

# Programming strategies and project formulation

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The program started in December 1999 with a list of countries and specialists (individuals and organizations) to be consulted for information about the education programs in progress in some countries of the Region. Countries and specialists for the first stage of information collection are listed below:

1. Argentina (Dr. Juan José Gagliardino)
2. Brazil (Dr. Laercio Franco)
3. Chile (Mrs. Elena Carrasco and Dr. María Cristina Escobar)
4. Colombia (Dr. Pablo Aschner)
5. Costa Rica (Dr. Carlos Mora)
6. Cuba (Dr. Rosario García)
7. Jamaica (Dr. Judith Kirley)

A simple methodology was used. Communication with specialists in each country was established by telephone and e-mail. The purpose of the project was explained to them, and they were asked to send information from which a description of the program was written. For the purpose of this document, only education programs for people with type 2 diabetes were considered. It is important to point out that other programs in the Region have been developed for people with type 1 diabetes as well as for educators in the field of diabetes health; these programs are mentioned only briefly in this inventory.

By the end of the first phase of the study (28 January 2000), information had been received from five countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Cuba. Information and materials from Brazil, Colombia, and Jamaica were pending.

The second phase of information gathering began in March 2000. Programs in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, and Puerto Rico were added to the list. It is noteworthy that in this second phase a change was introduced into the methodology for data collection. The new system consisted of sending to each organization or specialist an explanation in writing of the project's objectives and a request to send a written description of their program based on thematic guidelines (see Annex 1).

In this second phase, information was received from four programs and added to the list:

1. Chile (Dr. Ligia Allel, Chile Diabetics Association; Mrs. Elena Carrasco)
2. Ecuador (Dr. Edgar Vanegas Astudillo)
3. Mexico (Dr. Agustín Lara)
4. Peru (Dr. Olga Nuñez)

