APPI/PDHL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP, IN COLLABORATION WITH HABITAT, ILO, PAHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP AND UNOPS

IN CUBA


**Duration of activities**

The Programme began in July 1998 and was ongoing as of December 2003.

**National coordination**

The Ministry for Foreign Investment and Economic Collaboration (MINVEC) is the national institution responsible for the Anti-Poverty Partnership Initiative (APPI)/Local-level Human Development Programme (PDHL).

A National Coordination Committee (CNC), convened by MINVEC, carries out the coordination and general monitoring of the two initiatives. It is composed of representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the agencies of the United Nations (UN) involved, and donor countries. The CNC has held meetings every two weeks since 1998.

**Governments involved in cooperation**

Canada, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, and the Commission of the European Union (EC).

**Territorial actors**

Since 1998 the territorial actors of the APPI/PDHL have been the working groups of the Provinces of Pinar del Río, Granma, Las Tunas, Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and 36 municipal working groups, in addition to the Habana Vieja Municipal Working Group. They have produced a set of guidelines for local-level sustainable human development that serves as a point of reference for the activities of the APPI/PDHL and the decentralised cooperation committees. They have drawn up and managed 321 projects with 386 actors of decentralised cooperation and 143 social and economic actors from Cuban provinces and municipalities.

**Funding**

Between 1998 and 2003, the Italian Government contributed USD 7,004,008; the Spanish Government USD 964,955; the Swiss Government USD 550,000; the EC USD 227,272; the Brazilian Government USD 100,000; the Swedish Government USD 92,313; the British Government USD 73,000; and the Canadian Government USD 39,772.

The UNDP/APPI Fund contributed USD 1,000,000; UNDP USD 566,432; and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) USD 328,306.

From 1998 to 2003, the decentralised cooperation committees contributed: USD 2,809,995 towards project implementation; high-level technical assistance, provided by participating structures, as calculated according to UN parameters, for a value of USD 3,124,628; goods were donated for a value of USD 2,666,580. Therefore, the total amount contributed by these committees was USD 8,601,163.
Territorial partners

- Working Group of the Province of Pinar del Río
  • The Toscana Region and the Cecina Committee; the Umbria Region and the Perugia Committee; the Lombardia Region and the Bergamo and Mantova Committee; the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Emilia-Romagna Committee: Marzabotto, Reggio Emilia and Forlì; the Catalan Development Cooperation Fund (Spain).

- Working Group of the Municipality of Habana Vieja
  • The Lazio Region Committee; the Toscana Region: the Committees of Livorno, Zona del Cuio, Firenze, Siena, Arezzo and Viareggio; the Marche Region and the Municipality of Fabriano; the Basilicata Region and the Municipality of Matera; the Lombardia Region; the Provinces of Bergamo, Brescia, Como, Cremona, Lecco, Lodi, Milano, Mantova and Pavia; the Catalan Development Cooperation Fund; the Walloon Region (Belgium); and the Municipalities of Dunkerque and Brou Sur Chantereine (France).

- Working Group of the Province of Granma
  • The Liguria Region and the Liguria Committee; the Veneto Region and the Venezia Committee; the Campania Region and the Province of Napoli; the Umbria Region, the Foligno and Terni Committees; the Emilia-Romagna Region, the Emilia-Romagna Committee and the Province of Parma; the Sardegna Region and the Sardegna Committee; the Sicilia Region and the Palermo Committee; the Trieste Committee; the Basque Country and EUSKAL FONDOA (Spain).

- Working Group of the Province of Las Tunas
  • The Lombardia Region and the Provinces of Cremona, Bergamo, Lodi and Mantova; the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Province of Parma; and the Andalusian Municipalities’ International Solidarity Fund (FAMSI – Spain).

- Working Group of the Province of Guantánamo
  • The Basque Country, EUSKAL FONDOA and the Diputación Foral de Bizkaia; and FAMSI (Spain).

- Working Group of the Province of Santiago de Cuba
  • The Autonomous Province of Bolzano.

Key features

With the structural collaboration of MINVEC, the APPI/PDHL has managed to take on the function of a framework programme for all the cooperation agencies supporting development in the six provinces and in the Municipality of Habana Vieja. The seven working groups, with MINVEC recognition for their coordination and local planning activities, are the real interlocutors for all the cooperation agencies. From 1998 to 2003, they drew up and managed 390 development projects in the following fields: technical and administrative decentralisation (50), services (226), and local economic development (114).

In September 2002, the APPI/PDHL was presented by UNDP as one of nine examples of good practice in sustainable human development in Latin America. With the positive results achieved and in agreement with its board, in 2003 UNDP directed its multiannual funding framework with Cuba towards local human development and environmental protection. European local authorities with territorial partnerships established under the APPI/PDHL are an additional factor in the success of the initiatives under way, which are having a clear impact on the development of the territories. UNDP analyses in 2003 showed that the cost of APPI/PDHL operations geared to fostering decentralised cooperation activities was USD 90,859, with investments by the committees totalling USD 8,601,163. Every dollar invested by UNDP mobilised USD 94 from European local authorities.

Stable collaboration with the working groups is provided by: the University of Havana, the Chair of Human Development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the University of Pinar del Rio, the University of Granma, the Centre for Studies of World Economy (CIEM), the Centre for Cuban Economy Studies; the universities of Bilbao, Florence, ETEA (Córdoba), Grenoble, Quebec, York (Toronto), Bocconi (Milan), Zaragoza, Pisa, Verona, and La Sapienza (Rome). The following non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also participate in the working groups: Euskadi-Cuba, Asociación Navarra Nuevo Futuro, CIC Bata, Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz, and Fundación Trueta (all Spanish organisations); ARCJ, CIES, CISP, CISS, COSPE, CRIC, GVC, Legambiente, Progetto Sviluppo, Progetto Continenenti, Nexus, MAIS, and VIS (all Italian organisations); Villes en Transition, Gret, Pact Arim, and the Croix Rouge (French organisations); Save the Children – UK (British); DIAKONIA (Swedish); Agro Acción Alemana (German); the Amistad Foundation (of the United States of America); and Brazil’s Micro and Small Enterprise Support Service (SEBRAE).
OVERVIEW

The PDHL started up in Cuba on 26 September 1998, on the basis of an agreement between the Cuban Government, the Italian Government, UNDP and UNOPS, signed on 22 April 1997.

In its present form, the APPI/PDHL is the result of the fusion of the PDHL with the APPI. Both programmes are managed by UNDP: the APPI is implemented directly by UNDP, and the PDHL is implemented by UNOPS.

From 1998 to December 2003, the Italian Government contributed a total of USD 7,004,008 for the implementation of the PDHL. The contributions were disbursed in successive stages after the plan of operations had been produced and the tripartite meeting between Cuba, Italy and UNDP–UNOPS had been held to evaluate the outcomes and propose the continuation of activities.

In 1988, with the collaboration of MINVEC, the national institution responsible for PDHL/CUBA, the management unit was established at the national and local levels. All the planning and management activities related to the resources contributed by the PDHL were managed by the CNC and the provincial and municipal working groups. In 1998, the PDHL began activities in the Provinces of Granma (820,000 inhabitants) and Pinar del Río (720,151 inhabitants), and in the Municipality of Habana Vieja (107,177 inhabitants).

In July 1999, at the UNDP board meeting, the Cuban Government thanked the UN for the quality of the work done by the PDHL in Cuba. Furthermore, at the board meeting held in New York in January 2000, the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, cited PDHL/CUBA as a positive example of support to the decentralisation process, underlining the fundamental role of the decentralised cooperation partnerships. On 16 August 2000, an agreement was signed for the implementation of a project by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), in the framework of the PDHL, and the Italian Government made funding worth USD 600,000 available. This project, run by UNIFEM and the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), began in September 2000 and ended in December 2001. The project applied the Beijing Conference’s Action Plan, thereby helping to support the empowerment of women in the development processes under way.

In December 2000, 850,000 people benefitted from the results of the PDHL, and it was calculated that every dollar spent by the Programme was tripled, as a result of cofunding from national institutions and the decentralised cooperation committees. On the occasion of the tripartite meeting of 20 December 2000, the Cuban Government announced its intention to extend the method of provincial and municipal working groups to other Cuban provinces. In October 2001, in the course of another tripartite meeting, it was decided to extend the PDHL to the Provinces of Las Tunas and Guantánamo.

In June 2001, with funding from the APPI Trust Fund, the human development activities were extended to the Provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Holguín, using the same team and the same mechanisms as the PDHL. Since then, MINVEC and UNDP have drawn up a broad framework programme – the APPI/PDHL – to operate in six provinces and one special municipality, reaching 50 percent of the Cuban population. It is coordinated by UNDP and carries out its work with the collaboration of numerous international cooperation agencies. In June 2001, an event was organised to launch the APPI/PDHL Programme, with the participation of the accredited ambassadors to Cuba from donor countries and UN agencies. The APPI Fund contributed USD 1,000,000 for the implementation of two action plans for the years 2002 and 2003. In the Provinces of Holguín and Santiago de Cuba, activities began in October 2001.

In 2001, the APPI/PDHL ran two emergency projects in the Province of Granma, funded by the Italian Government, which formally expressed its approval of the outcomes. The UNIFEM/APPI/PDHL project was refinanced in 2002, with further funding worth USD 600,000.

At the same time, UNDP was developing a strategy for the search for new sources of funding. Missions were dispatched to Paris, Oslo, Stockholm and Brussels – the Ministry of Cooperation and the European Union (EU). The Programme was presented at various international events, where new partnerships were sealed (Barcelona, San Sebastián, Bilbao, Andalusia and Venice). Collaboration was established with numerous European NGOs: Villes en Transition, GRET, Pact Arim, GRT, Asamblea de Paz, Cit Bata, VIS and CIESS. The NGOs already participating in the Programme gave assurances of their continued collaboration.

In 2001, representatives from the Swedish Cooperation Agency undertook missions to Cuba, resulting in the participation of Sweden in the APPI/PDHL in the Province of Holguín. In the Province of Granma, an Agenda 21 project, carried out by the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT) and funded by the Belgian Cooperation Agency, was included in the APPI/PDHL framework. Together with the Swiss Cooperation Agency, an agreement was reached to carry out activities in the Province of Holguín. Agreements were established with UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) for joint projects in the Provinces of Guantánamo, Granma and Santiago de Cuba. In the Province of Guantánamo, the APPI/PDHL office is shared with UNICEF and WFP, which have contributed with equipment and funding. Projects in the Province of Las Tunas and five projects in the eastern provinces were planned and implemented with the collaboration of the World Health Organization (WHO) / Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

In 2001, operating agreements were signed with: Euskal Fondooa (Municipality of Habana Vieja and the Province of Granma); Fons Catalá (Municipality of Habana Vieja and the Province of Pinar del Río; and the Andalusian Cooperation Fund (Provinces of Las Tunas and Guantánamo). The funding contributed by Spanish decentralised cooperation in 2002 amounted to USD 600,000. In addition, two French municipalities, Dunkerque and Brou Sur Chantereine, formulated decentralised cooperation projects in the framework of the APPI/PDHL.

In March 2002, a delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) visited Cuba and formulated the Universitas/Cuba programme in collaboration with the University of Havana, in the framework of the APPI/PDHL. The project became operational in November 2002. In the same month, the United Kingdom contributed USD 18,000 towards the implementation of eight projects in Pinar del Río involving farming and the production of building materials. In December 2002, Sweden contributed USD 93,000 and Spain USD 414,866.

In 2003, the APPI/PDHL received numerous visits from representatives of cooperation agencies and the foreign ministries of donor countries who came to examine the results achieved. Among these, there were visits from representatives of the governments of Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

A three-year project to form part of the APPI/PDHL was formulated with the Canadian Embassy for 2004–06. In June 2003, an agreement was signed with the Swiss cooperation agency (COSUDE) to carry out support work in the Municipality of Habana Vieja and in the Province of Holguín. A project to stimulate business initiatives in the five provinces was agreed with the Swedish International Development Authority (ASDI). In collaboration with the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECI), a food-security project was implemented in the Provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo. Agreement was reached with the British Embassy in Cuba on the implementation of three projects. The APPI/PDHL was presented to the EU delegate to Cuba with a view to possible future collaboration.

**OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

MINVEC is the national institution responsible for the APPI/PDHL. It set up the CNC, in which the following institutions participate: UNDP, UNOPS, other agencies associated with the Programme, and representatives of the Cuban ministries and institutions involved.

The CNC met regularly for a total of 80 working sessions, in which all decisions regarding the APPI/PDHL were discussed and approved. The proceedings of each session of the CNC were forwarded by MINVEC to the provincial presidents concerned and they were posted systematically on the Web site in order to inform the decentralised cooperation committees promptly of the decisions taken.

The Procurement Committee, set up specifically for the APPI/PDHL during the first phase, was adopted by MINVEC for other UN programmes. Since its creation in July 1999, the Procurement Committee has averaged 26 purchases a month.

The APPI/PDHL national headquarters are located in the UNDP representative office. The Programme has the use of operational offices in the main towns of the Provinces of Granma, Pinar del Río, Las Tunas, Guantánamo, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and in the Municipality of Habana Vieja. The provincial institutions provide the premises with the necessary office equipment, petrol, telephone equipment, maintenance and office cleaning services. Secretarial staff and drivers are also made available. The APPI/PDHL also supplied all offices with computers programmed to run the territorial information systems and software containing geographical data.

