

IVS 1976-77 Annual Report

International Voluntary Services, Inc.



Bangladesh

Four IVS volunteers are sharing their varying skills in a combined rural development project covering about 30 villages in the Sylhet district. The scheme is aimed at meeting local needs in high-yielding rice cultivation, poultry rearing, vegetable growing, nutrition and family planning. For the volunteers, the emphasis is on helping local government and private agencies—like the Rural Development Training Institute and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee—extend useful services to villagers. Elsewhere, IVSers are working with local institutions in health and agricultural training schemes. Their activities include training village health workers, midwives and family planning motivators, as well as advising farmers on crop growing methods and irrigation, and developing a demonstration farm. In Bangladesh, unique among current IVS programs, there are as many local technicians employed by IVS as there are expatriate volunteers. And these co-workers greatly increase the scope and level of IVS work.

Bolivia

In this new program, IVS will concentrate on projects designed to better the lot of the rural poor—in particular the Aymara and Quechua Indian communities. As the IVS program plan states: "We hope to focus our efforts on basic economic betterment. The underlying reason is our conclusion that personal income and personal productivity are the chief determinants of the well-being of the less privileged sectors of the Bolivian population." IVS also believes it can play a part in helping build up private, local agencies concerned with the needs of the very poor. "We feel that the services of IVS technicians can be particularly crucial in the earliest years of the development of such institutions." IVS is now recruiting for specialists in high-altitude agriculture, camelid (llama and alpaca) stock improvement, irrigation and handicrafts. Because of the specialty skills involved, it is expected that at least half the initial IVS team in Bolivia will be from South American countries.

Botswana

The IVS team comprises seven specialists in land use, horticulture, village industries and technical education. Tens of thousands of acres have been surveyed by the two land use volunteers to assist the government in planning agricultural, commercial and communal zones. In horticulture, two IVS volunteers train local people to improve their vege-

table and fruit crops while a third is advising the government on an overall strategy for horticultural development in the country. Workshops, a bakery, a slaughterhouse, and a concrete block moulding yard have been constructed by Pelegano Village Industries in Gabane with expert advice from an IVS volunteer. And at the Ministry of Education, an IVS volunteer is serving as Senior Technical Education Officer coordinating the "brigades," which are community-based training and production institutions.

One is helping build homes and design a sewerage system for a town devastated by the 1975 hurricane. Another designed and supervised the installation of drinking water systems in three towns in the department of Santa Barbara. Two volunteers are carrying out studies. An irrigation specialist is seeing whether irrigation is feasible for farmers' associations and cooperatives in the Ocotepeque region. And a comprehensive survey of the country's cooperative movement is the main task of a rural sociologist. IVS also has a



Ecuador

At two rural training centers in the eastern lowlands, IVS has agricultural specialists helping small farmers improve their techniques and learn new ones. Meanwhile, in the coastal province of Manabi, an IVS engineer is involved in building roads—one of which will link two towns and make it easier for farmers to get their produce to market. A second engineer recently started work on similar programs in the highlands. In the mountainous and isolated Bolivar province, a community development worker has been advising an Indian farmers' federation on programs its members have identified as priorities, including a community store and a credit union.

Completing the IVS team is a doctor working with the Confederation of Shuar Indians. She has supervised the training of 80 health promoters, and is in charge of a tuberculosis control program.

Honduras

Honduras has an acute shortage of qualified instructors—especially to train the rural poor. And IVS is helping meet this need. Four volunteers are working at vocational training schools, teaching metalwork, soil science, agricultural engineering, land use and horticulture. Of the rest of the IVS team, three are engineers.

nurse working for a rural health clinic training members of the local community to be health promoters.

Mauritania

Building a dam and supervising work for an agricultural cooperative are just two of the projects involving IVS volunteers in an expanding program. The dam is designed to trap water during the rainy season to improve water supplies to the oasis town of Atar, and the IVS volunteer, a civil engineer, is foreman of this government project. Other IVSers include a midwife, working on mother and child health care, an agronomist advising a women's agricultural cooperative, and two mechanics training local people in vehicle maintenance and garage management. In response to government requests, IVS continues to recruit for other specialists with skills in agriculture, health, and engineering.

Indonesia

The one IVS volunteer, a community development specialist, has been working in training staff and volunteers with BUTSI, the Indonesian national volunteer program.

Papua New Guinea

In the largest IVS program, volunteers are participating in projects in rural devel-

opment, agriculture, village trades and small businesses, silkworm production, nutrition, and ecological research.

