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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

**Second periodic reports submitted by States parties
under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant**

Addendum

GUATEMALA* **

[10 February 2003]

* The initial report concerning rights covered by articles 1 to 15 (E/1990/5/Add.24) submitted by the Government of Guatemala was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its fourteenth session in 1996 (see E/C.12/1996/SR.11-14).

** The information submitted by Guatemala in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.47).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Congress of the Republic of Guatemala adopted various laws and reforms in the period from 1999 to 2001, especially in the fields of health, education, labour and social security, aimed at strengthening the legal framework so as to establish a legal climate offering certainty conducive to economic and social development programmes capable of giving effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant.

II. HEALTH

2. In Decree No. 50-2000 of 6 September 2000 Congress authorized the reform of articles 49, 51, 126, 224 and 229 of the Health Code, Decree No. 90-97. Regulations were issued governing the advertising of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, and it was stipulated that packs and bottles containing these substances must contain warnings concerning the health of people that used them.

3. By Decree No. 69-2000 of 22 November 2000, Congress approved the loan agreement between the Republic of Guatemala and the Inter-American Development Bank for the funding of the health services improvement programme, as reformed by Congressional Decree No. 19-2001.

A. Medical infrastructure

4. Hospital infrastructure. The Ministry of Health, together with the Health Projects Unit (UNEPSA), carried out a pre-investment and development study of the remodelling and equipment project for San Juan de Dios General Hospital, at a cost of 61 million quetzales. With Japanese support, it also promoted construction and provision of equipment for the Health Staff Training Institute (INDAPS) in phase I of the project, and the restructuring, reorganization and re-engineering of the National Health Laboratory. As for the expansion of health coverage, the following measures have been taken: the Ixil health district has been made into a health area (Chajul, Cotzal, Nebaj), as this was one of the areas hardest hit by the armed conflict; a 28-million-quetzal project for the expansion of second-level services for the departments of Izabal, Zacapa, Huehuetenango and Quiché has been approved and its implementation has begun with Finnish assistance; and the access to medicines programme (PROAM) for the most needy groups has been drawn up and has begun to operate consisting in expansion of subsidized sales and opening of community medical dispensaries.

5. Access to health. With regard to the right to health, it is important to note the implementation of the National Health Plan 2000-2004, which guides the activities of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. In addition, an epidemiology programme for 2000-2004 has been prepared. Regulatory measures in the field of health include: the preparation of the regulations governing the National Health Council; declaring May as Women's Health Month (Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare Order No. 1307-2000); the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Health Sector Reform Commission (Government Order No. 441-2000); the establishment of the External Cooperation Coordination Committee; regulation of the access to medicines programme (PROAM); the preparation of a PROAM procedures manual; the establishment of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare unified system; the preparation and distribution of a supplementary manual on the international

classification of diseases; the preparation of budget programme and subprogramme management indicators for evaluating budget performance; the creation of a subsystem for sales and purchases control; the preparation of a government order on the establishment of a national unit to provide care for persons living with HIV/AIDS; the standardization of contingency plans; and the preparation of regulations governing transfusional medicine and blood bank services.

6. Dengue eradication. Dengue is found in 21 of the country's departments, in other words all except Totonicapán. In 2000, there were 4,800 cases of classical dengue in the departments of Guatemala, Escuintla, Retalhuleu, Petén Norte and Ixcán. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is providing support for efforts to control this disease.

7. Prevention and control of leishmaniasis. Geographically, this disease is found in the department of Petén. Cases occur in other departments, but the relevant research has yet to be carried out. The Valle de Guatemala University is actively involved in prevention and control measures.

8. Treatment of onchocerciasis. Mass medication with ivermectin in 511 localities across 30 municipalities and 7 departments (Chimaltenango, Suchitupéquez, Escuintla, Sololá, Santa Rosa, Guatemala and Huehuetenango) is the principal method for eliminating onchocerciasis microfilariae among the country's infected population. In 2001, treatment coverage with the drug extended to over 87 per cent of the target population, with a total of 264,617 people receiving two rounds of treatment. The national onchocerciasis control programme of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare has stepped up the use of medication in endemic communities in the above-mentioned departments.

9. Chagas disease. The following activities are currently being carried out in the priority departments of Chiquimula, Zacapa, Santa Rosa, Jutiapa and Jalapa:

(a) Vector control with a spraying coverage of 1,013 localities (67 per cent of the total) and 84,738 homes (65 per cent of the total);

(b) Training 1,347 professionals in the department of Jutiapa, familiarizing them with the disease, indirectly benefiting 60,000 people. Training 1,400 individuals (doctors, paramedics, voluntary workers, community leaders, soldiers, police officers), providing them with basic knowledge of the disease;

(c) Treatment of 280 individuals diagnosed with the disease.

There is some coordination between national and international institutions in activities relating to promotion, prevention, surveillance and vector control.

B. Improvement of living conditions

10. Water and environmental sanitation programme and water quality monitoring programme. With the aim of supplying the entire population with drinking water for human consumption, a monitoring programme is being implemented throughout the 26 health areas.

The objective of the programme is to improve the health conditions of the Guatemalan people using particular systems in both rural and urban areas for the supply of water for human consumption, bearing in mind the fact that monitoring water quality is key to reducing the spread of water-borne diseases. The elements of the programme are as follows:

- (a) Evaluation of the physical condition of existing water supply systems;
- (b) Quality evaluation of the system's administration, operation and maintenance.

11. Distribution of inputs for the bacteriological analysis of water. With the support of PAHO/WHO, and together with the department's Health and Environmental Surveillance, Monitoring and Control Unit, bacterial culture mediums, membrane filters, Petri dishes with absorbent pads and Whirl-Pak bags with dechlorinating agents (50 units) are being distributed throughout the 26 health areas.

12. In order to determine equipment, materials and human resources capabilities and requirements in the 26 health areas in terms of carrying out water quality monitoring activities, an inventory of the capabilities and functioning of water analysis equipment and requirements in the health areas was carried out between November 2000 and January 2001. The inventory was updated this November.

13. Installation of sodium hypochlorite-producing equipment. With the support of international partners and in follow-up to the cholera prevention programme, 13 sodium hypochlorite production systems, which work with solar panels, have been installed in 10 health areas.

14. Restructuring of the drinking water and sanitation sector. The Government has participated in the Inter-Institutional Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Drinking Water Sector, in accordance with Executive Order No. 441-2000, together with the Office of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN), Guatemala City Municipal Water Company (EMPAGUA), the Guatemalan Social Investment Fund (FIS) and the Municipal Development Institute/Rural Aqueduct Project Executive Unit (INFOM/UNEPAR):

- (a) Participation in the process of organizing and modernizing the sector;
- (b) Structuring the departmental commissions for water and sanitation;
- (c) Policy-making and strategic planning, including a policy framework for water and sanitation; and
- (d) Support for the national water and sanitation information system.

15. Improving water and sanitation in indigenous communities. Technical cooperation project between countries (Guatemala, El Salvador and Panama):

(a) Participation in three-nation workshops and coordination of the third three-nation meeting of the technical cooperation project between countries on water and sanitation in indigenous communities in Panama, El Salvador and Guatemala, implemented in 2001;

(b) Analysis of policies, strategies, laws, plans, programmes and projects for indigenous communities relating to water and sanitation;

(c) Inventory of alternative water and sanitation technologies in indigenous communities;

(d) Review and analysis of social promotion and health education processes and techniques in water and sanitation projects in indigenous communities;

(e) Validation of existing educational material on water and sanitation.

Regional indigenous populations project:

(a) Validation of existing educational material on water and sanitation;

(b) Follow-up to demonstration projects.

16. National water and sanitation information system (SAS). Coordination with the Technical Committee, made up of personnel from INFOM/UNEPAR and the Department of Health and Environmental Regulation/Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (DRPSA/MSPAS), for the development of SAS, in particular, aspects of the development of the software, reformulation of SAS, distribution of processed data and forms. The SAS database has been strengthened. To date 11,573 sets of forms, corresponding to 49.6 per cent of the forms distributed throughout the country, have been compiled. The forms were inputted into the SAS database.

17. Standardized technical support for the municipalities on regulations. Technical support on health regulations was made available to municipalities in order to upgrade drinking water quality activities, and the handbook on chlorine-based treatment and disinfection of water was distributed to 331 municipalities in Guatemala to support the upgrade of drinking water quality activities.