The work the APPI/PDHL is coordinated by an international technical consultant who has been working as project manager since 26 September 1998 at the national headquarters in Havana. Since 2002, five international consultants have been working in
RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The international activities of the APPI/PDHL continued in 2003, which allowed for the consolidation and extension of international partnerships already established in previous phases.

Starting in 1998, the PDHL has carried out numerous international activities. It has been presented at prestigious international events organised by the Group of 77, the Cuban Government, and by the UN, as an example of an innovative cooperation programme. Important international events have also been organised in Cuba. Sharing of information and experience between Cuba and other human development programmes have been fostered. Previous editions of the Annual Report have provided a full description of the results achieved.

In 2003, the Programme was invited to present its experiences at various international events. This led to the establishment of 21 new cooperation partnerships. In particular, the APPI/PDHL participated in the following events:

• World Forum of Local Authorities, January 2003, Porto Alegre (Brazil).
• The International Book Fair of Havana, February 2003, to launch the book “Cerrado por reparación” (Closed for repairs) by Cuban writer Nancy Alonso, winner of the women’s fiction prize “Alba de Céspedes 2002,” sponsored by APPI/PDHL/UNIFEM, the National Union of Cuban Artists and Writers (UNEAC) and Casa Las Americas.
• The UNIFEM Regional Seminar, February 2003, in Havana with participants from Cuba, Central America and the Dominican Republic. The UNIFEM regional office presented the APPI/PDHL as a mechanism for promoting the gender approach in local development.
• IV International Meeting of World March of Women against Poverty and Violence, February 2003, India. The FMC presented the time-use survey, conducted within the ambit of the APPI/PDHL, as an innovative methodology in the local-level planning of gender policies.
• Reporting by two journalists on cooperation activities of the Andalusia Region (Spain) in the framework of the APPI/PDHL, February–May 2003. The report was broadcast on Spanish television in July 2003 and it will be shown on Cuban television in 2004.
• HABITAT missions to Bayamo under the ongoing Agenda 21 project in the Province of Granma,

the Provinces of Granma, Pinar del Río, Guantánamo, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba and Holguín. They provide technical assistance and organisational support to the working groups and the decentralised cooperation committees.

The national coordination office set up a Web site: www.onu.org.cu, containing texts and images relating to the APPI/PDHL. In order to inform public opinion about the initiatives carried out in Cuba, the Web site also links to the Web sites of the regions and cities active in decentralised cooperation. Furthermore, from an administrative point of view, the Web site makes it possible for all the authorities involved to follow online the status of ongoing projects. Set up in September 2000, the Web site had received 167,930 hits by December 2003, demonstrating the interest raised by the initiative and its effectiveness.

The APPI/PDHL working groups operate in the provinces and municipalities with the collaboration of MINVEC. They are in charge of activity planning and management. The authorities responsible for the APPI/PDHL in the provinces are the presidents of the Provincial Assemblies of People’s Power, who preside over the provincial working groups, made up of representatives of the departments of territorial planning, economy, health, education, environment, and labour, together with the provincial representatives from MINVEC, and the FMC. In the Municipality of Habana Vieja, the competent authority is the president of the Municipal Assembly of People’s Power, who presides over the municipal working group.

The Cuban Government granted Internet access to the working groups in the Provinces of Granma, Pinar del Río, Las Tunas, Guantánamo, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín and in the Municipality of Habana Vieja as they are local operational units of international cooperation. In this way, they are able to communicate directly with the European decentralised cooperation committees. This decision indicates the confidence the government has in the way the APPI/PDHL Programme operates. In the 7 areas, the local authorities have seconded 53 highly-qualified technical experts full time to the APPI/PDHL. Each provincial office has the use of a vehicle, for which local institutions provide petrol and servicing.

In the Provinces of Las Tunas, Guantánamo, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba, the provincial working groups have selected the priority municipalities and assisted in the establishment of the municipal working groups, located in offices provided by the respective local authorities.
January, March, June and October 2003.

• Presentation Day in Rome, at the Istituto Italo-LatinoAmericano, of the results of the APPI/PDHL, with the participation of 23 Italian committees (123 municipalities, 38 provinces, 10 regions and more than 200 local actors) involved with the PDHL in the period 1999–2003. All the committees expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved and their intention to continue with their interventions.

• An event in Seville organised by the Fondo Andaluso de Ciudades Solidarias, in April 2003, entitled “Decentralised cooperation and multilateral cooperation: the experience of the APPI/PDHL”. Presentation of the APPI/PDHL to 34 international cooperation agencies and the launching of 8 new partnerships in the framework of the APPI/PDHL.

• Forum della Solidarietà Lucchese nel Mondo, April 2003. Presentation of the Natural and Traditional Medicine Clinic of Habana Vieja by the Lucca and Viareggio Committee.

• Technical meeting on statistics and gender indicators, May 2003, La Paz (Bolivia). Presentation to delegates of six Latin-American countries of the time–use survey, conducted by the Cuban National Statistics Office, as a first experience of this type in Latin America.

• IV UNIFEM Meeting on statistical methods for development, June 2003, Aguas Calientes (Mexico). Presentation of the UNIFEM experience in the framework of the APPI/PDHL.

• World Congress on Information Technology and Law, organised by the Cuban National Union of Jurists, September 2003, Havana. Presentation of information technologies by UNDP and the e-government project implemented in Guantánamo under the APPI/PDHL.

• IV United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Forum on Re-inventing Government, October 2003, Mexico. Presentation of the APPI/PDHL as a means of organising both macrodevelopment and microdevelopment activities.


• Workshop held by the Hegoa Foundation on “Local development and development cooperation in Cuba”, November 2003, Bilbao (Spain). Presentation of the APPI/PDHL as a way of preventing the dispersion of cooperation activities and of capitalising on the good social and economic development practices in the Basque Country.

• Two South–South technical cooperation exchanges, in Honduras and Nicaragua, on the restoration of the historical centre of Habana Vieja and the historical centre of Tegucigalpa. November 2003.

• Presentation of Cuban innovations in Honduras, Mexico and Morocco, in the framework of the initiative Innovations for Development and South–South Cooperation (IDEASS). Mission to Nicaragua by CENSA and the Academy of Science to present a Cuban product – Stabilak.

• Workshop run by ILO/Universitas and the Subregional Network for Human Development on decentralised cooperation and the innovation process and the transmission of information on successful projects in the framework of social development, May 2003, Havana. Participants included representatives from Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba; and representatives from UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM and UNESCO.

• II International Meeting on the integral management of historical centres, organised by the Oficina del Historiador in Havana and by the APPI/PDHL. Representatives from Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, El Salvador and Spain met to discuss management tools for historical centres. A comparison was made of management tools for historical centres. Managers from the Oficina del Historiador presented the APPI/PDHL as a key tool for linking the work of international cooperation with the process of restoring the historical centre of Habana Vieja.

• International meeting on “The role of local development in global challenges”, organised by the Province and Municipality of Como, November 2003, Como (Italy). The APPI/PDHL was presented as a reference framework proposed by UNDP to European local authorities to establish international cooperation partnerships in application of the Millennium Challenges. Participants included the president of World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) and the director of Fons Catalá (Spain).

• Two-week internship with the APPI/PDHL to enable representatives of the governments of Honduras and Panama to observe the partnership methodology employed in Cuba, November 2003.

Coordination with international organisations

Various UN agencies have used the APPI/PDHL as a framework of reference in the planning and implementation of local development projects. UNDP has fostered these synergies and, in the context of the APPI/PDHL in the eastern provinces, has advanced its own initiatives “Capacidad 21” and the Global
Cuban partners in the municipalities and provinces concerned; implement 18 training courses geared to the projects; participate in 10 exchanges of experiences; and identify and formulate 12 new decentralised cooperation projects.

In February 2003, in Havana, an event entitled, “Siena: the art of building the future” was held in collaboration with the Oficina del Historiador of Havana. The event illustrated the art, culture and economy of Siena with conferences, workshops, presentations of local cuisine, exhibitions and concerts. The Siena Committee inaugurated three projects in Habana Vieja. In March, a delegation from the health commission of the Toscana Regional Council visited the APPI/PDHL to see the projects that the Toscana Region is implementing in the Municipality of Habana Vieja.

In March, the urban planning and cultural heritage councillor of the Campania Region met the Granma and Santiago de Cuba Provincial Working Groups in order to plan projects of mutual interest: public transport; restoration of buildings of great architectural and historical interest; dairy production; academic and research exchanges. In this framework, a delegation from the Acerra local development agency, Città del Fare, visited the two provinces in order to draw up the projects.

Working on specific projects, Cuban experts undertook six missions to Italy. In particular: in May and July, four Cuban specialists attended a training course at the Toscana Region’s ARPET agency on the use of the FRIDEL Fund; in July, a delegation of eight representatives from MINVEC and the Province of Granma visited the Campania Region and the Città del Fare agency to promote exchanges between entrepreneurs; in November, three specialists from the Pinar del Río Hotel and Tourism School visited Val di Cecina (Toscana Region) to undergo training on tourist services; in April, the coordinator of the Habana Vieja APPI/PDHL visited the Viareggio Committee to participate in the Forum di Solidarietà Luccese nel Mondo. In May and July, the Habana Vieja coordinator visited the Committees of Bergamo, Venezia and Lastra a Signa (Florence).

The decentralised cooperation committees made a crucial contribution to the impact of the APPI/PDHL in the territories in which it operates. In a relatively short time, activities have been coordinated between various actors from different countries. These actors provide their technical and financial resources in a way that increasingly reduces the welfare approach and encourages the spirit of international cooperation.
within the framework of global development challenges. Decentralised cooperation has also demonstrated that it is possible to mobilise high-level know-how and utilise it in cooperation programmes at no further cost to the programme.

Between 1999 and 2002, three Cuban delegations travelled to Europe to promote decentralised cooperation. In 1999, there were just three decentralised cooperation committees, in 2000 there were 15, in 2001 there were 23, and by 2002–03 they numbered 37. Information on their important contribution has already been described in the presentation at the beginning of this chapter. From 1999 to 2002, the APPI/PDHL provided technical assistance to the decentralised cooperation committees in order to help them plan their projects according to the guidelines issued by the provincial and municipal working groups. In qualitative terms, an achievement worthy of note is that these decentralised cooperation partnerships have been maintained over time, despite the changes that have occurred within the European local authorities.

The APPI/PDHL is running an “ecological forest farms” project to consolidate the water-flow regulation strip along the banks of the Cauto River in the Province of Granma. The project is being implemented together with the local forest enterprise and with decentralised cooperation support from the Umbria Region, the Foligno Committee, and the Sardegna Region. In July 2002, the project received an award at the Johannesburg Summit as one of the six best sustainable development projects being implemented at world level.

**Collaboration with academic institutions**

With the framework of the APPI/PDHL, internships were provided for new graduates from the University of Florence, Milan State University, and the Bocconi University (Milan) in Italy; and from the Spanish universities of Cordoba and Seville. The internships lasted from three weeks to six months and the interns took part in study and research work on the activities under way. A meeting was held at the UNDP office in July for 35 studies from the Bocconi University (Milan) under the “Campus abroad” programme, in collaboration with the APPI/PDHL.

In November, the head of the Cuban National Union of Jurists went on a technical exchange mission to the University of Pisa under the project to computerise the services and registry of the Province of Guantánamo’s e-government programme. In 2003, the universities of Zaragoza, Pisa and Belfast participated in this programme, implemented by the APPI/PDHL, contributing to the training of the Cuban staff working at the various academic institutions.

With the University of Quebec, a pilot project was drawn up to recycle solid waste in the Municipality of Moa (Province of Holguín), and a new project with a wider impact is currently being formulated. Together with the University of Pinar del Río, the ETEA University of Cordoba, drew up a project for a diploma in “Training and research on local economic development and business management” in the Province of Pinar del Río.

**RESULTS OF NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Since 1998, a concrete result has been the creation of the national coordination structure and the organisational system to manage the human development cooperation activities in the various provinces. In particular, the “PDHL/CUBA Operating Manual” was produced in collaboration with MINVEC, the National Physical Planning Department, and the authorities in the Municipality of Habana Vieja and the Provinces of Granma and Pinar del Río. The National Assembly of People’s Power has formally approved the manual, and it is the reference document that constitutes the basis for national coordination and the system of municipal and provincial working groups for using cooperation resources based on human development strategies and plans.

The working groups and the local authorities have undergone training in joint local planning and the various aspects of project management. They have gradually acquired the skills necessary for management, procurement through tender, and the ability to make purchase decisions on the basis of the quality/price ratio of the various estimates. The local authorities’ new skills have also had an impact at the national level. MINVEC has recognised the working group mechanism at the national level as a way of rationalising the use of international cooperation aid in the provinces.

A Procurement Committee was created that uses procedures that are so rapid and transparent that UNDP and the other UN agencies have adopted them. In 2002, in agreement with MINVEC and the National Bank of Cuba, the FRIDEL Fund was established in foreign currency in order to fund local productive
initiatives, an event that caused nationwide interest. The Defensa Civil has adopted the risks and resources maps as a method of strengthening prevention and community response to emergency situations at the national level. Some 20 training and refresher courses were held on different aspects of human development, involving 900 people in total.

