

INTERNATIONAL



VOLUNTARY



SERVICES



1993-94 ANNUAL REPORT

LOOKING BACK...

IVS was founded in 1953 as a private, non-profit development agency to combat hunger, poverty and economic inequality in developing nations. The church groups who formed IVS were concerned about the needs of the world's poorest people -- people who urgently needed assistance in agriculture, health care and education. The organization of IVS reflected the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Government's Technical Cooperation Administration (now the U.S. Agency for International Development) and several church groups, including the Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren.

Most IVS volunteers provide technical assistance and training for community development. Rather than manage projects, IVS volunteers help communities solve problems using their own resources. In the process, IVS personnel create links with other private and governmental agencies.

IVS today seeks to provide a conduit -- independent of religious sects and governmental policies -- through which skilled and motivated volunteers from many countries can release human potential in many areas of the world. ●

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES

1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 603

Washington, DC 20036 USA

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*Design and text by Samantha Stern, Tania Goossens
and Laura Lowe with support from staff.*

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH

The purpose of IVS is to improve the quality of life for very poor people. We do this at the level of the individual, the family. We know that poor people cannot even get into the lobbies of 4-Star Hotels... much less visit the rooms. So we live simply in the areas we work. We know that the poorest people in the world often cannot write. So we do not make written record-keeping a requirement. We find other ways to evaluate projects. We know that racial background, sex and sexual orientation, religion and age often become reasons for discrimination. We seek out those most discriminated against to be recipients of our help. We know that greed and ignorance on the part of many so-called developers have destroyed the forests, silted the rivers and made life impossible for many -- especially tribal minorities. We help to replant the trees and establish sustainable incomes for the victims of such international greed.

We know that despite billions and billions of dollars of international aid, the gap between rich and poor has widened in the last fifty years. Despite incredible advances in scientific knowledge, the condition of our earth grows steadily worse. The ozone layer is being destroyed; the great agricultural lands are drying up and blowing away; the sea is becoming increasingly polluted. At IVS we evaluate our projects from an ecological perspective.

We know that the alleviation of poverty almost always improves the quality of life. All of our projects stress increasing incomes and improving health so that quality of life can be improved. We also know that projects can, and often do, unwittingly encourage the unrestricted accumulation of private wealth by a few individuals, further widening the gap between rich and poor. We emphasize getting our help directly to the poorest and most disadvantaged people through our local partner organizations.

We respect the ethical balance -- the moral relationship -- between what the peasant farmer puts into life and what he or she takes out. It would never occur to Amazonian Indians, for example, to take more fish from the river than their family needs so that they could buy themselves an outboard motor for their canoe. They enjoy a relationship with Creation that is based on justice and respect. Such levels of production as the installation of a canning factory or plowing the earth with a tractor often constitute in their minds a defiance of the natural order and are tantamount to an act of theft.

We do not assume that the practices that bring prosperity to one society will have the same success in another. We do not assume that the values implicit in the culture of the North represent a universal condition which all others on this planet share and aspire to. This emphasis on cultural understanding explains our insistence that IVS members live in the communities where we work and speak the local language. IVS emphasizes developing skills among the people with whom we work to identify problems and implement appropriate solutions.

We invite you to carefully consider the projects we describe in the following pages from this culturally sensitive perspective. Development must undergo continual evaluation if it is to be successful. Please join us in the analysis and support us in the process.

Don Luce

Don Luce,
President



IVS President Don Luce (left) with IVS volunteer Carlos Galdo in Bolivia.

IVS PROGRAMS IN 1993-94

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Village Volunteer Program - Bangladesh

The Village Volunteer Program (VVP) has a two-fold purpose, beginning with strengthening the management and technical skills of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and ultimately improving the well-being of landless villagers. The VVP idea grew out of a recognition by IVS and local NGOs that many Bangladeshi organizations urgently need targeted, short-term technical assistance and that there are skilled individuals in Bangladesh who can provide this service. IVS coordinates the linkage of these individuals and organizations for short-term training. At the community level, VVP projects include a broad range of activities

such as apiculture, bread and biscuit manufacturing, carpet making, animal husbandry and embroidery. IVS has targeted 110 projects for 1994, a majority of which focus specifically on women's development.

Each year, VVP trains more than a hundred local groups in skills improvement to better serve their villages. In addition to its hundreds of remarkably successful projects, VVP has helped create goodwill between villages and organizations, and encouraged volunteerism and self-reliance.

The VVP promotes the economic independence of women as a way of improving their social status. For example, a woman who can make bamboo goods is sent by IVS to start a new cottage industry in another village. While teaching her craft, she will also provide training in organizational and leadership skills, so that the village women may better coordinate their efforts and promote their new product. Sharing their technical skills and teaching abilities with others, these "village volunteers" are key to VVP's success.



IVS Trickle Up Program - Bangladesh

An extension of the VVP, the Trickle Up Program allows small groups of women to establish income generating businesses. The program provides each group with \$100 and business management training; IVS also assists the businesses in their early stages of planning and marketing. The benefits of this program transcend purely economic gains, as women reach new levels of independence in their communities and in their homes. Research performed by the Department of Anthropology at the University of Dhaka evaluated the effects of the Trickle Up Program on women in a rural Bangladeshi village. The report concluded that the women involved are expanding their businesses or starting additional businesses with their new income. Furthermore, through increased self-reliance, the women are improving their socio-economic positions.

An excerpt from "A Study on IVS Trickle Up Programme of Haripur Village in Bogra, Bangladesh" follows:

"Kalpana Rani is a poor dweller of Haripur village of Bogra. She had almost no land, no safety of life and she could not afford to have meal three times a day.

