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CODEL INC.

Coordination in Development

CODEL DEMOCRATIZATION AND SOCIAL AWARENESS PROJECTS

A CONCEPT PAPER

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I. Organizational Background

Founded in 1969, CODEL is a membership association of 40 Christian organizations whose primary purpose is to assist the sustainable socio-economic development of communities in need throughout Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. CODEL fulfills its mission by:

- * providing direct support to grassroots organizations for the implementation of small-scale development projects that focus on: agriculture and rural development, community-based health care and nutrition, and non-formal education, social awareness;
- * promoting greater awareness of environmental and social concerns related to sustainable overseas development through communications, training, publications and seminars.

II. Program Summary

CODEL's focus on South Africa will be democratization, children's rights, conflict resolution and training. Because of the changing political environment in South Africa and the absence of community development assistance programs for the majority of South African Nationals, CODEL plans to undertake projects that address social issues in various communities through the implementation of projects.

a. Conflict Resolution and Training

To address the present social problems in South Africa, CODEL plans to work with grass-roots organizations, local NGO's, churches and educational institutions by sponsoring projects that encourage dialogue and offer skills in conflict resolution. As characteristic of CODEL projects, decisions about local programs will be made by local people who understand their needs, problems and opportunities. Implementation of projects in the area of conflict resolution and skills training will ensure that people understand the issues at hand and are involved in decision-making processes that work toward acceptable solutions.

b. Democratization

Democratization issues in South Africa are of uttermost importance as never before. Inevitably, apartheid is going to crumble but with the past history of the country, there has not been much experience in living in a democratic country or what democracy means. CODEL plans to work with women's groups to facilitate a process of community development by sponsoring projects that not only educate women, but also equips them with skills that will enable them to fully participate in all activities carried out in an independent and democratic South Africa. Such projects will include literacy, education that facilitates

participation in the voter process, conflict resolution as well as small-scale enterprise development.

III. Specific Program Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of CODEL's projects will be to assist South Africans to prepare for the post-Apartheid period. The main focus will be training women and youth so as to enable them to take their rightful place as leaders and citizens of an independent South Africa. Programs will be tailored to address social problems that confront people in this country especially poverty, racism, lack of education, voter inexperience, human rights and violence. Because of the changes taking place in South Africa, CODEL has been approached by various institutions requesting sponsorship of projects that prepare South African Nationals to engage in conflict resolution and training in how to deal with negative issues.

CODEL plans to work with groups that offer services to "Children in Crisis". Among the several problems afflicting these children, the most compelling is violence. A number of young South African Children, some as young as two years, have been exposed to extreme violence. Many children have witnessed the death of a parent and even at times been forced to participate in these events, says the director of a NGO that works with some of these children. They have been brutalized and terrorized by authorities who have imprisoned them without hearings. Those who escape or who have been released are so traumatized that many suffer from post traumatic syndrome.

A sector in which CODEL plans to work in relation to women is voter education. Women's organization have requested CODEL to sponsor projects that will offer preparation for elections. Women believe that much is at stake if they are not given preparation and instructions for the voting process, in which they have never previously participated. Examples have been given to CODEL staff of the pitfalls that result in dismissal from the voting process: an expired ID card, a misspelt name, or an out dated address. The women worry that these criteria will be used to make them ineligible to vote. Women also wish to learn how to evaluate a candidate so that they can choose a person who will voice their concerns instead of voting for candidates of their male folk's choice.

In addition to the foci on democratization and conflict resolution, CODEL south Africa projects will share the following characteristics with all CODEL projects:

- * special emphasis on the role and importance of women, children and youth;
- * contribution of local resources;
- * local institutional building that strengthens organizations to sustain the project's work beyond the life of the grant;
- * strong ongoing networking and cooperation among local grassroots groups that will continue beyond the project;

- * promotion of environmentally sound use and management of natural resources;
- * promotion of social awareness/justice and its effect on community development.

IV. Methodology

CODEL's South Africa projects will be implemented with methodology, management and evaluation standards for all agency projects.

CODEL responds to requests from grassroots groups to support development activities within a local community base. CODEL assists projects in countries where two or more of CODEL member organizations are present, which ensures sustainability of activities through ecumenical cooperation. CODEL's member organizations participate in the life of a project both at the field level and policy making level by sharing experience, systems, personnel and other resources to create a cost efficient system of implementation and management.

CODEL promotes the participation of local residents in the design and implementation of project activities as a further indication of their ownership of them. The organization concentrates its efforts and resources on promoting small-scale development projects that address issues identified by the community-based on the needs and interests expressed by local inhabitants.

V. Management and Evaluation

One of CODEL's responsibilities as an organization exercising stewardship over financial contributions of many supporters is to provide donors with periodic reports on specific activities, and progress or lack of progress towards project goals. To fulfill this responsibility, CODEL requires six-month progress and financial reports, annual audit reports, a mid-term assessment and an end-of-term project evaluation.

CODEL's strong commitment to monitoring and evaluation requires the training of project holder staff through periodic visits by CODEL staff, correspondence, and training events. So as not to turn this monitoring into control of supported projects, CODEL concentrates on maintaining open lines of communication with project holders. Field visits to evaluate progress and management systems complement these standard monitoring procedures. CODEL staff in field visits also review projects and build relationships with resident member organization representatives, local leaders and non-governmental organizational staff.

CODEL does not have active projects in South Africa at this time. However, CODEL staff visited church groups and leaders, women's groups, and educational institutions in South Africa early this year. Since then, the agency has received a number of requests from different institutions requesting CODEL to become involved in various projects particularly those dealing with current and post-apartheid issues. We believe that this is an opportune time to become involved and that there is much work to be done here. Additional information

on proposed projects, is available for reference.

There is a tremendous need for development in South Africa as it moves to the Post-Apartheid period. CODEL can join with numerous member partners and their colleague agencies who are known, proven and accountable in their responsible use of limited resources. With the present constraints on USAID budget for Africa, it is all the more important to invest these public funds in an accountable cost effective style for maximum results among the South African majority population. The USA's willingness to help prepare for democracy can begin with AID expenditure of \$200,000 per year in South Africa through CODEL and its partners. Over five years, this 1 million dollars will inspire other funds for development projects that will gain self support that is sustainable for the longer term.

As a result of successful implementation of this process, CODEL would anticipate that this partnership will grow as AID/CODEL interests are mutually fulfilled.