18. Solid waste. Inter-institutional action spearheaded by the Ministry of Health is being taken to draw up proposals for regulations for hospital and municipal solid waste. The regulations for the handling of hospital solid waste were published in the *Diario Oficial* (Official Gazette) in accordance with Government Order No. 509-2001 of 28 December 2001. Training in hospital and municipal solid waste is being given in health departments, health districts and hospitals in the 26 health areas, municipalities and the private sector. Other activities include the exposition of the subject matter of solid waste in the various sectors, visits

to blood banks, prior to their accreditation, and coordination with the private sector to support activities for the integral management of hospital solid waste and the implementation of processing systems.

19. Health education. Preparation of material:

(a) Health and environment journal of the Department of Health and Environmental Regulation (March 2001);

(b) Preparation and distribution of six health-care and environment leaflets on water, solid waste, latrines, housing, waste water and pesticides;

(c) Inter-American Water Day "Water" document;

(d) Educational guide to environmental health risks;

(e) National emergency plan for the immediate implementation of health and environment prevention and promotion activities;

(f) Cholera prevention and control for Central America after hurricane Mitch, the case of Guatemala;

(g) Health situation of the indigenous peoples of Guatemala (water and basic sanitation).

20. Distribution of materials. Two posters on diagnosis and treatment of acute pesticide poisoning and on support measures for vital functions, initial treatment, treatment of symptoms and laboratory tests, along with a flip chart on pest control and prevention in the handling of pesticides, as part of the Guatemala PLAGSALUD project, were distributed to health districts and departments and hospitals in the 26 health areas. The following were distributed to the 26 health areas:

(a) 353 posters on diagnosis and treatment of acute pesticide poisoning and on support measures for vital functions, initial treatment, treatment of symptoms and laboratory tests;

(b) 339 flip charts on pest control and prevention in the handling of pesticides, as part of the Guatemala PLAGSALUD project;

(c) 2,522 sets of environment leaflets;

(d) 1,000 copies of the Inter-American Water Day "Water" document;

(e) 1,213 health and environment journals to the health areas;

(f) 1,400 copies of the handbook for technicians on the chlorine-based treatment and disinfection of water, distributed to the health areas and municipalities.

21. Training. Two training courses have been held on water and sanitation for environmental sanitation supervisors and coordinators of rural health technical personnel in the 26 health areas. Technical and professional personnel were also given training on the subjects of water and sanitation, hospital and municipal solid waste, waste water, pesticides, etc.
22. Malnutrition. The child population suffering from any degree of malnutrition is treated in the community or in the nutritional rehabilitation centres which the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare has established in 40 municipalities and in all the national hospital rehabilitation centres in each department.
23. Food and nutritional safety. As regards the integrated health services, the food and nutritional safety programme has incorporated all the regulations and advisory services into the national proposal.
24. Young people:
- (a) Level 1: training of young volunteers as youth health facilitators in 19 Guatemalan departments;
 - (b) Level 2: training of health promotion personnel, for the care of young people in their health areas;
 - (c) Level 3: training of the personnel of young people's clinics.
25. Young people's clinics:
- (a) In the San Juan de Dios hospitals, Antigua, Guatemala;
 - (b) In the near future in Puerto Barrios and the metropolitan area (INJUD).

III. EDUCATION

26. Congressional Decree No. 3-99 of 26 February 1999 amended Decree No. 17-95, the Act on Teaching Cooperative Educational Institutions, so that article 5 of the Act would read as follows:

“Department of Cooperative Education and its purpose. The Ministry of Education shall set up, in departmental Technical Departments, a departmental cooperative education unit, pursuant to the decentralization policy for the education system.

“The role of the departmental Cooperative Education Unit shall be to ensure the orientation, training and coordination of Teaching Cooperative Educational Institutions. The unit shall be responsible for carrying out the corresponding administrative tasks to ensure that State budgetary allocations are effectively granted.”

27. Under Congressional Decree No. 16-99 dated 7 May 1999, a specific agreement was adopted between the Republic of Guatemala and the Kingdom of Belgium concerning the project to strengthen intercultural bilingual education in the Maya-Mam region of San Marcos department, under the auspices of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

A. Right to education

28. Education. Education is one of the basic pillars of the country's human and social development. In 2001, 10,944 contracted employees, 59,294 students at the diversified secondary level and 3,001 volunteers worked in the national literacy system to reduce illiteracy, reaching 351,095 beneficiaries throughout the country. This figure exceeded the 2000 total of 210,000. Some 76.7 per cent of the target population has now been covered. There has thus been significant progress.

29. Programmes and projects. The Ministry of Education followed up on its regular programmes and projects, and in some cases reoriented and strengthened them. It thus followed up on specific and alternative programmes: the comprehensive care programme for children under six (PAIN), the national programme for educational self-management (PRONADE), the programme for community centres for accelerated pre-school education (CENACEPs), and the educational television (distance secondary school) programme (Telesecundaria) at the secondary level. The coverage of these programmes was as follows: PAIN covered 25,380 boys and girls; PRONADE involved 41,379 boys and girls at the pre-school level and 231,289 at the primary level; and Telesecundaria reached 19,853 students.

30. Support and assistance programmes. The supplementary support and assistance programmes were maintained and improved, thus making it possible to encourage students to attend, remain in and advance in school by providing school breakfasts and lunches to 2 million students throughout the country. In this field, innovations in 2000 included reorientation of school feeding programmes with a new emphasis on nutrition and the initiation of the school lunch project, which concentrated on rural areas with a pilot programme implemented in four departments.

31. Education programmes. In 2000, PRONADE implemented activities totalling \$355,105.40 funded through its own budget as well as loans and donations. The projects and programmes funded include the following.

B. National programme for educational self-management

32. PRONADE's purpose is to develop self-managed schools in rural areas. It provides support for parents in community education committees (COEDUCAs), which administer the educational process, recruit and pay teachers, provide food aid, purchase educational materials and supplies and monitor the performance of teachers and students. The system receives advisory assistance from educational service institutions that organize and certify the community education committees and train parents and staff in resource administration. They have helped bring about a significant increase in pre-school and primary education coverage.

National programme for educational self-management (PRONADE)

(Coverage, number of children)

1999-2000

	1999	2000
Primary schoolchildren served ^a	227 636	231 388
Pre-school children served ^b	27 665	41 365
Total	255 301	272 753

Source: Ministry of Education, fourth report of the President to Congress (1996-2000).

^a Departments (not including Guatemala and Sacatepéquez).

^b Departments (not including Guatemala).

33. Work done by the community education committees. The main objective is to increase coverage and improve the quality of education services in rural areas, providing funding for organized communities to allow them to administer education services on a decentralized basis, thus strengthening community self-management.

34. The community education committees draw up quarterly programmes with basic themes taken from the COEDUCA manual issued by PRONADE, which covers the most important administrative aspects of educational self-management, and which are also based on other manuals issued by the programme. The basic themes must correspond to the characteristics, needs and interests of the communities.

C. Training for parents and community leaders

Communities served, by department, 1999 and 2001

Department	1999		2001	
	Communities	Children	Communities	Children
Alta Verapaz	724	41 095	45	2 474
Baja Verapaz	103	5 684	7	271
Chimaltenango	72	6 918	9	803
Chiquimula	187	8 656	3	125
El Progreso	25	983	4	120
El Quiché	333	25 595	26	874
Escuintla	65	7 019	9	2 097
Huehuetenango	384	28 062	53	2 171

Table (continued)

Department	1999		2001	
	Communities	Children	Communities	Children
Izabal	162	9 142	13	463
Jalapa	101	6 229	8	845
Jutiapa	146	9 080	6	393
El Petén	280	20 215	23	1 875
Quetzaltenango	134	15 139	7	533
Retalhuleu	33	3 688	-	-
Sacatepéquez	1	24	-	-
San Marcos	396	31 091	11	531
Santa Rosa	104	6 229	23	1 000
Sololá	76	7 415	6	206
Suchitepéquez	76	11 784	10	407
Totonicapán	97	10 173	10	407
Zacapa	23	1 549	12	385
Total	3 522	255 800	308	15 573

Source: PRONADE.

