

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	Costa Rica/CID
▪ TC Name:	Human and Productive Empowerment for Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples of Costa Rica
▪ TC Number:	CR-T1157
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Carmen Albertos, Team Leader (SCL/GDI); Carolina Martin (SCL/GDI); Alvaro Borbón (CID/CCR); Fiorella Salazar (CID/CCR); Mónica Lugo (LEG/SGO); Jorge Luis Gonzalez (VPC/FMP); Miguel Baruzze (VPC/FMP); and Lina Uribe (SCL/GDI).
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	May 23, 2017
▪ Beneficiary:	Costa Rica
▪ Executing Agency:	<i>Fundación Ciudadanía Activa, FCA</i>
▪ IDB Funding requested:	US\$789,613
▪ Local Counterpart Funding:	US\$288,000
▪ Disbursement Period:	26 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	Gender and Diversity Division, Social Sector (SCL/GDI)
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	Country Office in Costa Rica (CID/CCR)
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The Project seeks to increase access to basic services and economic opportunities for indigenous and afro-descendant populations in three indigenous territories and one afro-descendent community of the Municipality of Talamanca. Through participatory planning, training, and technical assistance, the project will support community organizations to develop sustainable linkages with public institutions, allowing them to better access public resources and increase service delivery. In addition, it will provide training and workshops to community members to increase their human capital and open self-employment and microenterprise opportunities. The interventions will focus on at least 18 communities in Talamanca: Manzanillo, an Afro-descendant community in the district of Cahuita, and 17 indigenous communities within the Bribri, Cabécar and Kéköldi Territories, all selected in conjunction with the Development Associations representing each territory.
- 2.2 Recent official statistics indicate that 23% of the Costa Rican population continues to live in poverty and levels of extreme poverty have increased from 6% in 2006 to 7% in 2016. Inequality levels, as measured by the Gini coefficient, have also remained relatively static over the last decade, hovering at around .48 in the period from 2004 to 2014. Amongst those most affected by these inequalities are indigenous and afro-descendent peoples who have lower levels of education, access to public services, and employment opportunities. While the average years of schooling of adults is 8.7 nationally, among the Afro-descendant population it is 7.9 years, and in the indigenous territories it is only 5.7 years. Similarly, the employment rate of the indigenous population within the territories is only 36.7, and in the peripheries of the territories it is 44.7-- both notably lower than the national rate of 51.7.

- 2.3 The social and economic lags witnessed by these minority populations are due primarily to a lack of access to good employment opportunities, a lack of institutional support, limited coverage of public services, and poor access to the remote areas where many live. Some of the lowest development indicators in the country are in the predominantly Afro-descendant and indigenous Huetar Atlántico region, where 31.7% live in poverty and 11.4% in extreme poverty. Sixty percent of the country's indigenous population lives in Talamanca, the poorest municipality in this region. The majority of households living in the Indigenous Territories of Talamanca have at least one unmet basic need, and in the case of the most remote of these, the Cabécar Territory, 95.6% of households lack either access to decent shelter, health, education, or other basic goods and services.
- 2.4 The government has failed to meet the growing demands and needs of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in this area, and as such, Talamanca has been identified as a priority municipality for investment in the current National Development Plan. The municipality faces significant weaknesses and challenges, among them: insufficient human and financial resources, a lack of integrated development plans, and poor training of officials and employees regarding the differentiated and culturally-pertinent attention required by the indigenous and afro-descendent populations. Difficulties accessing these remote border areas have also prevented the collection and systematization of data needed for the provision of services and political decision-making.
- 2.5 Across Costa Rica, democratically elected legal associations called Development Associations (*Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral*, or ADIs) represent community residents in development objectives. Within the indigenous territories, however, Development Associations have a high level of organization and representation, but lack management and administrative capacities, which limits their access to public resources and services that are available to its people. The same is true for many other community-level organizations, such as women's groups or water management groups. Various local government institutions serving the area complain that they have resources to fund projects and increase services, but the community organizations lack the knowledge and/or technical capacity to go through application processes or to manage projects, and the government institutions lack the human resources to provide this kind of support.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1. Social mapping and community development planning.** This component has the following objectives: (i) to facilitate the development of a culturally-tailored institutional intervention strategy for the indigenous and afro-descendant people of the intervention area, based on the strengths and needs of the communities; and (ii) to collect in situ baseline data in the intervention area, including information on socioeconomic conditions and access to basic services. Activities: 1. Participatory planning with Development Association members to determine community needs, priorities, and the specific trainings and workshops that will be provided, and identification of microenterprises and families interested in small-holding agriculture that will receive technical assistance and training as part of the project. 2. Meetings with Development Associations to identify service delivery and institutional access needs and priorities. 3. Development and application of data collection instruments to gather information on the socio-economic and productive needs of the people and organizations in the participating territories, including geo-reference points of the communities, facilities, and service providers in the area. 4. Market analysis of the areas surrounding participating communities to identify opportunities for commercialization of products produced by community participants.