Her husband Robin Das was a day labourer. Kalpana Rani..., got selection for getting grant from IVS/TUP in 1992.... Now she has a business of rice and paddy. Her husband is an owner of a sweetment shop. And now she along with her seven children is maintaining/passing more or less a comfortable life. She is now sending her children to schools. Here the very important thing is that this couple is now owner of twelve decimal of land.... She had no cow. Now she has...got a cow. She had only one room for living. But now she has built another new room. By this time she has started a business -- milk selling. While talking with Kalpana Rani, our field workers found her confident and smiling. She is now happy because she can earn by herself and she gives her children school-fee with raising of the financial position. She has also found with some behavioural changes upon herself and her family members. The mutual relation between she and her husband improved much and there is no frequent quarrel between them as it was before. Now she herself is making some important decisions and her husband is also taking her concern while making any important decision regarding family affairs. So now Kalpana Rani is a happy woman of village."



Courses in management and accounting help women run their own business.

Señor de Mayo Handcraft Project - Bolivia

When the international price of tin and silver fell, tens of thousands of Bolivians were out of work. Families separated as the husbands left to look for city jobs. Many of the men went to Brazil and Argentina in search of work; others simply started drinking heavily because of their disillusionment. The women migrated to El Alto, located just outside La Paz, which grew from an uninhabited plain to an extended slum area of 100,000 people. Today the majority of the people of El Alto are single mothers and children.

Since the Señor de Mayo Handcraft Project's introduction in 1989, El Alto's single mothers' self-reliance has made significant headway through the production and sales of handknit Alpaca sweaters and musical instruments. Technical assistance has progressed from providing and upgrading skills to applying these skills to the production process. Señor de Mayo's artisan mothers have directed their attention to quality control and color standardization, purchasing dyeing materials and attaching appropriate labels to their products indicating sizes and care instructions. Business management assistance has shown significant progress



The single mothers of El Alto have recently opened a nursery for their children.

as well. Workshops in leadership and accounting skills have given artisan mothers the know-how to handle international sales and appropriate recording procedures. Preliteracy in some cases, however, has slowed down a uniform learning process. The challenge this year is to give trained members training roles, so that they become instrumental in helping those who have problems understanding management concepts.



Vegetable dyes are mixed to color the alpaca sweaters.

An indigenous woman provides crucial leadership necessary to move the Señor de Mayo project forward. Antonia Rodriguez Moscoso, an energetic Aymara-Quechua native, is a skilled artisan knitter, weaver and businesswoman who works as an IVS volunteer specialist, providing technical assistance to the women of El Alto. Moscoso works with 16 associations, directly helping 270 members and their families.

The 16 artisan associations show potential for growth. Recently, the Señor de Mayo association and IVS have been developing new markets for handknit sweaters in Europe and North America. Sales for 1993 alone reached \$100,000, and increases in sales are projected for next year.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Chimborazo - Ecuador

In its fifth consecutive year, the Women's Health and Nutrition Project continues to help indigenous women and their families improve their health care and nutritional intake in the province of Chimborazo, Ecuador. Chimborazo is one of the poorest provinces in Ecuador with an average income of just \$750 per year for a family of six. A low income inhibits attention to basic sanitation needs and directly affects people's health and nutrition.



The growth of community vegetable gardens improves the nutritional levels of the Chimborazo communities.

From inception, the Women's Health and Nutrition Project sought to elevate nutritional levels of 14 communities comprising about 1000 family members. Actions focus on promoting health care, first aid, food production and nutrition through practical training, fostering family vegetable gardens and encouraging women's active participation in community projects.

IVS volunteer Ana Cruz, an Ecuadorian nutritionist, conducts successful training programs throughout the 14 communities. She trains women in first aid, bone fractures, injection application, sanitation and recognition of infections. Functional topics of discussion include nutrition during pregnancy and infancy, child development and basic nutrition. Training classes are offered every three weeks and attendance averages 23 members per community.

Diet intake complements nutrition training. Vegetable gardens have become very popular within the communities. In 1993, 78 family vegetable gardens and 1 community garden were planted. Seeds are distributed, and under appropriate volunteer supervision, gardens are planted. This method renders great vegetable production results.

Community participation by women is becoming more evident. Group leaders have gone through intensive training and are increasingly taking responsible roles within projects. Leadership and a sense of confidence in decision-making are portrayed through participation in project coordination. In the future the project will continue its work to help group leaders have full responsibility in training other indigenous women in health care and nutritional needs.

Chota Valley - Ecuador

In the 16th century Jesuit priests brought African slaves into the Chota Valley to work in sugar plantations and vineyards. Other Chota Valley residents trace their roots to run away slaves of the Andean Highlands. Most of the sugar mills and plantations in the area are gone leaving a population largely without employment. Today the Afro-Ecuadorian communities of the Chota Valley are poor subsistence farmers with high rates of malnutrition and infant mortality. Most of the residents of the region remain in a state of cultural and economic limbo, part of a shunned and exploited ethnic minority that continues to struggle after three and a half centuries.



Upon completion of their 10-month training, these health promoters will serve their communities.

The Community Health and Nutrition Project is committed to promoting health and nutrition education among Afro-Ecuadorian women and their families. In 1993, IVS, in collaboration with the Afro-Ecuadorian Federation, identified deteriorating health and nutrition conditions in 60 Afro-Ecuadorian communities living along the Chota and Mira valleys in Ecuador. To improve these conditions, the Community Health and Nutrition Project directed efforts to provide basic health care training for women and to improve daily diet by cultivating and consuming fruits, vegetables and herbs.