D. Community centres for accelerated pre-school education

35. Community centres for accelerated pre-school education (CENACEPs) are designed to ensure attendance in the first grade of primary school by developing skills, capabilities and positive habits among pre-schoolers. Their content and methodology are geared toward child development and ways of dealing with the needs, interests and problems of communities, and incorporate elements of universal, western and Mayan culture.

36. The purpose of CENACEPs is to strengthen the development among pre-schoolers of skills and capabilities, positive habits and attitudes so as to ensure attendance in the first grade of primary school. The programme is implemented by community centres for accelerated pre-school education, which provide a period of accelerated preparation for children of the various ethnic groups in rural communities who are unable to attend pre-school programmes. It is designed as an alternative to pre-school institutions for those communities that do not have one, and its methodology is geared toward child development and ways of dealing with the needs, interests and problems of the communities. The programme is offered with a flexible schedule by the community, whose members are trained to give direct attention to 6-year-olds. It operates every year in October, November and December for a period of 35 days.

**Coverage by community centres for accelerated pre-school
education (CENACEPs)**

1999-2001

Department	1999		2000		2001	
	Centres/pupils		Centres/pupils		Centres/pupils	
Guatemala	226	9 040	106	4 459	50	8 219
Alta Verapaz	114	4 025	64	1 618	50	3 100
Baja Verapaz	84	2 940	102	1 312	50	1 285
Zacapa	63	2 205	51	482	25	1 394
Chiquimula	65	3 029	70	1 911	30	1 092
El Progreso	19	665	24	140	30	335
Izabal	225	7 220	243	4 051	90	4 874
Jutiapa	317	8 190	263	1 368	90	7 812
Jalapa	121	1 420	24	2 041	45	5 026
Santa Rosa	216	7 560	187	4 227	70	5 380
Sacatepéquez	84	2 940	22	479	15	2 727
Escuintla	244	8 272	130	3 900	50	3 232
Chimaltenango	146	4 604	66	2 124	50	3 854
Quetzaltenango	237	10 612	220	4 232	40	7 574
Suchitepéquez	109	3 815	64	1 924	25	2 927
Retalhuleu	63	2 205	51	1 309	30	1 670
Sololá	101	3 535	15	223	10	3 205
San Marcos	295	8 850	248	6 068	150	10 374
Totonicapán	55	1 925	45	1 201	20	1 634
Huehuetenango	95	3 325	100	2 363	70	2 569
Quiché	324	11 340	166	1 251	70	4 410
Petén	329	11 515	232	4 973	90	7 822
Total	3 532	119 332	2 493	112 920	1 150	90 545

Source: Programmes and Projects Department (DIGEPRO): human resources and curriculum development system (SIMAC).

E. Support programme coverage**1999**

Programmes	Persons served	Units distributed	Institutions served	Departments covered
School breakfasts	1 078 226 100	123 317 911	10 026	22
School snacks	569 500	107 415 480	1 150	
Scholarships for girls	48 089		3 106	12
Scholarships for secondary schools	12 073			
Food grants	300			4
Spanish and bilingual school texts	4 349 454	4 349 454		
School transport subsidies	72 396			
Furniture and equipment	95 051			
Teachers' desks				
Blackboards				
Classroom desks				

Source: Ministry of Education/Support Projects Department (DIGEPA).

2000

Programmes	Persons served	Units distributed	Institutions served	Departments covered
School breakfasts	1 115 762	108 226 100	12 308	22
School snacks	922 692	219 900 611	2 436	22
School lunches	7 799	364 387	33	4
Scholarships for girls	60 089*	60 089	3 337	13
Food grants	1 389	1 389		
Textbooks	88 911	243 511		
Scholarships	13 069	13 069		
School transport subsidies	76 374		374	1
Furniture and equipment				
Teachers' desks		896		
Blackboards	35 574	27 033		22
Classroom desks				

* Includes 10,000 scholarships from the national programme for educational self-management (PRONADE).

2001

Programmes	Persons served	Units distributed	Institutions served	Departments covered
School breakfasts	1 667 920	267 383 820	15 199	22
Scholarships for girls	71 621	71 621		16
Peace scholarships	120 185	120 185		
Food grants at diversified secondary education level	1 440	1 440		
Secondary school scholarships:	9 410	9 410		22
General level	4 437	4 437		22
Diversified level				
School transport subsidies	79 055	316 220	464	1
Textbooks	3 149 119	3 149 119		22
School supplies	1 692 543	1 692 543		22

Source: DIGEPA, SIMAC and the Coordinating Unit, scholarship and school boards programme.

Important achievements

- (a) Intercultural programmes have been strengthened;
- (b) Bilingual textbooks for the pre-primary level have been printed in the four major Mayan languages;
- (c) A total of 286,000 bilingual textbooks for the pre-primary level are being printed at a cost of 876,560 quetzales;
- (d) A total of 605,373 bilingual first-grade textbooks are being printed, on Spanish as a second language, mathematics and Mayan culture in the Q'eqchi', Mam, K'ichee' and Kaqchikel languages at a cost of 2,368,799.30 quetzales;
- (e) Illustrations and charts are being prepared for model textbooks in Mayan languages on mathematics and Mayan culture;
- (f) Under the quality and excellence project, job descriptions have been drawn up for the professional and technical staff who will be engaged in upgrading skills;
- (g) The skills-upgrading syllabus has been drawn up;
- (h) The programme for the education of girls has been strengthened;

(i) The centres of excellence in 26 teacher training schools and 53 primary schools have been improved;

(j) The national civics and values education programme in the schools has been strengthened.

37. Distance secondary school. This is a modern educational model, the aim of which is to provide secondary education to young people who live in communities where there are no secondary schools or in places where the educational coverage is insufficient. Currently, 22 departments in the country offer distance learning at the secondary level.

38. Educational reform. In the course of the educational reform, important advances were made in 2001, mainly in introducing the reform into all departments in Guatemala. The hope is that the pace of the reform will allow it to be put in place in the medium term.

39. Various services offered in the field of education. In 2001, services such as the following were provided:

(a) Scholarships awarded to 230,000 girls;

(b) School breakfasts provided to 1,677,920 pupils;

(c) A total of 9,064,000 school supplies packets distributed throughout the country;

(d) A total of 3,149,119 textbooks donated;

(e) Sets of books delivered to 18,000 schools under the presidential "Libraries for Peace" programme.

40. Educational coverage. In 2001, the Ministry of Education gave special attention to education in displaced communities by hiring 815 educational outreach workers as primary school teachers. The records indicate the following coverage:

(a) Pre-primary level: 426,724 pupils;

(b) Primary schools: 2,034,538 pupils;

(c) Secondary schools: 550,994 pupils.

41. Bilingual education. In 2001, 20 per cent of the schools in 18 minority-language communities offered intercultural bilingual education from the pre-primary level to the third grade.

(a) Nine thousand teachers were taught to read and write Mayan languages;

(b) A total of 605,373 bilingual textbooks on the Spanish language, mathematics and Mayan culture were printed and distributed in the Q'eqchi', Mam, K'ichee' and Kaqchikel languages;

- (c) Teacher-training manuals for reading and writing 12 Mayan languages were produced;
- (d) The curriculum was changed to include offerings in multiculturalism and understanding of different cultures;
- (e) A total of 180 indigenous teachers received intensive training in bilingual and intercultural education;
- (f) The Ministry of Education drew up a plan for decentralization to the municipal level;
- (g) The national legislation governing the wearing of indigenous dress in schools and classrooms was enforced;
- (h) Countrywide linguistic policies for Spanish and foreign and indigenous languages were established.

42. Bilingual and multicultural education. The recognition that Guatemala is a multilingual and multicultural country has been integrated into the courses offered. Hence, education that is relevant linguistically and culturally to the indigenous peoples has to be made more widespread. Accordingly, the Department of Bilingual Intercultural Education (DIGEBI), the body in charge of the technical side of this kind of education, has been reorganized and expanded. In 2000, it attended to the language needs of 288,507 indigenous children in 1,639 schools. At the same time, in the interests of school reorganization and policy renewal, it evaluated the schools and assessed how well equipped they were in various resources.

IV. RIGHT TO WORK

43. In April 2001, the Labour Code was amended to bring it into line with the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions. The amendments changed the provisions for the establishment and functioning of trade unions, further strengthened work inspections and restored to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security its leading role in developing government labour policies.

