APPI AND APPI/TIPP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

UNDP, IN COLLABORATION WITH ILO, PAHO, UNESCO, WFP AND UNOPS

IN CENTRAL AMERICA
Funding

Through the APPI/UNDP Trust Fund, the Italian Government contributed USD 1,390,000 for the APPI Programme in the four countries, and granted the fund a further USD 11,500,000 for the APPI/TIPP Programme in the four countries.

The EU contributed USD 3,000,000 for projects linked to APPI in Nicaragua and El Salvador. BID and the Japanese Government each contributed USD 450,000 to the Office for the Historical Centre of Tegucigalpa. The decentralised cooperation committees committed USD 406,000 for 2004.

PRESENTATION

Duration of activities
The Programme started in November 2001 and was ongoing as of December 2003.

National coordination
The national institutions responsible for the Anti-Poverty Partnership Initiative / Territorial, Integrated and Participatory Programme (APPI/TIPP) are:

El Salvador: Social Integration Committee, chaired by the Minister for Education, with the participation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.
Guatemala: Office for Economic and Social Planning (SEGEPLAN), which coordinates government interventions for poverty reduction.
Honduras: Ministry of the Interior, responsible for administrative decentralisation, and Ministry of the Presidency of the Republic, responsible for policies against poverty.
Nicaragua: Office for Coordination and Strategy of the Presidency of the Republic (SECEP), which coordinates national policies against poverty.

National committees were set up in each country, convened by respective national institutions, with the participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and cooperation organisations.

Governments involved in cooperation
Italy, Japan, and the European Union (EU).

Territorial actors
Since 2001, the leading roles in the Programme have been taken by the development councils of the Departments of León, Valle, Morazán, Huehuetenango and Chiquimula, and the Council of the Autonomous North Atlantic Region (RAAN) of Nicaragua. The councils include representatives of the public and private sectors from the respective territories.

Local economical development agencies (LEDAs) operate in the Departments of León, Valle, Morazán, Huehuetenango and Chiquimula, and play a leading role in internationalised economic territorial development.

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Nicaragua’s national development plan provided for important state reforms. Among these was the creation of technical and policy-making departmental organs: development councils, technical offices, territorial public investment units (UTIP) and planning units. In June 2003, UNDP signed an operational agreement with SECEP to contribute to these reforms, and the APPI/TIPP Programme set up a first UTIP in the Department of León, UTIP-León. The UTIP carries out technical functions on behalf of the development council for the production of the department’s development plan. This is the first time one has been set up in Nicaragua, and SECEP will use it in its plans to extend them nationwide. The development council and UTIP-León are providing technical assistance to the neighbouring Department of Chinandega to help establish a UTIP there.

In Guatemala, UNDP supported the definition of a national strategy for poverty reduction. In October 2003, the Guatemalan Government published the document “Poverty reduction strategy 2004–2015, elaborated within the framework of the development councils”. The document cites experiences of participatory planning in the Departments of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula. The Guatemalan Government pledged USD 1,000,000 from its 2004 budget for poverty reduction initiatives in the development plans of the Departments of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula.

For some years, the Morazán LEDA (El Salvador) has been using its own funds to finance particularly gifted but poor students in the department. Following wide publicising of the scheme in schools and municipalities, students are selected each year by transparent public examinations. Nine students have already graduated and can now use their training to help the development of the department.

Through a special project against urban poverty in Honduras, an office was set up to manage the historical centre of Tegucigalpa. The municipal administration, university and government institutions established this innovative structure with the technical support of the Oficina del Historiador of the city of Havana (Cuba), the Department of Planning of Federico II University – Naples (Italy), the CYTEC network, backed by Spain, which brings together experiences of regenerating historical centres in numerous Latin American cities, and York University – Toronto (Canada). The office has received funding totalling USD 950,000 from APPI/TIPP, BID, the Japanese Government and the Municipality of Milano. The office has started work on a strategic plan for the regeneration of the historical centre.
OVERVIEW

The APPI/TIPP Programme in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua was launched in November 2001. It is part of the Italian Government’s backing for the APPI Trust Fund, set up by UNDP to assist governments in drafting territorial policies and initiatives against poverty and social exclusion, with the backing of numerous donors. Italy has contributed to APPI by developing, among other initiatives, the territorial development programme known as APPI/TIPP in Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Following these agreements, from 31 May to 14 June 2000, the Italian Government’s Directorate of Cooperation organised a mission to Central America in order to establish programme guidelines with the governments. A joint Italy/UNDP/UNOPS mission then took place in October 2000 in order to define the initiative. The governments of the four countries designated the departments targeted for the APPI/TIPP Programme: the Departments of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula in Guatemala; the Department of Valle in Honduras; the Department of Morazán in El Salvador; and the Department of León in Nicaragua. Italian representatives informed the Guatemalan Government that funds worth LIT 1.4 billion, earmarked for “Support to departmental development councils in Guatemala”, would be included in the APPI Programme for the Department of Chiquimula. The agreement between the Italian Government and UNDP and UNOPS involved collaboration with Italian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Central America. It also involved the development of a project for action research on combating urban poverty in the city of Tegucigalpa.

In December 2000, the Italian Government approved funds worth USD 11,500,000 for the APPI/TIPP Programme, and granted USD 3,500,000 to UNDP/UNOPS for the start-up phase, lasting six months. This phase included work on establishing a management structure, reinforcing participatory territorial structures, implementing impact activities, and drafting a detailed plan of operations for the next phase of operations. The first plan of operations, lasting 12 months, was drawn up during the start-up phase with the participation of all national and local bodies. UNDP sent the documentation on the plan of operations to the Italian Government, which approved a second payment of USD 8,000,000 in October 2002. Activities are in progress and the APPI/TIPP Programme is scheduled for completion in April 2004.

In late 2001 and in early 2002, the UNDP Management Unit responsible for running the APPI Programme took part in two missions to Central America in order to establish an APPI activity plan with the governments of the four countries and the UNDP representative offices, aimed at implementing national policies for poverty reduction through integrated, participatory and territorial development strategies. Action plans developed by the APPI Programme in each country were designed to capitalise on the experiences of territorial development in APPI/TIPP departments, to influence national policies and extend them to other priority departments, with the involvement of other international cooperation organisations present in the four countries and of European local authorities active in decentralised cooperation.

The APPI Trust Fund contributed a total of USD 1,390,000 to these action plans. The impact of the action plans was maximised through collaboration between UNDP offices and UNOPS experts responsible for running APPI/TIPP programmes. Therefore, since 2002, APPI programmes have been run directly by the UNDP office in each of the countries, while the APPI/TIPP Programme has been managed by UNDP through UNOPS.

Joint work by UNDP representative offices and UNOPS APPI/TIPP Programme experts to involve new donors brought significant results. In fact, the EU contributed USD 3,000,000 for projects in Nicaragua and El Salvador to improve drinking-water supply and waste disposal systems. BID contributed USD 450,000 for the Office of the Historical Centre of the city of Tegucigalpa, launched by the special project for poverty reduction, while Japanese cooperation approved a further USD 450,000 for the office. Japanese cooperation also covered some of the costs for a territorial analysis to be used in the development plan for the Department of Valle, Honduras.

OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

Although the Programme was conceived as a single regional initiative, it operates as four national subprogrammes in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. National subprogrammes are coordinated by four international experts hired by UNOPS. The coordinator of the El Salvador subprogramme is also responsible for coordinating regional and international activities. The regional coordinator has an assistant and is supported by
national technical experts. The regional office of the APPI/TIPP Programme is located at UNOPS in San Salvador. The Programme has implemented “national satellites” in Managua (Nicaragua), Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and Guatemala City (Guatemala) in order to facilitate contact with the national coordination institutions, UN agencies, and other forms of cooperation.

On 26 November 2001, the first official event to launch the APPI/TIPP Programme was held in Central America. Regional coordination set up and provided basic equipment for five departmental programme offices in San Francisco Gotera (Department of Morazán, El Salvador), Huehuetenango (Department of Huehuetenango, Guatemala), Chiquimula (Department of Chiquimula, Guatemala), San Lorenzo (Department of Valle, in Honduras) and León (Department of León, Nicaragua). In addition, “satellite” offices were also equipped and opened in the capital cities, and the regional coordination office was also established. Regional coordination drafted the Programme’s plans of operations.

In each country, the Programme utilised a team of national experts, operating under their respective coordinators, to guarantee technical assistance to local participatory structures and national coordinating committees. Administrative and logistics personnel were also hired. UNOPS provided the offices using “Imprest Account”, a programme for facilitating decentralised payment operations.

The APPI/TIPP Programme is run by UNDP and implemented by UNOPS. In each country, UNDP guarantees relations with national authorities, political management of the initiatives, and synergies between the APPI/TIPP Programme and the APPI Programme. In each country, the government has appointed national institutions to coordinate the APPI/TIPP Programme (see above). National coordination committees and national management organisation of the Programme have been set up in all four countries in collaboration with national institutions.

The departmental development councils play a leading role in the Programme. The councils are chaired by the respective governors and include mayors, municipal development councils, representatives of decentralised state institutions, representatives of civil society organisations (national NGOs, cooperative associations, cooperatives, private enterprise and trade unions). The departmental development councils utilise the LEDAs as instruments to activate the economy of the territory. In Honduras and Guatemala, the departmental development councils are governed by national laws. In Nicaragua, the councils were legally established in 2003. In El Salvador, members of parliament from different political parties presented a parliamentary bill to institute departmental development councils. All four governments have entrusted these offices with responsibility for coordinating the APPI/TIPP Programme in their respective departments.

