

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	MEXICO/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Support for the Implementation of the “The School is Ours” Program
▪ TC Number:	ME-T1428
▪ Team Leader/Members:	MORDUCHOWICZ, ALEJANDRO (SCL/EDU) Team Leader; TAMAGNAN, MARIE EVANE (SCL/EDU) Alternate Team Leader; DE GYVES SANDOVAL, ALEJANDRO (CID/CME); ALVAREZ DIAZ, ESTEBAN (SCL/EDU); BLASCO, IVANA (SCL/EDU)
▪ Taxonomy:	Operational Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	The School is Ours Program - ME-L1298
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	18 May 2020
▪ Beneficiary:	Secretaria de Educación Pública (SEP), México
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$200,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/EDU - Education
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CID/CME - Country Office Mexico
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The Objective of this this operational support TC is to provide technical assistance to the Secretary of Public Education (SEP) in the development of a robust monitoring system for the La Escuela es Nuestra program. Specifically, the TC will support the development and implementation of a monitoring system for the use of school grant funds sent to the Comité Escolar de Administración Participativa (CEAP) of beneficiary primary schools in Mexico. The development of this system will contribute to the transparency, quality assurance, and sustainability of the program in improving teaching and learning conditions in primary schools in Mexico.
- 2.2 Mexico has over 36 million students in 265,277 schools (SEP 2019). While there have been advances in net enrollment rates in the last two decades in basic education levels (particularly in preschool and secondary) these achievements have been overshadowed by low achievement scores.
- 2.3 In 2018, 49% of 6th graders were not proficient in Language and Communication and 59% scored in the lowest level of Mathematics. In rural and indigenous settings more than 70% of students scored in the lowest levels of Language and Communication, and over 75% struggled with basic arithmetic operations (INEE, 2018).
- 2.4 A lack of adequate teaching and learning conditions has long been identified as one of the principal causes of low learning outcomes and numerous programs (including

Escuelas de Calidad, Escuelas Dignas and Escuelas al CIEN) have been implemented with varying levels of success. Nevertheless, unequal learning and teaching conditions persist.

- 2.5 In this light, the Government of Mexico (2018-2024) launched La Escuela es Nuestra in October of 2019. The program aims to improve the teaching and learning conditions of preschool, primary and secondary schools located in highly marginalized and indigenous communities, relying on school grant transfers made to the CEAP.
- 2.6 CEAPs can make individualized decisions regarding which inputs are needed for their schools, and as such, few restrictions are placed on the use of school grant funds. The funds transferred to the CEAPs can be used for range of activities including, inter alia: the procurement of educational materials, minor infrastructure repairs, rehabilitation or construction, and the contracting of technology, energy saving, and connectivity services. Fund allocation is determined based on a calculation of vulnerability, and ranges between US\$ 7,800 and US\$ 26,000 as one-off lumpsum transfer.
- 2.7 While the government funded La Escuela Es Nuestra Program has been in existence since 2019, the program's existing monitoring mechanism is inadequate and does not include a robust monitoring system to accurately track the use of transfers to CEAPs and to monitor the quality of school improvements over time. For example, the process of reporting, roles and responsibilities, fiduciary requirements, and communication to the CEAPS about the importance of adequate reporting needs to be reviewed and strengthened.
- 2.8 In Support of the La Escuela es Nuestra Program The Bank is preparing a new loan (ME-L1298) of up to US\$600 million to scale up the Mexican government's La Escuela es Nuestra Program and reach over 40.000 additional schools that provide basic education to highly marginalized and indigenous populations. In parallel to the Bank loan, this operational support TC will provide technical assistance to the Secretary of Public Education (SEP) in the development of a robust monitoring system for the La Escuela es Nuestra program.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Monitoring system for school funds.** This single component will finance the development of a monitoring system for the use of school grant funds sent to the CEAPs of beneficiary primary schools in Mexico.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Monitoring system for school funds	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00
Total	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 On request by the SEP, and due to its technical assistance capacity, the Education Division of the Bank (SCL/EDU) will be the executing agency. This TC will be executed by the IDB according to TC guidelines (GN-2629-1). All disbursements will be executed through the Bank's systems and will require approval from SCL/EDU. The Bank will contract individual consultants, consulting firms and non-consulting services in accordance with Bank's current procurement policies and procedures (GN-2303-20).
- 5.2 TC Supervision: Alejandro Morduchowicz, Lead Education Specialist (EDU/CME), will be the TC designated focal point in the Mexico Country Office, and will be responsible

for execution. Marie Evane Tamagnan, Education Specialist (SCL/EDU) will serve as Alternate TC Team Leader. EDU will be responsible for supervision costs.

- 5.3 On request by the SEP, and due to its technical assistance capacity, the Education Division of the Bank (SCL/EDU) will be the executing agency. This TC will be executed by the IDB according to TC guidelines (GN-2629-1). All disbursements will be executed through the Bank's systems and will require approval from SCL/EDU. The Bank will contract individual consultants, consulting firms and non-consulting services in accordance with Bank's current procurement policies and procedures (GN-2303-20).

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 No major risks are expected from this project. To prevent any possible risks, the Team will communicate and work closely with the SEP regarding the consultants hired for this project. In addition, the strong links between this TC and ME-L1298 will allow for a wider dissemination of results and guarantee a better sustainability of the project.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

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