44. By Decree No. 13-2001 of 25 April 2001, amendments were made to the Labour Code, and under articles 211, 234 and 255 of Congressional Decree No. 1441, the full observance of the collective rights of workers continued to be guaranteed. Those amendments worked to the benefit of trade union freedom, transparency in the management of financial resources, and the regulations governing strikes or legally declared work stoppages, in terms of the protection offered to persons and property during labour conflicts.

45. With a view to improving management/worker relations and strengthening the country's employment system in an atmosphere of peace and harmony, Decree No. 18-2001 of 14 May 2001 was issued, amending the Labour Code and articles 61, 81, 113, 209, 213-218, 231, 233, 243, 260, 269, 271, 272, 280, 281, 323, 364, 379, 380, 415, 419 and 422 and the single chapter of title 14 of Congressional Decree No. 1441; articles 257, 292, 417, 418, 420 and 421 of Congressional Decree No. 1441 were also repealed.

46. Adoption of ILO Convention No. 182. By Decree No. 27-2001 of 23 July 2001, Guatemala ratified ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, as adopted by the ILO General Conference.
47. Reorganization of the Training, Advanced Training and Employment Office (DICAFORE). This office, which promotes Guatemalan manpower skills, protects migrant workers and maintains data on job offers and requests, was reorganized.
48. Work inspections. The work inspection services were further decentralized and expanded, in order to improve supervision of compliance with domestic labour standards and the standards under the international labour conventions to which Guatemala is a party. In this connection, it should be highlighted that in 2001, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security expanded its internal unit in charge of monitoring the application of ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.
49. Foreign investment incentives. As part of the promotion of favourable conditions for foreign investment and for job creation in Guatemala, the Government adopted a *Maquila* (Assembly Plant) Act, which authorized 7 free trade zones and 30 free trade zone users, and also responded to a number of applications by investors wishing to initiate operations in Guatemala.
50. Job creation and the environment. The National Council for Protected Areas gave communities settled by 2001 in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, 530,000 hectares of natural woodland for resource management under forestry concessions, which has created a large demand for manpower, which is being met by agricultural labourers for the most part. This has led to higher employment and has generated income.
51. Credits for micro-, small-scale and medium-scale enterprises. Under the micro-, small-scale and medium-scale enterprise programme, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has in recent years granted 32,586,000 quetzales in loans to 4,634 beneficiaries, and these have been a source of more work and employment.

V. SOCIAL AFFAIRS

52. Ratification of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Decree No. 24-2001 of 16 July 2001 ratified and deposited the instrument of ratification of the Convention.
53. Strengthening of social dialogue. By this is meant participation, consultation and negotiation through the promotion of a culture of negotiation, particularly by training mediators to settle disputes and take concerted action on behalf of the parties involved. An important development has been the reincorporation of business leaders into the meetings of the Tripartite Commission on International Affairs and the establishment of the Tripartite Commission on Occupational Health and Safety, and also the establishment of health and safety committees for groups of workers considered vulnerable, with a view to helping incorporate them into the national economy.

VI. CULTURAL RIGHTS

54. To conform to international law, the Congress adopted the Industrial Property Act by Decree No. 57-2000 of 30 August 2000. Its adoption means that property rights are effectively recognized and protected in accordance with current requirements, and this will stimulate intellectual creativity and investment in trade and industry.

A. Action to promote the advancement of women

55. Women's Forum and Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights. With the signing of the Peace Agreements, new institutional machinery for the advancement of women was set up between 1996 and 2000. The Women's Forum was created as a broad-based, inclusive and representative body for consultation and ongoing dialogue, allowing women's organizations to take part in proposing, formulating, negotiating and having a voice in the national policies for the comprehensive advancement of women, in fulfilment of the Peace Agreements. The Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, attached to the Presidential Human Rights Commission (COPREDEH), was set up. The national policy for the advancement and development of Guatemalan women and the Equal Opportunities Plan, promoted years earlier by the women's movement, were also adopted.

56. Establishment of the Presidential Office for Women and the empowerment policy. In May 2000, the Presidential Office for Women was established. Some of its noteworthy activities since its creation have been to develop an ongoing consensus between the Government and women's organizations, the result of which was the adoption of the national policy for the advancement and development of Guatemalan women and the Equal Opportunities Plan 2001-2006, which is currently being implemented in coordination with other government units.

57. Training in gender issues. An agreement was concluded between the National Civil Service Institute and the Presidential Office for Women to train male and female civil servants in gender issues. An agreement was also concluded with the National Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP) for the purpose of training women who have not joined the labour force.

58. Establishment of the Gender Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food. Since the Unit's establishment, it has been promoting a gender perspective in the Ministry's policies, programmes and projects, as a way of helping to eliminate gender, age and ethnic inequalities and also to create favourable conditions for women to be given full access to the ownership of land.

59. Creation of the women's unit in the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence has taken steps to establish a subsidiary women's unit, whose main objective would be to incorporate a gender perspective into the army, especially in the courses given at military training centres. In 2000, with the financial support of the Canadian Embassy, a "Gender and the army" project was undertaken, intended to help change the thinking on gender within the army, and to support the professional development of women serving in the army. As part of that project, a proposed strategy was drawn up to establish a mechanism for incorporating a gender perspective into the Guatemalan army, which will, it is hoped, go into effect as soon as it is adopted.

60. Facilitation of loans and business incentives. The Social Investment Fund, in addition to setting up an internal Gender Unit in 2001, has for the last six years been taking steps to facilitate women's access to loans; and in the period 2000-2001 alone, it granted 15,676 community bank loans to women. The aim is to help them start their own businesses and add to family income.

61. Consensus proposals to amend the Penal Code and the Labour Code in order to make sexual harassment an offence. The Government and civil society coordinated their efforts in 2001 to draft proposed amendments to the Penal Code and the Labour Code in order to define sexual harassment as a crime, and a bill was submitted amending the Urban and Rural Development Councils Act to incorporate provisions for the representation of women as part of civil society.

62. Inauguration of the National Coordination Office for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (CONAPREVI). Pursuant to the Act on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Domestic Violence adopted by Decree No. 97-1996, the National Coordination Office was established on 5 January 2001.

63. Policies, advances and projects on behalf of women. Among the policies, projects and programmes undertaken to advance women are the following:

- (a) The Social Policy Framework 2000-2004, and its section on the advancement of women;
- (b) The national reproductive health programme;
- (c) The "Let's educate girls" programme under the Ministry of Education;
- (d) The designation of the month of May as Women's Health Month;
- (e) The programme for the prevention and eradication of domestic violence (PROPEVI);
- (f) The production project under the programme for the advancement of rural women (PROMUJER).

64. Also noteworthy is the fact that in 2001 a series of activities and programmes was designed, to be implemented in 2002. A number of comprehensive programmes for the advancement of women are being carried out in various municipalities in the country, including those providing guidance and information to women on their rights, publicizing the national policy for the advancement and development of Guatemalan women and the Equal Opportunities Plan 2001-2006 in a simplified version in Spanish and in four Mayan languages.

65. Planning of specific targets by the Presidential Office for Women. The Presidential Office for Women signed a letter of commitment with the departmental governors of Guatemala to the effect that they would include in their plans the targets established in the national policy for the advancement and development of Guatemalan women and the Equal Opportunities Plan 2001-2006, and would act on them.

