

**INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TRUST FUND FINANCING)**

TC/FUNDS BRIEF

NO. RS-T1063

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| 1. Name of the T.C. Project | Research Framework and Support to the Inter-agencies Group: Rights-Based Development |
| 2. Name of the Trust Fund: | DFID Special Contribution to Social Inclusion Trust Fund |
| 3. Beneficiary country: | Regional |
| 4. Beneficiary agency: | The Inter-American Development Bank |
| 5. Estimated Total Amount to be financed: | US\$ 107,000 |
| 6. Execution and Disbursement Deadlines: | May 2004 – January 2006 |

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A number of European institutions, including the leading work by DFID in the UK,¹ have advanced the concept of using a human rights framework to promote more equitable and sustainable development that actually empowers states and individuals. An economic/social rights approach to development stresses the three principles of *liberty, equality, and empowerment* and applies them to development. To show a distinction with the current development approach, it is said that a rights-based development refocuses thinking from human wrongs to human rights, from handouts to empowerment, and from charity to rights. At a practical level, this framework motivates and stimulates policy officials to reconsider how to approach differently the design of development projects, participation, and conditions for equal opportunity and access to resources. As well, it stimulates a rethinking of core economic reforms and policies to insure their respect for fundamental human and social rights, and how respect for those rights improve the implementation and acceptability of economic reform. An example which highlights a distinction between the formulation of current social and economic programs by multilateral institutions and a human rights-based approach, is that a human rights-based approach identifies the intended program target not as project beneficiaries or recipients but citizens with rights and responsibilities that are integral to the implementation and delivery of services itself.

¹ See, for example, Julia Hausermann, A Human Rights Approach to Development, The Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom, 1998.

- 1.2 As the most unequal region of the world, LAC may find particular application of the RBA. The region is diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, and cultural and historical heritage. The lack of recognition of this diversity and the associated problems of discrimination, stigma and deprivation directed at excluded population have contributed significantly to the persistence and deepening of inequality. Rights-based approaches, for example, in areas such as indigenous health and access to the judiciary may help re-conceptualize how these services are provided.
- 1.3 Over the past two decades, LAC has undergone a profound, but fragile transition to democracy in which the concept of citizenship and participation are in their early stages. A rights-based approach to development offers important and timely opportunities to the region to develop a more effective and useful policy framework which permits more direct attention to the key, to date, intractable problems of inequality, poverty, and social exclusion.
- 1.4 In the context of Latin America and the Caribbean the concept of rights-based development –RBA- has not been widely discussed. In order to find out how such a framework is related to LAC realities and how it might be practically applied, agencies like the IDB, ECLAC, DFID and the World Bank have decided to create an RBA technical working group, “the inter-agencies group”.
- 1.5 More specifically, the IDB/ECLAC/DFID/WB collaboration aims to: (i) familiarize LAC policy makers and practitioners, as well as staff from IDB and ECLAC, with the work of DFID and other European agencies on the application of RBA in development processes; (ii) explore and advance thinking of the applicability of the RBA in the LAC context, with emphasis in its’ possible tradeoffs and costs; (iii) examine operational challenges of applying the RBA in social sectors as health and education, and possible synergies with social inclusion approaches; and (iv) define, if appropriate, a larger program/agenda of collaborative social rights-based development activities.
- 1.6 The technical working group has thus agreed to carry out the above objectives through a series of two seminars and supporting studies, engaging both the conceptual and practical dimensions of RBA, aiming to enlist policy-makers and development officials. These seminars are to be supported by a series of framework studies, joint collaboration in the preparation of the meeting agenda. Meetings would be held in Santiago and Washington DC. The target audience of the first meeting will be small. Key thinkers, economists, and social scientists, both within the working group institutions, and outside (25-30), would gather to discuss and contribute to a potential framework for the application of the rights-based development in LAC, using new studies, international and LAC cases. A small number of papers would be commissioned to support the seminar series.

- 1.7 The Washington seminar would draw on the agreements and understandings of the first dialogue, but would have a larger focus on LAC cases and operational context. The audience would be larger, incorporating a larger number of staff of the multilaterals institutions resident in Washington DC to move deeper into the potential application within the region and within participating institutions. Financing for these events, and research related activities, has been provided by DFID's special contribution to the Social Inclusion Trust Fund (February 24, 2004.) This TC implements the first step in carrying out these seminars, specifically the development of framework studies, professional support, and agenda development.

II. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The general objective of this operation is to provide research, documentation, and technical support for the design and development of a series of dialogues aiming to examine the usefulness and applicability of the economic/social rights framework on development policies and processes in LAC. Specific objectives are: (i) conduct series of research studies laying out the major issues, challenges and/or obstacles of the application of rights-based approaches in the design of social and economic development policies in the region; (ii) provide administrative and logistical assistance to the inter-agency group and seminar development; and (iii) support the publication, translation and dissemination of studies and other relevant background materials.

III. DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 This operation will have three components: *1. Research and Case Studies; 2 Administrative and Logistical support; and 3. Publication and dissemination of key studies and background materials.*
- 3.2 *Component 1: Research and Case Studies:* the Social Development Division of the IDB, in coordination with the inter-agency group, will commission a series of think-pieces (approximately 4-5) or framework studies laying out major issues and theoretical understandings for the rights-based approach with particular attention to its' application in a Latin America and the Caribbean context and specific applications by sector (e.g. health, labor). Although specific topics and issues to be addressed will be determined by the inter-agency group with terms of references in a progressive basis, it is expected that the following topics/objectives will be addressed/sought by individual consultancies: (i) main issues/controversies between traditional development approaches and RBA during the design and implementation of development policies in key social development sectors (i.e., economic policy and rights, indigenous health, the cost of rights, social rights, labor rights); and (ii) selected case studies/lessons learned from LAC, or applicable to the region, and best practices. Research pieces will aim to

layout the added value of right-based approaches in development processes, as well as the main challenges it poses to institutions, civil society and International Financial Institutions – IFIs. It is expected that approximately 4-5 research pieces would be contracted, depending again on agreement within the inter-agency group as to research priorities and the research contributions made separately by other institutions in the interagency group. For example, DFID is expected to contribute a review of its own rights-based development experience. ECLAC economists may also contribute papers or presentations to the conference. Other experts may contribute existing research in the form of a presentation at one of the conferences. Travel costs in this budget are intended to cover the travel costs for those contracted to write research papers to participate in the Santiago and DC dialogues, as well as preparatory meetings, if deemed necessary. Travel costs may also cover presenters at the conference whose papers/contributions were financed through other sources.

- 3.3 *Component 2: Administrative and Logistical Support:* The IDB/SDS/SOC has been tasked to serve as the secretariat and main facilitator of the seminar series developed with the input of the participating agencies. Administrative and logistical support in the form of one half-time consultant is required to undertake the following: (i) facilitate coordination between agencies through the setting up of meetings and video/teleconferences, etc; (ii) carry out contracting procedures for think-pieces, translations and publications, oversee logistics for publications to be used in each of the seminars; (iii) serve as IDB *liaison* to ECLAC in logistics matters and travel support to consultants for the Santiago meeting in particular; (iv) supporting the setup and logistics for the Washington seminar, including the preparation of all conference materials, staffing the conference desk, and arrangements for conference participants; and (v) support the dissemination of the research products of the seminar series, including posting on the IDB web page and distribution within the participating agencies.
- 3.4 *Component 3: Publications:* As stated in the Memorandum of Understanding between DFID and the Inter-American Development Bank, knowledge dissemination is one of the expected outputs of this initial collaboration. The category provides funding for translation, editing, printing, and other publishing-related costs for the research studies contracted under this TC, additional papers presented at the conference, and their distribution at the seminar series as relevant. All research products will be finalized and posted on the Bank's social inclusion web page. It is expected that a number of the seminar series studies will either be incorporated into a publication or published as separate documents.

IV. JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 In the context of Latin America and the Caribbean the concept of rights-based development –RBA- has not been widely discussed. As both a basis for initiating

and supporting the dialogue series and strengthening the analytical content of the application, research studies need to be undertaken.

- 4.2 Institutional collaboration is sought from the outset both for economies of scale but more importantly because the implantation and incorporation of a rights-based framework should be pursued through a common message and framework for action towards the region. This project is relevant to the IDB new Social Development Strategy, which has social inclusion as one of its key priorities.

V. BUDGET

- 5.1 The total estimated cost of the project is US\$107,000, to be financed by the Bank with non-reimbursable funds from **DFID's special contribution** to the Social Inclusion Fund. The funds will be allocated as specified in the following budget:

BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL
<i>1. Research and Case Studies</i>	<i>US\$ 75,000</i>
Honorarium think pieces (US \$ 8,000 per piece x 5)	US \$40,000
Travel costs (US \$5000 x 7) (seminar in Santiago, Washington, preparatory meeting)	US \$35,000
<i>2. Administrative and Logistical Support</i>	<i>US\$ 22,230</i>
Administrative Assistant (Half-time 12 months / \$1,852.50 per month)	US\$ 22,230
<i>3. Publication, Translation and Editing of Research Studies</i>	<i>US\$ 9,770</i>
TOTAL	US\$ 107,000

VI. RESPONSIBILITY IN THE BANK

- 6.1 **Technical responsibility:**
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- 6.2 **Responsibility for Disbursements:**
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VII. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Jacqueline Mazza, designated team leader for the project of the reference, recommends the approval of this operation and the use of resources from the Social Inclusion Fund totaling up to US\$107,000 in order to finance the corresponding project.

VIII. CERTIFICATION

- 8.1 I certify that resources from the Social Inclusion Fund are available for up to US\$107,000 in order to finance the activities described and budgeted in this document. The commitment and disbursement of these resources shall be made only by the Bank in US dollars. The same currency shall be used to stipulate the remuneration and payments to consultants, except that local consultants working in their own borrowing member country shall have their remuneration defined and paid in the currency of that country. No resources of the Fund shall be made available to cover amounts greater than the amount certified herein above for the implementation of this technical cooperation. Amounts greater than the certified amount may arise from commitments on contracts denominated in a currency other than the Fund currency, resulting in currency exchange rate differences, for which the Fund is not at risk.