With support from UNDP representative offices, coordination was also established with political and technical bodies operating in Central America: the Parliament of Central America, Consejo Superior Universitario Centro Americano, SICA, Organización Ibero-Americana de Educación, Centro de Agricultura Tropical de Investigación y Educación, and Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano.

From 3 to 14 June 2002, national tripartite meetings were held in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the participation of the national government, UNDP/UNOPS and the Italian Government. These meetings defined general guidelines for each subprogramme and approved plans of operations. Following recommendations by the Italian Government, the Programme contacted Italian NGOs already working in the target territories. The NGOs were involved in the local planning process from the outset and contributed to implementing activities in the department after they were put out to tender. The transparent procedures used to identify the NGOs were detailed in last year’s edition of this report. By 15 January 2003, selection procedures had been completed and contracts were signed between UNDP/UNOPS and the following NGOs:

- Department of Chiquimula: APS, CICA and Movimondo;
- Department of Huehuetenango: CEFA, CESTAS, COOPI, MAIS, MANITESE and MLAL;
- Department of Morazán: APS, CISP, CESVI and Movimondo;
- Department of Valle: APS, CISS and GVC;
- Department of León: ACRA, Movimondo, MAIS and CISP;
- Tegucigalpa, Special Project: Movimondo.

**RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

In 2003, activities were carried out to strengthen the national LEDA network. In particular, a mission to Italy by...
LEDA representatives was organised to formalise cooperation agreements with ETIMOS. During the mission, meetings were also held with Banca Etica in order to establish similar cooperation agreements.

In the framework of an agreement between the APPI Management Unit, the UNDP/UNOPS programme on education and training, information and documentation, and decentralised cooperation, known as EDINFODEC, the La Sapienza University of Rome, and the University of Bologna, six students engaged in an international cooperation master’s programme took part in activities in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala in the second half of 2002. All the students made a positive contribution to the results of APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes.

The APPI/TIPP Programme and the Universitas Programme agreed to work together to produce training initiatives, with the collaboration of international universities belonging to the Universitas network. A training course on local economic development was developed and launched in Guatemala, with the involvement of European and Latin American universities. The results are detailed in the chapter on Universitas in this report. Action research on urban poverty in Tegucigalpa was defined and carried out. The results of these activities are presented in the section on Honduras.

After consultation in 2003, a proposal was put forward for postgraduate training in “local economic development and international cooperation.” The ten universities involved drew up a training proposal involving theoretical and practical aspects, with collaboration from international cooperation programmes. Also involved in defining the proposal were representatives of national and local institutions, representatives of the civil society and international organisations in Central America. This broad consultation helped to establish training needs in Central America and identify existing supply in various countries.

The Programme launched the initiative Innovations for Development and South–South Cooperation (IDEASS), promoted by UNDP, International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNOPS, maintaining constant contact with the international secretariat. In particular, the following activities were carried out:

- Identification of innovations, in collaboration with national and international academic institutions.
- Organisation of a mission by Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (CENSA) and the Cuban Academy of Sciences to promote Stabilak (a natural milk stabiliser), which is much in demand by Nicaraguan producers. Organisation of a national workshop for the promotion of Stabilak, involving 80 participants. The event was promoted with the Nicaraguan Council of Science and Technology (CONICYT), which offered to carry out the functions of the IDEASS national technical secretariat in Nicaragua.
- Organisation, on behalf of ILO, of a mission to Ecuador by a delegation from Guatemala to learn about the experience of community tourism in Ricancie.
- Participation of Central American experts in the international workshop held in Havana on the regeneration of historical centres, in support of an initiative for the development of old Tegucigalpa by the Oficina del Historiador of Havana and the Ibero-American network CYTED.
- Assistance to the Central American and Caribbean network to facilitate exchange of experiences and the participation of Central American operators in the regularly held Social Summit meetings.
- Mission to Guatemala by the president and representatives of the RAAN regional government to learn about experiences involving decentralisation, civic committees and local economic development agencies.

Decentralised cooperation

In 2002, EDINFODEC programme experts and the APPI/UNDP Management Unit carried out a mission to help regional coordination launch decentralised cooperation activities. In 2003, with active collaboration from EDINFODEC, the APPI/TIPP Programme promoted decentralised cooperation partnerships with 58 Italian and Spanish local authorities.

From the commencement of the Programme, the governments and local stakeholders were involved in establishing decentralised cooperation partnerships. In particular, territorial marketing documentation was prepared for the departments and regions where APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes operate. Between 27 November and 2 December 2002, a mission to Italy was organised to promote decentralised cooperation. The delegation, consisting of four ministers representing their respective governments, four mayors, and representatives of local organisations and various universities, met with representatives of more than 150 local bodies and associations. The four resident UNDP representatives and the regional APPI/TIPP coordinator led the group.
In 2003, there were missions to Europe by delegations from the Departments of Sonsonate (El Salvador), Huehuetenango (Guatemala), the city of Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and RAAN (Nicaragua). Delegations of Italian and Spanish local authorities (Marche Region, Toscana Region, Veneto Region, Lombardia Region and FAMSI) visited various Central American departments to define and sign decentralised cooperation agreements within the framework of the APPI/TIPP Programme. The various decentralised cooperation committees made contributions totalling USD 406,000.

RESULTS OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

From the outset, the regional coordination structure of the APPI/TIPP Programme has guaranteed management of international and regional activities, institutional aspects, homogenous production of the Programme’s plans of operations and technical-financial reports, homogenous work methods in different countries, and the establishing of initial contacts with decentralised cooperation. Collegial operations between the regional coordinator and the experts responsible for coordinating the Programme in the four countries enabled the Programme to develop along homogenous lines. Moreover, in the start-up phase, the regional coordinator and coordinators of the four countries remained in constant contact with the UNDP representative offices in order to ensure synergies between APPI/TIPP and APPI initiatives.

In 2002, regional initiatives were launched to strengthen the LEDA network in Central America. From 13 to 15 February 2002, the first regional LEDA forum for Central America was held in San Salvador. The forum was attended by representatives from 14 LEDAs, 23 NGOs, 4 exponents of international cooperation organisations, an international representative of ILO in Geneva, a representative of CEPAL in Mexico, officials of the UNDP offices for Central America, and the director of the Central American Municipalities Foundation (FUNDEMUCA). The meeting identified strategies for strengthening the Central American and national LEDA networks. In May 2002, a second Central American LEDA meeting took place, with the support of International Liaison Services for Local Economic Development Agencies (ILS/LEDA). Following this meeting, in June and November 2002, the Central American LEDA network helped produce documentation used by ILS/LEDA to promote the LEDAs among potential donors. In 2002, in close collaboration with ILO, activities were undertaken to strengthen the LEDAs of León, Chiquimula and Huehuetenango. Work was also carried out to promote the establishment of a LEDA in the Department of Valle, Honduras.

In 2003, regional coordination activities produced the following results:

- A Central American workshop was organised on “Design, monitoring and evaluation of technical cooperation projects and programmes”. The workshop, held in Apaneca (El Salvador) and sponsored by the ILO regional office, was attended by 60 representatives from Central American LEDAs.
- A photographic exhibition entitled “Objective: a world of people”, was organised in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. This travelling exhibition, produced by the WHO Centre in Tunis (described in a separate chapter of this report), was sponsored in Central America by THE Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNDP, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNOPS and Cooperazione Italiana. The exhibition was a great success and stimulated national debate on the issues of poverty and social exclusion.
- A regional workshop on “Sistemas Integrados de Micro-Finanzas y Circuitos de Comercio Justo y Solidario” was held in Nacaome (Honduras). Taking part were 70 representatives of Central American LEDAs and representatives of ETIMOS (Italy).
- Participation in the international event entitled “Decentralised cooperation and multilateral cooperation” organised in Seville (Spain) by FAMSI. The Programme presented the results achieved in Central American countries and defined collaboration agreements with various Spanish institutions. In particular, collaboration was established with the Province of Huelva and the IBERMED NGO for an assistance project for the hospital of León (Nicaragua).
- In coordination with the UNDP representative offices and various other UN agencies, fundraising activities were carried out to define projects and initiatives to present to various donors. In Nicaragua, projects worth more than Euro 10 million were formulated for presentation to the EU. In El Salvador, a project worth USD 450,000 was formulated for submission to the Japanese Government. A regional mission was carried out with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to develop a project to promote the participation of women in the processes of local economic development promoted by the APPI/TIPP Programme. The project, worth USD 2 million, is scheduled for launch in early 2004.
In Nicaragua, the APPI/TIPP Programme operates in the Department of León. UNDP uses the APPI Programme and its plan of operations as a strategic instrument to support national policies promoting local development in Nicaragua. These policies regard decentralisation, public participation, and territorial management. Moreover, through APPI, UNDP hopes to extend the experiences of local development to other priority areas of the country.

SECEP, which coordinates international cooperation interventions and national policies against poverty, is the national institution responsible for the APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes. Coordination of the two initiatives is guaranteed by a national committee, consisting of representatives of the Presidency's Technical Office, UNDP, UNOPS, cooperation organisations and UN agencies. The committee has been active in Nicaragua since 23 April 2002. On many occasions, the Nicaraguan Government has said it considers the APPI Programme a fundamental instrument for the development of new national policies for local development and poverty reduction.

