

File
1977

CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

CANO NEGRO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

VILLAGE ECONOMIC ACCELERATION

IMPLEMENTING
AGENT

The Ecumenical Institute, registered in Venezuela in 1972 as a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization, has been engaged in the work of community development. Working closely with its coordinant body, the Institute of Cultural Affairs, it has conducted the International Training Institute for five consecutive years. This programme, which was funded by the Canadian Catholic Organization For Development And Peace in 1975 emphasises the reconstruction of human community through economic and social development at the grassroots level. It has trained people from twenty-two Latin American nations and all sectors of society in the practical methods of social change. The training begins with awakening people to the realization that they are capable of actualizing their dreams for the future of their community. The International Training Institute focuses on skills and methods which prepare the participants to create and execute practical plans for local development.

PILOT
PROJECT

In January 1977, in coordination with village leadership and the public and private sectors of Venezuela, the Ecumenical Institute launched the Cano Negro Human Development Project in the village of Cano Negro located in the Barlovento District of Miranda State, one and a half southeast of Caracas. The Cano Negro Human Development Project is a demonstration of comprehensive reconstruction of human community for the Latin American continent. The intent of the project is to demonstrate effective social and economic development in a village that had experienced illiteracy, malnutrition, limited economic resources, and the migration of its population to urban areas resulting in the economic and social deterioration of the community. The village is typical of most in the nation as well as in all of Latin America, both in its need and in its potential to demonstrate the capacity

of local people to effectively reconstruct their own communities, given appropriate methods and support. The methods of community development used in Cano Negro are similar to the ones used in the C.C.O.D.P.-assisted Maliwada project in Maharashtra state, India.

In the first six months of the project, the people of Cano Negro have launched thirteen programmes which comprehensively deal with the underlying problems within the village. Pre-school, literacy, functional skills and adult education programmes are equipping the total population of the village with an education that will make economic and social advancement possible. Two water wells have been dug to provide a potable water supply and adequate irrigation through the four month dry season. The agricultural project includes a demonstration garden and nursery. Preventative and curative health programmes have been initiated through systematic treatment of parasites, the installation of septic tanks and latrines, and the operation of a health clinic. In addition, local leaders have been trained in an intensive leadership development programme and are assuming full responsibility for the expansion of the agricultural programme and the introduction of additional light industry.

ACTUALIZING
ACTIVITIES

The Village Redesign Programme is an economic development component within the Cano Negro Human Development Project. It is aimed at initiating light industry by providing construction jobs while meeting both immediate and long-range needs for housing and facilities within the village. The programme includes a housing project, completion of the community center, a plaza, a commercial center, expanded agricultural plots and animal feeding lots. The Cano Negro General Construction Company is organized and has begun work on the community center. Equipment and tools, however, are needed to allow the major projects to advance. An architect and a construction engineer with experience in low-cost housing have been secured to advise village leaders in the execution of the programme. The housing project will be initiated with the construction of a complex of

FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION

four model houses over a six-month period beginning in October. The houses are designed for a typical family of eight, providing adequate space and sanitation and utilizing low-cost, durable materials. The completion of the community center will provide two meeting rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom for community use. A two-room building equipped with shelves and tables will provide sales and storage space for the commercial center. The successful completion of the model home complex, the community center and the commercial center will provide employment and construction skills training for fifteen village men. Designed to demonstrate the potential of low-cost environmental reconstruction, the Village Redesign Programme will provide a symbol of permanence in the village and will catalyze the final stage of economic development in the Cano Negro Human Development Project.

CANO NEGRO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Facility Construction

I. CAPITAL COST

A. Housing (4 houses @ \$2,000)	\$8,000	
B. Community center	6,500	
C. Sanitation	3,000	
D. Commercial center	<u>4,000</u>	
SUB TOTAL		\$21,500

II. EQUIPMENT POOL

A. Cement mixer	2,000	
B. Hand tools	1,150	
C. Trailer	<u>2,000</u>	
SUB TOTAL		5,150

III. CONSULTANTS

A. Architect	4,000	
B. Engineer	<u>3,500</u>	
SUB TOTAL		7,500

TOTAL		<u>\$35,000</u>
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I. CAÑO NEGRO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A. Village Description - January 1977

The village of Caño Negro is one of 26 in the Ribas Municipality of the Acevedo District in the State of Miranda. It is surrounded by lush tropical vegetation and hilly terrain at an elevation of less than 40 meters. The Caño or creek for which the village is named surrounds the village on three sides. The first houses were built here in 1912. Although people changed status in 1948 from sharecroppers to independent cacao farmers, production was relatively limited by minimal technology and the absence of mechanical equipment. The establishment of an agrarian syndicate in 1962 brought new stability and government benefits to local farmers. Government loans to 12 village cacao farmers made cacao, even then, the major cash crop, the fundamental economic support of virtually the entire village.