- 3.2 **Component 2. Capacity strengthening and institutional articulation.** The objectives of this component are: (i) to improve access to public services (e.g. health, education, water, microenterprise support) and ensure that service provision takes into account the cultural needs of the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations; (ii) to stimulate and improve stakeholder participation (local government institutions and civil society groups) at the community level by strengthening coordination and linkages between community organizations and public institutions. Activities: 1. Training workshops to develop organizational, operational and administrative management capacities of the participating community organizations (development associations, women's groups, water committees, organizations for the elderly, etc.). 2. Development of a highly participatory multi-sectoral intervention strategy in the territory with cultural pertinence. 3. Meetings with local government institutions to establish commitments to increase the quality and access of public services for the target population. 4. Cultural sensitivity trainings for local government staff.
- 3.2 **Component 3. Economic empowerment and food security.** The objectives of this component are: (i) improve food security in selected communities; (ii) develop productive and commercialization capacities of community members, ensuring high levels of female participation; and (iii) strengthen human capital in order to improve employment and self-employment opportunities. Activities: 1. Workshops aimed at promoting food security for the communities. 2. Agricultural training for community members and the implementation of pilot organic gardens, which will include the recovery of native species with high nutritional value. Traditional agricultural practices, such as the use of organic pesticides, will be incorporated and encouraged. 3. Technical assistance for groups of smallholder farmers to develop project proposals for submission to local government institutions for financing, and identification of local potential buyers for their produce. 4. Workshops aimed at promoting employability and self-employment, including business development training for individuals with microenterprises. 5. Tutorials to improve the Baccalaureate Examination pass rates.
- 3.7 **Component 4. Audit, evaluation, and dissemination.** The objective of this component is to monitor, evaluate, and disseminate the results of the project. Activities: 1. The hiring of an expert in international evaluation for the development and implementation of mechanisms and activities for monitoring and evaluation of the Project (intermediate and final evaluation). 2. External financial audits.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget (US\$)

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component 1. Social mapping and community development planning	177,865	46,000	223,865
Component 2. Capacity strengthening and institutional articulation	249,792	60,000	309,792
Component 3. Economic empowerment and food security	269,644	156,000	425,644
Component 4. Audit, evaluation, and dissemination	77,312	26,000	103,312
Incidentals	15,000	0	15,000
Total	789,613	288,000	1,077,613

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The executing entity of the project is the *Fundación Ciudadanía Activa* (FCA). The supervision of the operation will be carried out by the Bank's project team, which includes technical specialists from the Gender and Diversity Division (GDI), a local operations analyst, and the fiduciary specialists (financial and procurement) in the Bank Country Office in Costa Rica (CID/CCR). This Country Office will be responsible for carrying out the disbursements of the project.
- 5.2 The FCA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization created in 2000 with the aim of promoting citizen participation, social capital development and the implementation of social projects. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups and communities. The FCA has an interdisciplinary team with extensive professional experience, and has participated in various consultancies, programs and projects in the educational, environmental, economic and social fields, developed and promoted by Central American and Latin American governments.
- 5.3 The FCA has successfully implemented IDB projects ATN/JO-13234-CR "Promotion of decent living conditions in the Huetar Norte and Heredia Region" and, most recently, ATN/JO-14480-CR "Strengthening agricultural groups on the Coastal Pacific Coast Delicious". Both projects exceeded community participation expectations and managed to significantly increase the counterpart funding that had been originally estimated through careful negotiation with the public institutions involved. These additional counterpart funds greatly increased the impact of the Project.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The implementation of this operation entails the following risks: (i) low participation of beneficiaries in project activities (eg. resistance to change of practices, lack of assistance in workshops); and (ii) a raising of expectations that can not be covered by the Project. To mitigate the first risk, substantial outreach will be conducted in the communities to publicize the scope of the Project, disseminate past successful experiences and motivate participation in activities that are likely to improve incomes. All project interventions, in particular workshops and trainings, will be planned in conjunction with the beneficiaries, and for those who need it, support will be provided for transport and childcare. In order to mitigate the second risk, the scope of the Project will be discussed with institutional and municipal representatives, ensuring their support, and meetings will be held with the beneficiaries in order to clearly explain the objectives and products of the project, as well as the duties and commitments of each of the parties.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".