In order to extend the process of local development, the APPI Programme was presented in the Department of Jinotega and the North Atlantic and South Atlantic autonomous regions (RAAN and RAAS) at an event attended by numerous authorities and local operators. In September and October 2002, in the Departments of León and Jinotega, and in RAAN and RAAS, territorial marketing documents were drawn up, which are used by local governments to involve donor countries and decentralised cooperation associations. A delegation from these areas came to Italy to promote decentralised cooperation. The APPI Programme provided technical assistance to RAAN and RAAS to set up regional development committees, with the participation of local governments, civil society organisations and the private sector, in order to produce joint territorial development plans. In 2003, the APPI Programme provided technical assistance to the regional governments of RAAN and RAAS to define a joint regional platform. UNDP also pledged to support the Department of Jinotega in strategic territorial planning activities. These joint decision-making platforms, which were set up in accordance with APPI/TIPP methodologies and adopted in the Department of León, represent a launch pad for future intervention.
In 2002, collaboration was established with the National Commission for Political Decentralisation and SECEP in order to define methodologies for evaluating endogenous territorial potential. Within this framework, between 30 September and 4 October 2002, a workshop was held at the request of the Nicaraguan Government on “Identification of local economic development strategies” in collaboration with the ILO/Universitas Programme. It was attended by: experts from government institutions; mayors; experts from the LEDAs of León, Jinotega and Nueva Segovia; representatives of the universities of RAAN and RAAS, León and Managua; and representatives of producers’ organisations.

In 2003, active collaboration between APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes generated various national impact initiatives in Nicaragua.

UNDP actively supported the Nicaraguan Government in the definition of government policies for poverty reduction, which resulted in the reinforced strategy for economic growth and poverty reduction (ERCERP). SECEP coordinates with ERCERP, and collaborates with the Economic and Social Planning Council (CONPES) and National Council for Sustainable Development (CONADES). SECEP also takes a leading role in the process of implementing ERCERP.

At the request of UNDP, the APPI/TIPP Programme contributed to this joint decision-making process with its experiences in the Department of León of governance, socio-economic development, and participatory methodologies that fully exploit territorial resources. The Programme made a significant contribution to the definition of new development policies within the ERCERP framework, offering support and technical assistance to SECEP. In coordination with SECEP, the Programme also provided technical assistance to the National Decentralisation Commission (CND) in local development.

For the period 2003–08, ERCERP is to be applied as part of the national development plan through SECEP’s PASE programme. PASE is to set up departmental technical offices to improve the running of departmental institutions and implement reforms aimed at modernising the state. In turn, the offices are supported by departmental technical units (UTD), which are part of the National Public Investment System (SNIP). Reforms involve setting up the following structures in the departments to work within the UTD framework:

- UTIP, responsible for gathering information, monitoring and assessing public investment in the area; they will also offer technical assistance to municipal technical units (UTM) and development councils for departmental and regional territorial planning.
- Monitoring and evaluation unit, a structure specialised in evaluating and monitoring regional and departmental development plans.
- Planning units, responsible for providing methodological support to territorial joint decision-making councils for participatory planning activities.

Through APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes, UNDP signed an operational agreement with SECEP in June 2003 to establish UTD. The APPI/TIPP Programme set up the country’s first public territorial investment unit in the Department of León (UTIP-León), which became operational in September 2003, with a view to establishing a UTD.

At the same time, the development council of the Department of León (CONDELEÓN) was set up in the Department of León. This is an example of territorial participation advocated by the Programme in 2002, and then incorporated and institutionalised in the national reform programme.

The APPI Programme supported the definition of, and nationwide discussions on, a national decentralisation and local development policy (PNDL), so that all departments and municipalities in the country could make their contribution. UNDP signed a collaboration agreement with the Sectoral Decentralisation Commission (CSD), which involves the Departments of León and Nueva Segovia and RAAN in the definition of the national policy for decentralisation and local development.

Through the APPI Programme, UNDP also provided the Nicaraguan Government with technical assistance for studies on the economic sectors and geographical areas of the country that offer the greatest potential for economic growth. The project is a priority of ERCERP’s industrial development strategy, which promotes the industrial estate model. This strategy was later included in the national development plan. The APPI/TIPP Programme contributed to these initiatives through the experiences of the LEDAs, especially ADES in the Department of León.

Also in 2003, activities were carried out to set up decentralised cooperation partnerships. In particular, in March 2003, a delegation from RAAN undertook a
mission to Italy. The delegation visited the Marche Region and signed decentralised cooperation agreements. Subsequently, the Marche Parks Authority undertook a mission to Nicaragua in order to formulate an environmental project and arrange a second mission to define the institutional aspects of the partnership. Subsequently, the Provinces of Ancona, Ascoli Piceno, Pesaro and Urbino, and the Municipalities of Grottammare, Massignano, Monteprandone, Offida and Ripatransone joined the initiative. The Marche Committee pledged funds worth USD 70,000.

Results of the APPI/TIPP Programme in the Department of León

The Department of León in Nicaragua consists of ten municipalities. The department has a total population of 336,894: León (161,530), Quezalguaque (7,754), Telica (22,779), Larreyagna (29,798), El Sauce (25,973), Achiua (13,186), Santa Rosa del Peñón (9,129), El Jicaral (10,036), La Paz Centro (27,509) and Nagarote (14,609).

In 2002, through the APPI/TIPP Programme, a development council was established in the Department of León. Through participatory programming activities, numerous departmental development projects to support local governance were identified and launched. The institutional capacities of the Association of Municipalities of León (ADMUL) were enhanced, also by supporting the organisation of the thirteenth convention of cities twinned with León.

In 2003, the APPI/TIPP Programme concentrated activities on consolidating the functions and operational procedures of CONDELEÓN. It helped sectoral commissions and subcommissions create priority target sectors: governance, social development, education and health, economic and industrial development, and environmental protection.

Within the framework of decentralisation policies, APPI/TIPP helped launch the PASE programme to implement, monitor and jointly evaluate ERCERP. While action was being taken at the national level (see above), APPI/TIPP supported and assisted SECEP in establishing a UTD/UTIP in the Department of León. This result was achieved thanks to the presence of a joint decision-making body like CONDELEÓN.

Furthermore, in November 2003, the government approved Law 475 on citizens’ participation. This law recognises departmental development councils as consultative and participatory bodies that guarantee coordination, monitoring and evaluation of investment plans and projects aimed at territorial development. The experience of CONDELEÓN has been recognised by the government as a model to be extended to all Nicaraguan departments.

Therefore, CONDELEÓN plays a leading role in the APPI/TIPP Programme. It is a coherent part of the decentralisation policy promoted by the government and represents a participatory and joint-decision-making body that plays a key role in the integrated territorial development planning process. CONDELEÓN and UTD/UTIP technical experts have informed the government that they are prepared to support the neighbouring Department of Chinandega, which at present is working on establishing a council and a UTD/UTIP.

The Programme promoted the organisation of two general assemblies to strengthen and give legal recognition to CONDELEÓN. The first discussed and approved the CONDELEÓN statute and regulations. The second discussed and approved the schedule and methodology for the strategic development plan of the Department of León. The Programme also enhanced the CONDELEÓN technical office and supported the definition of a strategic departmental development plan. The main results achieved by CONDELEÓN are:
- Management committee and assembly approval of the CONDELEÓN statute and regulations and of the schedule for the definition of a strategic departmental development plan.
- Legal recognition of CONDELEÓN and establishment of a technical office.
- Strengthening of CONDELEÓN’s strategic alliances with INIFOM, UTD, CONADES and FUNDEMON.
- Recognition of the experience of CONDELEÓN at a national seminar promoted by SECEP, CND and CONADES.
- Establishment of CONDELEÓN sectoral commissions, which produced guidelines and goals for the strategic departmental development plan.
- Management committee and assembly meetings with delegations from Huelva, the Marche Region and the Toscana Region.
- A preliminary draft of the strategic departmental development plan (guidelines).
- National fundraising to build 200 houses in five municipalities in the north of the Department of León.
In collaboration with the UNAN–León University, the APPI/TIPP Programme launched a departmental geographical information system (GIS) to provide technical strengthening to territorial planning and boost the department’s resources. The project involved providing software and computers and specialised training for municipal technical experts. The GIS working group defined collaboration agreements with various initiatives for collecting data in the Department of León. Since September 2003, a UN volunteer, specialising in GIS, has been working UNAN-León to establish a departmental system.

Activities were carried out to establish concrete decentralised cooperation partnerships with the Toscana Region, the Province of Livorno, the Municipalities of Campi Bisenzio, Cecina, Firenze, Livorno, Pisa and Pontedera, the District of Empolese Valdelsa (Municipalities of Empoli, Capraia, Castelfiorentino, Cerreto Guidi, Certaldo, Fucecchio, Gambassi Terme, Montaione, Montelupo, Montespertoli, Limite and Vinci). The Toscana Inter-Municipal Committee went on a mission to Nicaragua in September 2003 in order to define projects worth USD 120,000.

**Local economic development**

In 2002, the ADES economic development agency of the Department of León received technical and economic support. In collaboration with ILO, and in conjunction with the departmental development committee, ADES was restructured and its statute and regulations reformulated. In 2003, representation in the assembly was broadened and the credit fund increased to support industrial activities with particular emphasis on social groups excluded from formal credit systems.

In 2003, the Programme funded and provided direct technical assistance to ADES León, as an operational instrument of the CONDELEÓN economic development commission. The government’s decision to use departmental councils as primary instruments for the decentralisation process has given ADES a strategic role in the planning and management of departmental economic development processes.