The CNC has become indispensable as a mechanism for involving other cooperation agencies in the framework of the APPI/PDHL and ensuring the inclusion of projects implemented under national policies. The CNC discusses and approves all the Programme’s projects. From 1998 to 2003, it met every two weeks, approving an average of 16 initiatives per session.

The results achieved in 2003 in the various fields of action are detailed below.

**Technical and administrative decentralisation**

Since 1998, the PDHL has been running training activities, involving a total of 359 technical staff and officers from the local authorities. In order to facilitate the production of local development plans, geographical information systems (GISs) have been installed in all the provinces and municipalities in collaboration with the National Physical Planning Institute and experts from Livorno, Siena, Venice and Vitoria Gastéiz. Training and refresher courses have been held for the GIS technicians from all the provinces and from the Municipality of Habana Vieja. In 2003, the following results with national impact were achieved:

- The provincial and municipal working groups were consolidated as intersectoral mechanisms for development planning and management and as a way of directing foreign cooperation aid towards joint development policies. The institutional actors and economic operators participating in the working groups gained increased opportunities for gathering information by the enabling of Internet access in the APPI/PDHL offices.
- The experience in local management gained by the working groups under the APPI/PDHL led MINVEC to adopt the administrative procedures employed by the Procurement Committee activated by the APPI/PDHL. The risks and resources maps were adopted as a permanent methodology for identifying community resources and directing them towards the specific objectives selected.
- The provincial government of Granma decided to extend the “Alternative care strategies for minors” project to another four municipalities.
- In September 2003, the Santa Clara Training Centre began a diploma course in “The planning and management of the urban environment” organised by the APPI/PDHL and by HABITAT’s Agenda 21 project. In the same month, in the Province of Guantánamo, some APPI/PDHL administrative experts ran a course on local administrative management for the accounting staff of the decentralised offices.
- In October 2003, in the Province of Sancti Spiritus, the APPI/PDHL sponsored the second national workshop on territorial aspects of development, organised by the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA). The workshop was attended by 80 officers and technical experts from all parts of the country.

**Coverage, quality and sustainability of services**

In 2003, the following national results were achieved by means of activities implemented in the various provinces. In February, the APPI/PDHL was present at an international event, “Pedagogy 2003 – quality education for all,” organised by the Cuban Ministry of Education and sponsored by UNESCO, UNICEF and the APPI/PDHL. Some 5,000 teachers from Cuba and Latin America participated in the event. The head of the Zona del Cuio Decentralised Cooperation Committee (Italy) presented the work of the “Pinocchio” early learning centre in Habana Vieja.

In May, the APPI/PDHL held a scientific meeting, “Medical emergencies and care of patients in critical conditions,” in collaboration with the Integrated System for Medical Emergencies (SIUM) run by the Cuban Ministry of Public Health, PAHO and the “Emergency Service 118” of Como, Italy. The meeting organised five technical and scientific workshops on the subject of medical emergencies. The workshops were run by information provided by the APPI/PDHL/UNIFEM time–use survey in planning their respective local development policies.
Lo cal economic development

The APPI/PDHL has had a major impact at the national level through the establishment of FRIDEL, with the active support of MINVEC and the Central Bank of Cuba, which has included FRIDEL in the country’s credit policy. The working groups of the five provinces and of the Municipality of Habana Vieja are responsible for preparing productive projects and presenting them to FRIDEL. In order to create a local capacity in drawing up productive projects, collaboration began with SEBRAE. Experts from SEBRAE came to Cuba on numerous technical assistance missions and also produced a manual on how to draw up credit plans. In 2002, 160 project proposals were selected, and the training activities involved 180 Cuban technical personnel in the various provinces. Some Italian and Spanish Decentralisation Cooperation Committees also contributed actively to achieving these results.

In 2003, some Brazilian experts from SEBRAE undertook three missions to support the work of FRIDEL. There were numerous national activities, run in collaboration with the relevant institutions, to implement specific projects, such as the revival of traditional trades, recycling of solid waste, use of alternative energy sources, and the conversion of sugar mills.

St rengthening the gender approach

In 2001, the UNIFEM/APPI/PDHL Project began in collaboration with MINVEC, the FMC and UNIFEM. The project has three components: generating information on gender issues; the participation of the FMC in local planning processes; and the economic empowerment of women. With the National Statistics Office (ONE), a very original initiative was undertaken, i.e. the time–use survey, which was then presented at numerous international meetings in Mexico, Spain and Italy. Decentralised cooperation committees in Spain and Italy gave their active support to the project. Some 54 representatives from 7 working groups received training in “gender and development.” The National Gender Committee, which monitors the project, held 14 work sessions with the participation of UNICEF, WFP, PAHO, the Chair of Human Development at the University of Havana, the Publishing House of the FMC, and the National Centre for Sex Education. Together with the ONE, a system of indicators was drawn up to monitor the projects; the parameters of the time-use survey were introduced into the GISs; and the gender indicators for the Province of Granma were published in a paperback edition.

In 2003, the APPI/PDHL projects in the territories led to the following results: 50 women obtained management and administration posts; 450 jobs were created for women; the administration of ten forest farms was entrusted to women; and services were set up to care for children and the elderly so that women could go out to work. In line with the results of the time-use survey, all the projects allowed women to have some free time for cultural and vocational training activities. Using FRIDEL credit, 12 projects were funded to support the professional inclusion of women and for their technical training. A basic 11 teachers from hospitals in the Lombardia Region (Como, Monza and Milan) for 900 doctors and paramedics from all 14 provinces of Cuba.

In September and October 2003, the APPI/PDHL sponsored the Second International Congress on Social Psychiatry; the First Symposium on Integrated Care for Addicts; the First Workshop on Art Therapy for the Central American and Caribbean Region; the Second Meeting of Self-Help Groups; the Second Biennial Event on the Plastic Arts and Mental Health; and the conference “Mental health in the field of international cooperation: the work of the APPI/PDHL.” These events were organised by the Community Mental Health Centre of the Municipality of Regla (Province of Habana).
indicators system was drawn up for the provinces and municipalities for equal opportunities in aspects related to population, education, reproductive health and employment. In the Province of Granma, research was carried out for the first time on jobs and salaries in relation to both men and women.

The above-mentioned diploma course produced and then offered a module on equal opportunities. In June 2003, the APPI/PDHL engaged a national expert to monitor the gender component and a pathway was established for evaluating and planning APPI/PDHL activities. In September, an equal opportunities expert began work in the Municipality of Habana Vieja to set up the municipal gender committee, to be responsible for drawing up the strategic gender plan as part of the municipal development plan. In the period November–December 2003, the first external assessment of the UNIFEM/APPI/PDHL project was conducted in order to evaluate the results, impact and difficulties with a view to planning the next stage of the project, scheduled for the first half of 2004.

RESULTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HABANA VIEJA

The Municipality of Habana Vieja, the historical centre of the capital, has a population of 107,177 inhabitants, with a density of 23,817 persons/km². In the municipality, the work of the APPI/PDHL is centred on five People’s Councils (districts), with a total of 71,384 inhabitants: Belén (14,600), Jesús María (28,500), Prado (9,537), San Isidro (12,631) and Tallapiedra (6,116).

When work began in 1998, the municipal working group was set up in coordination with the Oficina del Historiador of Habana Vieja. Group participants received trained in joint-planning methods and the municipality’s local human development guidelines were defined with ample input from the various parties involved. These guidelines have constituted the point of reference for all the activities of the APPI/PDHL and the decentralised cooperation committees.

Between 1998 and December 2002, the Habana Vieja Municipal Working Group planned and implemented 52 projects with the support of the APPI/PDHL. In particular, 3 projects were run in support of technical and administrative decentralisation; there were 38 projects to improve the level of coverage, quality and sustainability of services, of which 10 in the field of healthcare, 13 in the field of education, 4 for services for the elderly, 11 for territorial services; and 11 projects were undertaken to improve local economic development, of which 10 to revive traditional trades, increase alternative employment and contribute to the cultural identity of Habana Vieja.

In 2003, the following results were achieved in the various fields of action.

Technical and administrative decentralisation

- Creation of the new APPI/PDHL office in Habana Vieja. The new headquarters will be used by the working group and the many APPI/PDHL partners. The Oficina del Historiador provided the premises and the APPI/PDHL has equipped the office with a computer, photocopier, furniture, and an Internet connection, and supplied a vehicle for the working group.

- International Cooperation Information Centre. The centre was created in order to publicise the activities of the UN for the Millennium Challenges. An area was set up for workshops and training courses on international cooperation, town planning, architecture, and the management of historical town centres. Cuban and foreign university students conducted research on areas of historical value. The centre has received visits from academics, cooperation experts and other interested persons. It also hosts the permanent exhibition “Desafío de una Utopía”, which presents the renovation plan for the historical centre of Habana Vieja.

- Restoration of the buildings in the Calle Cárdenas. The Art Nouveau style of the buildings in this street and the modern Catalan architecture in Cuba are assets of the historical centre of Habana Vieja. The project, funded by the Amistad Foundation of the United States of America, will have further modules, benefiting 7 families comprising 23 people.

- Project funded by the St. Teresa Convent, renovated under another APPI/PDHL project. The French NGOs GRET, Villes en Transition and FNC Pact Arim are cofunding the project, providing specialised technical assistance, and running training activities on social housing and the heritage value of historical centres.

- Social housing in Calle Oficios 212. The building, which is totally run down, is home to 19 families. The project, funded by COSUDE, is restructuring the building, creating seven new homes, and offering rehousing opportunities for other families in other
buildings. In 2003, some temporary homes were built in order to house the families who could not remain in the building. This project will benefit 59 people.

• Creation of the Carlos J. Finaly Park. The project was carried out in collaboration with COSUDE, creating a park of 1,700 m² near San Francisco Square. The park was inaugurated in November 2003, and includes an area reserved for vegetation and another for children’s games, suitable also for children suffering from Down’s syndrome. The park will benefit the 17,398 inhabitants of the Plaza Vieja district.

• Territorial information centre of the masterplan for the study of twentieth-century architecture. The project began in October 2003, funded by the Amistad Foundation, and supports the centre with the provision of suitable computer equipment to manage the voluminous quantity of information gathered during the course of the work to restore and preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the historical centre. Other equipment was purchased. The beneficiaries of the project are local and visiting experts and specialists who, in various ways, are working on the restoration of the historical centre and who can thus rapidly consult the necessary data.

• Social housing. This is the first APPI/PDHL cooperation project for the management of social housing, in collaboration with the municipal land registry investment unit (UMIV), the Oficina del Historiador, the municipal social services, associations for vulnerable groups, and local institutions. The project trained technicians in using the GIS and in social housing management. In October 2002, the Venezia Committee, which is collaborating in the project, proposed installing a video conference room to hold post-graduate courses for young Cubans, run by the Venice Institute of Architecture and Town Planning. An Internet connection was installed in order to manage the GIS, and an expert gave a course on the ArcView system in order to enable maximum use of the GIS’s potential. The Venezia Committee is providing the video-conference equipment. The project benefits 61 UMIV personnel and the inhabitants of the Municipality of Habana Vieja. In 2003, the project led to more houses being repaired with the equipment provided and also to the planning of further interventions.

• Training for the municipal GIS. The project was funded by the Livorno Committee and trained the experts of the local government’s information technology and dissemination group, who are responsible for running the system. Locally-developed plans were improved; a single centre was created to provide territorial geographical information services for Havana; and the GIS was used for disaster prevention by drawing up early-warning plans.

• Land registry model. Through a research project and laboratory work that began in 2002, this project is modernising the management of the Habana Vieja land registry. A professional exchange was set up between Cuba and Italy, involving two Italian and two Cuban experts, who together created a land registry model that can be replicated. In 2001, this model won second prize in the “Living and building” competition run by the Latin American Network. The project was implemented with the collaboration of the Siena Committee and was completed in 2003. It benefits Habana Vieja residents living in poor housing – more than 60 percent of the population.

Local economic development and vocational training

• Revival of traditional trades, textile restoration workshop. The textile workshop of the restoration and conservation department of the Oficina del Historiador restores the antique textiles of the historical centre’s museums. This department also operates workshops for working with gold, metal, chalk, lamps and ceramics. It makes a very important contribution to the revival of the historical centre of Habana Vieja. The Firenze Committee provided funding and technical assistance to improve the laboratory work in terms of both quality and quantity. This has provided new job opportunities for young people in the field of traditional crafts. The direct beneficiaries are the 11 master restorers and the 9 apprentices in the department, who have completed the four training courses taught by the specialists from Florence (who continue to ensure assistance from Italy).

• Revival of traditional trades, wood restoration workshop. The workshop restores pieces of furniture of great heritage value of different styles and periods. It also works on objects containing wood that are part of the area’s historical heritage. The project organised the vocational training of the staff, with specialised bibliographic materials and technology, putting the young students of the laboratory school into direct contact with the restoration department. The beneficiaries are the
master restorers, their apprentices and the museum service, which can offer national and international visitors collections and works of art that will increase tourism. The project was implemented in collaboration with FAMSI and the Restoration Centre of Cordoba (Spain), which ran training courses in July 2003 for ten young people on restoration techniques. Following that, the workshop trained four new apprentices.