A gift of land by a hacienda owner in 1970, the subsequent construction of 24 cement block houses by the government, electrification, a school and partial water access have made the village aware of itself as a substantial entity. With continued development, the present 43 families anticipate a total of 100 families in the village over the next few years. Land has been set aside for a village plaza and for additional housing. This remarkable reverse in rural to urban migration cannot occur while the present severe malnutrition, lack of continued safe water and sanitation, low income and underemployment persist. A unique determination and strong community spirit, however, indicate that the residents of Cano Negro are ready to create a very different future.

B. Baseline Data - January 1977

Caño Negro is at the end of a dirt road three kilometers from the town of Tapipa. The village of Caño Negro includes 43 families. Families are large and childbearing begins at an early age. Many male youth emigrate to urban areas for work. There are more women than men and numbers of households are headed by single mothers.

Caño Negro

The average village family income is estimated at Bs 2,000 or \$580 US per year, a figure well below the national median.

The principal product and sole cash crop is cacao which is harvested between December and June. The principal food crops, most of which grow wild, are bananas, plantains, tangerines, grapefruit, mangos, yucca, beans and ñame. There is abundant water in the wet season, but during the dry season fresh water is available only in low-ground water holes. The basic diet consists of plantains, yucca and seasonal fruits. Few vegetables are grown or eaten.

The majority of the children are malnourished. Life expectancy is about 57 years. The nearest doctor is in Tapipa, three kilometers away. Health care units visit Tapipa three times a year to provide inoculations. There is a local school where grades one through three are taught. Fourth through sixth grade students walk to Tapipa. Fewer than half of the village children attend school. Fifty per cent of the adult population is literate.

C. Program Accomplishments - April 1979

1. Cooperative Agriculture

In the 28 months of the project, Caño Negro has concentrated its agricultural efforts in three areas. The three acre community garden is a demonstration of how nutritional benefits and supplemental income may be obtained for the family. The Youth Club maintained this garden for a year with diversified crops. They received training from governmental departments on modern farming techniques and specialized training in the grafting of citrus fruit trees. This year's experiments in the community garden indicated that eggplants and cucumbers were the most productive home garden crop, both nutritionally and financially. The next step in this demonstration is to hold stake workdays to begin planting home gardens in each stake under the instruction of the trained youth. The forty acre commercial garden includes ten acres which have been cultivated and 25 acres which have been furrowed and disked. It is seen as a future source of income for the community treasury and a demonstrated alternative for unused land. When the first crop of 4000 papayas proved to be unfeasible, the farmers created a six by ten meter nursery plot to test new crops before volume planting in the garden. Cucumbers, tomatoes, green peppers, melons, onions, and eggplant are now being produced. The first monies from this garden will pay back various loans granted for the equipment. June, 1980 is the projected date for this garden to be self-sufficient and begin contributing to the

Caño Negro

community fund. Two farmers now receive a weekly salary of \$36 from developed funds. Reclaimed land is the third area of demonstration. Thirty-eight acres of farm land have been cleared, in addition to ten acres for buildings and community facilities. The initial work, using bulldozers, was done by the army and other government departments. The community gathered for workdays to clear the land of brush and tree stumps. As a result, seven buildings for housing, a community center, a plaza area, a general store, a tool shed, a 50,000-lit. water tank and pump house, 23 government-built cement block houses and 13 other new village homes, a sports field, and the two gardens now exist on what was once jungle land.

The tools for this demonstration have been training in modern methods of farming, acquisition of agricultural and gardening equipment, and the irrigation system. Training took place in formal settings, informal gatherings (such as guild meetings), and in professional and government sponsored seminars. The acquisition of a tractor, roto-tiller, grass cutter and fumigator and the loan of bulldozers quickly brought technology into the village. This training and equipment linked the village farmers to the network of agricultural services in Venezuela. Irrigation for the gardens was obtained with the acquisition of sprayers and portable pipes. In addition, there is a tractor powered pump which draws water from the swamp, allowing utilization of readily available resources to decrease the expenditure and manhours for water distribution.

The benefits in the arena of agriculture are primarily directed to those families who have space for home gardens; those who participate in community activities at the sports field, the plaza, and the community center; and the 23 families who are moving into the new houses. A secondary benefit is expected to extend to the total community by providing a source of income for the community fund and by making training available to farmers who wish to upgrade their farming methods.