In 2003, the agency extended its services to the whole department. It runs a specific fund for technological innovation, with a view to reactivating industrial infrastructure in the department. The agency helped 415 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) employing 2,256 people. Farms received 30 percent of the credits; the industrial and services sectors 15 percent; and the commercial sector 55 percent. The total amount of credit funds disbursed was USD 645,743.

The APPI/TIPP Programme also backed coordination between the economic development agencies of the Departments of León, Nueva Segovia and Jinotega and the Region of Granada through regular meetings with the national network. In December 2003, the NGO Movimondo completed a project for technical assistance to ADES for the internationalisation of enterprises in the Department of León. In 2003, ADES started negotiations with ILO to receive financial backing for a study on “Evaluation of the departmental road network and the identification of new rural roads” as an aid to territorial planning.

**Development of territorial services**

In 2002, numerous activities were carried out to strengthen the health, education and environmental services of the Department of León. As of December 2003, Movimondo, CISP, MAIS and ACRA were conducting four projects aimed at improving quality in education, health and the prevention of risk to adolescents in the northern municipalities of the Department of León, which have high rates of poverty.

In 2003, many projects that had been launched in previous years were completed, with the following results:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, activities were carried out to improve the local education system. Classrooms were built; furnishings and didactic material were supplied to libraries and educational centres; teaching staff received training, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Twenty-one school buildings were renovated; improved quality services were extended to more areas, benefiting 3,489 children directly and 8,000 indirectly who use the school library.

- In coordination with ADMUL and the Ministry of Health, ten community pharmacies were created, which provide access to essential medicine for those most in need in the ten municipalities of the department. The Ministry of Health pledged that it would increase the rotating medical fund to help sustain the pharmacies, train community pharmaceutical staff, and guarantee constant supervision. The pharmacies provide 34 types of basic medicine and serve 5,000 people.

- In order to reduce birth risks and improve assistance to expectant mothers, 33 training courses were
provided on reproductive health to 40 public service doctors and nurses; campaigns were conducted for adolescents in risky situations, involving 217 teenagers in León; basic instruments were supplied to 393 midwives from 9 municipalities; and improvements were made to delivery rooms in several municipal health centres.

- In order to improve the local health system, basic equipment was supplied to 195 health centres; ten health centres were equipped with surgical instruments, beds, gynaecological examining tables and other material; equipment, spare parts and furnishings were supplied to seven health units; two maternity rooms were built and equipped in the Municipality of Jicaral and in the Achuapa health centre; and three health centres were renovated and equipped.

- For the prevention of natural disasters that frequently hit the area, activities were carried out to regenerate the water basin and strengthen civil defence structures. Nine fire brigades were organised and equipped to protect 2,000 ha of land; two dams and a barrier were built to defend three communities from natural disasters; a radio communication system was installed for municipalities in León and high-risk communities; rural roads were repaired in three communities; five municipal tree nurseries were created and another six were enlarged; fruit and forest trees were planted on 62 ha of land; waste collection systems were improved in two municipalities through the provision of 130 waste-disposal bins, benefiting 650 families; training in environmental hygiene was provided for 130 people. These activities directly benefited 5,584 families from 88 communities in 10 municipalities.

- In 2002, the APPI Programme was presented to the Departments of Sonsonate and Ahuachapán, in the presence of local authorities and a large number of local operators. In September and October 2002, territorial marketing documents were produced in the Departments of Sonsonate, Ahuachapán and Morazán, and from 27 to 30 October 2002, a delegation from these departments undertook a mission to Italy to promote decentralised cooperation. Through the APPI Programme, UNDP provided technical assistance to the Departments of Sonsonate and Ahuachapán to set up departmental working groups, with the participation of local governments, national decentralised institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector. It then provided technical assistance to working groups to define the main guidelines for local development. The APPI/TIPP Programme and the LEDA of the Department of Morazán provided technical assistance needed to launch two new local economic development agencies in the Departments of Ahuachapán and Sonsonate.

- In 2003, the Ministry of Education asked the APPI Programme to help analyse specific aspects of the national educational policy with a study entitled “Autonomy in schools and local development.” The Programme hired two international consultants for two months to carry out the study. The study, which was coordinated by the Ministry of Education, involved international experts and organisations, and helped define decentralisation policy in the education sector, considered a priority by the Salvadoran Government.

- In 2003, the Social Integration Committee was chaired by a delegate of the Presidency of the Republic, who confirmed the commitment to poverty reduction, guaranteeing continuity in the strategy undertaken in previous years. In particular, fresh impetus was injected into: the participatory processes of social organisation to promote local development, the decentralisation process in education, involving greater participation of the beneficiaries in quality control, local economic development based on participation and intersectorality, exploiting the elements of territorial competitiveness, and the creation of industrial estates.
In 2003, a national proposal was presented to establish development councils in all the departments of the country. Involved in this process were exponents of all political parties and the civil society. Activities were suspended for the duration of the recent electoral campaign.

In December, the travelling/itinerant WHO photographic exhibition was presented, which stimulated debate on the issues of poverty, social exclusion and teenage violence in El Salvador.

**Results of the APPI/TIPP Programme in the Department of Morazán**

The Department of Morazán in El Salvador comprises 26 municipalities. The department has a total population of 174,493: San Francisco Gotera (21,397), Jocoso (10,468), San Carlos (3,755), Guatajaiagua (10,842), Chilanga (9,014), Sociedad (11,517), Yamabel (3,852), Sensembra (3,335), Lolotiquillo (4,837), El Divisadero (8,000), Oisicala (10,327), San Isidro (3,320), Cacapera (10,484), Yoloaiquín (3,943), Delicias de Concepción (4,956), Gualocoti (3,296), San Simón (9,317), Corinto (17,384), Jocoaitique (2,308), El Rosario (1,286), Joateca (3,844), Meanguera (8,446), Arambala (2,115), Perquin (3,900), San Fernando (1,029) and Torola (1,521).

The first activities of APPI/TIPP in the Department of Morazán involved enhancing the technical capacities of the Corporation for the Development of the Department of Morazán (CORDIM) to plan and manage departmental development activities. CORDIM, a participatory body created in the early 1990s, is considered one of the most effective in the country. APPI/TIPP has supported CORDIM in processes aimed at studying the territory (SWOT analysis) for effective local planning.

In 2003, the Programme continued to support CORDIM in order to strengthen its institutional capacities. In particular, the Programme signed a cooperation agreement with CORDIM to consolidate the work of sectoral councils and specialised forums established in 2002 to develop departmental planning; it organised and set up thematic courses and workshops; it worked on the definition of a proposal for the economic sustainability of CORDIM, and to facilitate its permanent and autonomous operations, also through the involvement of public–private enterprises.

Through regular meetings, CORDIM strengthens the work of sectoral councils to help implement activities provided for in the departmental development plan. Priority was given to the education and environment councils to complete the projects implemented with
the help of Italian NGOs in collaboration with local operators. In 2003, with the backing of the Programme, CORDIM completed all the impact projects programmed in previous phases.

From August to October 2003, CORDIM hired a consultancy company, Technoserve, to examine the technical and economic feasibility of an economically self-sustainable enterprise. This boosted CORDIM operations and encouraged it to take long-term decisions. With the backing of Technoserve, and in collaboration with the Morazán LEDA, and breeders’ and dairy producers’ associations, a feasibility study was conducted on setting up a local enterprise for the processing of dairy produce, which would strengthen the agro-industrial development of the territory. In December 2003, CORDIM became a partner in this enterprise, which also involved the LEDA and breeders’ associations.

Activities continued for the promotion of decentralised cooperation partnerships, with encouraging results for CORDIM. The Liguria Region Committee, which includes the Region, the Provinces of Genova, La Spezia, Imperia and Savona, established a partnership with CORDIM and reciprocal visits are being arranged. The Municipality of Sulmona has also formally joined the Programme and a visit is being arranged to the Department of Morazán.

In 2002, as part of the joint planning activities promoted by CORDIM with local operators, the main activities were identified and given priority in the departmental development plan in collaboration with the APPI/TIPP Programme. A summary of the results follows.

**Local economic development**

In 2002 and 2003, the Morazán LEDA received technical and financial backing. The LEDA was set up to promote participatory economic development in the department, one of the poorest in the country. The Morazán LEDA is a non-profit foundation, which received legal recognition on 26 July 1994. Its members include 16 important local organisations: 7 cooperatives and associations, 3 private enterprises and 6 foundations. It is run by a general assembly and a management committee consisting of seven board members. It also has an efficient internal and external auditing and tax system.

In the last few years, the Morazán LEDA has made significant progress and is now one of the most successful in Central America. Based on strategic planning established in 1998, the LEDA is structured in three programmes: local development; environment, agriculture and livestock; and business. In 2001, the LEDA supported the creation of two important business structures: the AMC credit cooperative, specialised in the management of credit portfolio; and the commercialisation cooperative SOPRODIM, which gives backing to the marketing of various local products. The LEDA also has an efficient GIS, used by institutions and local organisations.

In 2002, the APPI/TIPP Programme helped the Morazán LEDA create a credit fund and establish funding regulations. The LEDA drew up an investment plan, which the bank used to programme deposits. The Programme transferred USD 200,000 to the credit fund, which will be administered by the LEDA through the AMC. The LEDA invested part of the money to supply credit to 310 small and medium-scale local entrepreneurs (187 women and 123 men) distributed throughout 20 municipalities in the department.