• Revival of traditional trades, restoration and conservation workshop for gold-working. The workshop restores jewels, coins, plates, trays, cups and other metal objects. As a result of the technical exchanges, the level of specialisation of the gold-workers and their apprentices improved. In July, Professor Rafael Vallejo from Cordoba ran a course on the creation and production of jewels for a goldsmith and four young people at the workshop.

• Revival of traditional trades and the archaeological department. The project started with an exchange with the University of Siena and a training workshop on restoration archaeology. In 2003, work continued in support of the restoration archaeology and architectural conservation laboratory, providing equipment and further technical training for the staff. The photographic archive was digitised and expanded, and a local network was created to facilitate the work of the technical staff and improve delivery times and quality. The direct beneficiaries are 35 specialists: archaeologists, fresco restorers, biologists, historians and museum experts. Training consisted of three very well-attended conferences on underwater archaeology, historical archaeology, and history.

• Revival of traditional trades, book-binding workshop. The workshop restores and preserves both old and modern books, respecting the original standards, creating the bindings, and doing printwork in gold and silver. The workshop is also responsible for restoring books in all the museum libraries of the historical centre. Seven specialists received training in restoring books, indirectly supporting all the institutions with book collections of great value. The Bergamo Committee and FAMSI funded the project.

• Havana 626. The project aims to revive work to protect Havana’s heritage through training activities, in particular as regards: archaeology and the restoration of frescos; strengthening the appraisal staff and diagnoses of buildings; and lastly the restructuring of the Havana 626. An agreement was reached with the Lombardia Region in October 2002 and the project began in June 2003. Work has already been done to consolidate the building’s façade, restore the structure and, in particular, the columns, build dividing walls, and install new bathrooms. Archaeological studies are under way on the frescos in the area between Teniente Rey, Havana, Muralla and Compostela streets. Project beneficiaries are the personnel of the archaeology and frescos group; 40 new young apprentices from Habana Vieja who are learning traditional trades; specialists from the appraisal and diagnostics team; investment groups of the Oficina del Historiador and the specialised construction enterprises, who hold the technical data on the buildings so that the work can be done more precisely. In the community, 17 families of the 63 currently residing in the St. Teresa of Jesus Convent will move into the new housing created by the project. The Lombardia Region and the 11 provinces in the Region have collaborated in the implementation of this project.

• Exchanges and training in local economic development. The Toscana Region ran a training course in Florence at its economic promotion agency, in collaboration with the International Polytechnic for Local and Economic Development (PISIE). The course lasted two months and participants included: four Cuban experts from the Economic Development Support Services (SADEL) of Habana Vieja and of the Provinces of Las Tunas and Santiago de Cuba, and the FRIDEL representative of the Bank of Credit and Commerce. The course included theory and practice, and provided an opportunity for interesting exchanges of experiences. On returning home, the participants were able to pass on what they had learned to their colleagues in their respective areas.

Coverage, quality and sustainability of services

• Renovation of the municipal cultural centre. Situated in the old St. Francis Convent, the centre is a cultural point of reference for all the inhabitants of the municipality and a place for groups of artists to meet, in particular for the Movimento de Artistas Aficionados. Given the need to restructure completely the historical building, the Bergamo Committee decided to organise the work in successive modules. In 2003, following repairs to the roof and bathrooms, the centre was provided with furniture and equipment for the various cultural activities. It is also worth noting that some finds were made in the patio dating from the seventeenth
century, leading to an unscheduled archaeological study. The project was funded by the Committees of the Provinces of Bergamo and of Lodi, and by the Municipality of Mantova Committee which, during a visit in December 2003, reconfirmed its commitment to completing this important project.

- Reorganisation of the network of services for the elderly. The project is supported by Fons Catalá and its objectives are: the inclusion of the elderly, and the provision of day and home care services. Conditions have been improved in the “Nueva Vida” centre, situated in the “Catedral” district. The centre’s day services benefit 60 elderly people and, indirectly, the 22,854 inhabitants of the district to whom the centre offers gym lessons and sporting, cultural and leisure activities.

- Urban renovation in the Jesús María district. The district is not covered by the urban renovation activities of the Oficina del Historiador, but numerous initiatives were planned: the creation of the “Pinocchio” early learning centre; the diagnosis and guidance centre for children socially at risk; the children’s centre, in collaboration with UNICEF; multipurpose areas for recreational activities for all age groups; and the “Integral Transformation Laboratory” of the district. Improvements were made to schools and the family doctor clinic. The Emilia-Romagna Committee is supporting a project to improve, with the help of the inhabitants, the housing of 122 families in Revillagigedo, Águila and Misión streets. In 2003, construction materials were purchased, and renovation work on the houses is close to completion.

- Renovation of the “La Unión Fraternal” community centre. This centre is one of the oldest cultural institutions in Habana Vieja and is located in a baroque building of great architectural value in the Jesús María district. The Siena Committee finalised a system of modules for the restoration process. The works encountered considerable difficulties because of the complexity of the architectural surveying, recent hurricane damage, and subsidence in adjoining buildings. As a result, additional interventions were required. This also had a financial impact. The work is now near completion, and in 2004 the centre will be provided with the equipment for art, dance, singing, and theatre workshops and exhibitions. The beneficiaries of the renovated centre are the 28,000 inhabitants of the district.

- Creation of a guidance centre for women and the family in the Jesús María district. Funded by UNIFEM, the centre undertakes activities to raise awareness, and to guide and train women, adolescents and couples as regards equal opportunities and rights, and current regulations and legislation. The project beneficiaries are the 15,000 women, mainly homemakers, living in the district. The centre also provides legal and psychological assistance to users, and trains community promoters.

- Creation of the “Pinocchio” early learning centre in the Jesús María district. The Zona del Cuio Committee ensured continuous technical support to the centre. The Minister for Education expressed appreciation of this support at the prestigious event held in Cuba in May 2003 entitled “Pedagogy 2003”, with the participation of more than 5,000 Latin American and European educators. The centre is part of the education system of the Municipality of Habana Vieja and represents one of the most outstanding achievements of the APPI/PDHL. An old, run-down furniture warehouse belonging to the municipal education department was renovated in collaboration with the Monument Restoration enterprise. The Central Institute for Pedagogical Science is running a diploma course on “preventive and community work” for teachers in the district’s schools. The centre has created a space for training parents and has produced documentation. Project beneficiaries are the 910 children, their families and all the school teachers in the district.

- Family doctor clinic in the Jesús María district. The Siena Committee funded the project to restore the district clinic, which was seriously run down. Services were improved for the 1,600 patients registered at the clinic and, potentially, for all the inhabitants in the Jesús María and Tallapiedra districts (6,250 people). The clinic received equipment and materials, and improvements were made to the level of hygiene, the surroundings and the community prevention activities. Health promoters were trained and workshops were run on the subject of AIDS and drug addiction.

- STI-HIV/AIDS community prevention scheme. The project, implemented together with UNIFEM and the Emergency Programme of Cooperazione Italiana, ran 1 training course for promoters, 3 training courses for sex workers, in collaboration with the FMC, and 1 training course for Red Cross promoters. The direct beneficiaries are the 1,300 men and 2,309 women at risk of transmitting sexual
diseases and, indirectly, all the inhabitants of Habana Vieja. Family doctors and nurses, stomatologists and laboratory technicians were trained through post-university courses on biosecurity.

- Creation of a community mental health centre. Work on the centre, which has premises of 1,200 m² located in an old building of great heritage value, is 70 percent complete. The centre is scheduled to open in July 2004 and carry out the following activities: prevention, addiction control, treatment, rehabilitation, and inclusion in the community of disabled people. Rehabilitation laboratories and a child observation department will be created. The direct beneficiaries will be the centre’s users, 6,800 patients a year, families, and all the inhabitants in the municipality. The project is being implemented with technical and financial collaboration from the Livorno Committee and from the University of Extremadura (Spain), which has donated furniture, equipment and a large amount of specialised literature.

- A service for the blind. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), bringing together 250 blind and visually impaired people. The “Rubén Martínez Villesna” library of Habana Vieja was equipped with musical instruments and reading rooms were set up for the blind. The library also hosts an initiative (“Space for light”) which holds monthly meetings on speaking books. The project is run in collaboration with FAMSI and the city of Cordoba.

- Reorganisation of the network of municipal services for the elderly, safe housing, and training for providing home care. The project is an innovation in the country, improving services to include vulnerable groups. The first module will create 18 safe apartments, each being an independent unit of 37 m², for self-sufficient old people without family support who now live on the upper floors of apartment buildings or in homes with access difficulties. On the ground floor of the building where the apartments are located, a social centre for the district has been created with two multipurpose halls, a medical service, a laundry and a storeroom. Work is proceeding rapidly under the supervision of an architect from the Municipality of Vitoria Gasteiz. Training courses for 25 municipal specialists on home care services were given by an expert from Vitoria Gasteiz (Spain), which cooperates with Euskal Fondoa in the project. The beneficiaries are the future residents of the 18 apartments and the elderly population of the district who will receive the home care services.

- Improvement in the coverage provided by stomatology service. Run in collaboration with the Emilia-Romagna Region, the project began in June 2003. There are plans for the renovation of the outpatient department of the Corrales Stomatology Clinic in Habana Vieja and for improving the supply of furniture and instruments to the departments of orthodontics, prevention, prosthetics and surgery. The improved medical service will benefit the 63,232 inhabitants of two districts.

- Jobs for the disabled. The project, promoted by the Emilia-Romagna Committee, plans for the creation of a social and job inclusion workshop for 50 disabled people who will be trained in craftwork. Work began in April 2003 and is near completion. The project will create 30 new jobs.

- Restoration of the Conte Cañongo Palace. This is an old, three-storey building in the Plaza Vieja. Funded by the Walloon Region (Belgium), the project aims to revive the historical, cultural and heritage value of the building and restore six apartments, improving the living conditions of the resident families. Another building will be built, in a different part of the municipality, with 16 apartments for the families who will be rehoused there. There are plans for the construction of a centre/museum and a showcase for an allegorical exhibition of Belgian culture. Training exchanges took place between the Belgian “La Paix Dieux” institute and the “Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos” laboratory school. Courses were run for students and teachers of the school and the restoration and conservation department.

- Victor Hugo Foundation Centre. Promoted by the “Cuba Cooperación” association, the project aims to revive the French cultural roots of Habana Vieja and of Cuba. The two-storey colonial building that will house the centre is undergoing renovation; suitable materials for the interiors are being selected; and the lighting plan is being designed. Project beneficiaries are the Cuban students, interested in the French language, who will study in the new, computerised classrooms and the language laboratories. All those interested in studying French language and culture will also benefit indirectly.

- Theatre of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi. This project is being implemented together with COSUDE. It will build a theatre for an audience of 120 in the chapel of the Franciscan complex, situated in Calle Oficio. In 2003, COSUDE made funds available for the construction of the theatre and
work began. The beneficiaries will be the 13,741 children of the historical centre and the 76 disabled people who will have access to a theatre with no architectural barriers.

- Support to the Natural and Traditional Medicine Clinic. The clinic is located in the S. Isidro district in a nineteenth-century building. In November 2003, the clinic was inaugurated and is now providing services to the community. The homeopathic medicine laboratory produces and stores the medicines, and there is a laboratory for documents on natural and traditional medicine. The beneficiaries of the clinic are 80 day patients and all the inhabitants of Habana Vieja. The project was funded by the Committees of Viareggio, the Province of Lucca and the Municipalities of Camaiore and Borgo Mozzano. The clinic was inaugurated with an international homeopathic medicine event, with more than 60 participants from Cuba and abroad. Training was given to health professionals and technical personnel, with some post-graduate courses for doctors and nurses on techniques for use in family-doctor clinics. The students of the Calixto Garcia hospital receive lessons in the centre as part of their study programme. Technical exchanges with the European company Lycopodium are also planned in order to update traditional medicine techniques.

- Creation of a physiotherapy room in the Natural and Traditional Medicine Clinic. Now completed, the project has upgraded the physical and psycho-social rehabilitation services at the clinic. In 2003, the clinic was provided with furniture and equipment, benefiting the inhabitants of Habana Vieja and the staff of the clinic. The project was carried out with the collaboration of the Committees of Viareggio, the Province of Lucca and the Municipalities of Camaiore and Borgo Mozzano.

- The main emergency hospital of Habana Vieja. The project, completed in 2003, was carried out in collaboration with the Lazio Region and the Emergency Programme of Cooperazione Italiana. It consisted in restoring the building, which has cultural and social heritage value. The hospital received furniture, equipment and construction materials. The departments of stomatology and physiotherapy, and seven clinics were rehoused in buildings outside the hospital. Project beneficiaries are 97,660 inhabitants and tourists, as it is the only hospital with accident and emergency services in Habana Vieja.

- The Marineritos and the Pescadores nursery schools. UNICEF is funding the project, which promotes community education. The Marineritos nursery school, completed in 2003, received furniture, equipment, games and teaching materials. Work on the Pescadores nursery school is scheduled to begin in February 2004. The two schools can enrol 338 children, also benefiting their respective families.