At the beginning of this project, the release of 130,000 cacao trees to Caño Negro residents and the doubling of prices for cacao made it clear that the need in agriculture lay in the productive use of land for supplemental income, nutrition and space for community activities. The shift that has taken place in the village is the understanding that jungle land is an untapped resource which can be turned into an asset and that modern equipment available to the whole community can reduce the time spent in becoming self-sufficient.

Cafio Negro
April 1979

CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Table 1
U.S. Dollars

Cacao Tree Profile			
Priv. Dates Ownership	January 1977	April 1979	% Change
Trees Producing	100,000	230,000	+ 130%
Total Families	43	60	+ 40%
Families Owning Cacao Trees	14	48	+ 243%
Families Cultivating	39	56	+ 44%
Yield/Tree	1/3 kilo	1/3 kilo	-
Price/Kilo	\$ 1.40	\$ 2.88	+ 106%
Total Population	217	302	+ 39%
Per Capita Income Generated	\$ 215	\$ 731	+ 240%

Land Development Profile			
Land	Acres	Product	Residual Benefits
Community Garden	3 cultivated	- Diversified Crops - Developmental: Eggplant, onions	Youth Training Nutrition Demon. Supplemental Income
Commercial Garden	40 allotted 25 furrowed 10 cultivated	- Cucumbers, Green Peppers, Tomatoes - Nursery Plot	Community Treasury Income
Reclaimed Jungle	48 cleared	Arable land Community Space	Commercial Garden, Community Facilities

Cano Negro

2. Appropriate Industry

Cano Negro has focused its industrial efforts in establishing sewing and manufacturing industries. The sewing industry employed 11 women 15 hours a week and produced up to 300 items of linen goods per week for a market in Caracas. They worked on seven donated machines. This industry is intended to provide a supplemental income to families. Having completed their contract, additional markets are currently being sought in Caracas. This has resulted in a new awareness that markets for home industry must be long-range and/or multiple. A new industry now being finalized is the manufacturing of Safety Triangles. As Venezuelan law requires one of these triangles in each car, there is a growth potential for this industry. The present plan calls for the employment of four men half-time to produce the first order of 5,000 triangles. The 3M Company has agreed to provide the equipment.

Since the major source of income in the village is cacao production, the project held a series of workshops on part time industries which would produce a supplemental income for the family. A survey on skills and interests revealed that the women preferred employment using a traditional skill in the arena of clothing and the men desired to manufacture a complete product and not simply assemble parts. Meetings were held with those interested in employment and a 12 week training session for the sewing industry was held. Training for the triangle industry will take place when the equipment is acquired.

The primary benefit of these industrial efforts is to those employed. It has also become a sign to the youth of the community that there are alternatives to reliance on cacao trees as the sole source of income.

Since the income in Cano Negro rose with the increased price for cacao, the need in the area of industry was to expand alternatives for income beyond agriculture. During the project period the community has seen that a family need not move to Caracas for better employment. There has also been a growing understanding that maintaining an industry requires careful, planning and that it is possible for villagers to talk with Caracas businessmen about long-range markets. This has given the members of the Commerce and Industry Guild a beginning sophistication in relating to the nation's economy.

SEWING INDUSTRY

Background - Initiated November 1977 with 12-week basic sewing course, 11 women participants.

EQUIPMENT	PRODUCTS	PERSONNEL	PRODUCTION	WEEKLY SALARIES
- 6 semi-indus. machines	- sheets - pillow cases	- 1 manager	- 300 pieces /week	- \$ 30 (Manager)
- 1 specialized machine	- other linen	- 10 line seamstresses	- 15 hrs/wk production time	\$ 14 (Line Seamstresses)

FUTURE - Additional/new contracts and markets being sought in Caracas

TIN SAFETY TRIANGLE INDUSTRY

BACKGROUND - Investigation into the possibility of this industry began January 1979 with companies in Caracas.

EQUIPMENT	PRODUCT	PRODUCTION	PERSONNEL	WEEKLY SALARIES
- 3M Co. finalising operational set-up	- Highway Safety Triangles	- current market for 5,000	- 4 men 1/2 time	- \$36 - by piece

FUTURE - Based on market demand, production may be increased to provide full-time employment.

Caño Negro

3. Commercial Services

The Commercial Program has been concerned with providing community equipment and establishing a community store. Before the consult two major cost items were transportation and agricultural equipment. With a community truck, residents of Cano Negro have been able to pay minimal fees to deliver their cacao to market and to haul food stuffs for themselves. The tractor roto-tiller, grass cutter and fumigator have been used by the community to reduce the time required to maintain home gardens and cacao tree land. A tool pool has been created which supplies carpentry, mechanical and gardening tools to rent rather than to be individually purchased. The fumigator has been used to prevent plant disease as well as to control mosquitoes. The community store a renovated building of 40 square meters, operates from dawn to dusk every day. Two women are trained in cash register and scale use, in preparing weekly purchase orders and handling daily store operations. The store is owned by the community and sales are now on a breakeven basis which includes paying two salaries.