More than half the IVS team act as either financial advisors, field training officers or business development officers for the government. They are part of an official effort to promote local management of small-scale businesses. Their work is varied. For some, it involves advising village cooperatives and traders dealing in coffee, cocoa, coconuts and fish. Others train business development officers and organize training workshops. One volunteer even provides a weekly business news program on national radio to get information across to a wider audience.

In rural development, an IVS volunteer initiative led to the setting up of the country's first training program for blacksmiths. The aim is to teach basic methods of forming steel into tools, and eleven trainees from around the country are taking part. Two IVS nutritionists, serving as regional nutrition directors, helped establish the Nutrition Teaching Unit. This runs nutrition training seminars for teachers, nurses and others, and also provides information in hospitals for mothers of malnourished children, enabling them to learn about healthy diets. A simple and easily repaired water pump and a miniature hydro-electric device are being developed by an IVS village technology expert and two university professors. Among the other IVS volunteers are three ecologists working with students on environmental surveys and a silkworm expert teaching Papua New Guineans the skills of the industry.

Sudan

The main thrust of the IVS effort is linked to agricultural development in the southern region. Two volunteers are attached to a Ministry of Agriculture project, one of whom is working at a center for training agricultural field workers. A rice production scheme is being assisted by another volunteer, a specialist in economics and manpower training, and an experienced sheep farmer is setting up a model farm to help improve local flocks. The Government's new Department of Rural Water Development has an IVS water engineer drawing up plans for drilling, digging and pumping projects. In northern Sudan, three volunteers are teaching at the Ahfad University College for Women which seeks to educate Sudanese women for a positive role in the country's development. As part of its plan to expand programs, IVS is exploring potential involvement in rural development projects in the northern region.

Yemen Arab Republic

With two IVS volunteers recently completing their tours, only one—a nutritionist—remains in the field. She is training local women to take over her responsibilities at a mother-child health center in the capital, Sana'a. However, three more volunteers—two agronomists and an agricultural engineer—will shortly take up their posts with a project to improve the yields of two local crops, sorghum and millet.

IVS volunteers are sharing their skills in 10 different countries. Here we spotlight the work of two typical IVSers.

volunteer in action 1

The genius with junk

Students at a vocational training school in Honduras are learning how to make valuable farming tools from scrap metal.

Their instructor at the school in Catacamas in the east of the country is IVS volunteer Gordon Cripe.

In fact, Gordon, a millwright by profession, has proved himself something of a genius with junk. He and his students have used scrap to make a 60-foot long landplane, a device to level fields for irrigated farming.

Building the plane not only gave Gordon's young students—average age 16—a chance to practice their metal-working skills. It also enabled them to prepare the first 40 acres of the school's land for irrigation and grow rice, sorghum and cowpeas in the dry season. Once the rest of the land is prepared, the land plane and other hand-made tools will not be needed. So the plan is to lend the equipment to local farmers.

It will certainly be welcome. For the region has an unpredictable six-month rainy season which does not produce enough rain for crops depending on it. Thus, using the water from local streams and rivers could prevent disaster in drought years and help farmers produce year-round crops.

The landplane was a product of the school's machine shop where the students under Gordon's guidance also learn how to repair and re-build vehicles and other equipment. Like all IVSers, Gordon is trying to ensure that another expatriate will not be needed to fill his post in the future. He is now training three students to take over the machine shop when he leaves, and, in their turn, teach new students. He also hopes to train others to encourage greater interest in irrigation

among local farmers—with the school on hand to back them up.

volunteer in action 2

Women's coop success

An agricultural cooperative of 50 women in Mauritania is benefiting from the support and technical advice of IVS agronomist Hugues Sylvain.

Hugues, a Haitian and formerly an IVS volunteer in Ecuador, organized the cooperative at the request of SONADER, the State Society for Rural Development.

The project is not without its problems. Sandstorms sweeping across the Sahara pose a constant threat. With Hugues' assistance and guidance, the women built a huge windbreak, consisting of a mud-brick wall 200 meters long, 200 hand-woven mats and 5,000 tree seedlings. But, despite these precautions, five times in six months sandstorms destroyed half the cooperative's crops. The women persevered, replanting each time.

Now they are reaping the reward for their labors. Vegetables, eggs and chickens have been marketed in Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital. The money earned from sales represents nearly half the original investment in the cooperative. And at this rate it will soon be supporting itself, as well as providing a much-needed income for each of its members. Indeed, for many of the women the cooperative is the sole means of livelihood for them and their families. They were nomadic herding people before a disastrous drought destroyed their herds and their traditional way of life, leaving them destitute.



Members of the cooperative shift sand from a vegetable plot after yet another sandstorm.