Health care training proved a challenging task. Last year IVS volunteer Dr. Ofelia Lara conducted an organizational assessment which included community by community visits and meetings with women's organizations. Meeting topics included health care, first aid, improved diets and use of native medicinal herbs.



Part of Ofelia Lara's health and nutrition campaign focuses on the values of herbs as medicinal plants.

Thirty women, one from each community, received primary health training and were prepared to participate as health promoters and practitioners in their own communities. Most importantly, a census conducted to determine health indicators identified specific conditions that have helped Dr. Lara direct health prevention campaigns more efficiently.

This year's census health findings reinforced commitment to work harder. Preventive campaigns, including safe water consumption, personal and environmental hygiene and identification of sources of parasite development are being further extended. Emphasis is placed on women's health care training. Another group of 30 women will graduate at the end of 1994.

Nutrition is an integral part of preventive health care. Last year's campaign efforts focused on the value of fruits and vegetables and alternative means to develop family and community gardens. As a result, two community gardens and 40 family gardens were introduced. For families with no extra land, community chicken and guinea pig farms were developed. This year, four women's groups will extend the program by building more community gardens and encouraging families to join the program. Additionally, 10 community farms will raise poultry and fish. Through the promotion of a diverse diet, Dr. Lara continues to improve the nutrition and overall health of the Chota Valley communities.

AGRICULTURE IN FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Fisheries - Bangladesh



As the population of Bangladesh multiplies, it places a growing pressure on the fishing industry to increase yields. Intense fishing ensues, which causes considerable damage to the ecosystem and decreases the amount of available fish. The availability of fish has decreased from 12 kilograms per person in the 1960s to 7 kilograms in 1993. This renders the price of fish unobtainable for the poor. Since natural sources can no longer provide the required quantity of fish, which accounts for 80% of the animal protein supply in the Bangladeshi diet, the situation necessitates a new means of fish harvesting.

The implementation of aquaculture techniques and technology can greatly reduce the stress upon the Bangladesh environment and meet the food requirements of the people. Fortunately, the numerous water sources in this low-lying delta region offer many possible sites for fish breeding. IVS volunteer Francisco Noble teaches fish farming techniques by conducting technical training sessions in aquaculture. Noble has spent four years assessing potential fish production sites,

establishing projects at these sites, and evaluating the success of countless fish farms. The local fish farmers participate in all aspects of this process, so that they attain the knowledge necessary to breed, manage, and harvest fish effectively.

Recently, Noble has implemented a rice-fish culture project, in which farmers cultivate fish from the waters of their own rice paddies. In addition to providing a source of food and income, the introduction of fish into these plots benefits the environment: the fish eliminate the need for damaging pesticides by controlling insect growth.

Francisco Noble's efforts in aquaculture as a whole help impede the environmental degradation caused by the rapid depletion of fish from Bangladesh's natural water sources. Thus, the IVS fisheries project allows an increasing income and food supply to coexist without the harm to the ecosystem which frequently accompanies such growth.

Livestock Improvement and Farming - Ecuador

The Livestock Improvement and Farming Project improves family economic growth in the province of Cañar, Ecuador. Through IVS technical and administrative assistance, Chilean veterinarian Carlos Muñoz continues to work with local farmers to increase productivity. Monitored cattle-raising increases milk and cheese production and seeks to upgrade cattle quality while season crop rotation allows regeneration of soil.

The Cañari people of the Pilcopata cooperative commonly own 400 hectares of land at 3,400 meters above sea level. The main problem this community faces is a lack of resources. Over-cultivation of one type of crop has not only diminished economic returns but, most importantly, has caused detrimental land erosion.

The project's actions have met all expectations. Monitored cattle-raising and livestock management courses cover topics in animal reproduction, nutrition, milking, first aid, infectious diseases and medication application. Other courses cover small animal production and soil improvement



Carlos Muñoz training local farmers in cattle-raising.

techniques. Crop rotation has regenerated much of the soil and has produced potatoes, lima beans and other products sold in city markets. To facilitate access to veterinary and agricultural products, small community stores have also been set up.



An increase in milk production has produced cheese which is sold in local markets.

The Cañari Indian farmers have more than doubled their milk production as a result of the measures recommended by Carlos Muñoz. Medication has been used to kill internal parasites; mineral supplements have been given to cows; mastitis (a disease of the udder) has been cured; new forage has been produced; and finally, artificial insemination crossbreeding Holstein with Brown Swiss has both increased milk production and doubled the value of the farmers' cows. The increase in milk production has helped establish a cheese factory that is now selling to supermarkets in Quito and other Ecuadorian markets.

Coca Substitution - Bolivia

The IVS Chapare Coca Substitution Project provides technical assistance in agricultural production to Quechua and Aymara farmers in the tropical lowlands of the Chapare province in Bolivia. Since 1991, IVS and its partners have been working with farmers to develop alternative cash-crops as a means offsetting their current reliance on coca production.

Originally from the poor highlands of Bolivia, the Chapare farmers (30 communities with approximately 7,000 people) are unfamiliar with their tropical lowland environment. As a result, they have become heavily dependent on a few specialized crops, notably coca, which when processed becomes part of the global drug market. The dominance of coca has hindered the cultivation of other native crops, including oranges, bananas and yucca as well as livestock. Local cooperatives and political organizations have failed to provide assistance in developing diverse crop production. Poor transportation access has also limited any attempt at developing new markets for alternative crops.