This program was created by determining what activities would redirect cash flow and circulate money within the village rather than its being spent in Caracas. Workshops were done in the community meetings and the ideas of a store which sold basic goods and a supply of rental equipment were determined to be the most critical services toward this end. As a result, various groups met to decide which products and which equipment would be most helpful and donations were secured. Workdays resulted in the renovation of the store and the building of a tool shed.

It is estimated that the community equipment has reduced cost and time expenditures for each family by approximately \$200 a year and 20 hours a month. Thirty-six families have used the equipment. Since there is no longer a need for a daily trip to other villages to buy food, each family has saved walking seven kilometers a day.

Just as the industry program expands the possibility of residents relating to the nation's economy, the commerce program relates the nations' modern services to the village. Cano Negro's original image of itself was as an isolated place, unrelated to the rapid technological change taking place elsewhere. With the store and the availability of modern equipment, the residents of Cano Negro see that they are taking a place in the nation's modernization.

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COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Table 3
U.S. Dollars

General Store Profile

Background - Initiated September 1977 with training on the job in daily retail management.

Equipment	Inventory	Purchasing	Personnel	Weekly Gross
-cash register	- cheese, ham	- Deliveries weekly/monthly	- 2 clerks	-\$ 714 to 833
-scale	- flour		- dawn to dusk week days	- break-even
-refrigerator	- maize meal	- Occasional buying trips	\$36	
	- tinned food		- 150 Bs/wk salary	
	- milk			
	- rice, noodles			
	- oil			
	- refreshments			
	- limited meats			
	- sugar			
	- vegetables			
	- detergents (200+ items)			

FUTURE - Inventory expansion and sale of community-grown produce may develop store to profit-making enterprise.

COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT

Acquired Since	Service	Benefit
Truck	Crops to market	Time for travel required
Tractor	Plowing & irrigation Commercial garden	More land owner cultivation
Rototiller	Tilling commercial garden	Time saved in cultivation
Motorized Grass Cutter	Cutting grass in public places	Community beautification
Tool Pool	Agriculture Tool Rental	Cost reduction or rental
Fumigator	Mosquito Control Crop Spraying	Reduced skin infections Healthy crops

4. Living Environment

In the Living Environment Program, Cano Negro has concentrated its efforts in facilities development and environmental improvements. In facilities development, the community has built the following: five temporary buildings for the Human Development Training School, four water tanks, 3 bola courts, two staff houses, a sports field, agricultural shed, preschool building (later replaced), community center, tool shed, pump house, equipment shed and a general store. Under construction are a community chapel and a plaza. The community center is the most impressive structure in the community at this time. It is fronted by the plaza and has become a community gathering place. In environmental improvements, private housing has been upgraded by the building of latrines, home additions and renovation and major interior acquisitions. Improved and newly constructed roads, sidewalks and drainage pipe have added to the community services now visible.

The Living Environment Program has been a major focus of the project. After a series of community workshops and subsequent workdays, the community contacted the Army and other Government agencies for aid in changing the face of Cano Negro. There has been a constant construction process which still continues, using the same method of discerning the community's consensus through workshops and sponsoring community workdays to clear the ground and do as much construction as possible. A community celebration occurs at the end of each completed construction.

The benefits of facilities development is seen in the frequency and variety of activities that are now scheduled because there is a designated space. The functions of these buildings transcend all age barriers. Environmental improvements are clearly seen as a mark of financial improvement within the families of the community as well as health safeguards for the entire population.

A serious problem before the Consult was that there was nothing to do in Cano Negro and families were leaving. That has changed. Thirteen families have returned to the village to live. Activities from sports to education now take place in the new facilities. There has been sustained support from the Venezuelan government in upgrading and modernizing Cano Negro. The villagers have begun to sense themselves as a demonstration village of those who can work together with the government to beautify their living space.

