out	Carried Out	Bal.	Sub-project Type	No. to be Carried Out	Carried Out	Bal.	Sub-proj. Type	No. to be Carried Out	Carried Out	Bal.
1. Agricult. Roads	5	1	4	1. Out-Patient Clinic	3	2	1	1. Primary Schools	7	3	4	1. Electr. village through prov. of generator or improv. existing electricity			
2. Access Roads	4	6	(2)	2. Water Delivery System	6	2	4	2. Community Centers	6	2	4				
3. Agricult. Machinery For Co-operatives	3	-	3	3. Interior Village Streets	7	5	2	3. Vocational Training Equip. for Com. Centers	4	1	3		5	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

Total to be carried out 50  
Total carried out to date 23

Total remaining to be done  
(of which now 6 are ongoing) 27

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