

JOCV Activities in the area of Education

Project Sites San Salvador City, San Miguel, La Libertá, La Unión, Santa Ana, Chalatenango, Sonsonate



1. Background of Project

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer program to El Salvador was started in 1968 with the dispatch of eight volunteers in physical education in order to reinforce the National Olympic team for the Mexico Olympic Games.

Although the JOCV activities broadened the area of cooperation thereafter, the dispatch was halted in 1979 due to the civil war. As the civil war ended in 1992, the dispatch was restarted in 1994, volunteers for human resource development were sent to a variety of areas of education since then, such as physical education, science, mathematics, and Japanese language.

This evaluation was for the technical assistance by JOCV given to the Ministry of Education (MINED) from 1994 to the above date.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1994 – FY2000

(2) Type of Cooperation

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Ministry of Education (MINED)

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

Qualified educators continue to be nurtured by training and reeducation in various areas of education

2) Project Purpose

The national education level is enhanced by the training and reeducation of educators.

3) Outputs

A number of graduates, as well as long- or short-term trainees to Japan, are produced.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

JOCV members	36
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El Salvadorian Side

Facilities and equipment

3. Members of Evaluation Team

JICA /JOCV El Salvador Office

(Commissioned to Mr. Bameiro & Katsumata Association)

4. Period of Evaluation

December 2000 – March 2001

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

The purpose of the dispatch of JOCVs was to transfer knowledge and skills in education to El Salvadorian counterparts. It is deemed to contribute to promoting economic and social development of the country, meaning that the relevance of the JOCV dispatch is recognizable.

(2) Effectiveness

Educational cooperation was conducted in seven areas, including physical education, natural sciences, mathematics, and the Japanese language. The counterparts evaluated the performance of 33 out of the 36 volunteers with a five-level rating system (A: excellent, B: good, C: average, D: poor, E: almost no outcome). According to the

results, 18 JOCV members were evaluated as "good" which forms the majority of the responses, 6 volunteers were evaluated as "average", 4 volunteers were evaluated as "poor" or "almost no outcome", and 1 was evaluated as "excellent". The mean value of the evaluation results is "average" and it is considered that the transfer of skills and knowledge is being advanced on average.

(3) Efficiency

The implementing framework of the El Salvador side was well prepared. This is partly due to the fact that some of the executive officers of MINED and other major institutions had experiences in working with the JOCV before the civil war, and they cooperated with the JOCV activities very well. Therefore, the cooperation worked efficiently.

(4) Impact

The project provided not only the transfer of skills and knowledge, but also good practices such as greetings at the beginning and end of classes, keeping rooms neat and organized, and punctuality. The counterparts and the students responded to the JOCV members' persistent efforts, and gradually accepted these practices. These contributed to efficient class operations and maintenance of order in the workplace.

These practices also developed people's understanding towards the Japanese people and culture. Besides, it is considered another impact that some counterparts started teaching Japanese language courses after they finished training in Japan.

(5) Sustainability

The JOCV members tended to teach in classes instead of training teachers, meaning their activities were somewhat service rendering. Consequently, it is not easy to see how much the transfer of skills and knowledge was accomplished. It is also difficult to assess how much the system to reinforce sustainability has been functioning, such as the mechanism to improve the teaching methods applying the result of JOCV cooperation.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

As the project dispatched most JOCV members upon request by El Salvador, the overall plan covering the whole cooperation period did not exist and thus each dispatch could not always be strategic. In the future, the dispatch plan should be designed by the Government of El Salvador,



Gymnastics training

taking the specific outcome of each volunteer's activities into account.

The volunteers need to acquire a higher level of language proficiency in training counterparts and conducting classes. They can work more efficiently if they take extensive language lessons in the first year of the 2-year assignment¹⁾. Taking the dispatch period of each JOCV member into account, appropriate support should be provided in order to realize efficient JOCV activities.

(2) Recommendations

Communication between JOCV members and the accepting organizations should be improved so as to make the best of the volunteers' expertise.

7. Follow-up Situation

Based on the recommendation, the JICA Office holds meetings with each concerned section of MINED after receiving the above recommendations. The JOCV members also participate in monthly meetings for physical education, which functions as a valuable opportunity to exchange information. Meetings for science and mathematics education as well as computer education have already been held several times, although its regularization has not been decided yet.

¹⁾ The volunteers take intensive language lessons for 1.5 months before their arrival, and for 1 month after the arrivals. In addition, some countries provide brush-up language courses one year after arrival