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LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4
U.S. Dollars

Facilities Development				
Dates Facilities	Pre-1977	1977 Additions	1978 Additions	1979 Additions
Domestic Housing	24 government-built cement block houses completed 38 other village homes	8 other village homes	4 other village homes	23 government-built cement block houses under constr'n 1 other village homes
Commercial Buildings	3 cacao drying platforms. 3 cacao storage sheds	Existing facilities adequate for current products		3 cacao drying platforms
Community Buildings	R-2 Public School including toilets 2 classrooms/ofc. 1 Bola court	2 Housing Facilities Commty. Center Preschool Bldg. Tool Shed Agric. Shed 1 Water Tank	Pump House 5 Housing Facilities 3 Water Tanks 2 Bola Courts	Equipment shed General store Chapel, Plaza (under construction) 1 Sports Field 1 Bola Court

Environmental Improvements			
Arena	January 1977	April 1979	
Private Housing	Latrines	0	18
	Refrigerators	2	20
	Gas Stoves	1	33
	Painting/Home Improvements	0	40
	Home Additions	0	3
Roads	3	1 improved 1 built	
Sidewalks	0	3 (total length: 745 meters)	
Drainage Ditch	0	1 built (length 150 meters)	

5. Corporate Patterns

The program of Corporate Patterns has emphasized the creation of new groups to plan and work for the social and economic benefits of the village. Stakes, guilds, assemblies and workdays have been the common thrust in this area. The stakes (sectors) are neighborhood meetings held twice monthly with 8-12 families represented to determine how they will care for their neighborhood. The guilds (agriculture, health, commerce and industry, community unity, and education) are composed of residents engaged in these program arenas who meet whenever an issue arises. Five to 35 people attend each of these meetings. A steering committee, composed of five guild leaders and two community-wide leaders meet to handle specific community issues and convene any assembly which needs to be called. A quarterly planning meeting is open to all with a regular attendance of 15 to 35 people who consider the directions of the next three months. Workdays may be called by the steering committee or any of the stakes or guilds. There have been 35 workdays this past year with participation of 5 to 45 people.

In order to create these new groups, the original Consult designated the stakes and established the guilds. Times or meetings are posted and leaders are either chosen or elected by the different groups. The role of the project staff in this program is visiting members of the groups to encourage their attendance. Stake meetings are held in homes and the Community Center is used for other meetings. Workdays are organized and materials acquired through meetings between the project staff and the group sponsoring the workday.

The primary benefit of this program is a broadened vehicle for decision making beyond a few chosen leaders. Those who wish to have a voice in decisions and the direction of the project therefore have an opportunity. The workdays have re-established the social responsibility of the total village to see their role in taking care of their own community.

The shift in images within Caño Negro has been toward the overall responsibility of each household to care for the whole. The villagers have expressed gratitude for a chance to have a significant part in deciding what will happen to their village. Workdays have given new opportunities to work together with neighbors who have had little previous contact. Guilds have given the different workers pride in their occupations and stakes have provided opportunities for emerging leadership to have a voice. Remarks from the residents indicate that it is now possible to meet and work together without fighting.

Adult Engagement Profile	
Activity/Group	Since January 1977
Stake Meetings (Neighborhood)	4 stakes meet bi-weekly
Guilds (Occupational)	5 guilds meet as required
Secretariat (Leadership)	- elected annually - meet as needed
Community Workdays	- av. 25 to 35/year - 5 -45 participants - special projects - community clean-ups

6. Identity Systems

The Identity Systems Program has concentrated on re-establishing the celebrative life of Caño Negro, scheduling visits inside and outside the village and erecting identifying signs. Before the Consult, the community had not had a community celebration for ten years and had not celebrated the feast of its patron saint for 13 years. Celebrations have now been established for the Saints Day, Election Day, Christmas, New Years, Holy Week and Carnival. There are also special celebrations held to inaugurate the different programs, e.g. the Water Tank Celebration. In Caño Negro, a key symbol for the village has been the constant stream of visitors to see the progress of a local community developing itself. Concurrently Caño Negro residents have visited other projects, attended conferences and seminars outside the village, offered leadership training sessions in other villages, and visited Government offices and the private sector for funding. These visits to and from the village have increased the world view of a community that considered itself a dead-end village. The identifying signs are a community effort to self-consciously tell the world and themselves who they are as a "project" community. Each family chose and painted a motto and name sign for their house. A monthly newspaper and bulletin board was established to spread the news of what was happening. Fifteen trash barrels were painted with the community grid and distributed throughout the community. A welcome sign was painted at the entrance of the village and each stake. As programs progressed, other signs appeared to indicate the program's importance or direct visitors to its office.

The primary method in creating a community identity of self-confidence has been to form planning committees who present a model at village meetings of what the community needs to celebrate, visit or recognize. A series of discussions, contests and consensus forming sessions solidifies the event. Visiting every house in a stake, putting up posters or writing in the community newspaper have been other ways Caño Negro has placed an issue before the total community in order to get agreement on the community's self-story.