Soon, too, Hugues will no longer be needed. The women have learned all the necessary technical skills, from protecting plants against insects and disease, to packing produce, marketing, and keeping books. So, with the help of a Mauritanian technician and six field workers trained by Hugues, the women can look forward to running the cooperative themselves. When that happens, Hugues hopes to move on to work on other SONADER projects.

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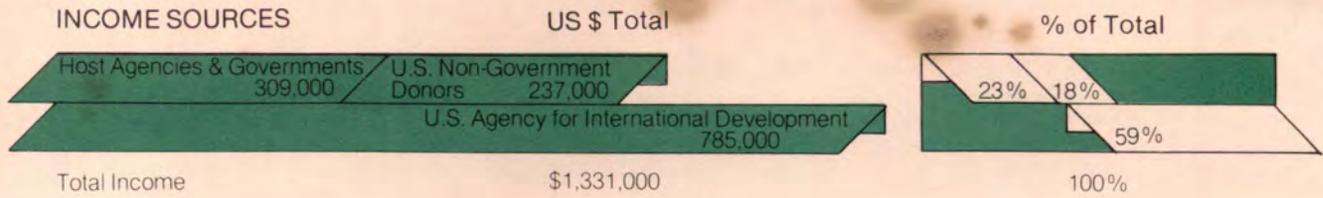
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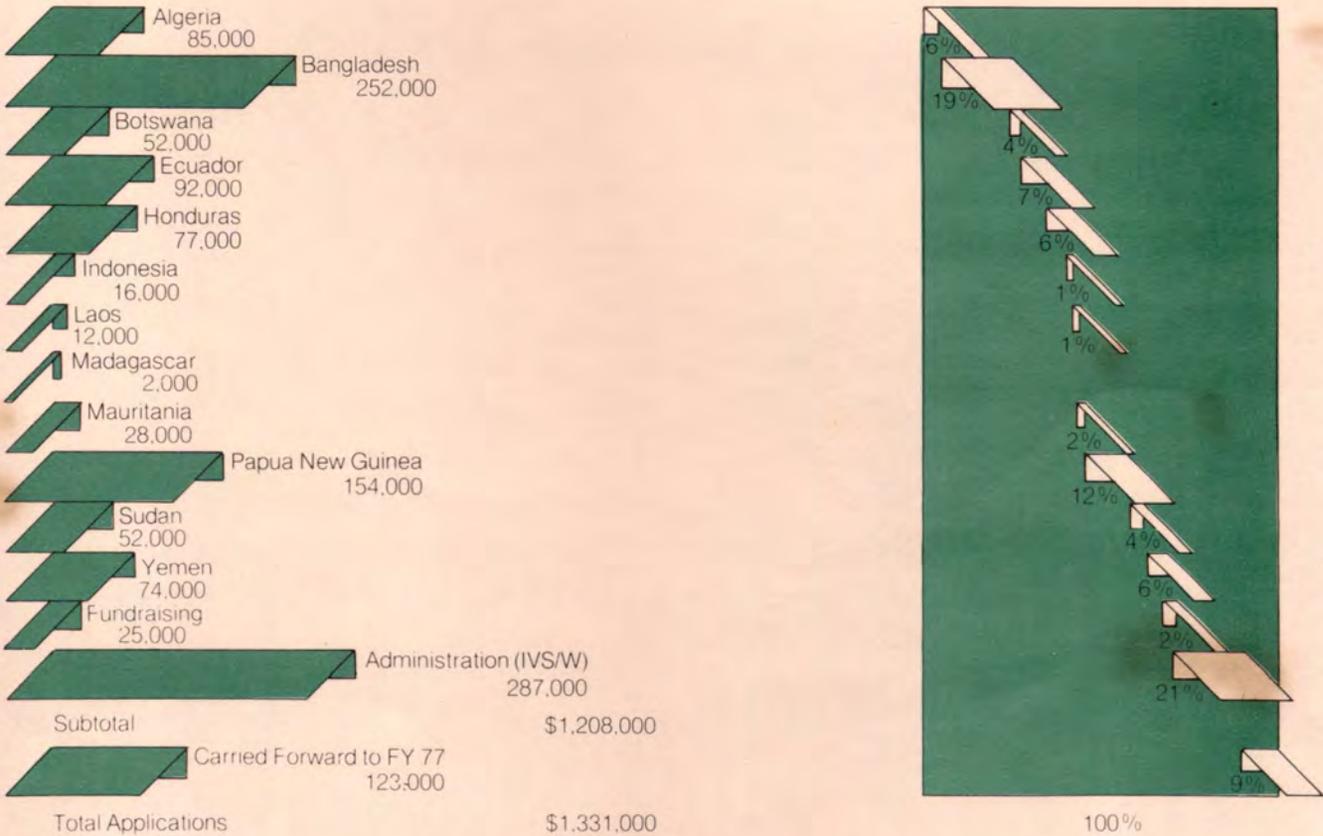
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Income and Outgo of Funds—FY 76

INCOME SOURCES



OUTGO



Percentages stated in terms of 100% of total donations and other receipts. All items rounded to US \$1,000. Prepared from audited financial statements.