The Coca Substitution Project is committed to improving the health, nutrition and economic security of the Chapare families by offering assistance and training. As in other projects, the IVS volunteers live and work alongside the farmers - a circumstance that gives them both insight and credibility. There has been an increase in rice, corn and bean production, and citrus fruits are now processed and sold in nearby Cochabamba.

An important aspect of the project is black pepper production. Not only is there considerable local demand for black pepper, but it can also be easily transported. Black pepper provides the farmers with an all-year-round income and is not dangerous to grow like coca, which seriously compromises the farmers' health during processing. Plans for late 1994 and 1995 include an expansion of the black pepper project with more volunteers as well as the importation of plants from Brazil, which have a higher yield than the local variety. Plans also include palmheart production. Overall, the coca substitution project has a formidable task ahead. The vast majority of farmers are keen to find alternatives to coca, and the race to find such crops is now well and truly on. Together, farmers and IVS volunteer technicians are determined to market a permanently diverse crop and yield higher economic returns for their families.



IVS technician Alberto Castellón promotes black pepper production.

Agro-Forestry - Ecuador

The River Upano Valley, located in Ecuador's southern Amazon, is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on earth. Home to the Shuar indigenous culture, this area consists of semi-mountainous rainforest and tropical rainforest. The Shuar have lived in harmony with this rainforest ecology for hundreds of years. However, recent decades have brought changes which threaten to destroy both their way of life and the rich rainforest environment.

Over the years, expanding human activity coupled with government land title policies have increased the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. One of the effects of this degradation is an erosion of the capacity of the Shuar Indians to meet their own basic food needs. The Shuar have been forced to come out of isolation and participate in the national economy, but without any experience or means to do so as an equal partner. This cycle of environmental degradation and declining productivity has heightened poverty.

Since 1990, IVS volunteer Hans Caycedo and his spouse Liliana Arias have been working with the Shuar Federation in protecting their environment and livelihood. In addition to reforestation, the project has also sought to address socio-environmental problems through crop cultivation (cacao, papaya, banana and yucca), small livestock programs and environmental education. IVS' goal has been to increase the income-resources of approximately 750 Shuar families. What has made the project successful thus far is the emphasis on local needs and the culture. The project has also emphasized equal opportunity between men and women through its support of the women's program for producing small animals.

IVS is currently planning to continue its work with the Shuar in a different area. The Shuar community has shown great interest in a health project, and in 1995 IVS will set up its first Shuar Health and Nutrition Project. IVS and project partner FICSHA, the Federation of

Shuar-Achuar Centres, will place an indigenous volunteer to provide health training and reduce the alarming rates of malnutrition, sickness and infant mortality among the Shuar families. The volunteer will promote better health practices through the training of 15 Shuar women as health extension workers in the techniques of basic family health, nutrition and first aid. This effort is an outgrowth of seven years of successful IVS involvement with the Shuar in marketing, food production and agro-forestry.



Hans Caycedo inspecting the progress of one of his cacao plots, accompanied by two members of the Shuar Federation.

Crop Production and Marketing - Bolivia

Since 1990, IVS has been working with the farmers of the Central de Casarabe to provide technical assistance in crop production and training in cooperative management and marketing. "Brecha Casarabe" is the name given to the dirt road that starts at the village of San Julian and runs straight for some 100 kilometers in the direction of the Brazilian border. Some of the poorest of Bolivia's highland campesinos migrated here approximately 20 years ago, having been driven out by the poverty in the highlands but hopeful for a brighter future in San Julian. The living conditions in San Julian, however, also turned out to be harsh: the fragile terrain has made crop production extremely difficult; 60% of infants suffer from malnutrition; potable water, electricity and health facilities are nearly non-existent.

Working as a team, IVS volunteers José Zambrana, an agronomist, and Edgar Rivero, an agricultural economist, train the farmers in tropical agronomy, cooperative management and marketing. Employing a strategy that seeks to replace traditional slash-and-burn



Land is cleared so that crops may be grown. Each farmer plants on average 3-5 hectares.

practices with more ecologically appropriate techniques, Zambrana has been successful in helping farmers to improve the quality and production of traditional crops (rice, corn) as well as introducing new crops (beans, potatoes, sweet peppers, garlic, chamomile). By calling for the active participation of women, Zambrana has also encouraged the growth of family gardens and the consumption of more nutritious foods. A new cash crop, cotton, was recently introduced.



The women's chicken project in San Julian.

Marketing is a major component of the project. One of the earliest successes of the project was finding higher black bean prices in Brazil. Black bean exports doubled incomes for participating San Julian farmers and has made them much more open to new crops and innovation. Through courses and practical training, Rivero is seeking to communicate the intricacies of such concepts as supply and demand and price fluctuation while strengthening the financial control of the individual cooperatives.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS - BANGLADESH

Throughout its history, cyclones, typhoons, hurricanes and floods have ravaged Bangladesh, massacring thousands of poor people in delta areas. At the minimum, these natural disasters leave the people homeless or destitute. Most programs which exist to alleviate the suffering of the people living in these disaster-prone regions treat the Bangladeshis as "victims." IVS, however, has taken a novel approach. Through the Disaster Preparedness Program, IVS volunteers work directly with the villagers as partners,



Following a forecast by the meteorological department, volunteers warn communities of the impending cyclone.



IVS and partner CCDB stage a drama to build community awareness of cyclones.

helping them organize themselves to prepare for and survive disasters.