Caño Negro's position as the pilot project in Latin America has provided a unique opportunity to set the scope and pace of four other projects. The Human Development Training School which Caño Negro hosted resulted in multiple benefits to the nations of Jamaica, Chili, Brazil and Guatemala. Caño Negro served not only as a training site, but as a demonstration of what a project village can be. The community buildings obviously benefit the entire community as they are used by the entire population for community celebrations and by families and other groups who make use of the community center and its kitchen for their own functions. Finally, the return of 13 families to Caño Negro since the project's initiation has encouraged all families to see the growth potential of this village.

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The major shift in the community's identity is represented by the building of a chapel to honour the patron saint of Cano Negro (Saint Joseph the Worker). It has become a sign that the village has permanent status. Similarly the construction of the Plaza (now underway according to professional architectural designs with ground maintenance equipment already purchased) has given the village a distinction usually given only to large towns.

The more subtle shift in identity has been in its pride of being a demonstration village, hosting other countries and being sent elsewhere to demonstrate their skills in renewing communities. The identifying signs and the celebrations have been an indication that they no longer need to go elsewhere to participate in the cultural life of Latin America and have begun to invite others to come to their village.

7. Preventive Care

The main focus of the Preventive Care Program has been in sanitation measures and parasite control. Before the consult, the community's only water supply was from ground water holes that were contaminated, due to inadequate sewage disposal. Generally unhygienic conditions and extensive parasitosis resulted. Without a water supply, toilets and sinks in the 24 new governmental houses were non-functional, as were the elementary school's three toilets and sink. With the help of the Army and other government assistance, the project started the two-year process of developing an adequate water source for drinking and other uses. Now a working well with an electric pump, 5 small tanks and a 50,000 liter storage tank, and water pipes laid throughout the village are present. In addition, there are four new community showers and three more community toilets. Eighteen private latrines have been built and painted with original designs lending them a clean and pleasant appearance. For parasite control, a health outpost was created and a community resident trained to test for parasites and coordinate treatment campaigns. Every adult and child over nine months was tested and has continued to be tested and treated every six months. Infants up to nine months were generally negative. Even within the 1978 sample findings, there was a difference to be noted between residents of Caño Negro since the beginning of the project who had taken the treatments and the new residents who had only participated in one campaign or as yet none. Of the long-time residents, 43% were negative, while of the new residents only 29% were negative for pathogenic parasites. In 1977, the average of parasites to the number of people was 1.53 per person, with some having as many as six different kinds. By the end of 1978, the average was 0.81 per person with 40.2% of the population entirely free of pathogenic parasites. In addition to treatments with Eprofil (Andromaco) and specific treatments against amoebas and giardia, sanitation was improved by means of the water supply and installation of latrines.

Intermediate Sanitation		
Arena Dates	Water	Toilets/showers
Pre-Consult January 1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water holes dug in jungle used for washing & drinking - 3 Small water tanks on school premises non-functioning - empty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toilets/sinks in 24 homes non-functional due to lack of water - 3 Toilets, 1 sink, 1 shower on school grounds without water supply - No sanitary facilities in other homes - Extensive parasitosis
April 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1977 - Army dug 1st well - 'Acueductos Rurales' drilled 2nd well - 1 Small tank for showers & 3 school tanks functng. - 1st motor pump 1978 - Electric pump - 2 Addt'l. small tanks, 1 50,000 lit.tank 1979 - other villages using C.N. as water source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1977- 2 functng.public showers - 3 school toilets functng. - Use of toilets in 24 homes enabled by closer water supply - 18 private latrines 1978- 2 showers (Cmty.Center) - 3 toilets (Cmty.Center) - Showers in 18 homes

Parasite Control				
Results Dates	% Negative for Pathogenic Parasites	%Positive for Pathogenic Parasites		
		NECATOR	ASCARIS	OTHER
January 1977 (Before treatment)	9.3%	54.4%	55.9%	46.3%
November 1978 (After treatment campaigns)	40.2%	32.2%	16.7%	32.2%

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With the help of many private and public organizations, a health campaign was organized in the community. A house-to-house visitation by community residents resulted in convincing all residents of the importance of parasite control and sanitation measures. The establishment of a health clinic with a trained resident to test for parasites and the availability of a large medicine supply has given the health a visibility that cannot escape the notice of all residents.

With a regular water supply, residents no longer have to carry water from distant water holes. In fact, as many as ten villages now come to collect their water at the Caño Negro water tank. With the provision of water to 18 homes equipped with showers, and the construction of five public showers, adults now bathe daily, generally in the evening, and the children in the afternoon. Improved general cleanliness among the people has been noted and washing water no longer needs to be carried so far. There has been an increase of shoes being worn by all to prevent reinfection. Swollen bellies, symptomatic of parasites, are no longer in evidence, and the general vitality of the people is noticeable. More milk and baby food is being bought since the health campaign has begun. Nutritionally, the severely undernourished has dropped from 4% to 0; the moderately undernourished has dropped from 60% to 15%. These figures reflect the fact that the decrease in parasites has increased the ability of the body to utilize food consumed. In addition, preschool age children (from two to six years) receive a fortified snack every day.