66. Production of basic statistics broken down by gender. An agreement was reached that the National Statistics Institute would produce data, statistics and studies broken down by sex, age and ethnicity. The aim was to overcome a statistical shortcoming by introducing not only a gender approach but also other indicators that would provide Guatemalan government and non-governmental institutions and international bodies and institutions with indicators and levels of development disaggregated by gender.
67. Literacy and reproductive health. A procedural proposal for women's literacy with reproductive health components was submitted to the National Literacy Council (CONALFA). Negotiations are virtually complete on the proposal, a prelude to the signing of an agreement, which is expected to be implemented in 2003.
68. The gender committee of the Advisory Commission on Education Reform. Upon submission of a proposal, the Advisory Commission decided to establish a gender committee, whose task will be to mainstream a gender approach into the educational reform.
69. Proposed amendments to the Labour Code. On 9 July 2001, proposed amendments to the Labour Code were submitted to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, based on proposals by the National Women's Office, the Congressional Commission on Women, Children and the Family, the Domestic Workers' Training Centre, the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, the Human Rights Legal Action Centre, and the Women's Forum. It should be noted that it was a joint effort by various government departments and women's non-governmental organizations that produced these amendments, and that they worked on lobbying the legislature to achieve their adoption.
70. Women's access to credit. With regard to action taken to facilitate the access of women to loans, the Social Investment Fund in 2001 granted 18,505 community bank loans to women. The hope is that this will encourage a process of government consultation with civil society that will provide input into the formulation of public policies in such areas as health, housing, gender, culture and sports.
71. Helping women to complete municipal transactions. Under the Municipal Technological Modernization Plan for streamlining public services and making them more transparent, municipal civil registries have been given the necessary funds to make it easier for the population to deal with them. Priority has been given to indigenous women, to allow them to record their civil status without any difficulty.
72. Support for rural women. In accordance with the guidelines of the Social Policy Framework, 2,643 women were in 2001 given greater participation in the support programme for rural women under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, in conjunction with the coordination offices overseeing the organization and training of women's associations. The framework calls for work to be done in the following areas: (a) execution of the programme for the agricultural development of rural women; (b) promotion of women's and young people's participation in the programmes offered by business schools; (c) expansion of the scholarship programmes of agricultural training schools and the National Central Agricultural School; (d) the ecological and agricultural watchdog project; (e) job training and (f) participation in the management and execution of production projects.

73. Health, environmental and administrative education. In addition, training was offered in the area of health and environmental education and in the administration, operation and maintenance of water systems; assistance was given to projects involving technologies that ease the burden of household work, through the donation to 105 families in the town of Senahú in the department of Alta Verapaz, of wood burning stoves and cisterns to capture rain water.

74. Services provided by training centres for women in Quetzaltenango and Petén. Also in 2001, the Office for Social Work of the First Lady (SOSEP) rebuilt and furnished two buildings as training centres in the departments of Quetzaltenango and Petén; they have provided assistance to 1,200 women. As another variant of education directed towards women, the Office facilitated the access of young and adult women to education, and incorporated non-scholastic procedures at the levels of literacy training, post-literacy training, accelerated primary education and basic and technical university training, covering costs and enrolment fees, donating educational material, and granting education loans for completion of secondary school studies. This year, 4,143 women from rural communities in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Izabal, Petén, Quiché, Santa Rosa and San Marcos have taken advantage of the services.

75. Development of production by rural women. SOSEP, through its Programme for the Advancement of Rural Women (PROMUJER), helped develop production by women in rural areas by managing 76 community banks, serving 1,955 women in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Petén, Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán. Technical assistance in production and administration was also given to 5,059 women engaged in livestock raising, farming, craft and service projects in the departments of Baja Verapaz, Chiquimula, Huehuetenango, Quiché, Petén, Sololá, Suchitepéquez, San Marcos and Retalhuleu. Also, loans were facilitated for the establishment of 302 market gardens, and market studies were done on innovative activities for women such as fish farming, bamboo processing, and wool production in the departments of Zacapa, Izabal, Santa Rosa, Jutiapa and Totonicapán.

76. The Office has supported the participation of women in producers' cultural and political associations by offering guidance on obtaining legal recognition of groups and training in social organization, better leadership, self-esteem and human rights in the departments of Chiquimula, Zacapa, Izabal and Santa Rosa.

77. Meeting of young women from rural areas. Also in the area of education and training for women, the first Meeting of Young Women from Rural Areas was held in 2001, providing a training opportunity for 23,185 women. The rights and duties of working women were publicized on video cassette, radio and television, in handbooks and through training in educational centres.

78. National reproductive health programme. The programme is concerned primarily with mother and newborn health, family planning, responsible parenthood and the early detection of cervical, uterine and breast cancer. It also pays special attention to sexually transmitted infections and comprehensive care for children and teenagers. In each of these areas, quantitative and qualitative goals have been set for the current Government.

79. Promotion of preventive and reproductive health care. Pursuant to Ministerial Order SPM 1307-2000, May was declared Guatemalan Women's Health Month, which provided a framework for the promotion of women's health as a right. The Order requires action to be taken to reduce morbidity and mortality among women of all ages resulting from preventable causes, sexual and reproductive causes and violence against them.

80. National Women's Health Fair. Against this background, the National Women's Health Fair was held in the first week of August in the departments of Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Quezaltenango, Totonicapán and Alta Verapaz. About 12,000 women took advantage of free Pap smear tests, breast examinations and checks for diabetes, heart disease, obesity and malnutrition. In addition, medical, gynaecological, dental and psychological check-ups were offered to women suffering from domestic violence, marital problems or alcohol- or drug-related problems; pregnant women and women of childbearing age were also vaccinated against tetanus. The event organized by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, with the support of the coordination office for 28 May, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

81. Screening for reproductive health problems and HIV/AIDS. For the benefit of the poorest and most disadvantaged population groups, the National Health Plan 2000-2004 included new programmes for women, children and young people in the areas of reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and risk management with a view to producing early-warning mechanisms, so as to provide greater coverage and higher quality care for specific population groups.

82. Unit responsible for implementing the "Better health for rural women and children" project. Indicators were developed within the comprehensive health programme for women, children and young people to monitor and evaluate women's reproductive health. In addition, a unit was set up to implement the "Better health for rural women and children" project in Quezaltenango, Totonicapán, San Marcos, Sololá, Chimaltenango, Suchitepéquez and Retalhuleu, and has already started work.

83. Reproductive health. A national programme was prepared in the field of reproductive health with the aim of reducing the maternal mortality rate. The programme aims to provide comprehensive care for Guatemalan women and its guidelines and areas of work cover comprehensive health care for Guatemalan women, children and young people, sex education for teenagers, the promotion of antenatal and immediate post-natal care for women, breastfeeding, family planning, screening for uterine and breast cancer, responsible parenthood and HIV/AIDS.

84. Managing the purchase and handover of land. An agreement was signed between the Land Trust Fund and the coordination office of Mujeres por el Derecho a la Tierra y la Propiedad (Women for the Right to Land and Property), in which they undertake to manage the purchase and handover of land, provide technical assistance and launch and carry out production projects for the benefit of groups of women such as female heads of household, single and/or divorced women and single and/or widowed mothers.

85. Regularization and legalization of land tenure. With regard to the legalization of land, the Land Trust Fund and the Foundation for the Development and Education of Indigenous Women (FUNDEMI), through its "Talita Kumi" educational programme, signed a technical and financial cooperation agreement on 26 July 2001 with the aim of combining efforts and

resources to regularize and legalize land tenure within the framework of the FUNDEMI land legalization project. Thanks to this agreement, land tenure will be legalized in the Q'eqchi' communities living in the municipalities of Chisec and San Pedro Carchá, covering an area of approximately 10,000 hectares. This step is expected to benefit 42 communities overall, consisting of approximately 1,500 families living in this area.

86. Promotion of and respect for the human rights of women in multilingual communities. In this respect, the Maya Women's Legal Defence Office (No. 9), established in 1995,¹ has covered, through the committees of the Mayan coordination body Majawil Q'ij ("New Dawn"), the Ch'orti', Poqomam, Ixhil, Mam, Q'eqchi' and Poqomchi' linguistic communities and the multilingual communities of Boca Costa.

87. Comprehensive development of women. In addition, with regard to the advancement of Guatemalan women and the comprehensive development of women, the State has proposed to guarantee women equality in economic, political and social matters.

88. Housing policy gives priority to families living in poverty or extreme poverty and to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Gender, multiculturalism, interculturalism, the environment and risk are considered as cross-cutting issues in housing programmes and projects. Steps are also being taken to regularize property rights, to improve the infrastructure in human settlements arising from the illegal occupation of land and to equip housing with basic services, as well as to fund improvements to existing housing.

B. Access by women to health

89. Care during pregnancy and childbirth, perinatal care and care for the newborn. As far as the right to health is concerned, it is important to draw attention to the implementation of the National Health Plan 2000-2004, which guides the work of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. The following should be mentioned here:

- (a) Access to services, information, education and communication in the field of mother and newborn care;
- (b) Training and development of human resources in mental health and newborn care;
- (c) Quality of service provision;
- (d) Avoidance of unnecessary treatment during and immediately after childbirth;
- (e) Specialized care at childbirth;
- (f) Culturally acceptable health facilities;

¹ See MINUGUA, "Informe de verificación: los desafíos para la participación de las mujeres guatemaltecas."