In cooperation with local organizations, IVS initiated the construction of regionally located cyclone shelters. Concurrently, IVS volunteer Rokeya Begum began holding training sessions for individuals from local villages. Designed as a self-empowering project, those trained by IVS become teachers of disaster preparedness for their respective communities. These teachers learn how to interpret the signals from the newly implemented radio warning system, educate their villages on preparedness, lead their

communities in the event of a natural catastrophe and begin post-disaster rehabilitation.

Targeting the entire village, the program encourages women to participate in the training seminars. It also includes general disaster education classes for children. Catastrophes in the past have claimed a high percentage of women and children as victims, because women waited at home with their children for their husbands to return from the field, and their heavy saris and long hair impeded their flight to safety. Trainers teach women to proceed immediately to the shelters if they hear the warning signal.

In 1991, a cyclone struck Bangladesh, wiping out entire villages; it killed 131,000 Bangladeshi people, of which women and children comprised 85%. In May of 1994, Bangladeshi villagers on Moheshkhali island witnessed the progress they had made over the past three years with the help of IVS. A cyclone with a force equal to that of 1991 swept the island, this time taking 167 lives. The combination of IVS shelters and disaster preparedness training resulted in one of IVS' most significant contributions to date: saving the lives of tens of thousands of Bangladeshi people.

The worst behind them, these villagers, with the help of IVS, must begin the arduous task of

rebuilding their homes and replanting their fields. Ironically, the program's success makes it more difficult for IVS to find support for reconstruction. The disaster preparedness training and early warning system saved thousands of lives, but also prevented the media attention and the corresponding international support, which thousands of deaths would have received.



Local volunteers raising the "great danger" signal.

AIDS PREVENTION

Recent reports by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global AIDS Policy Coalition indicate that HIV infection is proliferating throughout the world at an alarmingly higher rate than previously believed. With more than 18 million HIV-infected persons worldwide, and 110 million projected to be infected by the year 2000 (85% of whom will reside in developing nations), AIDS prevention continues to be a major objective for IVS.

Public health experts predict that Southeast Asia will be the next "hot spot" of HIV infection, with Thailand heading the list of countries in the region with the highest rates of HIV seroprevalence (with 550,000 HIV+ Thais at present). As widespread sex-tourism industries and high frequency IV drug use are strong vectors of the HIV epidemic, IVS seeks through its many education programs to raise consciousness about the HIV risks involved in these activities.

Since 1991, IVS has implemented HIV-prevention programs first in Thailand and later in Viet Nam, Bangladesh and Cambodia. The people most at risk for infection at present are commercial sex workers and their clients, whom IVS has targeted in all of its programs. They are becoming increasingly more vulnerable due to their high-risk behaviors (high frequency of sexual contacts, unsafe sex) and their high incidence of prior existing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) which so amplify the risk of transmitting or contracting the HIV virus.

Through carefully planned education programs and the empowerment of women, IVS hopes to slow the growing numbers of the HIV-infected.

Thailand

Thailand has an extremely large and profitable sex industry. Sittitrai, a well-known Thai researcher, (1992) found that 88% of his Thai male respondents reported having visited a sex worker within the past year. EMPOWER (a health education and advocacy program working with Thailand's sex workers) and the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights estimate there are 160,000 child sex workers (under the age of 16) presently working in Thailand. Many of the sex workers, especially the child workers, are bought



IVS volunteer Jackie Pollock organized a clean-up of brothels in Chiang Mai -- a way of saying to the sex workers, "you deserve a clean, safe place to work."

and sold and kept literally as slaves - unable to go outdoors unescorted, having little or no access to health care, etc.

Since 1991, IVS has worked with EMPOWER and its director Noi Apisuk. EMPOWER has programs in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, providing social services to men and women in the sex industry. The IVS/EMPOWER program seeks to slow the spread of HIV-infection both amongst the sex workers themselves and in the population as a whole. Their work focuses on safer sex training, condom distribution and erosion of the "norm" of visiting sex workers. IVS has three volunteers working directly with EMPOWER: Koen

Olie and Beth Greeney in Bangkok and Jackie Pollock in Chiang Mai. These volunteers offer safer sex workshops, alternative skills and foreign language training to the women working in the sex industry. They also provide public education about the lives of the sex workers. Through a theater troupe called the Honeybees, through art exhibits and films, IVS/EMPOWER volunteers attempt to erode norms of visiting sex workers and to alert poor farm families about the perils of selling their daughters to so-called "labor organizers."

Noi Apisuk estimates that IVS volunteers provided HIV-preventive services to approximately 100,000 bar workers, patrons and general audiences in 1993.

Viet Nam

Although Viet Nam has entered the HIV epidemic at a much slower pace than nearby Thailand, there are growing indications that HIV seropositivity is increasing at a very alarming rate. There were only 12 reported cases of HIV infection at the start of 1993, but approximately 1,100 were reported by year's end. Viet Nam's National AIDS Committee warns that if current trends continue, as many as 500,000 adult Vietnamese could be infected within the next five years. Of great concern to IVS is that Viet Nam's Ministry of Tourism has been attempting to emulate the highly successful Thai model and has indeed attracted far more tourists recently. Further, with the recent lifting of the trade embargo and many more businessmen and tourists entering the country, the number of women working in the sex industry continues to increase rapidly.

IVS has designed a three-part approach to AIDS-prevention in Viet Nam. The first part is the IVS/Women's Union HIV/STD Clinic in Ho Chi Minh City. The Clinic, which opened in May of 1993, offers STD diagnosis and treatment free of charge to approximately 200 women each month. The Clinic also offers safer sex training and distributes condoms to each of its clients. The second part of our approach has been mounted in cooperation with OXFAM America.



