**International Task Force**

**Conference call**

**December 5, 2017**

**Present: Lisa Leverette (Chairperson), Alonzo Johnson (staff), Teresa Bidart (staff)**

**Budget-** We have just over $30,000 left for 2017

**New Application**:

Sandy Beach- Reviewed Application.  This is to be the final application to cap off our work with Sandy Beach.  It is aligned with the discussion with the ladies during our last visit. **Vote Required**.  **I recommend a Yes vote.**

**Follow-up Application:**

Baranco Fisherfolks- Expressed to Teresa that the current payment schedule may not be ideal to carry out project yet declined to request new schedule of payment.  No action necessary at this time.  Follow-up with inquiry n next visit.

**Intermediaries**-

WAI- Alonzo provided update.  2018 may indeed be the year where the WAI will begin to wind down as the stability is restored to the region.  Requested that Alonzo follow-up to determine how the step down of the WAI might be configured.  Requested group revisit submitted application submitted for 2018 and consider revisions to reflect stepped down design and budget.  Alonzo will follow up.  Task Force to deliberate current or revised application at next meeting.  No action required at this time. Communication department to feature WAI in upcoming layout.

Ce- Mujer- As expected and agreed.  No follow-up required at this time.

Rwanda- As expected and agreed.  No follow-up required at this time.  Micro loans design is an impressive model and is delivering economic liberation to women and families int he region.

\*\* DPG India request for assistance due to rain/flooding.Discussed request and concluded that SDOP and the model for the International committee is not compatible for rapid response to emergencies. The task force additionally does not have funds to allot to the request.  Vote required.  I recommend  a No vote for the request. Alonzo will inquire if PDA might be positioned to offer support.

**Planning for National Meeting in Belize 2018**

Working paper- To be completed for review in January 2018, distribution February 2018.

Collaboration with Ministry of Cooperatives- Planning for National meeting in May 2018 to continue and accelerate.  Staff from communication Department may accompany the committee to Belize.  This provides a great opportunity to showcase the transformational work over the past 6 years.  Staff in Communication also have resources that can possibly support the committee. Teresa will follow-up.

We need a count of members who intend to attend Belize meeting by January 2018.  Will discuss dimensions of trip during upcoming call and request definitive decisions by January. Staff and leadership recommend we meet in January to plan Belize national committee meeting in order to be prepared to report out at February national meeting.  Please check your calendars for what is likely to be an international committee conference meeting in January.

A team of 2 will venture to Belize in March 2018 to finalize  National meeting plans and continue outreach.

**Country of Focus**

Panama- Discussed International committee model of Country or Focus and Intermediaries. Alonzo raised possibility of considering a regional ( Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala) .  Discussion focused on International Committee model. The model is predicated on engaging deeply in a country.  Expanding territory decreases the level of engagement and investment in country of focus. Guatemala and Nicaragua were vetted and ruled out as country of focus due to language barrier and similarity to Belize.  Allocated funds are inadequate to effectively implement the country of focus design with the adoption of a regional approach.

Fact finding and relationship building in Panama continues to surface possible partners.  Contacts have been informed that in country outreach will take place in Fall 2018. No action required at this time.

 **Cartledge Gift**- Advising on the 2 options

Discussed both options for gift investment.  Alonzo explained that both options were predicated on the desire to choose an investment strategy that ultimately allows the engagement in Nicaragua and Guatemala to be carried out solely on the investment income from the gift.  Lisa shared that the international Task Force model does not include shouldering the financial responsibility of gifts with an international component. The task force is however best situated to carry put gift requests with gifted funds.  Option #1 or another option is recommended.  Option #2 is not viable.  Funds for Option #2 to execute the Cartledge gift would supplant funds intended for projects in the country of focus and intermediaries.  Further the amount allocated $75,000 over 3 years or $12,500 per country per year is inadequate to effectively initially engage in the countries and/or support worthy projects with sufficient resources. Overall it is questionable if the investment income derived from the principal of the gift will be sufficient to support a robust initiative in Guatemala and Nicaragua.  More concrete, predicable and realistic plans need to be devised in order for the gift to meet the goals of the benefactor.  Vote required. I recommend a Yes vote in support of Option 1 as the official endorsement from the International committee.