- (g) Access to health-care services;
 - (h) Provision of district maternity hospitals;
 - (i) Promotion of maternity centres.
90. Family planning:
- (a) Access to services, information, education and communication in the field of family planning;
 - (b) Training and development of human resources in the field of family planning;
 - (c) Equipping hospitals to provide family planning services;
 - (d) Strengthening the services network with regard to family-planning methods.
91. Cervical/uterine cancer:
- (a) Secondary prevention by means of screening based on exfoliative cytology;
 - (b) Improving the services infrastructure for the prevention, detection and treatment of cervical/uterine cancer;
 - (c) Research into the visual inspection technique using acetic acid.
92. National Cervical and Uterine Cancer Plan. Since responsibility for this problem was again passed to the national programme for degenerative diseases (PNED) in September 2001 (it had previously been the responsibility of the national programme for reproductive health), a technical group has now been set up that includes institutions working in this area (Liga Nacional contra el Cáncer, Rafael Landívar University, Asociación de Prevención del CACU, Asociación de Papiloma Virus, Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia (APROFAM), PAHO, PNED and the Cancer Research Institute (INCAN)) in order to review the National Plan 1998-2005, which has made no progress because of the lack of trained personnel and laboratory equipment. This is why the planned coverage was not achieved. The plan therefore needed to be reviewed and redesigned to allow these institutions to work together to improve the monitoring and prevention of cancer of the cervix and uterus.
93. Comprehensive care for women, children and young people:
- (a) A distance-learning women's health diploma is being developed and taught;
 - (b) Teaching staff from the 12 training colleges for health workers received training on domestic violence.
94. Health campaigns. The health ministry supported and financed 13 health campaigns, providing funds for the medicines used (for example in the vaccination campaigns), which benefited people throughout the country. The ministry also promoted the decentralization and dispersal of health services in 22 departments and 71 municipalities. In the area of reproductive

health, a reproductive health programme was set up to provide comprehensive care for Guatemalan women. The programme's content and guidelines cover: the overall health of women, children and young people; sex education for teenagers; family planning; screening for uterine and breast cancer; the promotion of care for women before and immediately after birth; breastfeeding; responsible parenthood; HIV/AIDS; and the implementation and evaluation of various health projects, mainly in rural areas, at a cost of about 160 million quetzales, with the cooperation of the Governments of Finland, Germany, Japan and Spain. With the help of international cooperation, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare has extended the coverage of this programme to the whole country and, in the light of the large amount of aid, the ministry is preparing the outlines of 53 projects for negotiation and implementation with the help of external cooperation and/or national funding.

C. Family

95. Implementation of the comprehensive care programme for children (PAIN). The programme is carried out in official classrooms and/or schools at the infant-school level. Its aim is to provide pregnant and nursing mothers and children below the age of 6 from communities in the countryside and the outlying parts of cities with guidance on development in the cognitive, socio-emotional, psychomotor, language, health, nutrition and security areas. An important aspect of this programme is its flexibility in taking account of the needs and characteristics of communities. Moreover, it is delivered by teachers and others from the same community, who help organize the centres and childcare. Care is aimed at children under the age of 3 and children between the ages of 3 and 6, as well as parents, pregnant mothers and nursing mothers. There are 251 centres throughout the country, with the same number of teachers, providing personal care to 8,711 children below the age of 3 and to 9,248 children between the ages of 4 and 6, so that a total of 17,959 children benefit.

D. Right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing

96. Right to housing. With regard to the right to housing, progress was made in drafting the new national housing policy and in setting up a trust fund with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI). The fund is to be called the Housing Mortgage Fund and its purpose is to give people living in poverty or extreme poverty access to decent public housing. To the same end, the Guatemalan Housing Fund (FOGUAVI) provided housing for 6,222 families, with an average family size (parents and children) of five persons. Most of these families had been uprooted or were the families of demobilized combatants. The cost of the project was 100 million quetzales. Other actions in this area led to the relocation of 510 families in the El Rincón settlement, Amatitlán, at a cost of 8 million quetzales. In Las Brisas, San Pedro Ayampuc, 256 families were relocated, at a cost of 4,032,000 quetzales. In addition, 766 housing subsidies benefiting 3,830 Guatemalans were granted.

97. Water and sanitation projects. Thanks to the National Peace Fund, progress has been made in major water and sanitation projects, support for reintegration, educational infrastructure, institution-building, the basic highway, economic and community infrastructure, the

environment, output, employment and income. Similarly, with a view to improving output, investments are being made in the economic infrastructure, the rural telephone system, the electricity grid, roads, the construction of houses and community homes in the countryside, community halls, sports complexes and educational, sports and food-aid programmes.

98. Review of human settlements policy. In 2001, human settlements policy was reviewed and a consistent policy was implemented that allows for interaction with the communities located within a core area before they are moved to acceptable areas.

99. Consensus-based drafting of housing policy: measures taken to ensure access to decent housing. The Government, faced with the problems surrounding the housing deficit and with its sights on one of the goals of the Social Policy Framework 2000-2004, organized a meeting and drafted a consensus-based national housing policy with representatives of private and public institutions working in the housing sector and the Frente de Pobladores de Guatemala (Guatemalan Settlers Front).

100. Consultations on national housing and settlements policy with State and international organizations and women's organizations from civil society. Consultations were held in 2000 on the draft national housing and settlements policy with State and international organizations and women's organizations from civil society. The policy was subsequently adopted on 18 September 2001. It proposes the development of the housing stock to reduce the shortfall on the basis of two kinds of mortgage finance: (a) one with subsidized interest rates; and (b) one with subsidies for down payments and with loans at market rates.

101. Social equity, inclusiveness, sustainability and public participation in housing policy. A comprehensive, long-term policy based on the principles of social equity, inclusiveness, sustainability and public participation was devised, with full account taken of gender-related, multicultural and cross-cultural issues, the environment and risk management. The policy is divided into the following sections:

- (a) Urban development, environmental protection and risk management;
- (b) Access to land;
- (c) Funding;
- (d) Subsidies;
- (e) Building and quality of housing;
- (f) Strengthening the operational framework.

102. Programmes for the uprooted and demobilized population. The Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing (MICIVI), through the Guatemalan Housing Fund, set up a programme for the uprooted and demobilized population with the aim of giving Guatemalan people access to decent housing. The programme currently has State funding to provide housing for 12,000 families.

103. Establishment of the Housing Commission. In order to carry out the programme, a housing commission was set up to take care of the population uprooted and demobilized as a result of the internal armed conflict. The commission consists of representatives of the Peace Secretariat, the Technical Commission for the Implementation of the Resettlement Agreement concerning populations uprooted by the armed conflict (CTEAR), the coordination team monitoring definitive integration (ECO), MINUGUA and the office of the Deputy Minister of Housing.

104. Subsidies for families. The national housing programme is aimed at nuclear families from the uprooted and demobilized population recognized by the coordination team monitoring definitive integration. The subsidy for each family is 15,750 quetzales, with the family group contributing a further 5,250 quetzales, which may be in the form of labour or building materials, for a house with a total value of 21,000 quetzales.

105. Subsidies granted to the population at large. The Ministry of Communications recorded 7,623 applications in 2000 from 139 communities in 11 departments, as a result of which subsidies were granted to 5,748 families in 104 communities, representing an investment of 90.5 million quetzales. The remaining applications are under consideration.

106. The “29 December” and “San Vicente el Baúl” projects. The “29 December” and “San Vicente el Baúl” projects are also being implemented; they cover the communities in Agua Dulce and Zacapa and in the departments of Chimaltenango, Escuintla, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Sololá, Totonicapán, Quiché, Suchitepéquez, Quezaltenango and Retalhuleu.

107. Trust fund for investment in housing. In order to obtain funds to finance housing in July 2000, a trust fund for investment in housing was set up to support the secondary market for insured mortgages and recycle funds to finance housing. The procedure for obtaining credit is flexible and enables families to gain access to decent housing.

108. Trust fund for the administration and investment of property funds and real estate. Work is also under way on the establishment of a trust fund for the administration and investment of property funds and real estate to encourage the development of housing projects.

109. Priorities in housing policy. Housing policy gives priority to families living in poverty or extreme poverty and to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Gender, multiculturalism, interculturalism, the environment and risk are considered as cross-cutting issues in housing programmes and projects. Steps are also being taken to regularize property rights, to improve the infrastructure in human settlements arising from the illegal occupation of land and to equip housing with basic services, as well as to fund improvements to existing housing.