Billboards in Ho Chi Minh City promote safer sex.

Outreach workers have been hired and trained to go into the dance halls, bars and brothels of the eight largest urban areas to do safer sex training and distribute condoms.

IVS sent Jackie Pollock from Thailand to assist in the training of these outreach workers and the design of their program, so that parts of the successful Thai approach could be used as models for work in Viet Nam. The third part of our approach to AIDS-prevention in Viet Nam is a Journalism Project. IVS has hired and trained a magazine editor and five Vietnamese journalists to disseminate human interest stories about families affected by HIV and AIDS. We hope through the



A training program for poor, unemployed women and former sex workers in the port district of Ho Chi Minh City.

popular media to raise consciousness, to increase the use of safer sex and to engender compassion for those already infected.

Since 1992, IVS in cooperation with the Women's Union of Viet Nam, has opened and administered eight maternal and child health and family planning clinics. These are located in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Vinh Long, Lang Son, Cu Chi, My Tho/Ben Luc and Hue. These clinics offer various methods of birth control, safer sex counseling, midwifery care and inoculations for children. The clinics are staffed with Vietnamese national volunteers -- doctors, nurses and social workers hired by IVS and supervised by the Women's Union.



IVS and the Viet Nam Women's Union have opened 8 clinics for maternal and child health care and family planning.

Because Viet Nam has one of the most rapidly escalating population growth rates in the world, IVS and the Women's Union remain firmly committed to the project.

Bangladesh



IVS volunteer Edwin Arco at a meeting on HIV/AIDS, organized by the National AIDS Network in Bangladesh.

At present only nine individuals in Bangladesh have been identified as HIV-infected, but very few HIV-antibody tests have been available. All of the known HIV infections have been attributed to heterosexual transmission, mainly between sex workers and their clients. Sadly, escalating poverty, exacerbated by recent floods and cyclones, has forced many women into the commercial sex industry.

IVS has worked with the Bangladeshi Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) to build an AIDS awareness project in Bangladesh. In June, 1993, IVS/VHSS hosted a national STD/AIDS Awareness and Prevention Workshop in Dhaka, which was attended by representatives from 80 NGOs. As a result of the

workshop, a steering committee coordinated by IVS volunteer Edwin Arco was composed to foster cooperation and sharing of resources among the many NGOs working in general health. A meeting held with Dr. Michael Merson, Director of the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS, brought the NGOs concerns to governmental authorities. Since then, the Ford Foundation has committed \$23,000 for IVS/VHSS' AIDS-prevention work in Bangladesh. These funds are being used to conduct outreach work amongst Dhaka's, Chittagong's and Narayangaj's bar and brothel workers and IV drug users. Edwin Arco continues to coordinate the National AIDS Steering Committee, which presently helps plan the AIDS-prevention efforts of 51 NGOs.

Cambodia

In 1993, the number of sex workers employed in Cambodia greatly escalated with the coming of 22,000 United Nations Technical Assistance Cambodia (UNTAC) "peace-keeping" troops, and the STD rate amongst sex workers climbed right along with it (now at the alarmingly high rate of 60-70%). With the recent repatriation of over 300,000 Cambodian individuals from refugee camps in Thailand (camps having very high rates of HIV infections) to their various places of origin, HIV will soon be found in every province in Cambodia. An article in *The Washington Post* (December 2, 1993) entitled "Asia Faced with AIDS Catastrophe" stated that 2,000 people with the HIV virus had already been identified in Cambodia. Unfortunately, most groups within Cambodia are simply researching the progression of the HIV epidemic, rather than becoming involved directly with HIV-prevention.

IVS began the first phase of its HIV-prevention campaign in Cambodia in late 1993. IVS Director Don Luce and AIDS-Prevention Program Coordinator, Dr. Mark Bonacci, travelled to Cambodia to meet with Mrs. Dy Ratha, President of the Indradevi Women's Association, and eight women members of the association. The group planned a joint IVS/Indradevi AIDS-prevention program. The program presently serves commercial sex workers in the Kien Sway (red light) district just outside of Phnom Penh. Dr. Leng Tcheng Lieng (a Cambodian medical doctor) was named as project director and she hired two social workers and one medical doctor, Dr. Sokhom, to help with outreach work. A three-day workshop was held in May of 1994, conducted by IVS board member Lany Lang and Mrs. Samnang Wu, both Cambodian-American AIDS educators. The workshop was highly successful with



A training session on HIV/AIDS in Phnom Penh.

these two individuals training approximately 50 outreach workers in Phnom Penh, and sharing with them AIDS-prevention literature from the West, which they had translated into Khmer. IVS/Indradevi began in May 1994 to produce and place radio and television AIDS-prevention messages in Khmer. Previously, in Cambodia such advertisements were taken directly from the West and thus were offered only in English.

The AIDS Information and Training Network

Since 1991 IVS has provided an AIDS information and training service to a national and international network, under the direction of Dr. Mark Bonacci and IVS' chief medical advisors, Dr. Nicole Vecchi and Dr. Lieu Rupp. This informational and "expert consultancy" service has been requested by and provided to a wide variety of recipients including the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, the CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse, the Health and Welfare Ministries of the United Methodist Church, the Columbia University School of Public Health, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Voluntary Health Services Society in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

IVS has prioritized expanding the Asian-American focus of this project because many Asian-Americans are unknowingly at greater risk than the rest of the American population and than their home country compatriots (for example, in Viet Nam). This is because many refugee health screening programs report an unusually high incidence of hepatitis, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia. These are seen as "markers" or indicators that Indochinese and other refugees are at very high risk for HIV infection. Many of the Indochinese refugees that have arrived in the U.S. in the past decade spent considerable amounts of time in refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. In many of these settings, refugee women and children were coerced by guards into sexual activity and/or sex work.