The Morazán LEDA is rightly considered a benchmark for all LEDAs in Central America. In 2003, it was visited by political and technical representatives of numerous foreign countries, international cooperation agencies and organisations. The Morazán LEDA offered technical assistance to the newly-formed LEDAs in the Departments of Sonsonate (El Salvador) and Valle (Honduras). In 2003, the LEDA used funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to renovate and extend office space in order to include a centre for documentation and training on local economic development. The LEDA's new offices can host students interested in learning about the agency’s operations.

In 2003, the APPI/TIPP Programme contributed a further USD 430,000 to the credit fund. These funds were also administered by the Morazán LEDA, through AMC and in collaboration with the bank, to finance industrial activities in the agricultural, livestock and arts and crafts sectors. By November 2003, the LEDA had disbursed 585 loans using funds provided by the Programme.

**Backing for territorial services**

* As part of the priorities established by the departmental development plan to improve health services, two pharmacies were opened in the Municipalities of Cacaopera and Tortola. Medicines were supplied to five health centres and equipment
to three health centres. In the Municipality of Perquín, a technical study was undertaken to design water distribution and treatment systems, a solid-waste treatment plant was built and started up, and a study was drawn up for the renovation of the San Francisco Gotera Hospital and the health centre. CORDIM conducted two studies to improve and extend the drinking-water supply, collection and treatment systems through a phytopurification system for sewage in the town of Gotera. In September 2003, in collaboration with the health authorities, AMS (a women’s NGO in El Salvador) and El Quetzal (an NGO from the Province of Trento) developed a project to prevent child malnutrition in the four municipalities of Morazán.

- In collaboration with the departmental delegation of the Ministry of Education, the departmental education system was improved through measures focusing on infrastructure, teacher training, and provision of basic equipment for rural schools. Support was provided for the local education system of the Municipality of Meanguera (SILEM) and the local development system (SILOD) of the Municipality of San Simon, through the supply of teaching materials, furniture and office equipment. In the Municipalities of Jocoro, San Carlos, San Francisco Gotera and San Isidro, four classrooms were built and equipped to provide better educational opportunities; five new rural schools were built, equipped with computers in five departmental municipalities; a room was furnished and equipped for training teachers in rural schools.

- Strengthening of an early detection system to prevent disasters. In collaboration with the Italian NGO APS, the Morazán LEDA and the departmental council of mayors, an intercommunity radio-communication system was installed for the rapid broadcast of an alarm in hazardous situations. The system covers 15 municipalities and runs on 15 solar-energy-powered radios installed in 13 rural communities and in 2 institutions providing emergency care (the Salvadoran Red Cross and the Departmental Emergency Committee). Training was given to the personnel responsible for operating the system, and a vulnerability study in all municipalities of the department was also carried out. The results of this study were published in a volume called “Towards managing risk in Morazán: a basis for determining threats and vulnerability”. The Morazán experience was presented as a successful departmental and national example. The production of the study was aided by data supplied by the GIS of the Morazán LEDA.

- In 2003, civil defence committees were established in 11 departmental municipalities, and training was provided for the members. The committees are responsible for activating all the measures that can guarantee and direct first aid operations for the affected populations in emergency situations. The committees use the above-mentioned radio-communication system, which will be expanded with support from an EC programme.

- In collaboration with the GIS of the Morazán LEDA, a study was conducted to localise and characterise 167 potential drinking-water areas. EU and IFAD programmes have already made use of the study.

- An important result was achieved in improving drinking-water supplies in August 2003. Based on the priorities established by the departmental development plan, UNDP and the EU launched a project through the APPI Programme entitled “Improvements in drinking-water supply in the Municipality of San Francisco Gotera, Morazán.” The project is worth Euro 1,216,897, including a contribution of Euro 923,211 from the EU, and will last 18 months. It involves restructuring and extending the existing drinking-water distribution network to cover the entire urban area of the city, benefiting 14,000 inhabitants.

- The Programme established an agreement with the EU’s PRRACSA programme, the Italian NGO CISP and 10 municipalities in the department, to launch a project for environmental regeneration and the construction of an ecological solid-waste deposit to replace the previous one, which did not meet public hygiene standards. The project costs USD 250,000, with the Programme contributing USD 70,000.
In Honduras, the APPI/TIPP Programme operates in the Department of Valle. In Honduras, too, UNDP was able to use the APPI Programme as an instrument to help support national policies against poverty, bearing in mind the experience gained the Department of Valle, and to extend this experience to the country’s other priority areas.

The Honduran Government’s poverty reduction strategy (ERP) was drawn up with the participation of local governments and civil society organisations, and it complies with the priorities established at the UN Millennium Summit.

The national institutions coordinating APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes in Honduras were: the Ministry of the Interior, responsible for the processes of administrative decentralisation; and the Ministry of the Presidency of the Republic, responsible for the processes of poverty reduction. Coordination was ensured by a national committee, which includes representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Presidency, UNDP, UNOPS, cooperation organisations, and UN agencies. The committee was set up in Honduras on 20 May 2002.

In implementing national activities, the UNDP representative office in Honduras worked in close collaboration with APPI/TIPP Programme experts through a liaison officer. In 2002, UNDP presented APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes at a meeting attended by the Italian Ambassador, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Interior, Justice and Education, the Minister of the Social Investment Fund, the Minister for the Office of National Resources and the Environment, the Ministers of Public Works, Transportation and Public Housing, the Vice-Minister for the Office of Agriculture and Breeding, the Executive Secretary for Foreign Cooperation of the Health Office, the director of the Technical Support Unit of the President’s Cabinet and the director of the National Statistics Institute.

UNDP organised meetings with the departmental development councils of the Departments of Copán, Lempira and Valle, with the participation of the Vice-Ministers of the Presidency and the Ministry of the Interior. At these meetings, UNDP presented the APPI project, and the Vice-Ministers praised the contribution of the Programme to poverty reduction activities through non-exclusive local development. In September and October 2002, territorial marketing documents were produced in the departments, and then used by the local governments to raise funds. A delegation from Honduras undertook a mission to Italy from 27 to 30 October 2002 in order to promote decentralised cooperation. In June 2003, the APPI Programme completed work involving technical and financial assistance for the councils of Lempira and...
Copán to produce departmental development plans. The respective departmental development councils drew up and approved the plans.

In 2003, the UNDP office provided permanent support to APPI/TIPP Programme activities, establishing important collaboration with national institutions and government offices. In particular, collaboration was established with the Secretaría de Gobernación y Justicia (SGJ), Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (SERNA), Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería (SAG), and with Consejo Hondureño de Ciencia y Tecnología (COHCIT), to set up the Sistema Nacional de Información Agrícola (SINIA) in Nacaome House (Municipality of San Lorenzo) and a computer centre in a school in the Municipality of Caridad.

With the National Human Rights Commissioner in Honduras, a training programme was organised from July to November 2003 for all those taking part in the national governance and human rights council. In collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, a training programme was designed and organised for municipal officials and community leaders in the nine municipalities of the Department of Valle. In collaboration with the Office of the Presidential Delegate, the first forum was held on small-enterprise strategies for border areas was attended by numerous mayors from the Department of Valle.

The APPI Programme helped organise the National Dialogue, promoted by the President of the Republic and the Office of Government and Justice, for joint participatory and democratic establishment of large-scale state goals and policies. More than 200 representatives of local governments and civil society organisations took part in the National Dialogue.

**Special project against urban poverty**

The aim of the project is to identify effective methodologies and interventions to combat poverty in the city of Tegucigalpa, with a view to their being extended to other large urban centres in Central America. To launch operations, the APPI/TIPP Programme, in collaboration with the UNDP representative office in Honduras, the ILO/Universitas Programme, the APPI/UNDP Management Unit, and the Latin American Study Centre of York University – Toronto, organised an international meeting in Toronto, Canada, from 18 to 20 April 2002, with the participation of 11 representatives from Central America.

In 2003, in collaboration with the International Scientific Group, events and missions were organised (March, June and September) in order to define a technical–applicative model to combat urban poverty. The group is responsible for producing three documents: a systematisation of action research experiences in Tegucigalpa; a bibliographical study on urban poverty in Central America; and a document offering guidance to cooperation organisations on the reduction of urban poverty in Latin America (see chapter on the Universitas Network for more information on this aspect of the project).

In December 2003, a national coordination group was set up in Tegucigalpa to monitor the project. The group consisted of: a government representative, a representative of the Municipality of Tegucigalpa, a representative of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, representatives of various civil society organisations, the regional coordinator of the APPI/TIPP Programme, and the special project coordinator.

One of the most important outcomes of these activities was the creation of an office for the management of the historical centre of Tegucigalpa. Vital technical contribution for setting up the office was provided by: the Oficina del Historiador of the city of Havana (Cuba), the Planning Department of Federico II University – Naples, and CYTEC, a network of the experiences in the regeneration of historical centres in numerous Latin American Countries, backed by Spain. BID contributed USD 450,000, and Japanese cooperation a further USD 450,000. Last, the Municipality of Milano pledged to support the activities of the office by providing technical assistance and a contribution of USD 50,000. The office has already produced a detailed up-to-date map of ongoing interventions in the city of Tegucigalpa aimed at reducing urban poverty. Weekly meetings of the National Working Group are working to define a strategic plan for the Office of the Historical Centre.

In 2003, the following results were also achieved:

- Structural collaboration agreements were established with the ILO/Universitas Programme, and with ten universities from various countries; terms of reference were defined for the scientific group which monitors the special project against urban poverty; collaboration agreements were defined and signed with York University (Canada) and the Planning Department of Federico II University – Naples; in collaboration with all the above-mentioned institutions, work was carried out...
on the first phases of a study for a proposal on intervention methodology against urban poverty in Central America.

