



Dialog Process on Chronic Renal Insufficiency

Facilitator's Summary

January 21, 2011

1. Background

Another dialog meeting, convened by the World Bank Group's Office of the Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman (CAO), was held in Leon and Chichigalpa on January 19 to 21, 2011, with the attendance of Nicaragua Sugar Estates Limited (NSEL) and the *Asociación Chichigalpa por la Vida* (ASOCHIVIDA), to seek alternative solutions to the Chronic Renal Insufficiency (CRI) problem.

This meeting was organized in conformity with the guidelines set forth in the Dialog Framework Agreement proposed by CAO on November 20, 2008, which NSEL and ASOCHIVIDA have abided by separately. As per point 6 of that Framework Agreement, the dialog meetings will be focused on, and limited to, the following:

a) Identifying and Addressing the Causes of CRI. The adherents agree to define jointly the criteria and principles that are required in order to carry out a study to identify the causes of CRI, whose findings should be transparent and reliable for all and provide feasible solutions.

- i) Expected outcomes: An agreement on the criteria and principles to guide the study. An agreement to abide by the findings of the study and the alternative solutions to the problem.

b) Options for Supporting Local Communities with a Prevalence of CRI. Out of good will and with no legal obligation to do so, the adherents agree to seek ways to alleviate the situation of families that are affected by CRI, involving both local resources and State institutions.

- i) Expected Outcome: Alleviating the situation of families that are affected by CRI.

2. Purpose for the Meeting

The purpose of this dialogue meeting was: 1) to learn and discuss Boston University's plan to continue studying the causes of CRI; and 2) to make progress towards implementing the agreements reached in support of the ASOCHIVIDA members who suffer from this illness.

3. Boston University's Plan to Continue Researching the Causes of CRI

At the CAO's request, Boston University's team presented the Dialogue Table with three alternatives for continuing to study the causes of CRI. ASOCHIVIDA and NSEL had the chance to ask questions and make comments.

Basically, the study will continue with the activities as planned. As a result of the discussions, Boston University agreed to carry out research activities both inside and outside of ISA, and to sustain significantly more frequent communication with ASOCHIVIDA and NSEL in order to keep them informed of its progress.

Boston University agreed to submit a new version of its plan to the CAO within 10 days, including the comments made by ASOCHIVIDA and NSEL. The CAO will review the plan and discuss it with Boston University before forwarding it to NSEL and ASOCHIVIDA for their comments and approval. While the new plan is being prepared, should it be necessary to make practical decisions regarding any research activities that are still on going, the CAO has the authorization of the Dialogue Table to do so.

4. Support for ASOCHIVIDA Members who are Affected by CRI

The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

Chicken Production Shed Project: NSEL explained that implementation of this project was delayed because the land purchase has been more difficult than was initially anticipated. For logistical reasons, it is very important that the land be located near the facilities of MONISA, a company of *Grupo Pellas* that will run the project. However, it was not possible to purchase the properties identified by NSEL because they either did not meet MARENA's requirements or because had mortgage encumbrances. NSEL indicated that is making continuous efforts to identify and purchase a new land. Once land is purchased 42 days will be needed to build the sheds. NSEL offered assurance that this project will be operational and it committed to make the maximum efforts for this to happen as soon as possible, estimating that it could began in the month of April but taking into consideration that there are factors that are not under NSEL's total control.

Basic Food Provision: ASOCHIVIDA asked NSEL to renew the food aid that it provides its members, as the two years foreseen for delivery expire next May. NSEL said that it will not renew it, but will require the help of ANF to continue providing some sort of basic food provision for ASOCHIVIDA members.

Agribusiness Projects: NSEL confirmed its willingness to support the agribusiness projects of ASOCHIVIDA members, beginning with a pilot project for up to 50 members. If it works well, it may be expanded. They emphasized the importance of working with members who have experience with this type of projects. ASOCHIVIDA agrees and, with the help of Rogerio Cuadra, will begin gathering information on which members wish to participate and preparing the respective project.

Housing: NSEL has already discussed the plan to build 100 homes for ASOCHIVIDA members with the Mayor's Office. With the help of Rogerio Cuadra, ASOCHIVIDA will start preparing the internal regulations, in order to define how the beneficiaries of this assistance are to be chosen, and to prevent unnecessary conflicts among its members. Once the 100 homes under this project are

completed, NSEL will consider ASOCHIVIDA's request to discuss support for home improvement. The criteria were established between ASOCHIVIDA and NSEL at the dialogue table.

School Satchels: In February, NSEL will hand out school satchels with student supplies for ASOCHIVIDA members. It was agreed that the number of school satchels will be equal to the approved food provisions. Each school satchel will contain the same supplies that were provided the year before. At a date and time to be agreed, NSEL will deliver the satchels to ASOCHIVIDA, which shall be responsible for distributing them.

Microcredit: ASOCHIVIDA received a loan to finish building its offices from the Microcredit Facility financed by NSEL and managed by CEPRODEL. NSEL expressed its full disagreement, since the purpose for its donation was solely to cover microcredit projects that would stimulate the household economies of its members. ASOCHIVIDA accepted that it was a mistake, and agreed that in the future, any support that NSEL provide its members would be governed by the terms and clauses of the donation.

Reallocation of Funds Assigned for the Textiles Project: NSEL and ASOCHIVIDA agreed that the funds provided for the textiles project, which will not be implemented because it was financially unfeasible, will be allocated to other projects. ASOCHIVIDA asked that those funds be reallocated to amplify the microcredit fund and for the construction of more shed for chicken production. NSEL agreed to consult its Board of Directors on this topic.

ASOCHIVIDA Web Site: The site has been designed and the ASOCHIVIDA logo approved. Now the contents to be uploaded are being prepared.

5. Next Steps

CAO believes that the next steps in this dialogue process are:

- Finish developing Boston University's research plan.
- Follow up on implementation of each of the points agreed to.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Dumas', written in a cursive style.

Juan Dumas
Dialog Facilitator