- Social prevention work at education centres in the Jesús María district. The project was carried out in collaboration with Fons Catalá with the aim of improving the school service, the library, the games room and sports activities. Construction work for the creation of the games room is close to completion and the other services are already running. Project beneficiaries are the 2,100 young people in the district.

- The “Mi casita colonial” nursery school in the S. Isidro district. The project, carried out in collaboration with the Italian NGO VIS, trained teachers for the 150 children who attend the school, which is located in a colonial building restored by the Oficina del Historiador. In 2003, furniture and teaching materials were provided, and text books are also being supplied.

- Development of the teachers’ centre. In collaboration with the Livorno Committee, the centre was set up in 1999 to train teachers for local schools. The building was restored; specialised literature on teaching was provided; an educational network was created for children, adolescents and families; and there were professional exchanges between teachers. The beneficiaries are the 1,209 teachers in the municipality’s schools and their 16,890 students. In May 2003, two specialists from Livorno ran a training course on pre-school education for the personnel involved and the children’s families.

- Municipal centre for documentation and teaching information. The project started up this centre within the teachers’ centre in order to facilitate the training of teachers of younger children in Habana Vieja’s education system. The centre has a meeting room, a reading room, a video library, a data and information management room, and a document and book archive. Project beneficiaries are the 1,209 teachers in the municipality and, indirectly, their 16,890 students.

- Vocational nursing laboratory at the Enrique Galáraga secondary school. The project, carried out
in collaboration with the Firenze Committee, started
up the laboratory for adolescents to learn about
cooking, dress-making, art and modelling, physics
and nursing. The laboratory premises were adapted,
benefiting the 800 students and 60 teachers at the
school and, indirectly, 5 primary schools that use the
library and the computer rooms.

- Creation of a computer room at the Enrique Galáraga
  school. The project, funded by the Arezzo Committee,
  created a computer room to guide students towards
  studying particular science subjects. The school also
  runs evening courses for people aged 18–29 who
  had previously abandoned their studies. In 2003,
  2 laboratories were equipped with 10 computers,
  2 printers, 1 photocopier, 1 scanner, furniture, air
  conditioning, materials for network connections, and
  an information archive. The direct beneficiaries are
  the 800 students and 60 teachers of the school, and
  the 5 local primary schools that use the library and
  the computer rooms.

- Israel Cabrera primary school. Supported by the
  Zona del Cuoio Committee, the project is improving
  the education system in Habana Vieja, updating
  pre-school teaching staff. The school is located in
  the Plaza Vieja district in a nineteenth-century
  building renovated by the Oficina del Historiador.
  Materials and equipment were provided for
  teaching and the computer room. Workshops were
  run for teachers on different subjects and there
  were exchanges with teachers from other Cuban
  provinces. The kitchens and the school canteen
  were renovated. Project beneficiaries are
  160 children, their families and 26 members of staff.

R E S U L T S  I N  T H E  P R O V I N C E  O F  P I N A R  D E L  R Í O

The Province of Pinar del Rio is divided into
14 municipalities with a total population of
720,151 inhabitants. In this province, the APPI/PDHL
concentrated its activity in six municipalities in the first
and second phases, and in nine municipalities in the
third phase, covering a total of 526,615 inhabitants: Pinar
del Rio (83,028), Consolación del Sur (85,057), Bahía
Honda (47,235), Mantua (26,060), Minas de Matahambre
(36,059), Viñales (26,246), Los Palacios (40,182), La Palma
(35,758) and San Juan y Martinez (46,990).

When work began in 1998, the provincial working
and municipal working groups were set up. Group participants were trained in joint planning
methods and the local human development
guidelines were defined with ample input from the
parties concerned. These guidelines have constituted
the point of reference for all the activities of the
APPI/PDHL and the decentralised cooperation
committees. In 2002, the meeting room at the
provincial working group’s headquarters was
renovated and equipped, and space created for two
offices and a documentation centre.

The Pinar del Rio Provincial Working Group and the
municipal working groups drew up and implemented
44 projects between 1998 and December 2002 with
the support of the APPI/PDHL. In particular, five
projects were implemented in support of technical
and administrative decentralisation, one of which
dealt with gender issues, under the National Action
Plan for monitoring the results of the Fourth World
Conference on Women (Beijing). Twenty projects
focused on improving the coverage, quality and
sustainability of services: 6 in the field of health, 8 in
the area of education and culture, 1 on services for
the elderly, and 5 for territorial services. In order to
enhance local economic development, 19 projects
focused on sustainable agriculture, farm holidays,
tourism promotion, protection of the environmental
and residential heritage, and support for cooperatives
of builders, breeders, and farmers. Using FRIDEL credit,
in collaboration with the FMC, three “credit for women”
projects were funded.

In 2003, the following results were achieved in the
various fields of action.

T e c h n i c a l  a n d  a d m i n i s t r a t i v e  d e c e n t r a l i s a t i o n

- Strengthening of the computer network in nine
  municipalities of Pinar del Rio. The GIS, already
  installed in three municipalities, was extended to
  nine municipalities in the province in collaboration
  with the Italian NGO CRIC. The computer network
  allows the dissemination and analysis of information
  among the municipalities and the provincial
government headquarters. The GIS was used to
draw up the provincial development plan, allowing
the local authorities to improve their planning for
human and environmental resources. The direct
beneficiaries of the GIS are the 19 professionals and
11 technical operators working in the municipalities,
and the 736,000 inhabitants.

- Equal opportunity training. The provincial network
  of “Guidance centres for women and families” was
strengthened, with nine classrooms for training on development and equal opportunities. An information and documentation centre was established at the FMC’s provincial office to serve as a point of reference for the guidance centres. The project, cofunded by UNIFEM, benefits the municipal working groups, associations, members of social and trade union organisations, and the representatives of the Ministry of Education.

- **Children’s and adolescents’ centre.** Cofunded by VIS, the project benefits the 20,236 inhabitants in the districts of Cuba Libre, Santa Lucia (Minas de Matahambre), Blanca Arena (Baia Onda) and La Cubana (Los Palacios). The project promotes pedagogical renewal, linking schools and families to include disabled children. The centre acts as a point of reference for schools throughout the province and runs teacher-training courses on inclusion in schools and community action through the schools. The centre was equipped to use the Internet in order to facilitate communication and the updating of scientific knowledge. There were 172 “neighbourhood debates” to train local people on: children’s rights, living in harmony with nature, healthy eating, school–family–community relations, divorce, violence, drugs, communication within the family, adolescence, and local history.

- **Training for tourism services.** The project is upgrading tourism services in the province so that it can become the point of reference for nature tourism in Cuba. A group of teachers was formed for the Pinar del Río Hotel and Tourism School, in collaboration with the Tourism School of Rosignano in the Province of Livorno (Italy). In December 2003, three Cuban teachers received training in Italy, and three Italian teachers are scheduled to undertake a mission to Pinar del Río in February 2004 in order to complete the training on: service quality; tourism and nature; tourist accommodation; restaurant, café and wine-bar management; and shop management.

**Coverage, quality and sustainability of services**

- **Urban renewal of the “5 septiembre” ward (Mayca).** Cofunded by FAMSI and the French NGOs Gret, Pact Aarim and Villes en Transition, the project renovated 45 percent of the housing in this neighbourhood, creating 25 new jobs (30 percent of which for women). Courses were run on carpentry and plumbing, involving 95 local residents. At the end of the project, 304 people will have benefited from the construction work. In addition, 692 people will be able to use the new drainage network constructed in the neighbourhood.

- **Waterproofing of six buildings in the Raúl Sánchez district of Pinar del Río.** In response to damage caused by Hurricane Isidoro, which worsened the already poor condition of the housing in the area, 6 buildings containing 184 housing units are being waterproofed, benefiting 736 people, of whom 80 are elderly and 96 are children. UNIFEM is cofunding the project.

- **Control of the Aedes Aegypti fly.** Wholly funded by the APPI/PDHL, this project supports the control of this dengue-carrying fly. Prevention measures were publicised and operators provided with equipment and tools for the disinfection campaigns, benefiting the inhabitants of the towns in Pinar del Río, and 1,400 workers in the sector.

- **Prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).** In collaboration with the Val di Cecina Committee, information about how to prevent STDs was provided to 183,028 inhabitants of the Municipality of Pinar through training courses, information sheets, and media articles. STD clinics were set up and support was given to the provincial commission for health promotion and education. Prevention work mainly involved the groups at risk. The project, which was replicated in another five municipalities in the province, also took the first steps towards activities to include HIV-positive people in the community.

- **Restructuring and improvement of medical services in Minas de Matahambre.** The Minas de Matahambre hospital has a catchment area with 36,200 people and provides gynaecological, paediatric and internal medicine services. In collaboration with the Val di Cecina Committee, the APPI/PDHL continued work on activities begun in previous years. Some physical structures were created in the hospital, which was also equipped with new electrical and drainage systems and a new laundry. The medical emergency and clinical laboratory services were upgraded. Two training workshops were held for doctors, paramedics and community health workers.

**Local economic development and FRIDEL**

- **Local economic development training and research.** There were courses on innovative subjects for this country, such as development strategy design and
application, the study of local economic potential, and business management. Courses were held for 73 local government senior officers and technical staff; 1 course was held for 52 technical staff from various sectors within the municipalities and the province; 7 training courses were held for 175 senior managers from various enterprises who trade their products in dollars from the Municipalities of Pinar del Río, Viñales, Mina de Matahambre, La Palma and Bahía Honda. The project was run in collaboration with the ILO/Universitas Programme, the Municipality of Córdoba, the ETEA Foundation for Development and Cooperation (Spain), and the universities of Havana and Pinar del Río.

- Support to the Viñales Tourism Service (FRIDEL). Using FRIDEL credit, a building was renovated in the main square of Viñales to house the ARTEX corporation’s cultural centre. The project is contributing to the artistic development of this town, which UNESCO has declared part of humanity’s cultural heritage. The cultural centre promotes artistic and cultural activities, and sells craft and home-made products to local residents and to international tourists visiting Viñales. The project directly benefits 21 people who have jobs at the centre, including four women in managerial positions.

- Support to urban agriculture. The project received FRIDEL credit and is developing the economic potential of the area covered by the Municipality of Los Palacios by providing greenhouses for the year-round cultivation of vegetables and pulses. The cooperative sells the produce in dollars to hotels in Valadero and this project has created 17 jobs and improved the wages and housing conditions of the 60 workers. The cooperative expects to earn USD 50,000 in its first year and has made regular repayments on the loan, which will be reinvested for other economic initiatives in the same municipality.

RESULTS IN THE PROVINCE OF GRANMA

The province is divided into 13 municipalities with a total population of 820,000 inhabitants. In the Province of Granma, there are six priority municipalities, with a total population of 514,197 inhabitants: Rio Cauto (45,922), Cauto Cristo (19,140), Jiguaní (58,298), Bayamo (202,257), Manzanillo (134,336) and Guisa (54,244).

When work began in 1998, the provincial working group and the municipal working groups were set up. Group participants were trained in joint planning methods and the local human development guidelines were defined with ample input from the various parties concerned. These guidelines have constituted the point of reference for all the activities of the APPI/PDHL and the decentralised cooperation committees.

Between 1998 and December 2002, the Granma Provincial Working Group and the municipal working groups, with the support of the APPI/PDHL, formulated and implemented 51 projects: 7 projects in support of technical and administrative decentralisation; 29 projects to improve the coverage, quality and sustainability of services, of which 11 in the field of health, 5 for services for the elderly, and 6 for territorial services; and 15 projects to boost local economic development, including 2 aimed at the reforestation of the banks of the Cauto River through the creation of integral forest farms. In collaboration with UNIFEM, the FMC, and the Cuban National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX), a centre was established in Bayamo for sex and reproductive-health education, serving the five eastern provinces. In collaboration with Agenda 21, HABITAT carried out three projects on territorial and urban planning in the town of Bayamo. Thanks to FRIDEL, credit for a total of USD 180,000 was granted to two enterprises.

Since 1998, in collaboration with the Venezia Committee and the University Institute of Architecture of Venice (IUAV), three projects have been carried out to organise the GIS in 6 municipalities, installing 486 donated, second-hand computers. The projects familiarised municipal staff with the new technologies and methods of gathering, managing and using the data gathered on the territory in the preceding years.

In the Province of Granma, the APPI/PDHL generated more than 2,000 new jobs. Recent studies carried out by national institutions indicate that unemployment in the province fell from 14 percent to 2.7 percent and that contamination was reduced by 7 percentage points during 2003, an unprecedented result in the history of the province. The APPI/PDHL played a part in achieving these results. At a session of the National Assembly of People’s Power to prepare the report on economic results in 2003, the Cuban Minister for the Economy and Planning recommended the strengthening of the local-level economic initiatives and the improving of the planning regulations and mechanisms already in existence in the country.

In 2003, the following results were achieved in the Province of Granma.
Coverage, quality and sustainability of services

- Community alternatives for minors in Manzanillo. The project built and equipped 2 nursery schools, benefiting 60 children. The municipality employed the children's mothers (60 women heads of household) as educators. The project, run in collaboration with the Emilia-Romagna Committee, contributed to the creation of a new model for organising integrated territorial services. The passage of two hurricanes through the province led to a serious shortage of materials and cement, which held up work on the two nursery schools. They were completed in October 2003. Staff, the mothers and the families received training. The service began in June 2003.