- A scientific and academic promotional event was organised, entitled “The integral regeneration of historical centres”, with the participation of international experts and representatives of public and academic structures in Honduras; the project was presented at an international event entitled “Urban poverty”; a public event was organised, in collaboration with the CYTED network; the project arranged technical exchanges between town-planning specialists from various Central American countries.

- In coordination with the Picacho Cristo Foundation, a study was carried out to identify the professional abilities of families in the urban community of Divina Providencia; a project for creating small enterprises was developed and implemented, which helped create new enterprises, reactivate others, and create jobs.

- Support was given to the “Flower shows”, sponsored by the Municipality of Tegucigalpa, the Ministry of Education and the national Lottery; in October 2003, the work of more than 2,000 children aged 6–16 was collected and selected for subsequent publication with the help of the Programme.

- In November, the Programme presented WHO’s photographic exhibition “A world of people”, sponsored by the Italian Government, UNDP, UNOPS, PAHO and UNESCO. The exhibition was accompanied by cultural exhibitions and debates on poverty and social exclusion.

- In December 2003, the Programme organised the fourth working meeting of the regional group of universities responsible for developing a proposal for post-graduate training on local human development and international cooperation. The subsequent phases of work were defined. The National Autonomous University of Honduras is responsible for coordinating the initiative, promoted by the APPI/TIPP Programme in collaboration with the ILO/Universitas Programme.

Results of the APPI/TIPP Programme in the Department of Valle

The Department of Valle in Honduras consists of nine municipalities. The department has a total population of 141,628: Nacaome (46,926), Alianza (6,887), Amapala (9,700), Aramecina (6,018), Caridad (3,545), Goascoran (13,224), Langue (18,121), San Francisco de Coray (8,550) and San Lorenzo (28,657).

Intense work with local stakeholders in 2002 led to the establishment of a development commission in the Department of Valle. In December 2002, the commission was officially recognised by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice. The commission includes 4 sectoral departmental directorates, 4 mayors representing the local governments, 4 civil society associations, and 4 members of parliament representing the legislative assembly.

In 2003, a roundtable on governance and human rights was set up within the framework of the departmental development commission. The commission and the roundtable received technical and financial assistance to develop five microplanning courses.

The Municipalities of San Francisco de Coray, Caridad, Goascorán, Alianza and Nacaome received help in organising open debates on setting up or reorganising the municipal development councils, in accordance with the law, and the election of human rights commissioners.

From 3 to 14 March 2003, in collaboration with technical experts from the Japanese Government’s cooperation agency (JICA) and the Office of Government and Justice, the Programme organised training course for the definition of strategic plans in the nine municipalities of the Department of Valle. The events were funded by JICA and organised with the active participation of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice. In collaboration with JICA, two courses were organised on Millennium Goals to illustrate the resolutions of the 2000 UN General Assembly. The courses encouraged the municipal authorities to include these goals in their strategic territorial plans.

In collaboration with the Office of Government and Justice and the National Human Rights Commissioner, a project was developed to strengthen municipal management skills. The project involved 17 training courses, held from June to December 2003, aimed at mayors, municipal councillors, and municipal technical and administrative personnel, who participated in the four roundtables of the departmental development commission.

The Programme took part in the process of developing and managing the project entitled “Archivos municipales equipamiento y capacitación”, an initiative to create municipal land register systems in the Municipalities of Langue, Aramecina and San Francisco de Coray. Data were collected in the urban
areas of the three municipalities and work began in the rural areas. The Programme provided technical and organisational assistance for the production of territorial development plans in the Municipalities of Langue, Aramecina, Goascoran, San Francisco de Coray, Caridad and Alianza.

Local economic development

In 2002, activities were carried out to set up the economic development agency of the Department of Valle. The first LEDA general assembly meeting took place in November 2002. The Departmental Economic Development Agency of Valle (ADED–Valle) was promoted by the departmental commission’s economic development roundtable, which includes 50 representatives of producers’ associations, public institutions and NGOs. The statute and regulation were defined and approved.

In December 2002, ADED–Valle was inaugurated. There are 27 ADED members: the 9 municipalities in the department, 6 public institutions, 5 civil society organisations and 7 producers’ associations. The agency is run by a general assembly, a board of directors, and an oversight committee. A technical manager coordinates activities involving four strategic areas: organisational and institutional development; business development; environment, vulnerability and risks; and local development.

The process of setting up the LEDA was completed in September 2003, when the agency was legally recognised. All the activities involved in setting up the agency were carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, which in Honduras coordinates the administrative decentralisation process. In this way, the government adopted the agency model, and on several occasions it expressed its intention to extend it throughout the country. The government also committed itself to launching a decentralisation process for the management of state finances, in which the LEDAs would be responsible for managing local funds for economic development. The activities to be financed through these funds will be defined in accordance to the priorities established in the departmental development plan.

The APPI/TIPP Programme allocated funds worth USD 285,000 for the management of LEDA credit activities in the territories, and a further USD 40,000 for LEDA operations in the first year. At the same time, with the backing of the APPI/TIPP Programme, the national government put the LEDA in charge of managing a fund of USD 600,000 for irrigating crops in the Department of Valle.

In 2002, events and workshops were held with the network of LEDAs in Honduras in order to promote exchanges of information and experiences. On 18 September 2002, the national network held a workshop in Tegucigalpa, with the participation of representatives of the LEDAs of the Departments of Ocotepeque, Intibucá and Valle, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Project for the Rural Development of South-Western Honduras. The Vice-Minister for the Interior chaired the workshop. A delegation from the Department of Valle also visited the Morazán LEDA to learn about which methods and instruments used there could be extended to Honduras. In 2003, collaboration continued between the LEDAs in the Departments of Valle, Ocotepeque and Intibucá.

Development of territorial services

In 2002, in the Department of Valle, the APPI/TIPP Programme carried out numerous activities in support of the social, health and educational services. Furniture was purchased for schools in the Municipalities of Alianza, Amapala and San Francisco de Coray, benefiting 1,025 schoolchildren. The nursery school in Aramecina was renovated, benefiting 40 children. The infrastructures in two schools in Goascorán were improved, benefiting more than 300 students. Rural health centres were renovated in the Municipalities of El Conchal and Alianza, benefiting 2,500 people. In the Municipality of Amapala, 86 latrines were built in rural schools attended by 650 students, reducing the incidence of gastrointestinal illness. Sanitary and working conditions were also improved in the municipal slaughterhouse in Langue, benefiting almost 7,000 inhabitants. A raised drinking-water tank was also built in the Municipality of San Francisco de Coray, benefiting more than 3,000 people. A community pharmacy run on a revolving credit system was created in the Municipality of Caridad. The pharmacy will improve access to essential medicine for the 4,000 inhabitants of the municipality.

In 2002, EU technical experts helped draw up a project for sewage disposal for the Municipality of Nacaome. In 2003, the project was launched in collaboration with the EU, WFP, PAHO and bilateral Italian cooperation. The project benefits 11,000 inhabitants and involves building a station for pumping, treating and eliminating sewage from the city of Nacaome.
In 2003, activities were carried out to improve the health service systems in the department, especially with regard to communication and transferring patients to different health structures. Moreover, the Programme took part in the project “Strengthening school education” in collaboration with the Municipality of Nacaome, WFP, and the Ministries of Education and Health. More than 6,000 children from 53 schools in the Municipality of Langue received anti-parasite treatment, vitamins and fluoride.

RESULTS IN GUATEMALA

The APPI/TIPP Programme in Guatemala operates in the Departments of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula. With the launching of the APPI Programme and its plan of operations in Guatemala, UNDP had an instrument to support national policies against poverty and extend the positive experiences of participation-based local development. In October 2000, the Office for Economic and Social Planning (SEGEPLAN) began preliminary consultations with a view to drawing up a poverty reduction strategy. This strategy was presented to the country in October 2001 during a cabinet meeting, which was open to the public for the first time.

The national institution in charge of coordinating APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes is SEGEPLAN, which coordinates government interventions against poverty. Since 6 March 2002, there has also been a national committee of the APPI/TIPP Programme, which includes representatives of the Economic Planning Office, UNDP, UNOPS, cooperation organisations, and UN agencies involved in APPI.

From 16 to 20 December 2002, the first of five training modules was carried out in collaboration with the ILO/Universitas Programme and at the request of the Guatemalan Government. The course was called "Facilitators of territorial socio-economic development and human development", and was attended by 40 representatives of national and local institutions, members and experts of the LEDAs of Ixcan, Ixil, Huehuetenango and Chiquimula. A UNOPS consultant undertook a 45-day mission to help define a development plan and strengthen the institutional capacities of the LEDAs of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula. The activities were participatory, directly involving experts and LEDA management units.

A combined APPI and APPI/TIPP Programme team was set up to implement national activities. SEGEPLAN included the two programmes in the National Working Group against poverty. The collaboration of UNICEF, WFP and UNESCO with the APPI Programme guaranteed greater impact and sustainability. The APPI/TIPP Programme supported the participatory drafting of poverty reduction strategies (ERP) in 14 municipalities in the Department of Huehuetenango and in 7 municipalities in the Department of Chiquimula.