In spite of all this, the Asian refugee community was one of the very last in the U.S. to be targeted for AIDS education. The literature on HIV counseling with this



Mrs. Samnang Wu, an IVS AIDS educator, speaking on Cambodian radio.

client population is virtually non-existent. This is why the Information and Training Network wrote and published, *Sharing the Challenge: HIV and AIDS Counseling*, in March of 1994. Several colleges and HIV/AIDS service providers have already utilized this book.

The Network also sends a monthly AIDS informational packet to organizations in the U.S., Bangladesh, Thailand, Ecuador, Bolivia, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. These informational packets include readings from scientific journals and the popular media to keep field people abreast of the latest developments in the U.S. and Europe. A great deal of literature is also transmitted through IVS/Washington so that field people can keep abreast of developments from other parts of the economically developing world.

The Network is presently planning an HIV/AIDS Service-Provision NGO Conference, which will be held in June 1995 in Bangkok. We expect the conference to be attended by representatives from approximately 40 NGOs working in HIV/AIDS services in Asia.

REACHING OUT TO AMERICA

Development Education In The U.S.

We at IVS believe that for Americans to fully support volunteerism, our linkages with the rest of the world must be made clear. Only through heightening American awareness of our interdependencies with people around the world can we truly bring people closer together and foster mutual respect and understanding.

Since 1991 IVS has offered an educational program through media and selected institutions. Development seminars and workshops have been conducted at various universities, colleges, churches and community groups around the country. IVS staff and field representatives have appeared on many radio and television programs speaking on issues threatening the poor in the developing nations -- issues such as AIDS, the destruction of tropical rain forests, the inequitable distribution of wealth and scarcity of adequate medical care. These programs have also emphasized how "advances" such as cash economies, can threaten the well-being of indigenous peoples.

Accomplishments of the Development Education program in the past two years include:

- * Production of the video documentary, International Volunteerism: A World of Good.
- * Authorship by Dr. Bonacci of the 120-page book, Senseless Casualties: The AIDS Crisis in Asia, which has since been translated and distributed throughout Viet Nam.
- * Production of the video documentary, Worlds Apart: Health Care in Thailand and Viet Nam.
- * Publication of the book, Sharing the Challenge: HIV and AIDS Counseling.
- * Six-part AIDS "telecourse" produced in conjunction with the New York State Cable Commission.
- * Distribution of the book, The Legacy of Colonialism; Health Care in Southeast Asia.
- * Various pieces in U.S. publications (such as Time, the Chronicle of Philanthropy and the Journal of Concerned Asian Scholars).
- * March 1993 eight-city speaking tour throughout the U.S. by Noi Apisuk, director of the IVS/Thailand/Empower program.
- * April 1994 eleven-city U.S. speaking tour by IVS/Thailand volunteer, Jackie Pollock.
- * October 1993 ten-city U.S. speaking tour by IVS/Latin American projects field director, Richard Poole.
- * Publication by Richard Poole of The Inca Smiled, on development efforts in Latin America.
- * Speaking at dozens of public forums for community groups, including colleges, churches and service clubs. Programs have included workshops and international dinners cooked by an IVS staff member or alumnus.
- * April 1993 Workshop on HIV-Prevention in Southeast Asia at U.N. Plaza, New York.
- * Publication of the book, The IVS Experience, chronicling the experiences of many former volunteers.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance Sheet
December 31, 1993

Assets

Cash.....	\$193,023
Grants receivable.....	358,346
Other assets.....	22,057
Furniture and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation.....	11,277
	<u>\$584,703</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Accounts payable and accrued expenses.....	\$36,764
Deferred rent.....	14,794
Deferred grant revenue.....	519,471
Fund balance.....	<u>13,674</u>
	<u>\$584,703</u>

Statement of Support and Revenue, Expenses and Change in Fund Balance
For the year ended December 31, 1993

Support and Revenue

Restricted U.S. Government grants.....	\$305,606
Other restricted grants.....	693,534
Unrestricted grants, contributions and other revenues.....	<u>142,329</u>
	<u>\$1,141,469</u>

Expenses

Program

Overseas projects.....	\$811,891
Program services.....	<u>77,892</u>
	<u>\$889,783</u>

Support services

Management and general.....	\$210,377
Fund raising.....	<u>53,000</u>
	<u>\$263,377</u>

Deficiency of Support and Revenue Against Expenses.....	\$(11,691)
Fund balance, beginning of year.....	<u>25,365</u>
Fund balance, end of year.....	<u>\$13,674</u>

A complete set of the latest IVS financial statements, audited by F.S. Taylor & Associates, is available upon request.

A SPECIAL THANKS...

International Voluntary Services is deeply appreciative of all those who have supported our work. It has energized us. And it has made the work described in the previous pages possible! Support for IVS has come from individuals, religious groups, foundations, governmental agencies and corporations. Our partner organizations have contributed major cash, personnel and gifts in-kind.

Support has come in many forms. Individual financial contributions have increased from \$40,000 in 1991 to \$75,000 in 1992 to \$120,000 in 1993. Project interns in the Washington office have donated thousands of hours of work. Several Board Members have contributed their time on a regular basis. Our Cambodian-American Board Member donated her time and Frequent Traveller Mileage to hold a workshop and two-week training program on AIDS prevention in Phnom Penh. This volunteer time has been a major help in cutting our Washington office expenses by \$250,000/year. This decrease in Washington costs and the increased contributions from so many have allowed IVS to triple the number of volunteers in the field since 1988.