- Community alternatives for minors in Cauto Cristo. Renovation work was completed on a nursery school in the La Seis district. The nursery school is now open with 30 children enrolled. These are the children of single mothers, who were then able to find a job and contribute to the family budget. Work on this nursery school was also held up by the lack of cement and building materials that the Municipality of Babiney had agreed to supply but which had to be redirected to make good damage caused by Hurricane Isidoro. The project was completed in early 2003. All the single mothers of Cauto Cristo found a job and were able to take advantage of the school for their children.

- Support for school inclusion. Carried out in collaboration with CISS (Italian NGO), the project trains primary school teachers in the rural areas of the Municipalities of Bayamo and Cauto Cristo for the inclusion in standard schools of special needs children. Continuing in 2004, the project has run 3 of the 7 workshops planned. For the first quarter of 2004, exchanges are scheduled with operators in Habana Vieja and Pinar del Río. The project has succeeded in: enrolling 100 percent of the target children; school results of the newly-enrolled children have improved; the parents and the communities have supported the inclusion activities continuously; and there has been a significant improvement in the level of preparation of the teachers and directors.

- Emergency plans for schools and health services. The project ended in September 2003, having created an information centre for use by the local population and operators of the various services on the prevention of and preparation for emergency situations. The Defensa Civil, CITMA, and the University of Bayamo manage the centre and have set up the database containing the information necessary for activities in the area. The centre has drawn up a local emergency plan, in particular, as regards the health, education and environment sectors.

- Provincial network for basic mental health and second-level hospital services. The project ended in July 2003 and was implemented in collaboration with the Emilia-Romagna Committee, the NGO Nexus, the Parma Local Health Agency, and the Napoli and Messina mental health services. Renovation work was carried out in the crisis intervention units at the Bayamo hospital, the Manzanillo psychiatric hospital and the Manzanillo mental health community centres. The new assistance procedure, based on initial screening at the community centres with patients going to the main hospital only for emergencies, handled 194 patients in 2003. Some 24 chronically-ill patients (6 in Bayamo and 18 in Manzanillo) were cared for in their respective communities. Three doctors in charge of the Manzanillo and Bayamo services undertook a training visit to Italy to study the mental health services in action in Trieste, Parma, Naples and Messina. The Trieste mental health service ensured technical support for care in the community activities and for the management aspects of the mental health services in Bayamo and Manzanillo.

- Rural women's centre in the El Jardín community. This is one of the most isolated communities in Cauto Cristo. In collaboration with an NGO (MAIS), the FMC and the municipal department of culture, premises were renovated to house a cultural centre for the community (1,676 inhabitants). The centre offers opportunities for cultural training, space for artists in the community, educational workshops and cookery classes; and a market garden to grow produce for home consumption. A windmill and a tank were installed in order to irrigate the market garden and for local use. The lack of building materials also delayed this project, carried out by the community in its free time under the direction of the experts. The centre has been active since June 2003, creating 15 new jobs related to managing the market garden.

- Provincial network of day and home care services for the elderly. The project began in January 2003, in collaboration with the city of Vitoria Gastéiz and the Euskal Fondoa association of municipalities in the Basque Country. The project aims to create two social centres, in Bayamo and Manzanillo; and to
strengthen services in the Municipality of Iguaní, supporting the social inclusion activities of the Casa del Abuelo, renovating four units to prepare meals for the elderly and support the home care service. In December 2002, one expert from Granma and two from Habana Vieja attended a training course in the city of Vitoria Gastéiz. In particular, a visit to the service run in the Municipality of Guipuzcoa encouraged the Cuban and Basque experts to formulate a training programme. This programme was then taught in the Province of Granma and in the Municipality of Habana Vieja, in November 2003. The course, taught by two specialists from the Basque Country, involved 15 Cuban experts in charge of training, and in turn, the geriatric assistants and the experts who plan the services for the elderly in their respective areas. In December 2003, a delegation from Euskal Fondoa examined the project results and identified some new initiatives. The project is scheduled to continue its work in 2004 and complete the planned activities.

- Restructuring of the Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Chapel in Bayamo. The project began in February 2003, in collaboration with the Restoration Institute of the Architecture Faculty of Florence University and the Cultural Heritage Office in Rome. The restoration of the chapel and of its wooden altar, a rare example of Caribbean baroque, is part of the work to revive the historical centre of Bayamo and to enhance its cultural identity. In collaboration with the bishop of Bayamo and the Province of Granma’s heritage department, which is directing the works, the Italian partners collaborated in analysing the stability of the chapel and the altar, and drew up a restoration plan, which is currently being implemented. In July 2003, an expert from the Cultural Heritage Office ran a training workshop for young restorers in Granma, for work on the wooden altar. Six restorers underwent training and 20 percent of the altar surface was restored. The trained restorers will complete the work with distance supervision by the Cultural Heritage Office. Work on the back of the altar led to the discovery of a sinopia of great cultural value. In November and January, there were two visits from the University of Florence to supervise the work to consolidate the roof of the chapel, which revealed damage requiring a study of alternative solutions to the ones originally planned. The special materials needed for the work were obtained with the help of the Historiador della Ciudad de la Habana and the Conservador of Santiago.

- The Granma women’s guidance centre. The project completes the activities of the centre for the eastern provinces, providing new resources to meet the increase in demand on the part of the local population. Furthermore, the project led to a training exchange between the staff of the Granma centre and the Venice women’s centre, which collaborates with CENESEX and the Granma FMC for project implementation.

- Renovation and restructuring of the Barranca Lizana-Plaza del Himno Calle Padre Batista. Cofunded by CISS, the project is contributing to the revival of the historical centre of Bayamo, renovating housing and restructuring the banks of the river as a public space, and also cleaning its waters. The river is heavily polluted and along its banks there are buildings of great heritage value, including the chapel of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, which is in danger of collapse. HABITAT/Agenda 21 is also collaborating in the programme, with funding from the Embassy of Japan.

**Local economic development**

- Production and trading in flowers in Manzanillo, Río Cauto, Guisa, Jiguaní and Cauto Cristo. In collaboration with the Venezia Committee, five flower nurseries were created, each in an area of 2 ha and with a point of sale, located in five municipalities of the Province of Granma. The project has created work for 15 women and 5 men at each nursery, for a total of 100 new jobs. The nursery in the Municipality of Guisa encountered water-supply problems because the well had to be dug down to a depth of 10 m, which required the help of specialised workers. The five nurseries and points of sale have been in operation since June 2003. The staff of the nurseries received training in floriculture, management and administration. Of the 10 managerial posts created, 5 were filled by women.

- Rabbit-breeding centres. In collaboration with the Sardegna Committee, the project created rabbit-breeding centres in the five municipalities of the Valle del Cauto, creating 30 new jobs, of which 25 for women. The project ended in April 2003, increasing the production of animal protein and improving the diet of the people in the five municipalities concerned.

- Construction of a ceramics workshop for the inclusion of disabled people in the working world. In collaboration with the Liguria Committee, the ceramics workshop of a brick factory in Bayamo was
renovated. Ceramics have a wide market in the tourist areas, and the workshop meets the demand of the provincial market. The workshop was renovated and equipped, improving the quality of production and reducing energy consumption. The project created four jobs for craft workers, who have already trained 6 young apprentices and 25 disabled people. The project, now finished, addressed and resolved the difficulties caused by a lack of cement and steel, as described above, thanks to a special supply granted by the government.

- Programme to rehabilitate the banks of the Cauto River. The project began in 1998 and created 55 integrated forest farms. In 2003, 14 farms were completed, and 20 farms located in isolated areas received an electricity supply.

- Rehabilitation of the banks of the Cauto River. The erosion of farm and forest areas is one of critical problems of the territories of the Municipalities of Jiguaní, Río Cauto and Cauto Cristo. The Cauto River crosses these areas, and where specific measures are not taken, the degraded ground tends to slip. The project provides for work along 78 km of riverbank, the purchase of farming materials and an improvement in transport. The project, which is ongoing, is financed by funds from the “Ecuador” prize, awarded to the Bayamo Forest Enterprise at the Johannesburg Summit of July 2002, as one of the six best examples worldwide of sustainable human development.

RESULTS IN THE PROVINCE OF GUANTÁNAMO

The Province of Guantánamo is divided into ten municipalities with a population of 514,230 inhabitants. The work of the APPI/PDHL in Guantánamo is centred on five municipalities with a total population of 371,888 inhabitants: Guantánamo (249,850), Baracoa (81,191), Caimanera (10,312), Niceto Pérez (16,468) and Maisí (14,067).

In the province, the APPI/PDHL began work in March 2001. In 2001, the premises provided by the provincial government were renovated, and furnishings and computer equipment were purchased. The provincial working group was established, composed of eight experts. The impact project “Integral Forest Farms” was started up in the Guaso River basin, where 80 percent of the province’s population live and where environmental risks are high. Plans were made for 14 forest farms to reforest 350 ha of woodland, benefiting 56 workers.

In 2002, in collaboration with UNICEF, a house of architectural interest for the historical heritage of the town was restored for use as headquarters for the provincial working group. The building has two rooms to be used as offices, one for the working group specialists and the WFP coordinator in Guantánamo, the other for use as a meeting room and for exhibitions. In order to develop territorial planning activities further, the GIS was activated for the five municipalities and for the province. Some 18 technicians were trained as system operators and, in view of the expansion of the GIS network to all the municipalities, training was extended to a further 180 people.

Throughout 2002, the coordination of the work of WFP and UNICEF was consolidated to formulate and implement numerous projects jointly. In 2002, in collaboration with the Spanish Cooperation Agency, a project began in the province for food self-sufficiency, linked to the economic development process promoted by the province and the municipalities. In 2002, nine projects were run to improve health, social and education services, including reconversion work on a sugar factory.

One of the activities to have the greatest impact in the Province of Guantánamo, and which was carried on throughout 2003, was the reconversion of the sugar production centre. This is a government priority as production costs exceed sales revenues. The province is home to 55 of the 165 sugar production centres in Cuba. The reconversion of the CAI Paraguay represents a project of national impact, partly because it is the first of its kind in Cuba.

Coverage, quality and sustainability of services

- Reforestation of the area south of Guantánamo, with 14 integral forest farms. Funded by UNDP’s Capacita 21, the project began in November 2003 with the aim of rehabilitating the Guaso River basin by replanting 350 ha damaged by drought in the last decade. Some 63 ha were replanted, thus reviving the ecosystem; 21 farms were built; 56 workers were trained and employed respecting equal opportunities criteria. The direct beneficiaries are the 14 families running the forest farms, which include market gardening to grow produce both for home consumption and for sale at the local markets.

- Improvement of family-doctor clinics. The clinics in this area were in a very degraded state and, under the project, were renovated to the benefit
of the 5,062 patients and all the health workers. In the first quarter of 2003, the waterproofing work was completed. The municipality is currently doing carpentry and painting work to renovate the premises.

- Reduction of food vulnerability in the schools of the province. The project was run in collaboration with UNICEF and improved the diet of 10,000 schoolchildren, aged 6–11. New refrigerators were supplied for the proper storage of food, medicines and vaccines.

- Dietary improvement for children at the Caimanera Centres. The project was run in collaboration with UNICEF and supplied gas cookers to replace wood-burning stoves, benefiting 2,190 children and ensuring a positive impact on the environment.

- Dietary improvement for children at nursery schools in the province. Run in collaboration with FAMSI and UNICEF, the project was to supply new refrigerators to 33 schools, benefiting 4,800 children. The supplies were delayed and the project should be completed in the first quarter of 2004.

- Improvement of the José Maceo Grajales vocational education centre. The school is of fundamental importance for the scientific, economic and cultural development of the Province of Guantánamo. Funded by UNICEF and UNIFEM, the project renovated the drainage system, installed internal and external lighting, and improved the areas for growing produce for home consumption. Training sessions were held, as was a course on aspects of local culture, health, prevention of transmissible diseases, food education, and farm work. The beneficiaries are the 3,400 adolescents who attend the school and the people who work there.

- Creation of a recreation centre for children and young people in Caimanera. Run in collaboration with UNICEF, the project began in May 2002 and was completed in November 2003. A recreation centre was built and equipped in the Municipality of Caimanera. The municipality has serious problems in terms of communications and freedom of movement as it is isolated from other local communities and is located near the American military base of Guantánamo. In summer 2003, the recreation centre won an award for the leisure activities it offers to young adults, adolescents and 2,000 children. Course were also run on children’s rights, sex and young people, and the environment.

- Reduction of food vulnerability among children in the Municipality of Niceto Pérez. The project improved the quality of the meals provided for 4,564 students in 11 schools by installing efficient cookers in order to reduce wood consumption. All the cookers were installed, staff were trained in their use, and the project is scheduled for completion in early 2004, after delivery of the last equipment to be purchased. The municipality built the necessary infrastructure for the installation of the cookers.

- Training of teachers involved in the inclusion of disabled children in Guantánamo’s schools. Funded by UNICEF, the project provided the schools with new lighting, ventilation, renovated drainage systems, and teaching materials. The teaching staff received training in the theory of educational inclusion.