Are you interested in becoming an IVS volunteer?

IVS assignments are for two years. During that time, volunteers receive a living and housing allowance enabling them to live modestly. There is also a monthly payment of US\$80 (US\$150 for people with two years' previous volunteer experience overseas). This is not needed to cover expenses while on post so it can be saved for use after IVS service. IVS pays a vacation allowance, health insurance, and travel costs from home to posting and back. Transportation, insurance and living allowance for dependents accompanying a volunteer are also paid by IVS.

For further details, write to: Recruitment Officer, International Voluntary Services, Inc., 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 605, Washington, D.C. 20036 U.S.A.

Would you like to know more about IVS? If so, please address your inquiry to:

International Voluntary Services, Inc.
1717 Massachusetts Ave. #605
Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.
Tel. (202) 387-5533

Here is my contribution of \$ _____

I would like to help IVS carry on its people-to-people self-help development programs in some of the world's poorest countries.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

The organization

IVS is International Voluntary Services, Inc., a private, non-profit and independent organization. It was founded in 1953 by a group of concerned persons who felt the need for a voluntary development assistance agency without political or religious ties.

The operation

IVS recruits skilled volunteers to work in developing countries. Their knowledge and experience cover the whole field of rural development, ranging from agriculture, cooperatives and health and nutrition to engineering and trade training.

The projects

IVS concentrates on providing volunteers for projects which most directly help poorer people in rural communities improve the quality of their lives through their own efforts. Since it started, IVS has recruited more than 1,000 volunteers, who have worked in 22 developing countries. IVS personnel are now involved in projects in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Ecuador, Honduras, Indonesia, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, the Sudan and the Yemen Arab Republic. We are exploring ways of expanding these programs and launching programs in other developing countries.

The support

IVS funds come from many different sources. Host institutions, and private donors—particularly U.S. foundations and churches—provide nearly half the financial support. The biggest single contributor (59% of the budget) is the U.S. Government, through its Agency for International Development. However, that does not mean that IVS is compromised, either in forming policy or implementing programs. More than 90 percent of the AID funding is grants for projects managed by either IVS, its host institution or both. The remaining AID funds support three technicians in an AID-controlled food production project in Yemen.

From whatever source, money donated to IVS is generally spent on recruiting and placing volunteers—matching skills to needs—and the necessary administration and program development involved.

The volunteers

IVS recruits from around the world and

“Poverty in a world of plenty, hunger in a world of abundance, and powerlessness in a world of equal human beings is unacceptable. IVS is committed to action and participation in the efforts to combat poverty, hunger, and powerlessness.”



IVS volunteer Gordon Cripe (U.S.) demonstrates a tool-making technique to metal-work trainees in Catacamas, Honduras (see story on following page).

is looking for volunteers of any nationality who are:

- Technically qualified with the skills required by a host institution for a specific development task
- Committed to working on self-help development projects
- Prepared to receive less pay and make do with less material comforts than they could expect, with their expertise and experience, in a commercial post
- Willing to accept such conditions because of a shared belief in the aims of the host institution and the particular project
- Keen to work as a volunteer for the personal satisfaction of sharing their skills to complement the talents of other people.

IVS volunteers work themselves out of their jobs by helping people adapt the volunteers' skills to their own needs. Since IVSers come from a variety of countries and backgrounds, they offer differing perspectives on the problems and promises of development. Yet, it is a case of sharing rather than giving. For IVS volunteers generally realize they have as much to learn as they have to teach.

150 volunteers by 1979

IVS aims to have at least 150 volunteers in the field by December 1978—more than double the number of summer 1976. And we hope that, by the end of next year, over half of IVS personnel will be from countries outside North America.

But standards will not be sacrificed in the search for more volunteers. For IVS is recruiting—and programming—on the basis that quality is more important than numbers of volunteers.

To sustain the recruitment drive, IVS has assigned a staff member to work full-time in Europe. We're also strengthening our recruitment network in Asia and the sub-continent, planning a similar locally-based network in Latin America, and considering establishing another covering Africa and the Middle East.