We thank every one who has so generously supported our work. We hope you will want to continue your help and that you will tell others about us. IVS qualifies under section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and your contributions are tax-deductible.



DONOR LIST

Institutional Donors (1993-94)

Agency for International Development
Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh
Association of Independent Farmer's Organization of
Chimborazo, Ecuador
Atkinson Foundation
Australian Embassy/Venezuela
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South Asia Partnership/Bangladesh
St. Louis Friends Meeting
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Union of Indigenous Communities of Flores/Ecuador
United Church Board for World Ministries
United Methodist Committee on Relief
United Methodist World Division
United Church of Christ
Voluntary Health Services Society/Bangladesh



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 Center for Development Services (CDS)
 Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)
 Church of Bangladesh Social Development Program (CBSDP)
 IVS Village Volunteer Program (VVP - includes over 100 local NGOs)
 South Asia Partnership/Bangladesh (SAP)
 Unity for Social and Human Action (USHA)
 Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS)

Bolivia

Brecha Casarabe Central (San Julian Cooperatives Organization)
 Institute for Agriculture and Livestock Industry (IBTA/Chapare)
 Señor de Mayo Artisans Association
 Syndicates of the Chapare

Cambodia

Indradevi Women's Association

Ecuador

Afro-Ecuadorian Federation
 Association of Independent Farmers' Organizations of Chimborazo (AOCACH)
 AOCACH Women's Central Committee
 Federation of Shuar/Achuar Centres
 Union of Campesino Organizations of El Bueran (UNORCAB)
 Union of Cooperatives and Communes of Cañar Province (UPCCC)
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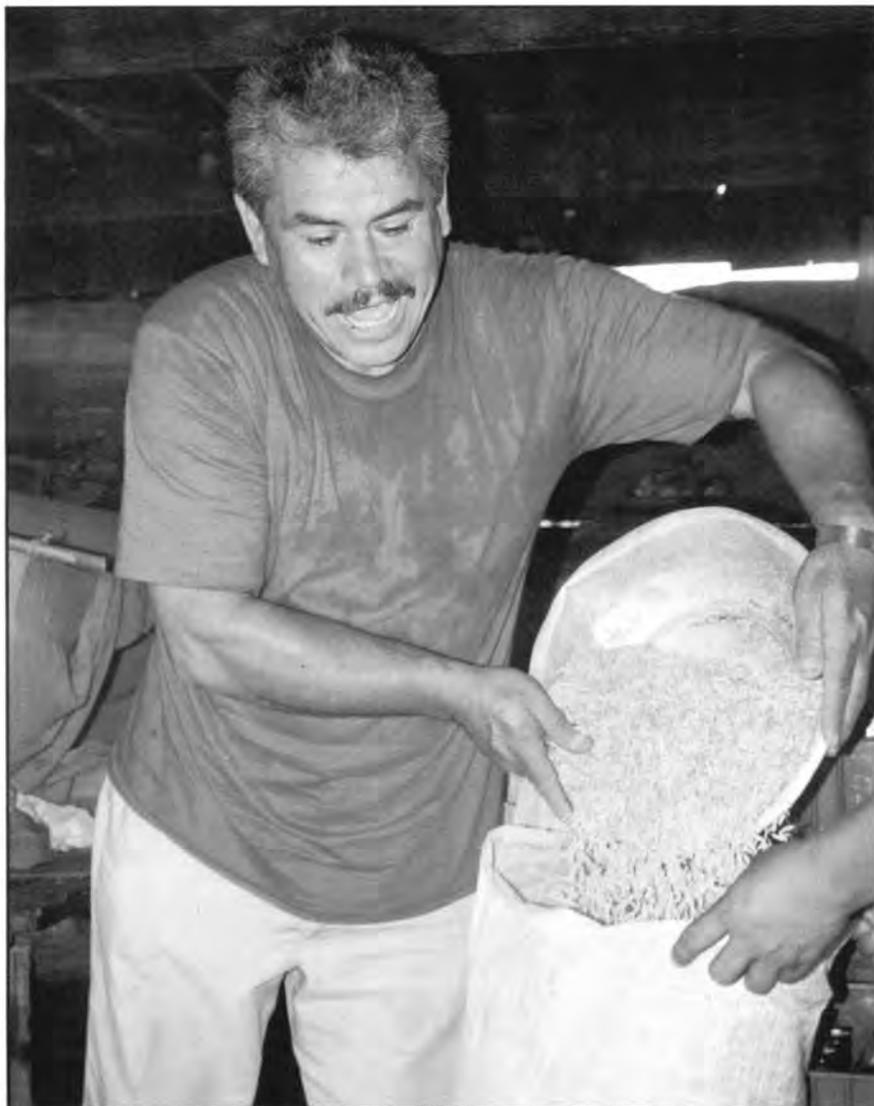
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IVS -- A DEVELOPMENT APPROACH THAT WORKS

IVS is committed to change and development, providing human resources - skills, knowledge and perspective - to support local initiatives. Working with grassroots organizations, IVS provides a non-sectarian, non-partisan channel through which motivated volunteers worldwide offer their skills and abilities. The volunteers' daily partners are villagers, urban poor, refugees and minority groups...those who are usually thought powerless. Together the IVS volunteer and the community commit to change, believing that poverty in a world of wealth, hunger in a world of plenty and exploitation of the weak by the powerful are unacceptable and unnecessary.

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