

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	LAC Regional
Program Title:	Education and Training Improvement
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	598-023
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$17,685,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$860,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$12,000,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2011

Summary: The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional education and training program provides technical assistance and training to improve the environment for education reform; skills of teachers and administrators; and relevance and skills of the workforce. The program supports regional educational reform initiatives; builds regional constituencies and networks to support improved quality education; and supports innovative cross-national research.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improving the environment for education reform (\$3,000,000 DA). The USAID-supported Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas (PREAL) will continue to improve the availability of education data as new national report cards are published. The recently published Central American Report Card will be expanded to selected provincial capitals, with presentations to Latin American legislatures, civil society organizations, and business leaders. PREAL affiliates will also begin a regular series of opinion articles on education policy for newspapers in LAC countries. Under the Civic Engagement for Education Reform in Central America (CERCA) activity, USAID will fund a planned regional workshop at which key constituencies and policy makers will examine educational management practices, including decentralization, that facilitate effective parental and community involvement. Prime implementers include the Inter-American Dialogue, Academy for Educational Development, Aquirre International, and Creative Associates.

Improving the skills of teachers and administrators (\$6,885,000 DA). USAID will provide training and technical assistance under the Centers of Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT) for training of teachers and administrators. New materials will be developed and tested and research will be conducted on reading methodologies. USAID will initiate qualitative studies on the impact of new teaching methods in the classroom. More emphasis will be placed on involving the local communities and public-private partnerships in the Centers. Support from U.S.-based corporations and foundations will continue to be identified for the three CETT centers and local funding raising capacity within CETT countries will be developed. Prime implementers include the University of the West Indies, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazan, Creative Associates International, Aguirre International, and International Medical Services for Health, Inc.

Improving the relevance and skills of the workforce (\$7,800,000 DA). USAID will recruit new participants into the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS) program to equip a broad base of leaders and potential leaders in LAC countries with skills, training, and education needed for effective participation in market-based economies and democratic societies. The USAID-funded training will offer technical skills that are in demand in the participants' home country. The prime implementer is Georgetown University Center for Intercultural Education and Development.

FY 2005 Program:

Improving the environment for education reform (\$3,360,000 DA). Under CERCA, USAID will provide technical assistance to implement action plans to promote education reforms and mechanisms by which parents and communities can hold schools accountable. USAID will continue to expand PREAL's support base for educational improvements, particularly outside the capitals, and publish additional report cards. PREAL will also help public policy centers in several Central American countries develop systematic strategies to reform and improve education policy. These initiatives will analyze obstacles to reform, establish priorities and action plans, and form national task forces to implement the strategy. Same implementers as above.

Improving the skills of teachers and administrators (\$840,000 DA). With continued technical assistance and training, CETT will reach its full potential to train annually about 5,000 teachers and administrators in the region. Research and qualitative studies on the new teaching methods and best practices will be widely distributed. The program will focus on applying those methods and practices using appropriate technology and distance education techniques. The development of the local capacity to raise funds within CETT countries will be complete and, coupled with the support from U.S.-based corporations and foundations, the three CETTS will be on the path to self-sufficiency. Same implementers as above.

Improving the relevance and skills of the workforce (\$7,800,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide funds for participants under the CASS scholarship program. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: PREAL continues to provide high quality education data and policy reform support for the LAC region. PREAL produced two national and one regional report card in 2003 which have received wide recognition among political and education leaders across the hemisphere. Based on the success of the PREAL national report card in Colombia, a local foundation has asked for help in producing similar report cards for several large municipalities. PREAL-supported business groups, working nationally on education reform, have also gained increasing prominence in the region. In Panama and Guatemala, these business groups are producing policy documents for presentation to Presidential candidates. In Honduras, PREAL's business-education group is initiating an adopt-a-school program.

In FY 2003, CERCA conducted analyses to identify opportunities for regional or multi-country activities in Central America and Mexico. These analyses will be influential in the development of education reform activities in those countries.

CETT began full operations in FY 2003. To date, 1,379 teachers have been trained; and, more than 45,000 children have benefited from the use of new teaching methodologies in their classrooms. A strategy has been developed to obtain private sector donations and a structure put in place to manage and distribute contributions. Technical assistance has been provided to universities in support of fundraising and fund management capabilities. Hundreds of companies were screened as potential contributors and a large donation was secured from Scholastic Books over the next three years.

CASS continues to have high completion and return rates. Of the 248 trainees scheduled to complete their programs in 2003, 240 (96.7%) were successful and 243 (98%) returned to their home country. Approximately 90% of the students gained employment upon their return. The CASS program recruited participants for the 2004 cycle.

By the end of the program, education reform efforts in the region, particularly in Central America, will be expanded and deepened; all Central American countries will be producing national report cards on the status and performance of their educational systems; and there will be a greater role for civil society and the business community in education reform. The CETT institutions will have improved programs for training teachers in reading instruction methodology; participating primary school teachers will have skills to effectively teach reading in the early grades; and more students will learn how to read. CASS participants will be successfully trained and will return to their countries to be gainfully employed.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

LAC Regional

	CSH	DA	ESF
598-023 Education and Training Improvement			
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	2,290	8,355	7,000
Expenditures	1,266	278	0
Unliquidated	1,024	8,077	7,000
Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	19,086	0
Expenditures	287	4,473	2,342
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	2,290	27,441	7,000
Expenditures	1,553	4,751	2,342
Unliquidated	737	22,690	4,658
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	860	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	17,685	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	18,545	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	12,000	0
Future Obligations	0	40,196	0
Est. Total Cost	2,290	98,182	7,000