

Cooperative Agreement between the American Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

"Disaster Management Alliance"

BACKGROUND

THE PAN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (PADF)

The Association of American Chambers of Commerce of Latin America (AACCLA) and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) have created an important alliance to facilitate the integration of the private sector in all phases of disaster management, as well as in development programs.

PADF has obtained a grant from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work with the American Chambers of Commerce to prepare communities and corporations mitigate and better manage the impacts of future disasters.

PADF was created in 1962 in the United States through a unique partnership between the Organization of American States (OAS) and private enterprise to promote, facilitate, and implement economic and social development programs in Latin America and the Caribbean through integrated involvement of the public and private sectors.

Its mission and vision is to create a hemisphere of opportunities for all through four main areas of work: creating economic opportunities, promoting social progress, strengthening communities & civil society, and disaster management.

PADF is widely recognized throughout the hemisphere for its immediate humanitarian assistance for the victims of natural disasters by channeling the shipment of "emergency shelter packages" and other priority items to alleviate human suffering.


PADF represents the private sector on the OAS Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and is affiliated with Inter-Action, the Americas Relief Team, and the Association of Contingency Planners.

THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EL SALVADOR (AmCham El Salvador)

The American Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador (AmCham El Salvador) is a private, independent, not for profit entity whose main purpose is to promote commerce and investment between the United States and El Salvador.

It was founded in 1974 by a group of businesses and industries, currently numbering 336 affiliates, representing 80% of private US investment in the country.

AmCham El Salvador's mission is to represent, promote, defend and develop commercial interests of private sector companies of the United States of America in El Salvador for the benefit of both countries; it also serves the business community in general to promote trade and investment between the United States of America and El Salvador and promotes and defends the principles of free enterprise and the rule of law.



As a matter of policy it stimulates free trade, maintains effective interaction between the private sector and governments of both countries, providing incentives and support for its affiliates by creating new commercial opportunities.

THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE PROJECT

El Salvador is highly vulnerable to flooding, hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes, and other natural phenomenon. The effective preparedness and mitigation of the impacts require the private sector's integration by working in coordination with public entities such as the Civil Protection Commission (Comisión Nacional de Protección Civil, COEN), to implement the National Disaster and Risk Management Plan.

AmCham El Salvador convened a meeting on December, 2006 to present the Disaster Management Alliance Project to representatives from affiliated companies, business and industry associations and fellow chambers. The participants were motivated by the opportunity to develop disaster preparedness activities through their corporate social responsibility programs with the support of USAID through OFDA.

As a result AmCham El Salvador will establish a disaster management and business continuity committee to serve as a platform for activities with the Disaster Management Alliance Project. Activities proposed include the establishment of a disaster management protocol to articulate the integration of a volunteer network of private sector stakeholders in all phases of disaster management; training and technical assistance activities in disaster management and business continuity planning; community vulnerability reduction through the establishment of community emergency committees; development of a community emergency plan; synchronization of said plan with corporate partners and corresponding authorities; implementation of one structural and non-structural vulnerability reduction project; and testing of plans with a joint practice drill to improve the capacity to save lives, livelihoods and effectively access available private sector resources.

Therefore, for the development of the Disaster Management Alliance Project, the aforementioned parties agree to:

1. Establish the present cooperative agreement between AmCham El Salvador and PADF for the successful implementation of the OFDA/USAID-sponsored Project. Agreed upon activities and results include:
 - Establishment of a disaster management protocol to articulate the integration of a volunteer network of private sector stakeholders in all phases of disaster management;
 - Training and technical assistance activities in disaster management and business continuity planning;
 - Community vulnerability reduction through the establishment of community emergency committees;
 - Development of at least one community emergency plan; synchronization of said plan with corporate partners and corresponding authorities;

- Implementation of one structural and non-structural vulnerability reduction project; and
- Testing of plans with a joint practice drill to improve the capacity to save lives, livelihoods and effectively access available private sector resources.

2. Co-financing of Project activities is as follows:

PADF pays for technical assistance and Project supervision from PADF's Director of Disaster Management in Washington, D.C.; salary and expenses for a 10-month contract for a national project coordinator; air-fare for volunteers from the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP) to travel to El Salvador to offer seminars on disaster management, business continuity planning and conduct the proposed simulation on telecommunications and Internet continuity; air-fare and/or travel allowance for certified trainers to offer OFDA, PAHO, and other courses of interest; and US\$30,000 in seed capital for community vulnerability reduction projects. The proposals will be developed by PADF, the collaborating companies, the beneficiary communities, and verified with the corresponding authorities;

AmCham affiliates and AmCham Disaster Management Committee members will convene and hold trainings, with assistance from the project-sponsored coordinator; charge participants a registration fee for courses and seminars directed to professionals, sufficient to cover all related costs, allow representatives of corresponding authorities and community groups to participate at no cost, and generate resources to contribute to the community vulnerability reduction initiatives; and raise at least US\$80,000 in cash and in-kind donations for the community vulnerability reduction projects. These projects will be selected based on the proposals presented which reflect the needs prioritized by high-risk communities.

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BASIS

The project-sponsored national coordinator will be hired once the terms of reference and activities have been identified with the AmCham El Salvador Disaster Management Committee. The coordinator will present results reports on a monthly basis and must ensure all project investments are concluded before the end of the ten-month consultancy contract.

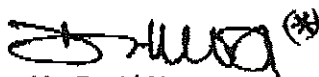
3. Goals for Project implementation include:

- Creation of a dynamic new committee within AmCham El Salvador;
- Establishment of a protocol to leverage private sector resources from a volunteer network;
- Development of an effective working relationship to integrate the private sector into disaster prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery activities in coordination with the corresponding authorities, agencies, NGO's, and community groups.
- Provide training and technical assistance in disaster management and business continuity topics;

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- Establish linkages for the AmCham El Salvador Disaster Management Committee to be able to conduct training, technical assistance, and other activities to promote its disaster preparedness goals for the country and to generate resources to continue the committee's work;
 - Disseminate best practices and effective disaster management techniques, tools, and expertise; and
 - Identify and facilitate the development of one structural and one non-structural community vulnerability reduction initiative. These initiatives will be co-financed and implemented by PADF and the AmCham affiliates which volunteer to participate. The contributions by AmCham affiliates may be in cash and/or in-kind.
4. AmCham El Salvador will support project related activities by:
- a. Facilitating the creation of the Disaster Management Committee and allowing it sufficient autonomy to be able to conduct promotion, training, fund-raising, and other related activities to become self-sustaining once the project's co-financing is concluded.
 - b. Promote and encourage contributions and participation from affiliates in support of project initiatives.
 - c. Provide office space for the project coordinator, if feasible. The related office expenses (telecommunications, materials, and others) will be paid for by the project.
5. PADF will direct project development and implementation through:
- a. General project coordination, implementation, technical assistance, and supervision.
 - b. Administration of project resources according to donor requirements.
 - c. The project coordinator in El Salvador will be based in San Salvador. The coordinator will design, implement, and ensure the completion of activities agreed upon by the AmCham El Salvador Disaster Management committee.

Signed in San Salvador, El Salvador, December 22, 2006.



Mr. David Huezo
President
American Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador



Mr. John Sanbrailo
Executive Director
Pan American Development
Foundation PADF

(*) Please see Page 3, point 2,
paragraph 2, line 7:
"Best Efforts Basis".