IVS is pledged to recruit globally because of the belief that it can then respond better to local needs and priorities in developing countries. For, in our experience, North America does not have enough available specialists in many of the skills most relevant to development. In the words of a recent IVS policy statement, the agency's "most distinctive

quality remains its ability to match skills and needs through a multinational group of volunteer technicians, staff and Board members."

The statement adds: "The quality of our participation in host country development programs is improved by the mixture of perspectives, experiences, and techniques that a multinational group of volunteers can provide. IVS can provide an independent channel for people of developed and less developed countries to share their skills, and, thus, foster the development of human resources. We are also able to provide opportunities for peoples of less developed countries to work together on similar problems."

Working with the rural poor

IVS volunteers work in some of the world's poorest countries. They're also involved in programs with direct impact on the lives of poorer people in the local community.

But they're not agents of charity. On the contrary, whether building a road, irrigating a rice field, or treating a patient at a clinic, IVS volunteers do things with people, not for them. They work with those wanting to develop further the skills they already have. IVSers also seek to transfer their skills to local counterparts who can take over the volunteers' functions. But it isn't all one way. Volunteers learn a lot themselves from people of a different culture and perspective.

IVSers not only work themselves out of their jobs, but they also never work where they're not wanted or needed. For IVS only recruits a volunteer for a particular post at the request either of a local institution or the government of the country concerned. And the IVS hosts have the final say. Even after selection by IVS, a volunteer can be vetoed if considered unsuitable.

IVS also tries to identify new and effective programs—both in the countries where it's already working and in others. But it does so according to strict criteria. IVS concentrates on projects which:

- Actively and increasingly involve the rural poor
- Assist the poor in developing towards self-reliance
- Provide people with the chance of improving the quality of their lives and living conditions
- Help people shape their own future

Dear Friends of IVS:

In January I began a three year appointment as the Executive Director of IVS. Before that I had already been with IVS for three years, so I realize what a short period of time that is. What can I hope to accomplish in that time? In general terms, I hope to help guide the organization in such a way that it will continue to play an important role in international cooperation and understanding. On another level, I would like to see IVS further bridge the gap between its performance and its ultimate potential and I am confident that IVS is equal to the task.

In 1953, the founders of IVS stated that the purpose of IVS was:

"... to utilize the services of volunteers on an organized basis to combat hunger, poverty, disease, and illiteracy in the under-developed areas of the world and thereby further the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the people thereof."

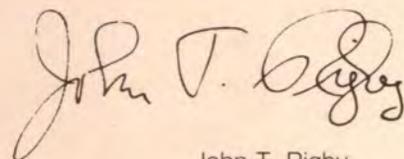
Today, IVS still adheres to that basic statement of purpose. Of course, from time to time, the Board of Directors, volunteers, staff and friends of IVS have questioned the way it operates, and what it accomplishes, to try and decide whether IVS still has an important function in this rapidly changing world. In 1971, a number of people met for several days at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, U.S.A. to take a critical look at IVS in the '60's—its basic directions, structures, and experiences. Two vital questions arose during that meeting: do expatriate volunteers have a role to play in development in the 1970's? If so, does IVS have a contribution to make?

The answer given was 'yes' in both cases. And those at the 1971 meeting set down their beliefs in a document known as the Harpers Ferry Charter. Essentially, the Charter stressed 1) the importance of broader-based financial support for IVS with more funds coming from private rather than government sources; 2) the need for more programs in Africa and Latin America (a shift away from the almost total concentration of programs in Asia during the 1960's); 3) greater all-round representation of people of different nationalities.

In the five years since the adoption of the Harpers Ferry Charter, we've made progress in all three areas. We now have much more financial backing from private and host institutions, and grant funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development is now more flexible. In its overseas operations, IVS has begun new programs in Latin America (Ecuador, Honduras, Bolivia), in Africa (Mauritania, Sudan, Botswana), the Middle East (Yemen Arab Republic), and Asia (Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea). There has also been an increase in the number of volunteers and staff members from countries other than the United States.

In December 1976, IVS Board, staff, and volunteers again re-examined the direction and composition of IVS. As Tony Lake (my predecessor) put it last year: "IVS? If so, how? Where?" We came out of the December meeting convinced that IVS is a potentially useful instrument in the process of combating the causes and effects of poverty, hunger, and powerlessness. We believe that the skills and sensitivities of dedicated volunteers, properly matched with the complementary skills and talents of the people with whom we work in developing areas of the world, have enormous potential and worth in the development process. Like any other organization, however, there is a gap between our potential and performance. I am enthusiastic about the challenge of helping close this gap and I look forward to the future with confidence. Best regards.

Sincerely,



John T. Rigby
Executive Director





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