- Improvement of the “Duvergel” school. Cofunded by the BEAZ Agency and the Municipality of Bilbao, the project was part of the reconversion of the CAI Paraguay sugar factory. The school caters for 350 students from Batey, and it has been equipped with lighting, furniture, shutters and new doors. New classrooms were also built to improve teaching facilities.

- The Paraguay district library. The project is part of the reconversion of the CAI Paraguay sugar factory and is carried out in collaboration with the BEAZ Agency and the Municipality Foral, Bilbao. A library was created with furniture, a computer and adequate lighting to disseminate information and texts on the tradition of sugar production. The library users are the 7,200 inhabitants. New jobs were created for six people, and the staff were trained in the use and maintenance of the equipment. The library also hosts workshops and conferences.

- Renovation of the sports areas in the Paraguay district. The project is part of the reconversion of the CAI Paraguay sugar factory and is carried out in collaboration with the BEAZ Agency and the Municipality Foral, Bilbao. The Batey sports facilities were restored for leisure, sports and cultural activities, benefiting 6,300 people. Supplies are scheduled for delivery and the project is scheduled for completion in early 2004.

- Mother and baby centres in the Province of Guantánamo. Funded by UNICEF, the project improves the care given to pregnant women. Training courses were held for the staff, and birth
preparation classes were run for future mothers. Improvements were to 11 centres, providing lighting and furniture to make the surroundings more comfortable for the mothers. The project has not yet been completed, but the number of babies born underweight has already fallen. Initiatives were started up to encourage responsible motherhood and fatherhood. The beneficiaries of the projects are the more than 140,000 women of childbearing age in the province.

- Drinking-water and environmental reclamation in the farming communities of Uveral, Ullao Viejo and Cumberland. The project, which began in September in 2003, involves 16 communities in the Municipality of Niceto Pérez. It is being carried out in collaboration with the Cuban Animal Production Association (ACPA), the Canadian Fund, and the Guantánamo Aqueduct and Drains Enterprise. The plan is to provide drinking-water to the inhabitants, link the latrines system to the sewers network, and develop farming activities. The project documents have been produced. Project beneficiaries are the 323 families living in the rural zones of Uveral, Cumberland and Ullao Viejo.

- School bands. Funded by UNICEF, the project has led to the revival of the artistic and cultural activities of ten school bands in the five municipalities. A shortage of the necessary means had previously halted interrupted. The direct beneficiaries are 6,334 students and their communities.

- Restructuring of the Guantánamo recreation centre. Funded by UNICEF, the project has restructured the town's recreation centre, open since the early 1990s, increasing the recreational activities for the children. The building was renovated and the centre received a computer, musical instruments and sports facilities. The beneficiaries of the centre are 41,800 children.

- Study of the psycho-social effects of the reconversion of the CAI Paraguay sugar factory. Run in collaboration with the BEAZ Agency and the Municipality of Bilbao, the project set up an interdisciplinary research team, with specialists and experts from the University of Guantánamo and the Pedagogical Institute, to evaluate the impact of the reconversion work on inhabitants in the semi-urban areas and farms. Activities were carried out with the communities: courses, workshops, research methodology, data gathering and communication, drawing up of risk maps, enhancement of social life and cultural heritage.

- Water for Maisí. The project is being implemented together with the Municipality of Maisí, the Province of Guantánamo, the Aqueduct and Drains Enterprise, WFP, UNICEF and ACNUR. It is scheduled for completion in September 2004. The project aims to meet the needs reported by the inhabitants of Maisí during the local planning phase, given that only 28 percent of the population has running water in five communities in the municipality. The project has improved water availability, benefiting 3,000 inhabitants, also from the health and safety point of view. Some activities for improving agricultural production are planned. The project will also supply water to the reception centre for the “balseros” – Haitians sailing towards Florida, who are often blown off course and arrive in Maisí.

- Development of the Riíto communities of the Municipality of Yateras in the Alejandro de Humboldt national park. The project is funded by UNDP's Global Environment Fund (GEF) where some of the risk factors identified by the local rural community are to be found. The project aims to improve the housing, drainage system and drinking-water supply system, and to create an area for agricultural production with appropriate technologies. The beneficiaries are the 63 inhabitants of the community and, indirectly, the whole population through the conservation of local biodiversity. Training courses were run for ecology agents on sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity.

- Development of the Santa Maria Community in the Municipality of Baracoa in the Alejandro de Humboldt national park. The project, which is similar to the one described above, is funded by GEF/UNDP, and aims to improve diet by means of agricultural techniques consistent with conserving biodiversity. The project is also upgrading the water supply and improving sanitary conditions in the houses, benefiting 690 people.

- Development of the Rancho de Yagua Community in the Alejandro de Humboldt national park. The project has similar objectives and planned activities to those above and is funded by GEF/UNDP. The beneficiaries are the 130 inhabitants.

Local economic development

- Creation of a greenhouse to produce flowers and ornamental plants in the La Caoba quarter of the Municipality of Guantánamo. Funded by UNIFEM,
the project created 20 new jobs and rehabilitated a part of the banks of the Guaso River, the main access route to the town, improving its visual and environmental impact. Workers were trained in the use of organic fertilisers, security, health and environment, employment rights, use of gardening tools, and equal opportunities. In addition to the 20 new workers, the beneficiaries of this project are the 1,404 inhabitants in the quarter.

• Management centre for the reconversion of the CAI Paraguay sugar factory. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Bilbao LEDA, BEAZ. Through FRIDEL, the CAI has been reconverted into 12 small enterprises. The centre was created to manage the process, generating four new jobs. Staff training was ensured by BEAZ, the Guantánamo University Centre and by a SEBRAE consultant. The project beneficiaries are the 7,030 inhabitants of the Paraguay district.

• Cultivation of ornamental and medicinal species to provided work for prisoners in Guantánamo and Baracca. Implemented in collaboration with the FAMSI, UNICEF and UNIFEM, the project, gives training to the prison population in three institutions (700 people, of whom 70 percent are women) in the cultivation of ornamental and medicinal species. In the three prisons, training was given to 80 people in planting roses, guava, cherry and other fruit trees and in improving the areas around the prisons. Care was given to 91 children of the prisoners, and financial assistance was given to 80 families, who sell the produce in the local markets. A training plan has been arranged with researchers and specialists from the Vegetable Health Laboratory, the Provincial Station for Saline Ground, the Mountain Development Centre, the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA), and the FMC.

• Food security in the Municipality of Maisí. Implemented together with the Spanish Cooperation Agency, the project aims to create a protected cultivation centre, and to promote agriculture and small-scale stock-breeding (rabbits and sheep), generating sources of employment in the Asunción district in the Santa Marta Community, which has ideal growing conditions for many types of produce. Materials are being purchased for the centre, land has been chosen, and the staff have been trained in urban agriculture techniques. The project benefits 2,020 people in the community.

• Food security in the Municipality of Guantánamo. Funded by AECI, the project is increasing annual vegetable production up to 838 tonnes, meat production to 18.65 tonnes, and eggs to 233,470 units. Land is being prepared for the construction of the protected cultivation centre. Project beneficiaries are 361,335 local inhabitants and, directly, 9,698 people in centres of health and education.

• Food security in the Municipality of Baracoa. Implemented in collaboration with AECI, the project is constructing intensive market gardens in order to expand agricultural production on a vast scale. The town of Baracoa produces coffee, cocoa and coconuts. Studies of soil types are under way and market-garden staff have been trained. The project beneficiaries are schools and health centres (2,763 people) and, indirectly, 8,917 local inhabitants.

• Food security in the Municipality of Caimanera, where food is produced by the CPA cooperatives, the credit and services cooperative (CCS), and by the basic cooperative production units (UBPCs). The project began in 2001 and was extended in 2003, in collaboration with AECI, with the aim of constructing a protected cultivation centre. Activities are under way to buy materials and prepare the intensive market gardens. The project beneficiaries are 10,768 people.

• Support to food security in the Municipality of Niceto Pérez, which is considered the grain store for the Province of Guantánamo because it is a very rich and fertile area. It is also the municipality with the highest number of schools in the province. The project promoted the cultivation of vegetables and legumes and the breeding of small animals for home consumption. Implemented in collaboration with AECI, the project benefits 1,896 children, young people, hospital patients and, indirectly, 16,700 inhabitants.

• Protected cultivation centre in the Municipality of Baracca. Funded by FAMSI, the project is helping to improve food quality by increasing available land by 167 ha and creating new jobs. Staff training and the soil study for the protected centre are under way.

• Paraguay cultivation centre. Implemented in collaboration with the municipality, MINAZ and BEAZ, the project is creating jobs for the workers laid off from the sugar factory in 1998. Raw materials were supplied for the pickled-vegetable factory, and studies and research were carried out into local demand. The
The Province of Santiago de Cuba is divided into nine municipalities and has a total population of 1,041,373 inhabitants. The activities of the APPI/PDHL are concentrated in five municipalities, with a population of 844,390 inhabitants: Santiago de Cuba (478,612), Songo la Maya (100,827), Guamá (36,123), Palma Soriano (125,514) and Contramaestre (103,314).

The APPI/PDHL started work on 15 March 2002. The provincial working group was established, composed of nine representatives from local institutions. The provincial headquarters began work. Some 300 technical personnel were trained in 20 seminars and workshops. Some 36 local representatives became involved in the work of the 5 municipal working groups created. The participatory planning process was implemented, involving 1,200 community leaders, experts, and local authority representatives. In 2003, drafting was completed of the provincial human development guidelines and the guidelines for the five municipalities.

The results achieved in 2003 are detailed below.

**Technical and administrative decentralisation**

- Creation of the APPI/PDHL headquarters. The headquarters, located in its own building, was equipped to: ensure the coordination of all planning activities; to facilitate meetings between associations, NGOs, decentralised cooperation committees and their Cuban partners; and to identify, monitor and manage the projects. Provided free of charge by the Province of Santiago de Cuba, the office was repaired, furnished, supplied with a computer and Internet access to the various partners involved in the programme, and given a vehicle to ensure transport between the headquarters and the five municipalities.

- Development of the GIS. The GIS manages data relating to the province and the five municipalities in order to improve the planning and management capacities of the territory, encouraging wide participation in the process. This ongoing project aims to create a computerised network connecting the five municipalities to the provincial network and the Bioeco Centre for Technological and Environmental Research (CITMA), which already uses the GIS. Local technicians attended training courses on the use of the GIS. One important aspect of this project is the coordination of the various GIS systems installed by Cuban institutions and the various cooperation agencies in order to benefit from a single information instrument at the provincial level.

**Equal opportunity indicators for the Provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo.**

- Salina Joa. Funded by FRIDEL in July 2003, the project enabled the enterprise Salina Joa to buy materials to complete the laboratory controlling the production process. The project will allow the entire production process to be improved, from the extraction of sea salt to its processing in the industrial plant.

- High-quality coffee production by the enterprise Asdrúbal López Vázquez. The enterprise has been in operation since 1969 using English, Brazilian and Spanish technology. Funded by FRIDEL, the project will allow an improvement in the production and sale of high-quality coffee, by means of a mobile unit. Equipment has been purchased. The project beneficiaries are the 270 workers in the enterprise, who are scheduled to undergo training as soon as the new equipment has been installed.

- CAI Paraguay ice and ice-cream factory. The project, which is part of the CAI reconversion programme, began in 2003 with funding from BEAZ and the Municipality of Bilbao. It aims to create an ice-cream factory providing work for nine people and producing a very popular product. The future managers have already received training. The project beneficiaries are the 9 workers and the 7,000 inhabitants of the Paraguay district.

- CAI Paraguay soft drinks factory. The project, which is part of the CAI reconversion programme, is being implemented in collaboration with BEAZ in order to create a soft drinks factory. There is work for four people, and the product is very popular, benefiting all the inhabitants. The future managers have begun their training.

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- Equal opportunity indicators for the Provinces of Las Tunas, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo. The National Statistics Office received the means and necessary training to carry out studies on gender indicators. The project will provide reliable statistical data on the situation of women in the province so that suitable initiatives can be planned in order to promote
equal opportunities. There was also a publication: a book entitled “Women in Cuba: a statistical profile in the shadow of the twenty-first century”.

Coverage, quality and sustainability of services

- Creation of a mother and baby centre in the El Cobre community. The centre carries out prevention activities and assists pregnant women at risk. Until recently, women had to go to the municipal hospital because of the distance involved and the lack of an efficient transport service. The premises were opened and the centre now cares for 300 mothers a year (89 percent of the demand). Only 11 percent of women now receive treatment at the municipal hospital, thus reducing care costs substantially.

- Improvement in the water supply. The town of Santiago de Cuba was supplied with two new electric pumps in view of the presence of the main economic, sporting, cultural, social and health centres, which suffered from severe water shortages. The indirect beneficiaries are 86,000 people.

- Improvement of the Josué País García main emergency hospital. An electricity generator was installed at the emergency hospital, which had previously suffered from repeated power cuts. As a result of the project, all the hospital’s assistance, care, out-patient, and prevention services improved, directly benefiting the 92,245 patients the hospital cares for each year.

- Strengthening of the provincial meteorological service for the prevention of hurricanes and tropical storms in the Municipality of Palma Soriano. The service was equipped with suitable technology to cope with the frequent cyclones that strike this area, and staff at the centre were trained. The inhabitants of the entire province will benefit from this project.