110. Property and land registry. At the institutional level, reforms are being introduced in town-planning and housing regulations and in the methods for identifying locations for high-risk settlements. The policy sees land and property registration, reform of the single property tax and the closure of the National Housing Bank (BANVI) and its transfer to the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing as the main determining factors in ensuring access to land, in terms of both security of tenure and the opening up of the land market.

111. Credit for poor families. In order to bolster action in the area of housing, the Presidential Office for Women proposed to increase the 2002 budget of the Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing for credit to finance and subsidize families living in poverty or extreme poverty, so that more people would be able to purchase housing, build on their own plot of land, improve, extend and repair their homes and enjoy access to basic services. There was also an emphasis on legalizing housing and providing homes for uprooted families and the families of demobilized combatants, and on the need to disaggregate by sex the recipients of credit or subsidies.

**E. Economic and administrative protection measures
to raise the standard of living of the population**

112. Consumer price index. In an effort to improve consumer price-monitoring mechanisms, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, together with the National Statistics Institute, conducted a survey of base prices in 2000, in order to draw up a new consumer price index. Monitoring was begun in December 2000 and is ongoing.

113. Parliamentary bill on a national quality system. A bill on a national quality system is currently being drafted and will be submitted to Congress with a view to improving the checks and data on the quality of consumer products or goods. In addition, work is under way on a proposal for a consumer-protection bill.

114. Guatemala's identity. A social rehabilitation programme has been set up to re-establish Guatemala's identity. The programme is run by the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism as part of a national tourist strategy aimed at diversifying and developing new products that help protect and preserve natural resources, improve the quality of life of communities and create favourable conditions for business and investment within the framework of the Peace Agreements.

115. Establishment of local committees. The Institute of Tourism set up nine local committees, mostly in indigenous areas that attract tourists, together with a safety programme for tourists.

116. Similarly, support was given to craft workers and folk-dance groups to promote and market their products, by setting up 160 sales exhibitions of craft products. Craft workers were also encouraged to take part in major international fairs with a view to attracting investment. In addition to all this, a programme is being drawn up for small- and medium-sized enterprises in the tourist sector with a view to promoting employment opportunities and wealth creation in areas with a mostly indigenous population.

117. Modernization and decentralization. The office of the Presidential Commissioner for the Modernization and Decentralization of the State developed a "private-sector participation project", or public-private initiative (PPI), to encourage innovative forms of private-sector participation in building or running the energy, communications and transport infrastructure, as well as the infrastructure of towns. The project seeks to extend and improve basic services in order to ensure a decent standard of living for the population.

118. Use of modern technology at the municipal level. At the municipal level, 50 towns implemented the so-called "Tecnimuni" project to introduce modern technology at the municipal level, which will bring greater transparency to administrative and financial procedures affecting the population.

119. Simplification of municipal formalities. In order to make public services more flexible and transparent, municipal registry offices have been allocated the necessary resources to simplify formalities for their clients. In particular, priority has been given to indigenous women, so that they can register in the offices without any problem.

120. Decentralization of the register of companies. The register of companies was successfully decentralized in 2000 and 2001 in Cobán, Alta Verapaz, Puerto Barrios, Izabal, Escuintla, San Marcos, Zacapa, Jalapa, Suchitepéquez and Petén.

121. Decentralization and self-management of local development. The Social Investment Fund promoted decentralization and self-management for local development by decentralizing decision-making and coordinated development planning. This involves system-wide coordination between organized communities, local authorities and central government institutions.

122. Simplified early detection of growths in the neck of the uterus. The first steps have been taken to provide training in the use of visual inspection with acetic acid to detect growths in the neck of the uterus. This will greatly improve detection in parts of the country where there are no laboratories or trained personnel.

123. Extension of coverage by basic health services. Coverage by State health services has been expanded mainly by means of the comprehensive health-care system (SIAS), a management model that works via a strategic alliance with NGOs providing health services in rural areas. In 2000, the number of people living in the most remote rural areas in the country who were cared for under the system reached 3.4 million.

124. Adapting health care to natural characteristics. The extension of coverage by basic health services under the above-mentioned system has been helped by the use of simple treatments adapted to the cultural characteristics of communities.

125. Extension of health insurance coverage. The Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS), for its part, provided coverage for 2 million people in 2000, including members, their spouses and children, and retirees. On the basis of these figures, State health coverage reached 74 per cent of the population of the country in 2000, as shown below.

F. Public health coverage

2000

Institution	Persons covered (millions)
Ministry of Health	6.4
Guatemalan Social Security Institute	2.0
Population covered	8.4
Total population	11.4
Population covered (percentage)	74%

126. Health services provided. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and the Guatemalan Social Security Institute have provided the following services nationally: 121,280 surgical operations; 137,294 attended births in hospitals; 3,818,208 medical consultations (sickness, accidents, maternity and dental); 8,891,992 laboratory tests; 317,804 X-rays; and 957,196 repeat consultations.

127. Extension and improvement of health services. To extend coverage of health services, priority has been given to establishing more hospitals and medical facilities with better equipment so as to deliver enhanced service and satisfy public health-care needs more effectively. Particularly important in this respect is the refurbishment and refitting of the San Juan de Dios General Hospital and the rehabilitation of 20 health facilities in the departments of Suchitepéquez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa, Jutiapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa, El Progreso and Izabal.

128. Provision of medical equipment to departmental hospitals. Particularly noteworthy is the completion of phase III of the medical equipment project covering 10 hospitals in the network administered by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, located in Petén, Zacapa, Jalapa, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, Izabal, San Marcos and Jutiapa. This project was implemented with non-reimbursable assistance from Japan in the amount of 76.9 million quetzales. In addition, a new medical facility administered by the Social Security Institute has been established in Villa Nueva, department of Guatemala, and medical facilities in a number of other departments have been refurbished. Fifty-nine health posts have been built, and 65 have been supplied with basic equipment using money from the Social Investment Fund. Total investment in health infrastructure and medical equipment amounted to 689.6 million quetzales allocated to 926 projects.

129. Organization of and support for midwives. As part of the provision of basic health services at the primary level of care through the Social Investment Fund, a corps of 110 midwives has been organized, trained and provided with essential primary health-care kits, and 35 paramedics have been hired to provide care for approximately 100,000 people in remote areas without health coverage. At the second level of care, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare has extended coverage of services to the departments of Izabal, Zacapa, Huehuetenango and Quiché in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and with financial assistance and cooperation from the Government of Finland, in the amount of 28 million quetzales.

130. Implementation of the Peace Agreements. Pursuant to the implementation of the Peace Agreements, the proposal to promote and strengthen basic health services for the uprooted population in 13 municipalities has been implemented (Sayaxche, Ixcán, Nebaj, Chajul, Santiago Atitlán, Nentón, Barillas, Colotenango, Cahabón, Canal, Chisec, El Estor and Fray Bartolomé de las Casas).

131. Public access to quality low-cost medical care. To facilitate public access to quality low-cost medications, the access to medicines programme (PROAM) has been extended to cover the neediest sections of the population with the opening of 2,321 rural first-aid posts in various communities around the country. Ten community pharmacies have been established nationally

and supplied with medicines and equipment. In addition, eight projects have been carried out through the Guatemalan Indigenous Fund, including training and establishment of community pharmacies for the population in the departments of Izabal, Chimaltenango, Quiché, Huehuetenango and Quetzaltenango.

132. Comprehensive care strategy for childhood diseases. In the field of child health, a comprehensive care strategy for childhood diseases has been launched with the aim of reducing infant mortality. The documented eradication of polio has continued through the horizontal vaccination programme and national health weeks, and there have been no cases of measles, owing to vaccination of the target population, i.e. girls and boys under 15.

133. Promotion of breastfeeding. An agreement has been concluded between the Presidential Office for Social Welfare and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare to promote breastfeeding in the hospital network and in health districts and centres. Three workshops on this theme have been organized, in Quetzaltenango, Chichicastenango and Panajachel. In hospitals administered by the Guatemalan Social Security Institute, 283 lectures have been organized for 5,660 mothers to promote this practice.