UNDP presented the APPI Programme to the development councils of the Departments of Quetzaltenango and Zacapa, and territorial marketing documents were produced. From 27 to 30 October 2002, a delegation from Guatemala took part in a mission to Italy to promote decentralised cooperation. Technical assistance was then provided for the departmental development councils of Quetzaltenango and Zacapa to produce participatory territorial development plans. In December 2002, a course was held in Antigua Guatemala for territorial socio-economic development facilitators, in coordination with Insubria University (Varese) and ILO.

In 2003, through the APPI Programme, UNDP guaranteed constant coordination between the local and national levels in order to maximise the results achieved in the Departments of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula. UNDP adopted the APPI approach as a benchmark strategy for its own programmes of governance and sustainable economic development. The most significant results of 2003, achieved with the organic contribution of the APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes, are detailed below:

- UNDP launched four new governance projects adopting territorial integrated and participatory methodology in four departments: Huehuetenango and Chiquimula, where the results of the APPI/TIPP Programme will be consolidated; and Sololá and Alta Verapaz, where APPI/TIPP methodologies will be implemented.
- UNDP helped define the national strategy for poverty reduction. In October 2003, the Guatemalan Government published a document entitled "Poverty reduction strategy 2004–2015, elaborated within the framework of the development councils". In the document, the APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes are seen as the most significant actors backing the processes of participatory planning. The government pledged USD 1,000,000 from the 2004 budget to fund poverty reduction strategies in the Departments of Huehuetenango and Chiquimula.
- In 2003, the Programme extended the protocol of understanding with the National Maya Education
Congress, and supported the establishment of the Maya University with three workshops. The Maya University project is backed by the Toscana Region and the University of Florence.

- The APPI and APPI/TIPP programmes played an active part in the UN human development interagency group, together with UNDP, UNOPS, UNICEF, PAHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and MINUGUA, establishing coordination at the local and national levels so that APPI methodology can inspire municipal strategies for human development and poverty reduction.
- The IDEASS initiative was launched to identify and promote innovation in the field of human development.
- A delegation from ILO Costa Rica undertook a mission to define an economically sustainable social protection project with the Chiquimula LEDA: the maternity centre in the Chortí area of Chiquimula.
- The APPI/TIPP Programme invested heavily in boosting the technical and operational capacity of the LEDAs in Guatemala. Through training activities carried out with the ILO/Universitas Programme, LEDA technical capacity was improved, boosting LEDA influence in the departmental development councils and territorial development. A strategy for the social and economic sustainability of the agencies was also defined, which involved extending participation to peasant farmers, native populations and women.

**Results of the APPI/TIPP Programme in the Department of Chiquimula**

The Department of Chiquimula consists of 11 municipalities. The department has a total population of 328,986: Chiquimula (92,774), San José de la Arada (8,554), San Juan Ermita (14,475), Jocotan (38,491), Camotan (32,899), Olota (18,423), Esquipulas (44,742), Concepción De las Minas (13,818), Quezaltepeque (29,609), San Jacinto (11,844) and Ipala (22,700).

In the Department of Chiquimula, the first activities of the APPI/TIPP Programme concentrated on
strengthening the departmental development council. When activities began in 2001, the Urban and Rural Development Council of Chiquimula (CODEDUR) was formed principally of central and local government institutions (mayors and representatives of state institutions), with a minimal presence from civil society and specifically-invited NGOs. There were no working groups to analyse the departmental situation, and the activities of the council were limited to negotiating for the social funds available in the country. Through the intervention of the Programme, the council was restructured to extend participation to all areas of civil society, defining new operational mechanisms, strategies and procedures to create departmental development plans and plans of operation. Five commissions were set up: health, gender, education, environment and economic development.

In 2003, greater technical assistance was provided for the departmental development council and civil society organisations in order to improve governance in the Department of Chiquimula. The various planning meetings were attended by a total of 5,000 people. In particular, the participants received training on a gender approach to policy-making and transparency in public expenditure management. A report was drafted on development council investments for 2000–03, which also forms the basis for the 2004–07 development plan.

The Programme and SEGEPLAN helped the departmental development council to draw up a departmental strategy for poverty reduction. Assistance in drafting strategies was given to seven municipal administrations. The departmental and municipal strategies were used to draft the 2004 budget. An initiative that had great impact was the establishment of the GIS in the Department of Chiquimula, at the Oriente University Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, GTZ and FAO.

Through participatory programming activities, two important initiatives were identified and launched in collaboration with Italian NGOs. One was a project for the promotion of the rights of the Chortí and for the negotiation and delimitation of communal lands in an area of the department with a native majority, in collaboration with the Chortí programme and the Community of Capodarco CICA (Italy). The other was a project focusing on the political influence of women, carried out by APS (an Italian NGO) in coordination with the local organisation ATRIDEST and the women’s commission of the development council. The Programme gave thousands of women access to basic documentation to help them defend their rights and promote initiatives for the civil and political participation of women in the department.

Activities were carried out to establish concrete decentralised cooperation partnerships. The Chiquimula departmental development committee collaborates with the Province of Pescara, the Province of Arezzo, the Mountain Community of Pratomagno (Municipalities of Loro Ciuffenna, Terranuova Bracciolini, Montevarchi, San Giovanni Valdarno, Castelfranco di Sopra, Bucine and Pontassieve). The Arezzo and Valdarno Committee received a delegation from Huehuetenango and took part in a subsequent mission to Guatemala. The committees set aside committed funding worth USD 100,000 for 2003–04.

**Local economic development**

In 2002, backing was given to the Association of Services and Socio-economic Development of Chiquimula (ASEDECHI). Established and officially recognised in September 1999, ASEDECHI is classified in legal terms as a non-profit association. The Chiquimula LEDA began operations in January 2002.

The Programme strengthened ASEDECHI by expanding the board of directors, increasing the number of members by 30 percent, and redrafting the statute and internal regulations. In December 2002, a strategic development plan was drawn up with ILO support. Conditions were created so that the agency could manage a credit fund. The APPI/TIPP provided the agency with funds worth USD 147,000 for credit activities in the area, benefiting 285 small producers and entrepreneurs, 95 of them women.

ASEDEQUI has 20 members, including 12 cooperatives and 7 business associations. Two of the cooperatives are concerned with savings and credit and assist 20,000 people; others provide support for the production and marketing of coffee, beans and other local produce.

The agency is run by a general assembly, a board of seven directors and an oversight committee, which is responsible for monitoring, controlling and auditing the LEDA’s technical and financial activities. The technical structure provides for a director and an expert in project and credit management. ASEDEQUI has also set up a consultative committee, which includes mayors and exponents of the government, unions and private enterprise, to guarantee strategic planning of territorial resources.
Support for territorial services

In 2002, in coordination with the CODEDUR health commission, some community pharmacies were set up in the rural areas of the department and others improved in order to strengthen the departmental health system. A total of 17 medicine distribution centres were created in communities in 10 municipalities of the department. The system was provided with operational regulations. A total of 69 health workers, recognised by the Ministry of Health, were trained to manage the community pharmacies.

In 2003, the number of community pharmacies was increased to 23. In November 2003, the Programme started work on setting up a maternity centre and provided training for traditional midwives in order to guarantee services for the prevention of maternal mortality throughout the area. The project was run by the nutritional recovery centre of Jocotán, in the Chortí area of Chiquimula, in collaboration with doctors and specialised personnel of the Community of Capodarco CICA.

In collaboration with APS, a civil education project was carried out to enhance the local education system. The project represents the first experience of its kind in the department. Indeed, as a consequence of armed conflict, the subject of civil education had been eliminated from the formal education system. Training was provided for 2,500 students, 40 teachers and 550 community managers through a manual on civic participation, which illustrates areas where citizens can participate and exert a democratic influence.

In collaboration with the environmental commission of the departmental development council of Chiquimula, improvements in environmental conditions were made through an environmental education project, in collaboration with APS, and a project for monitoring and preventing disasters, in collaboration with the NGO Movimondo. Furthermore, in collaboration with the environmental commission of the departmental development council, UNDP developed and presented a project valued at USD 1,000,000 to the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) for territorial reorganisation activities aimed at preventing drought and desertification in the Departments of Chiquimula and Zacapa.

Results of the APPI/TIPP Programme in the Department of Huehuetenango

The Department of Huehuetenango in Guatemala consists of 31 municipalities. The department has a total population of 897,987: Huehuetenango (87,999), Chiantla (73,281), Malatancito (14,960), Cuilco (51,039), Nentón (24,640), San Pedro Necta (2,039), Jacaltenango (37,838), San Pedro Soloma (35,199), San Ildefonso Ixtahuacán (29,919), Santa Bárbara (19,360), La Libertad (27,279), La Democracia (43,879), San Miguel Acatán (23,760), San Rafael La Independencia (13,200), Todos Santos Cuchumatán (28,159), San Juan Atitán (16,720), Santa Eulalia (26,400), San Mateo Ixtatán (31,679), Colotenango (27,279), San Sebastián Huehuetenango (22,880), Tectitán (8,800), Concepción Huista (22,000), San Juan Ixcoy (21,120), San Antonio Huista (13,200), San Sebastián Coatán (18,480), Santa Cruz Barillas (57,959), Aguaclán (45,759), San Rafael Petzal (7,040), San Gaspar Ixchil (7,040), Santiago Chimaltenango (7,920) and Santa Huista (6,160).

In the Department of Huehuetenango, the initial activities of the APPI/TIPP Programme focused on strengthening the departmental development council. In 2001, when activities began, the Urban and Rural Development Council (CODEDUR) of Huehuetenango, as in Chiquimula, was a structure formed principally (68.8 percent) of central and local government institutions (mayors and representatives of state institutions) in which civil society was represented minimally. There were no working groups and only the departmental technical unit was functioning, made up of public officials. Through the Programme, the council was restructured, extending participation to all the various entities of civil society, defining new operational mechanisms, strategies and procedures to create departmental development plans and plans of operation. A departmental GIS was also created.