- Improvement of five mother and baby clinics. Cofunded by UNICEF, the project provides a more comfortable and more private service for pregnant women attending check-ups at the clinics in the five municipalities. In view of the results obtained, the project will be extended to municipalities throughout the province and will include training for medical and paramedical staff. The direct beneficiaries are about 2,150 women.

- Cold-line for the long-term conservation of food in the Municipality of Abel Santa María. The cold-line was supplied to the food distribution centre serving 128,310 people. Thanks to the project, the population now has access to meat, milk and yoghurt, which were not previously available on a regular basis because of the lack of long-term cold storage.

- Community preparation to cope with disasters. The eastern provinces, in particular the Province of Santiago de Cuba, are at a very high risk of an earthquake. In collaboration with the French and the Cuban Red Cross, the local community received training on how to cope with emergency situations, in particular earthquakes. The project was run in 10 communities in 5 municipalities, involving the schools and strengthening the response capabilities of the local Red Cross offices.

- Diagnosis and treatment of sickleemia. Funded by UNDP, the project consists of research, prevention and treatment of the disease in collaboration with the Eastern University and the Biophysics Research Group. A drug was also perfected for the treatment of sickleemia, using technology suitable for the country. Some 6,976 patients have benefited.

- Promotion of the cultural identity of the disabled and their inclusion in the labour market. The Chair at the “Antonio Bravo Correoso” University, created in 1878, conducts research into the history of the territory, benefiting 2,597 people in the Municipality of Santiago de Cuba who participate in the courses. Funded by FAMSI and the Municipality of Granada (Spain), the project included a group of disabled young people in the work of the Chair.

Local economic development

- Food security in the province. According to a study by the Physical Planning Institute and WFP, the Province of Santiago de Cuba has the highest food deficit in the country. The working group resolved to develop agriculture and stock-breeding (improving production of all kinds of vegetables) and the breeding of rabbits, sheep and goats, and milk production. The project, implemented together with UNICEF, PAHO and AECI created 180 new jobs.

- Irrigation system for four greenhouses. Support was given to four cooperatives for urban agriculture and vegetable production with a new irrigation system. The project beneficiaries are 1,600 people. The project is funded by FAMSI and the Municipality of Granada (Spain).
RESULTS IN THE PROVINCE OF LAS TUNAS

The Province of Las Tunas is divided into eight municipalities and has a total population of 530,328 inhabitants. The activities of the PDHL at the local level are concentrated in five municipalities, with a total population of 399,439 inhabitants: Manatí (32,623), Puerto Padre (92,806), Las Tunas (183,227), Majibacoa (39,158) and Jobabo (51,625).

The PDHL began work in the province in October 2001. In the first six months, the Programme was installed, the premises assigned by the provincial government were renovated, and furnishings and information technology equipment were purchased. The provincial working group was established, composed of nine experts representing the provincial headquarters. Training workshops were held and reference material was supplied. The integral forest farms impact project was started up on the banks of the Cauto River, which causes serious environmental problems as it flows through the Province of Las Tunas. Work began on building 36 forest farms, which will produce 760 ha of woodlands and employ 152 people.

In 2003, the APPI/PDHL was extended to eight municipalities. The creation of the forest farms was broadened to 63 farming communities. The local planning process identified and implemented the following projects.

Technical and administrative decentralisation

• GIS. The GIS was also installed in the Province of Las Tunas, in collaboration with UNIFEM. The project, which is programmed to cover the whole province in the future, was started up in the Municipalities of Last Tunas, Puerto Padre and the provincial headquarters of the Physical Planning Institute. Plans were made for 2 basic courses for 24 technicians from the provincial headquarters and the Municipalities of Las Tunas and Puerto Padre on the use of software for creating a cartographic and alphanumeric database. The project beneficiaries are the 75 technicians and 24 professionals (43 men and 56 women). Once the GIS has been completed, the province will have a well-structured provincial and municipal data bank for use in formulating development plans.

Coverage, quality and sustainability of services

• Dietary improvements at schools in the Municipality of Las Tunas. The schools were provided with refrigeration equipment for the food, and staff received training in its use and maintenance. Tanks of liquid gas were installed at each school as replacements for wood-burning stoves; in this way also improving the environmental impact. The kitchens were equipped with suitable utensils. The project beneficiaries are the 1,615 children and staff at the schools.

• The Las Tunas children’s centre. Implemented in collaboration with UNIFEM, the project meets the needs of the schools as reported by staff at the Las Tunas provincial paediatric hospital, which serves eight municipalities. Of the 596 members of staff at the hospital, 474 are women (79.4 percent) and there are no services available to care for their children. The children’s centre enables mothers to keep their jobs and continue contributing to family finances. Staff at the centre number five women, trained by the provincial education department.

• Renovation of the odontology clinic in the Municipality of Manatí, where 16 ventilators, 2 air conditioners, 1 water dispenser, and equipment to store medicines were installed. A classroom was equipped and 483 educational sessions on dental health were held there. The operating theatre was repaired and 179 operations were performed. The admissions and archives departments and the outside of the clinic were remodelled. For professionals and specialist technical staff, seven courses were run. The clinic treated 57,267 patients in 2003, including 23,062 children.

• Improvement of the children’s centres in the Province of Las Tunas. Implemented together with the Bergamo Committee and UNIFEM, the project improved the conditions of the services offered by 23 children’s centres in 5 municipalities. Equipment was provided to store food correctly, ventilate the premises, control the water temperature and improve the children’s games. The project beneficiaries are 3,200 children and 845 members of staff, of whom 98 percent are women. The staff were trained in food preparation, balanced diets, and the methodology of inclusion in the educational functions of schools, families and the communities.

• Elimination of barriers for the blind and people with impaired vision. The project involves the association for the blind of the José Martí provincial library in
Las Tunas, which has a Braille room and specialised assistants. The project also supplied the library with special computer programs to allow students and teachers to use the computers and print documents in Braille. These people were trained to use the Jaws and Braille programs. A course was also run for the technical and scientific information assistants. The project beneficiaries are the 127 users of the library and 767 people with impaired vision. New jobs were created for four women with impaired vision.

- Water for the town of Puerto Padre. The Municipality of Puerto Padre has a population of 92,806 inhabitants, of whom only 44.8 percent receive water from the aqueduct. In collaboration with FAMSI and UNIFEM, controlled-dose pumps were installed at 13 supply sources, ensuring good-quality water for 22,800 inhabitants. Training was given to 13 people on the use and maintenance of the chlorination equipment, and the risk of disease was reduced.

- Water for the Municipality of Jobabo. Located 40 km from the town of Las Tunas, the Municipality of Jobabo has a population of 51,568 inhabitants, distributed in 50 communities, of which only 30 are supplied with water from the aqueduct. Run in collaboration with the Bergamo Committee, the project installed controlled-dose pumps at 11 wells and a water-quality control system. The people responsible for using the controlled-dose pump received the necessary training.

- Provincial emergency system. In the eight municipalities of the province. The emergency and care system for serious cases was strengthened through the creation of three territorial training centres. The structural conditions of the medical emergency clinics were improved in order to allow reanimation services; the network was computerised; and the ambulance fleet was increased by 20 percent. The entire emergency-call response system was made more efficient. The service was also integrated with the activities of the civil defence in order to deal with emergency situations such as the hurricanes that strike Cuba every year. Project beneficiaries are all the inhabitants of the Province of Las Tunas, the temporary population in transit, tourists, and the system staff.

- Care for the elderly. The Ernesto Guevara de la Serna provincial general teaching hospital provides specialist medical assistance to a population of 530,328 inhabitants, with 750 beds and 38 specialist departments. Implemented with the collaboration of the Bergamo Committee, the project installed refrigeration units for medicines and food, and equipment for moving patients in the geriatrics department. A recreation room was created for long-stay patients.

- Water network for the Municipality of Porto Manati. Implemented in collaboration with the Como Committee, the project is improving the water supply for 1,261 inhabitants of Porto Manati, which has a minimal annual rainfall. Work was completed for the total repair of the water cistern. Project beneficiaries are all the inhabitants of Porto Manati and 100 people living in the nearby community of Carboneran. Local technicians received training on cistern maintenance.

Local economic development and FRIDEL

- Creation of integral forest farms in the Cauto River basin. Some 63 farms were established in the Naranjo sub-basin in the Municipality of Majibacoa. The area covers 412.8 km² and has a population of 31,334 inhabitants, of whom 84 percent live in rural areas. The various farms are at different stages of preparation and the benefits are as follows: 76 jobs have been created and 50 percent of the farms assigned to women to manage; housing and infrastructure conditions at the farms have been improved; the availability of food of animal origin has increased; 988 ha of woodland areas with wood and fruit tree species have been developed; and all the personnel have been trained. Among the social results, it is worth noting the great improvement to the environment, owing to the fact that farmers and their families are staying longer on the farms, thus developing a strong sense of belonging. Among the economic results, the increase in farmers' incomes should be highlighted, now that they can sell their vegetable produce at the market.

- Roof covering materials from the Las Tunas ceramics enterprise. This is a credit project, implemented in collaboration with SEBRAE and funded with FRIDEL credit. The project was delayed in March 2003 because of difficulties encountered in buying the kiln, a fundamental element of ceramics production. Repairs were made to the enterprise's equipment in order to at least partially satisfy its desire to trade. Two technicians were also trained at a workshop run by SEBRAE.
• Metal joinery. The industrial unit of the Provincial Construction Materials Enterprise (EMAC) produces metal joinery (windows, skylights, and doors) for housing and for repairs and replacements for wood fittings. The unit applied for FRIDEL credit in order to be able to increase output of this kind of product, which is both economic and ecological. In 2003, the unit produced all the elements required for a total value of USD 47,758.40. More jobs were created for women in the factory, partly as a result of the joinery courses run.

• Promotion of rabbit-breeding in the Province of Las Tunas. On the advice of a commission of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the project, which is funded by the British Embassy, is supporting rabbit-breeding in order to improve the quality of the local diet and create new employment. The project started in late 2003 and is scheduled to last ten months. Beneficiaries are the 23 workers at the Rabbit Genetic Multiplication Centre, the local gastronomic network (including hotels), and the local population. Producers were trained in the management of rabbit meat, rabbit diet and diseases, and hygiene requirements for breeding.

TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALISATION

• Installation of the headquarters of the provincial working group. In collaboration with COSUDE, the premises were renovated to house the working group’s head office, and to facilitate the coordination activities and the initiatives of the decentralised cooperation committees. The office was provided with furniture and equipment, a computer, photocopier, telephone, Internet connection, and an e-mail address. Participants in the provincial working group and from the six municipalities received training on territorial planning and project formulation and management.

• Installation of the GIS in the Province of Holguín. Implemented in collaboration with COSUDE, the project installed the computer network in the six municipalities of Holguín, Cacocum, Calixto García, Gibara, Sagua de Tánamo and Moa. Municipal staff are undergoing training to enable them to create the database in order to be able to display five priority variables. Training courses were run for the technical staff on the use of the GIS, and the data bank was established for the production of municipal development plans. The project has benefited 236 technical personnel from the provincial departments of physical planning and, indirectly, the inhabitants of all the municipalities.

• Support to the working groups of the Municipalities of Holguín, Gibara and Cacocum. Implemented together with COSUDE, the project created and equipped the autonomous offices of the groups in the three municipalities. The offices, provided with furniture and suitable technological equipment, allowed group personnel to carry out activities involving planning, intersectoral analyses, studies of the territory, and joint decision-making. The officers were trained in the production of risks and resources maps, human development, equal opportunities, project formulation, and team work. The project benefited 38 officers and the inhabitants of the three municipalities.

• Creation of three equal-opportunity centres. Funded by UNIFEM and COSUDE, and implemented in collaboration with the local university, the project offered the following courses to 1,080 women in the Municipalities of Holguín, Gibara and Moa: dressmaking, physical education, cookery, foreign languages, equal opportunities, sex education,
children’s rights, and teenage pregnancy. The courses were taken by women who wanted to keep their jobs by improving their qualifications and by those looking for a job.

• Week-long campaign devoted to the reduction of solid waste in the Municipality of Moa. Funded by the University of Quebec (Canada), the project is the first stage of a wider collaboration for the treatment of solid waste and the creation of a greenhouse for the cultivation of vegetables. Promotional and educational activities were carried out on environmental problems, with the active participation of children and teachers at the Carlos Baliño and Miraflores schools, and of all the inhabitants of the Miraflores community.

• Community preparation to cope with disasters. Funded by the French Red Cross, the project created and trained four intervention teams to deal with the aftermath of earthquakes. The seismologists from CENAIS consider the eastern part of Cuba to be at high risk of earthquakes and recommended that the population should be trained how act in the event of an earthquake. The project was completed.

Local economic development

• Provincial cold-line. The project supplied freezers for 115 provincial distribution centres for meat, fish and milk products, which make up the basic shopping basket. The cold-line permits the conservation of a month’s supply of food products for the population, which was previously not possible. The units were also provided with a water supply and the necessary instruments and utensils for handling food. The installations were improved by providing paint for the walls, ventilators and lighting. At the moment, the units are supplying ten new products to the local population, benefiting the 164,410 inhabitants of the 8 districts.