134. AIDS Prevention Act. Decree No. 27-2000, a regulatory framework for the AIDS Prevention Act, has been drafted. A total of 705 AIDS patients have been screened and treated. As part of prevention and promotion efforts to monitor the social work performed by the Guatemalan Social Security Institute, updated documentation about the disease and its treatment have been distributed to medical personnel, and training workshops have been organized in 42 enterprises involving 1,897 workers. Posters and information leaflets have also been given out.

135. Disease control monitoring for cases of Chagas disease, malaria and onchocerciasis (river blindness). Nationwide, monitoring for cases of Chagas disease, malaria and onchocerciasis has been performed by taking 98,620 samples, and a strategy to eliminate these diseases has been put in place. A total of 6,520 locations have been classed as particularly high-risk areas for vector-borne diseases. Some 5.3 million doses have been administered to prevent immunopreventable diseases. During the first, second and third health weeks, 589,263 vitamin A supplements were given to children aged between 6 and 35 months, and 826,998 doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine were administered to women of childbearing age and pregnant women. Iron supplements and folic acid were administered to 603,971 pregnant women. A total of 1.2 million prenatal, perinatal and post-partum consultations were given, and 6.34 million standard doses of fluorine were administered as a preventive treatment measure.

136. Primary preventive health activities. In the context of preventive health activities, the agreement between the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and the Guatemalan Social Security Institute was renewed; under this agreement, the latter provides primary health care to Escuintla department and strategic health alliances are thereby strengthened.

137. Reform of the national education system. In 2000 the Government, desiring to promote and strengthen sustainable human development and consolidate peace, succeeded in laying the groundwork for reform of the national education system. The policy guidelines for this

transformation in the period 2000-2004 are to be found in the government sectoral plan and the Social Policy Framework, both of which echo the commitments entered into under the Peace Agreements.

138. The consensus National Education Plan. The Education Plan was agreed with representatives of civil society participating in the Advisory Commission on Education Reform, established during the first phase of democratic governance.

139. Reform of the national education system. The underlying objective of education policy, articulated in the Social Framework, is to overhaul the national education system as part of the process of education reform and the governance agreement with a view to extending coverage and improving the quality of services.

140. Education reform priorities. The Ministry of Education has defined the following education reform priorities: (a) literacy; (b) reform of the curriculum; (c) generalized bilingual and multicultural education and development of opportunities to participate in civil society.

141. Preparation of dual-language texts. Dual-language texts have been designed and prepared for senior grades at primary-school level in the four majority indigenous languages. With the help of technical experts and writers from the linguistic communities involved, texts are being prepared in 16 Mayan languages for the first grades of primary school in the 16 majority indigenous languages, and a start has been made on preparing educational material in the Garífuna and Xinca languages, the indigenous peoples hitherto least well catered for.

142. Respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. This initiative aims at recognition and respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of the different peoples of Guatemala, and contributes to the affirmation of ethnic identity as the basis of the country's unity and development. In the future, it is hoped to launch a project to take action against de jure and de facto discrimination, thereby promoting equality for all indigenous peoples.

143. Funding. Under the operating budget, the sources of funding for this programme are shown in the following table.

G. Funding

National programme for educational self-management

Source	1999	2000	2001
Government of Guatemala	189 616 456	70 200 515	188 591 405.63
Trust funds	-	-	182 659 145.02
UNDP (implementing unit)	-	-	3 571 585.86
UNDP (training, community education committee)	-	-	2 360 674.75
World Bank loan	47 843 421	8 184 206	1 301 576.00
Grant from German Development Bank (KfW)	16 417 220	9 533 089	20 186 292.61
Total	253 877 097	87 917 810	210 079 274.24

Source: National programme for educational self-management.

144. Democratization:

(a) A national education council, 22 departmental councils and 329 municipal councils have been set up and are now in operation;

(b) Public involvement and participation has been built into the process of implementing education policies;

(c) The second national height and weight survey has been endorsed and initiated;

(d) School boards, of which there are currently 8,373, are being strengthened;

(e) Panels of examiners, of which there are currently 354 nationwide, are being strengthened to ensure greater participation in decision-making.

145. Sustainability:

(a) All dialogue has been conducted; and consensus reached at the local, departmental and national levels on education reform;

(b) Initial coordination of public investment in the education sector has taken place with the involvement of all the social funds and the Presidential Office and other institutions responsible for public investment in the education sector;

(c) Bilateral coordination and international cooperation are being strengthened to give direction to education development projects as part of policies pursued by the Ministry of Education, in fulfilment of the Peace Agreements.

146. The Peace Agreements:

(a) Elaboration and implementation of the plan for the care of displaced population groups;

(b) Reintegration of former combatants and their relatives into the national education system;

(c) Educational certification for 500 people;

(d) Hiring of 815 educational outreach workers;

(e) Publication of the Peace Agreements;

(f) Monitoring of communities with uprooted populations to evaluate the process of teaching and learning and requirements in this area;

(g) Financial provision has been made for 500 scholarships for children of uprooted persons;

(h) Financial provision has been made for 30,000 school meals for children attending schools catering for uprooted populations.

147. Childhood and youth. A curriculum to combat sexual exploitation of children and young people was incorporated into syllabuses under the national education reform project in August 2001.

H. Health-care budget

Public spending on preventive care as a proportion of the overall health-care budget (in quetzales)

1	2	3	4 = 3/2
Year	Ministry of Health budget	Spending on preventive care	Percentage
1999	1 287 424 734.00	640 530 687.00	49.75
2000	1 260 910 143.00	880 387 669.00	49.99
2001	1 704 569 743.00	880 387 669.00	51.65

Source: Finance Department, Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.

Public health spending as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) (millions of quetzales)

1	2	3	4	5 = 3/4%	6 = 3/2%
Year	National budget	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare budget	GDP	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare budget/GDP	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare budget/national budget
1997	13 840.9	1 221.4	107 478.6	1.14	8.82
1998	16 402.8	1 223.6	124 022.5	0.99	7.46
1999	19 402.5	1 287.4	135 214.4	0.95	6.64
2000	22 310.4	1 260.9	147 889.9	0.85	5.65
2001	22 780.7	1 704.6	155 750.0 ^e	1.10	7.48

Source: Finance Department, using figures from the local and national integrated accounting systems. Bank of Guatemala and Ministry of Public Finance.

^e Estimated by means of the least squares statistical method.

I. Right of every person to participate in cultural life

148. Promotion of reading, presidential peace libraries. To promote a culture of peace through reading and as a means to raise the level of general education, the President of the Republic, through the Ministry of Education, launched a presidential libraries for peace project in June 2001, whereby 1,250,000 books were distributed to 20,000 educational facilities and 80,000 teachers nationwide. These books include works by distinguished national and international authors.

Annex

National programme for reproductive health

Achievements and results

(January-June 2001)

	General achievements
Maternal and neonatal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Reproductive Health Plan prepared, officially ratified, popularized and launched on 8 January 2001. • Help point at the metropolitan fair, Salufer, when more than 500 people received advice. • Involvement in drafting the Social Development Act. • Courses focusing on reproductive health, backed by the University of San Carlos de Guatemala and sponsored by the Population Council, have been initiated for staff in the health areas of El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, San Marcos and Escuintla.
Maternal and neonatal health-care achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of inter-institutional team for monitoring maternal health. • Establishment and operation of the Latin American Training Centre for Clinical Skills based on essential maternal and neonatal health-care competencies at Coatepeque Hospital.
Family planning achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 980 health centres, health posts and NGOs have been equipped to provide family planning services (natural methods, oral contraceptives, injectable contraceptives, condoms and IUDs). • An information, education and communication strategy for reproductive health, focusing on family planning, has been devised and developed.
Number and percentage of users, by method, in the period January-May 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics indicate the number of women using available modern family planning methods (depo-provera, the pill, condoms, male and female sterilization (ligation/vasectomy), copper IUD). • Total number of users: 49,917. Of these, 60 per cent opted for depo-provera (30,309 users).

Table (continued)

	General achievements
Targets and results, new users of family planning (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With improved access to contraception, more women are using birth-control methods. • Target: 66,617. Result: 127,507, i.e. a 200 per cent increase compared to the target.
Trained staff, by type of course (January-May 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family planning training for 578 persons, including doctors and nurses.
Results, responsible parenthood programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nationwide network of responsible parents has been formed, with input from organizations, NGOs, churches, and the civilian and military sectors.
