

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	EL SALVADOR/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Children raised by grandparents in the Northern Triangle: answers to the education policy Phase II
▪ TC Number:	ES-T1295
▪ Team Leader/Members:	NASLUND-HADLEY, EMMA INGRID (SCL/EDU) Team Leader; ZOIDO LOBATON, PABLO (SCL/EDU) Alternate Team Leader; ELACQUA, GREGORY MICHAEL (SCL/EDU); BERLINSKI, SAMUEL (RES/RES); LOPEZ BOO, FLORENCIA (SCL/SPH); CASTRO PORTILLO, ELENO HERNAN (SCL/EDU); SCANNONE CHAVEZ, RODOLFO ANDRES (SCL/EDU); BRIZUELA LAGOS, EMERITA (CID/CES); SANMARTIN BAEZ, ALVARO LUIS (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	20 Feb 2019
▪ Beneficiary:	El Salvador
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	\$ 600,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	\$ 60,000.00 (In Kind)
▪ Disbursement period:	30 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	Education
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	Social Sector
▪ 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 ; Gender equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The overall objective is to examine child rearing practices in households with abandoned or partially abandoned children in the Northern Triangle; and analyze the effectiveness of caregiver training and social coping strategies on early learning outcomes. The specific objective of Phase II is to evaluate, through an RCT, the caregiver training and social coping strategy models developed under Phase I.
- 2.2 In 2017, the Social Fund approved the first phase of a project to address the growing problem of children in the Northern Triangle who are left behind when parents migrate to the United States and Canada (Musalo et al 2015), are recruited into gangs, incarcerated, or killed in violence (Plotner 2016). As part of Phase I (ES-T1282), a census has been completed in two of El Salvador's most violent municipalities, where IDB consultants have surveyed 24,835 households to identify beneficiaries for Phase II. Meanwhile, a separate consultancy is mapping existing social support structures and services in the municipalities; and develop two alternative models for supporting households with children left behind when parents migrate. In Phase II, the two models will be piloted through a Randomized Control Trial (RCT). The project runs on time and 89% of Phase I resources are committed. The Phase I products are being developed as planned: (i) the census in the municipalities of Soyapango and San Salvador has been completed and a database is currently being created with approximately 5,700 families with children in the one to seven-year age-group; and (ii)

draft child-development support models are being elaborated and will be validated by April 2019.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 The beneficiary population consists of households with children who are 2 to 6 years of age and reside in Soyapango and San Salvador – two municipalities that are among those with Central America's highest levels of violence (Seguridad Justicia y Paz, 2017). To achieve its objective, the TC is structured around three components. 2,500 households will be assigned to one of three possible situations. First, a control group which will receive the status-quo access to goods and services that the Salvadorian government and the civil society provides for families with young children. Second, there will be a relatively low-cost treatment arm (Group I) Third, there will be a more expensive arm (Group II) where families will benefit from an evidence-based child development Training Model, as well as the same low-cost treatment as Group II.
- 3.2 **Component I: Component I – Pilot.** The TC will finance the implementation of the treatments for Groups II and III. Group I households will receive the Social Coping Strategy support in the form of nudges with information about what services are available for their children; and information on everyday activities that can support child development. Group II will receive training that includes face-to-face training sessions, in-home tutoring as well as self-learning activities.
- 3.3 **Component II: Component II – Evaluation.** The Project Team will place 1,000 households in the low-cost intervention, 500 households in the high-cost intervention, 1,000 households in the control group, and 250 households where children grow up with both parents (Group III). A small random subsample of households from each group will be included in a qualitative evaluation. A descriptive quantitative study will examine the impact on of migration and skipped-generation households on child development outcomes.
- 3.4 **Component III: Component III – Dissemination.** Resources from the operation will be used to finance the dissemination of the results in the Northern Triangle, including a regional and a national workshop and two videos. The IDB-MINED Project Team will also draft two documents: (i) based on the census data, a report about Children Left Behind due to Violence and Migration; and (ii) based on the RCT database and the qualitative evaluation, a report on the cost-effectiveness of the two child-development support models.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component I – Pilot	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 240,000.00
Component II – Evaluation	\$ 390,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 410,000.00
Component III – Dissemination	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 This operation will be executed by the Bank's Social Sector Department (SCL/EDU). The TC will have a disbursement period of 30 months. Standard Bank procurement policies will be followed. The direct contracting of IPA is foreseen for the evaluation; and the direct contracting of World Vision is foreseen for the implementation of the two treatment arms. IPA and World Vision are both qualified and considered agencies with exceptional worth for the assignment in accordance with 3.10(d) of the Bank's policies for selection and contracting of consultants (GN-2350-9). Following a competitive

bidding process (ES-T1282), Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA) successfully conducted the census in the pilot communities. Similarly, following a competitive bidding process (ES-T1282), World Vision is successfully elaborating the two treatment models.

- 5.2 The Ministry of Finance has submitted a letter of non-objection and requesting that the Bank will be responsible for all aspects of project management, including the administration of resources, and the contracting of specialized consulting services in accordance with Bank policies and procedures. The Bank successfully administered Phase I of the study (ES-T1282) and has the appropriate systems, administrative capacity and expertise in the area to be able to carry out the selection and hiring of quality consulting services. Moreover, the results envisioned by this operation require the sequencing and close coordination of activities undertaken of different actors – public sector, civil society, academia, and the Bank. Through its ongoing policy dialogue with the beneficiary country, civil society organizations in Central America, and the ECD research community, the Bank is well placed to coordinate of all activities to be financed by this TC and to serve as the executing agency of this operation.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 A pilot based on an experimental design in a context such as low-income areas in El Salvador presents logistical challenges. The commitment of the Government to the study; the Bank's extensive experience in implementing randomized control trials in the education sector; and the successful implementation of the census in the beneficiary municipalities; make the Team confident that the proposed design is feasible.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

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