The change from a community unable to interrupt the cycle of parasites, malnutrition, loss of energy and sores that would not heal to a community of visible health and sustained energy is the greatest change in Cano Negro. As in many places where there has always been poor health, it was not in the minds of the residents that some other state of health could be attained. Since the Consult, health is now a positive category.

8. Functional Education

In the educational field, Cano Negro has concentrated on establishing a preschool, training for occupational upgrading and developing social sophistication skills. The preschool is open five days a week and has three salaried teachers. It is intended to establish a regular school pattern for both the children and parents, and to provide familiarity with classroom behaviour. Sixty children are registered with average daily attendance of 30-45. Favorable reports from the elementary school state that these children have developed an aptitude for learning that previous children did not have. Within the preschool system, the teachers operate out of

Caño Negro

a standardized 12 month curriculum, adapting the daily exercises for Caño Negro. Parent-Teacher meetings take place on a quarterly basis. Occupational upgrading includes the following courses: library training, bookkeeping, agricultural techniques, drivers education, health education for health aides, and preschool teaching. They are intended to offer opportunities for those already skilled who wish to upgrade their occupational standards. Today 26 adults have participated in this training. Social sophistication skills include basic literacy, elementary tutoring, leadership methods, social awareness, first aid, infant care, Woman's Forum, and a Community Forum. These classes are designed to increase the community's awareness of current cultural and social issues as well as giving residents an improved ability to express themselves. The community utilized these skills in the training programs in April and May, 1978, when the Human Development Training School for Latin America was held in Caño Negro with 12 residents from Cano Negro as participants.

The methods in training have been to offer a variety of classes adapted to the time patterns in Caño Negro. Some of the classes were highly structured over a precise period of time and some were tailored to the specific needs of the participants. Education on a regular basis was primarily for the children. Short term educational classes with a set goal of learning worked effectively for the adults. The youth classes in agriculture incorporated both kinds of training. Reflective conversations on what is being learned and how it can be applied is a standard method in all classes.

The children of Caño Negro have benefited most directly from this program. Before the Consult, classes in the primary school were sporadic - sometimes held only two hours a week for grades 1-3. Through the elementary tutoring program and the preschool, children and parents have begun to see the value of daily schooling. Primary classes are now held five days a week with 2 new teacher. For the adults, the greatest benefit has been the reawakened skill of learning on a formal basis and an ability to reflect on what is happening. This becomes most evident when residents go with the project staff on funding and authorization calls in Caracas and are able to articulate what they need and what has been accomplished. A secondary benefit has been the "Foros", which are community planning sessions held in villages throughout Venezuela. These events are planned and taught by Caño Negro and Caracas residents, giving an opportunity to utilize their training in leadership methods. Over 20 Foros have taken place, benefiting other villages that wish to learn how to plan for their future.

At the beginning of the project, it became clear that education for adults or children was not in the mind-set of the people. As a result of the various classes, villagers have seen the possibility of equipping themselves to deal with the problems they have. They

Educational Programs January 1977 - April 1979				
Arena	Course	Frequency	Duration	Enrollment
Children	Preschool	5 days/wk	continuous	60
	Elementary tutoring	1 day/wk	continuous	28
Adult Basic	Literacy	2 nights/wk.	12 wks	58
	English Classes	1 night/wk	12 wks	8
Social Skills	Social Awareness	1 night/wk	8 wks	12
	Leadership Methods	1 night/wk	8 wks	6
	Human Development Training School	Daily	8 wks	20
Planning Seminars	Women's Forum	one	one day	35
	Community Forum	five	one day	125
Occupational Skills	Preschool Teachers Training	Daily 2 hrs	12 wks	6
	Health Aides	8 hrs daily	14 days	1
	Truck Drivers	2 nights/wk	12 wks	2
	Drivers Education	2 nights/wk	12 wks	4
	Agricultural Techniques	1 day/wk	12 wks	12
	Bookkeeping	1 day/wk	2 wks	3
	Library Training	1 day/wk	4 wks	2

Cafio Negro

have seen how to be teachers themselves to their children instead of relying solely on outside help. Pride in their own ability to function effectively in a modern, changing society has been reflected in their participation in group discussions once dominated by a few designated, articulate speakers in the village.

