

Project number	39907135
Title	Alfabetisering

Countries Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador

Summary PMU has for some years been running leadership and alphabetisation projects in Latin America. The projects in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador have been evaluated, and the results are presented in this report.

The basic idea is to run leadership seminars where the leadership skills and the social responsibility of the churches are underlined. Ownership to local alphabetisation projects should then develop, and the local congregations with their leaders should be responsible for running such projects. As part of the alphabetisation projects, information seminars focusing on different kinds of abuse, as well as democratisation principles should be conducted.

In general the following has been found

- Local ownership to the alphabetisation projects does not develop as planned
- There seem to be little impact of the leadership training
- The planning process is not good
- The projects are not adjusted to local realities
- The facilitators are very committed to the work
- There is a lack of competence at all levels in the projects

The evaluator finds the concept interesting and relevant to the situation in Latin America. The projects, however, should be planned and implemented in a different way. The leadership part should run for some time before local projects like the alphabetisation projects should start, In this way local ownership could develop. More emphasis should be put on competence development at all levels.

Based on these observations and recommendations, it is advised that:

- All projects should be stopped temporarily!
- Projects that have been ongoing for some time should be adjusted and planned according to the suggestions given here, before continuing.
- Projects that has just started, or are about to start, should be stopped or should not start until a proper baseline study is carried out, and plans are developed according to the comments presented in this report
- Projects that are in the pipeline should not start until the process of developing the project is followed (a proper baseline and a good planning and implementation process according to the principles given in this report, should be carried out).

Recommendations Based on the previously presented findings and discussions, this report concludes by recommending the following:

General

- The idea of a leadership development process leading into the churches and church leaders taking social responsibility is good and should be further developed
- A proper baseline study, followed up by a proper planning process where the local people take part should be done before starting any project.
- In the project development, a process approach with a good follow up of the learners/participants, should be main pillars in all parts of the projects.
- When looking at budgets, it seems that there is quite some spending on "higher levels", while there is little spending on the grass-root levels. This needs to be focused and changed somewhat.

- Related to the projects themselves, it is the strong advice that all projects should be stopped temporarily.
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Leadership training

- A leadership concept based on Christian leadership principles and local cultural understanding should be developed and taught in this leadership training (it seems that such concepts are developed, - these should be evaluated).
- A mentoring system, or another appropriate system for systematic follow up of leaders, should be developed and implemented.
- The leadership training should be organised around a series of seminars – and the training should go on for at least three years
- It should be investigated with a university if it is possible that such training also could lead to a formal, recognised exam

Alphabetisation

- There is a need for better organisation. The role of the coordinators, advisors and district committee should be clarified.
- There is a need for defined competence among the coordinators at different levels. This competence need should be mapped. Present coordinators should be given training, and when new coordinators are hired, the competence need should be central in the recruiting process.
- There is a need to define the competence need for the pedagogical advisors. There is a strong need for the present advisors to be given training by resource persons on alphabetisation. They also need to meet to share experiences. New advisors with the competence need in mind.
- The pedagogical advisors and resource person should be included in the planning and budgeting process, so that funds for pedagogical equipment and also needed equipment for the learners (like glasses etc for the learners) may be included.
- The facilitators need more training. There should be regular training sessions over time, and the coordinators should follow up on the facilitators to help them implement new learning.
- Even if the basic working principle is voluntary work, the facilitators should receive compensation big enough to cover course related cost (material, travelling, etc).
- There is a need for meeting points for the facilitators. These meetings should concentrate on experience sharing and competence building
- Basic equipment for the teaching should be provided (may be by the local congregations is possible). The facilitators should get some helpful books like lexicon or other relevant material to help them in their preparations.
- There should not be more than 15 learners in each course
- Cooperation should be initiated with government offices on these courses if possible.

Preventive seminars

- These seminars should continue, and it is good if the church leaders also take part in the meetings. They should also bring up the issues focused in the meetings also in congregational meetings.
- If possible, the project should follow up to see if these preventive seminars contribute to changes in the areas focused.

Organisation

- The working relationship between the national coordinators, the international coordinator, the Swedish coordinator, the ALA committee and the PMU should be looked into and roles and responsibilities should be clarified
- The roles and responsibilities of the PMU in relation to the Pingst Board should be clarified