2003 saw continued activities in support of CODEDUR. The Programme provided technical assistance to the departmental development council, which became more representative. In accordance with Decree 11–2002, 20 new representatives of civil society organisations were admitted to the council. In particular, an active part is now played in the council by nine representatives of the linguistic community of the Maya, peasants and women’s organisations, and SMEs. All the associations of the Municipalities of Huehuetenango have decided to participate actively in the development council.
Five working commissions were created. The Programme continued its backing of the Huehuetenango GIS unit (USIGHUE) in 2003. Within the framework of the development council, 15 municipalities incorporated their respective municipal development plans into a single departmental strategy for poverty reduction. The development council allocated USD 750,000 from its 2004 budget for the departmental anti-poverty strategy developed with the support of the Programme. The LEDA developed a strategic project for the coffee industry, which is scheduled to receive funds from the Guatemalan Government and the EU.

Processes involving joint decision-making and dialogue between the state and the civil society were promoted, through the departmental commission for conflict resolution and the roundtable for joint decision-making and support of the Huehuetenango Peace Agreements. Moreover, support was given to departmental organisations of native populations and women. Of considerable importance was the support given to the Council of Mayan People (who represent 80 percent of the population of Huehuetenango) and the departmental women's commission.

In order to strengthen Maya and women's organisations, a project was developed in collaboration with CEFA, and Italian and Guatemalan NGOs (MAIS, Mani Tese, Menchú Foundation, Landivar University, and CONAVIGUA), which provided training for 205 leaders of indigenous communities. Research was carried out on the situation of women in the Mam area of Huehuetenango. The women who received training take an active part in the development councils and the other areas of civic participation.

A project was carried out for training in human rights and conflict resolution, in collaboration with the same consortium of Italian and Guatemalan NGOs. Activities were carried out on research, institutional enhancement, sensitisation and training for conflict prevention, and the safeguarding of human rights. The Department of Huehuetenango has been particularly affected by violent armed conflict and the defence of human rights is one of the fundamental aspects of the process for real reconciliation.

With support from CEFA and the consortium of Italian and Guatemalan NGOs, a project was developed to strengthen institutions that promote land regularisation, access and legalisation. The delicate issue of inequality in land access is without doubt one of the structural causes of poverty in Guatemala. On the basis of the terms stipulated in the peace agreements, promotion is under way for a pilot property register project and the regularisation of land in the Municipality of Colotenango. This is the first initiative to involve land regularisation in the history of the Department of Huehuetenango.

Activities were undertaken to launch concrete decentralised cooperation partnerships. The Huehuetenango departmental development committee collaborates with FAMSI. Reciprocal missions were carried out to develop social participation initiatives in the department. FAMSI pledged Euro 36,000 for 2003.

The Inter-Municipal Committee of Rovigo, Verona and Pesaro undertook a mission to Huehuetenango in April 2003 in order to establish development initiatives in the Department of Huehuetenango, worth a total of USD 50,000. The committee includes the Province of Rovigo and the Municipalities of Verona, Malcesine, Nogara, S. Martino Buonalbergo, Sommacampagna and Pesaro. The Province and Municipality of Cremona also undertook a mission to Huehuetenango to define initiatives for 2004.

Local economic development

The Programme strengthened the Service and Economic and Social Development Agency of Huehuetenango (ASDECOHUE), which was set up spontaneously by 12 cooperatives, with the backing of the national cooperatives Institute (INACOP). Initially, ASDECOHUE also benefited from a financial contribution from HIVOS-Holland. In contrast to LEDAs set up by UNDP/ILO/UNOPS, ASDECOHUE did not provide for the participation of public institutions. The Huehuetenango LEDA began operations in February 1990 and received legal recognition on 28 June 1994, as a non-profit association. Despite the lack of any significant funding, the agency is a point of reference for the area.

The Programme strengthened ASDECOHUE by enlarging its social base and redrafting its statute and internal regulations. The strategic development plan was drawn up with the support of ILO. The agency is run by a general assembly, board of directors, and the financial, study/project, and tax commissions. Conditions were created so that the agency could manage the credit fund to support productive activities in the territory. The Programme provided the agency with funds worth USD 507,000 for credit activities, benefiting 408 small producers, 193 of them native women.
The LEDA has 58 members: 27 cooperatives, 11 associations and 20 groups, which are in the process of receiving legal recognition (a total membership of 10,081). In 2003, with backing from MAIS, the Huehuetenango LEDA classified the department's coffee productions systems. Quality coffee was placed on the Italian market through the Slow Food organisation, which believes that the coffee produced in Huehuetenango deserves to be safeguarded and promoted. Slow Food invited representatives of Huehuetenango producers to the Fiera Internazionale del Gusto in Turin. Contact was also established with the market in the United States of America through the Boston International Fair.

In collaboration with Movimondo, training on export-oriented business management was provided to cooperatives and small enterprises. A market study identified export lines for alternative and conventional trade items (peanuts, coffee, beans, arts and crafts).

Support for territorial services

In 2002, in support of the local education system and on the basis of priorities established by CODEDUR, school furniture was supplied to 106 schools in 6 priority municipalities of the department, benefiting 10,000 students. In collaboration with the UNESCO programme “Cultura de Paz”, 76 young men and women received training in the culture of peace, environment, human rights and native peoples, and collaborated with instructors in the target schools.

In 2003, four projects were carried out in support of the local education system, in collaboration with a consortium of NGOs led by COOPI, and with the participation of CESTAS and the Menchú Foundation:

- Project involving the education of girls and the educational community: 375 scholarships were granted to Mayan girls from poor families; information was provided to more than 800 parents and teachers in the communities targeted by the project.
- Project to strengthen bilingual education: a new curriculum was developed for nine bilingual schools, with the participation of 30 teachers; training activities were organised for teachers, and schools were provided with updated bibliographical material.
- Project in support of introducing changes to the curriculum: a study examined the educational needs of the Mam linguistic community, and a proposal was drafted for a curriculum suited to the socio-cultural context.
- Project in support of women's literacy: 560 women are taking part in a literacy scheme, which uses bilingual methodology and is based on popular education, in the five municipalities with the highest rate of illiteracy; 21 literacy centres operate in the five municipalities, in close coordination with the national literacy committee (CONALFA).

In 2002, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, which takes part in CODEDUR, initiatives were identified to produce an impact on the departmental health system. In 2003, activities continued with the support of a consortium of Italian NGOs, coordinated by COOPI, with the active collaboration of the Guatemalan organisation, Genesis. In particular, the following results were achieved:

- Improvement of the maternity centre in Huehuetenango, which guarantees safe labour and delivery and pre- and post-natal care. Various educational campaigns were developed in the Mam and Spanish languages for women and young people, dealing with violence against women and minors, and family planning. A play area for children and a visitors area were also built. In 2003, training was provided for 72 health operators and 107 traditional midwives; medicine and health equipment were supplied.
- Improvement of the maternity centre in San Pedro Necta. Educational campaigns were carried out in the Mam and Spanish languages for women and young people, dealing with violence against women and minors, and family planning. In 2003, a new maternity centre was established, which assisted 120 women; training activities were promoted for patients and health workers. A project was implemented to make the centre sustainable by selling natural products.
- In 2002, a study of territorial needs carried out in conjunction with CODEDUR health commission highlighted a lack of essential medicine and indicated areas where community pharmacies could be set up. This resulted in the creation of: a pharmacy, 3 community outlets, and 34 community distribution centres in different communities in the 5 municipalities of the department. The whole system was provided with adequate operational regulations. Collaboration was ensured with the programme "Access to Pharmaceuticals" (PROAM) of the Ministry of Health, which set up a revolving fund to sustain the provision of medicine. Essential medicines were supplied. The project was completed in 2003, benefiting more than 7,000 people.
- In 2002, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, training was provided for 71 departmental health service workers, 171 traditional midwives from
3 municipalities, 34 youth workers and 5 self-help groups, involving 164 women. Information and didactic material was produced. The efficiency of several health centres was improved. In 2003, a departmental committee was set up for the reduction of maternal mortality. Training and assistance was given to 425 traditional midwives from the 7 municipalities with the highest rate of maternal mortality. Research was conducted into infant and maternal mortality. Training activities continued for young people and health workers; medical material was supplied to health centres for emergency obstetrics.

In 2002, activities considered priority by CODEDUR were carried out to improve environmental conditions in the department. In particular, on the basis of a study on the availability of safe drinking-water that had revealed a lack of chlorination systems, Dipcell systems were assembled in order to chlorinate drinking-water. None of the municipalities in the Department of Huehuetenango has a system to collect, treat or dispose of solid waste. The Programme funded studies to find viable solutions in the area and began work on the construction of a treatment plant.

In 2003, environmental interventions were carried out in the Selegua River basin (eight municipalities) in collaboration with the Italian NGO MLAL, and Fundamaya. Three projects are being implemented at present:

- waste disposal project: environmental commissions have been organised in two municipal development boards; land identified, and plans drawn up for setting up the systems;
- technological project for sustainable development: experimentation of new sustainable technologies; soil preservation; orchards, medicinal herbs and organic farming methods;
- project for environmental education and planning: a strategy for environmental education has been developed in schools and in community educational activities, and an environmental education manual has been produced for secondary schools.