9. Community Welfare

Community Welfare is primarily concerned with engaging particular groups in the community. Cano Negro has emphasized the youth, the women, and the family. In the youth groups, a sports field and three bola courts were created. Two teams of men and two of women now play regular games three times a month. Bi-monthly these teams play outside the community. This is a change from sporadic games before the Consult on the one bola court. A young man's club of 19 has been the core for agricultural training in the community garden. One of these youth was chosen as the State's representatives to the National Agricultural Council. A young women's group gathers to bake and sponsor bake sales to raise funds for different projects. A Women's group hosted an international team who held a Global Women's Forum for 30 women. The women also gather to cook for special celebrations and community events in the Community Center kitchen. There have been special events for the family in terms of health care, first aid, and infant care which have benefited all families in the community.

The general method in forming a group in the project has been to work with defunct groups or those that exist in a loosely organized form. Using whatever mode these groups had already established, the project staff requested their participation in community events. Through the organizational efforts of the project staff, the groups began to operate out of a calendar with a regular meeting place. The project staff have also acted as liaison with social and governmental organizations that can offer these groups special services or training. Informal groups such as the women's cooking group became formalized when there was an obvious function they could serve in the project.

The obvious benefits are for those who directly participate in these groups (approx. 30 women, 30 youth and 23 families) as they begin to work together in special interest activities. Secondary benefits include the entire community as they see these groups raise money, cook or complete a workday for Cano Negro. Comments from residents indicate that particularly the youth and women have expanded their roles in community engagement.


The shift that has taken place is among special interest groups who want to be with those of their own age or of similar interests. Before the Project began these groups had not had a particular purpose for coming together. During the Consult, it was noted that people did not get together to do things other than to earn money or go to a bar. The villagers now see and participate in alternative modes of engaging in the life of their community.

Organized Community Activities		
Group	Status	Membershi
Male Youth Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - weekly/monthly meetings - experimental agriculture - agriculture training - excursions 	16 members
Female Youth Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bake sales - fund raising - special events 	14 members
Women's Cooking Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cook for celebrations - special events/workdays - maintain community center kitchen 	30 members
Community Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - patron saints day feast - election day - 4 holidays: Christmas, New Years Holy Week, Carnival 	entire village
Bolas Criollas Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 intra-community games/month - bi-monthly inter-community games 	2 men's teams 2 women's team.

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CAÑO NEGRO: AN EXPER

....toward a VOLUNTARY NATIONAL

	II EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT		HU
	COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUMS	SPECIAL FOCUS MODULES	COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS
CARACAS URBAN SERVICES	CARACAS NEIGHBOURHOOD SIGNS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Development Module • Basic Skills Module • BARRIO Planning Forum 		
	10% COMMUNITY FORUMS	BARRIO ACTUATION MODULES	BARRIO COMMUNITY C
BARLOVENTO DEVELOPMENT PILOTS	BARLOVENTO AREA EXTENSION		VI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOMANS Advancement Module • Adult Literacy Module • Imaginal Education Module • Commercial Services Module • Village Planning Forum 		
	400 COMMUNITY FORUMS	VILLAGE ACTUATION MODULES	RURAL NUCLEO CL
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CATALYSIS	NATIONAL COVERAGE SCHEME		R
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Development Module • COMMUNITY LEADERS Module • COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM 		WEST  MARACIBO/ENDI
	10% COMMUNITY FORUMS	VILLAGE ACTUATION MODULES	NATION PRIORITY CI

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JANUARY 1982

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I N DEVELOPMENT ONSTRATIONS		III ADVANCED LEADERSHIP TRAINING	
	VOLUNTEER SERVICE FORMATION	COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING COURSES	TEAM PLANNING ASSEMBLIES
CARACAS RIO EXPERIMENT		CARACAS TRAINING CENTRE	
CENTRAL LAS MINAS	EAST PETARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekend Seminars • 10 Day Formation event • Regular Planning Councils 	
ERS	URBAN SERVICE CORPS	COMMUNITY LEADERS TRAINING	PROGRAM PLANNING COORD ^N
BARLOVENTO AGE DEMONSTRATIONS		CAND NEGRO TEACHING VILLAGE	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeknight Courses • Methods LABORATORIES • LEADERS TRAINING • 3 Week INSTITUTE • STAFF CIRCUITS 	
ERS	PUBLIC - PRIVATE SUPPORT GUILDS	HUMAN DEVELOPIT TRAINING INST.	BARLOVENTO TEAM FORMATION
NATIONAL ONAL PILOTS		NATIONAL CONSULTANCY SCHEME	
CENTRAL VALBUENA/FARMING	EAST CUMANA/Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LENS Seminar • Organisations Planning Seminar • Contextual Courses 	
ERS	PUBLIC - PRIVATE ADOPTING ORGANISATIONS	SPECIFIC ISSUES FORUMS	CORPORATE PLANNING SEMINAR