**TC ABSTRACT**

**I. Basic Project Data**

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| ▪ Country/Region: | BAHAMAS/CCB - Caribbean Group |
| ▪ TC Name: | Support for the Implementation of Impact Evaluation of Apprenticeship Program and Blockchain Pilot in Bahamas |
| ▪ TC Number: | BH-T1063 |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members: | Pavon, Fernando Yitzack (SCL/LMK) Team Leader; Muhlstein, Ethel Rosa (SCL/LMK); Gaona, Tania Lucia (SCL/LMK); Natalie Bethel (CCB/CBH); Marray, V. Amanda (CCB/CBH); and Hennig, Betina Tirelli (LEG/SGO). |
| ▪ Taxonomy: | Operational Support |
| ▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC: | Skills for Current and Future Jobs in the Bahamas-BH-L1037 - Execution |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract: | 11 January 2018 |
| ▪ Beneficiary: | Government of The Bahamas (GOBH) |
| ▪ Executing Agency: | Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Social Sector, Labor Markets Division (SCL/LMK) |
| ▪ IDB funding requested: | US$ 200,000.00 |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding: | US$ 0.00 |
| ▪ Disbursement and execution period: | 48 months |
| ▪ Types of consultants: | Individuals |
| ▪ Prepared by Unit: | Labor Markets |
| ▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: | Social Sector, Labor Markets Division (SCL/LMK) |
| ▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n): ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n): | Yes Yes |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation |

**II. Objective and Justification**

2.1 The main objective of this technical cooperation (TC) is to support the Implementation of the Impact Evaluation of the Apprenticeship Program and a Blockchain Pilot for the issuance of industry-recognized e-Certificates for apprenticeship program in The Bahamas. This TC supports the execution of program BH-L1037.

2.2 Productivity growth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been stagnant for the last years. Stronger productivity promoted by education, innovation, a better skilled workforce and formal employment, is expected to lead to a more inclusive growth and to reductions in inequality and poverty. However, the existing skills gap, which mainly affects youth, puts limits to productivity.

2.3 Apprenticeships programs (APs) can be an effective tool to promote higher youth employment and build links between the productive sector and the workforce. Australia, Canada, Korea, the UK, and the US have implemented APs; and even when rigorous evaluations are scarce, available results show that APs have positive effects on employment, earnings, socio-emotional skills, innovation, and reduce unemployment duration.

2.4 However, more knowledge about apprenticeships’ impact is needed. The only available impact evaluation in LAC is for the Brazilian Apprentice Act, which shows benefits for finding a non-temporary formal job and earning higher wages. However, the limited experimental evidence and the lack of specific information for other regions can act as an investment barrier highlighting the importance of further rigorous analysis about AP’s impact in the labor markets.

2.5 The main objective of this TC is to support the design of the Impact Evaluation of the Apprenticeship Program and a design for a blockchain Pilot for the issuance of industry-recognized e-Certificates for apprenticeship program in The Bahamas. This TC will focus on designing an Impact Evaluation methodology based on successful and rigorous practical and methodological experiences that can be generally applicable to The Bahamas and LAC. This TC will also complement the implementation of an experimental evaluation of the apprenticeship program financed by the BH-L1037 program while promoting the adoption of innovative technological tools that support APs implementation in the Bahamas.

**III. Description of Activities and Outputs**

3.1 **Component 1: Capacity Building for Better Apprenticeship Programs in LAC**. This component’s objective is to design an evaluation toolkit that can be generally applied to AP in The Bahamas. Activities will include: (i) learning lessons, through a workshop, from the APs implementation and evaluation in LAC and elsewhere; (ii) development of a general evaluation design; (iii) development of general standardized tests in order to measure the program quality and to assess the technical, cognitive and socio-emotional skills level of the participants; (iv) development of a general communication strategy to incentivize participants’ (trainees and firms) entrance into the program.

3.2 **Component 2: Design of pilot with Blockchain technology for Apprenticeship Programs in The Bahamas**. This component will finance the introduction of Blockchain technology as a tool for boosting technological innovation in the AP implementation in the Bahamas. It will also offer an accessible and safe tool to apprentices for keeping their training records, and to employers for accessing this information. Activities will include: (i) support in the design and implementation of a pilot for issuing e-Certificates through blockchain technology to AP graduates; and (ii) a workshop to understand the applicability of this technology in the training certificates context.

3.3

**IV. Budget**

**Indicative Budget (US$)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity/Component** | **IDB/Fund Funding** | **Counterpart Funding** | **Total Funding** |
| Component 1: Capacity Building for Better Apprenticeship Programs in LAC | 120,000 | 0 | 120,000 |
| Component 2: Implementation of Blockchain technology for Apprenticeship Programs in The Bahamas. | 80,000 | 0 | 80,000 |
| TOTAL | 200,000 | 0 | 200,000 |

**V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure**

5.1 The IDB, through SCL/LMK, will be responsible for this TCs’ supervision and coordination according to the Government of the Bahamas (GoBH) official request.

5.2 SCL/LMK has technical expertise based on international best practices and administrative burdens can be reduced on the GOBH. Coordination with benefiting entities will be extensive.

**VI. Project Risks and Issues**

6.1 Limited information provided by stakeholders could delay evaluation design.

**VII. Environmental and Social Classification**

7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "C".