

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROFILE

TC No: CO-T1119

FEBRUARY 8, 2008

I. BASIC PROJECT DATA

- **Country/Region:** Colombia
- **Program Name/Number:** Support to Community Councils in Colombia II Phase
- **Team Leader/Members:** Diego Arisi (ICS/CCO), team leader; Sebastián Gonzalez Cordoba (CAN/CCO); Mario Loterszpil (consultant); and Juliana Arbelaez (ICF/ICS).
- **Date of Request:** November 19th, 2007
- **Beneficiary:** Colombia
- **Executing Agency:** Office of the President of Colombia
- **Source of Funding:** Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Markets and Governance for Poverty Reduction Trust Fund
- **Financing plan:** IDB (Nonreimbursable) Markets and Governance for Poverty Reduction Trust Fund:

Fund:	US\$	300,000
Cofinancing:	US\$	0
Local:	US\$	75,000
Total:	US\$	375,000
- **Technical and Basic Responsibility:** ICF/ICS
- **Included in Board approved Technical Cooperation Program:** No
- **Tentative dates:** Board of Executive Directors: March 26, 2008

II. BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

- 2.1 In 2006, using resources of the Markets and Governance for Poverty Reduction Trust Fund, the IDB approved a first technical cooperation of US\$149,000 to support a novel participation and consultation community mechanism sponsored by the President Office (Conserjería de las Regiones de la Presidencia de la República). The participatory methodology and mechanism sets in motion and promotes direct communications channels with predominantly the most disadvantage local communities in rural and urban areas, and is structured through

the implementation of customary one-day weekend events, regularly headed by the President of Colombia with the presence and direct participation of members of Cabinet, legislators, the Governor of the Province, the City Major and public officers at the different levels immediately involved with the issues of the specific agenda for each meeting. Civil society and communities' representation include representatives of the different organized local civil, economic and educational institutions and NGO's representing ethnic groups and specific interests in the communities.

- 2.2 The TC document approved for the former phase by the President of the IDB indicated that "for the Bank, supporting this new approach to participative methodologies represents also a new way of learning by sharing the lessons from this new and innovative experience in order to achieve sustainable results in the future". The unique experience and institutional Colombian contexts suggested the possibility of learning lessons in the area of participatory models, placing more emphasis in ownership and accountability for results in the delivery of policies and programs for poverty reduction.
- 2.3 ***Lessons learned.*** In 2007, under this TC the GOC implemented two independent evaluation studies, with very encouraging results. The number of tasks mutually committed was 2009, of which 51% are completed and 39% still in process; only 10% were not performed and closed for different reasons; roughly 37% of initiatives were generated by common citizens and community organizations and 24% in the local authorities; 39% is coming from different participants, including public officers involved in the provision of public services. Among the very diverse type of sectors requirements, education and agriculture draw the primary attention of the communities, indicating that the main concerns in the poor communities have a close relationships with the future of their children and the problems that they have to face with their local economies and local productions. In many cases, security concerns are also dominant. The majority are small projects. Activities implemented were sorted out under objectives 1 (employment creation) and 2 (social equity and poverty reduction) of the National Plan of Development (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo), with results indicating that 35% have been targeted to objective 1 and 52% objective 2. As stated in one of the evaluation studies " the themes of social protection enhancement, educational change and provision of public services are dominant and reflect the purpose of supporting the investments aimed to achieve the Objectives of the Millenium".
- 2.4 The two evaluation studies performed in the context of the TC revealed as well the need for giving consideration to some issues, being the most relevant: (a) the need to boost participation by starting the consultations with the communities in advance and requiring inputs from the same communities to set up the agendas for each meeting, and maintaining further communication using additional means and social and institutional networking; (b) to enhance accountability by improving information and feed-back on the results and final outcomes of the agreements between the government and the communities; (c) to improve coordination between different levels of government and ensure that tasks will be allocated

according to responsibilities, and d) to enhance long lasting credibility ensuring the continuity and the institutional foundation of this methodology.

- 2.5 Having achieved the expected results in the first TC, which was completely disbursed by the 29th of January 2008, the GOC intends to continue this program building up on the results of the previous phase and the recommendations that were made in both evaluation studies. For that purpose the GOC made a request to the IDB to continue its support to the forthcoming period using non reimbursable resources of the Markets and Governance for Reduction of Poverty Trust Fund.

III. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION

A. General objective

- 3.1 The objective of this Technical Cooperation is to provide support to the Community Councils in Colombia, as an important part of the Poverty Reduction and Governance Strengthening strategies of the Colombian government, to ensure wide-ranging participatory practices, continuous measuring of results and robust accountability.

B. Specific objectives

- 3.2 Specific objectives involve : a) progressing and moving towards a wide-open practice of participatory democracy; b) instituting mechanisms for a fully informed government decision making and implementation of results and processes based on the communities voice and needs; c) achieving inclusive accountability for decisions and consequences with clear determination of responsibilities between levels of governments and public agencies implicated in the processes and outcomes; and d) making headways in social and institutional sustainability of the CCG's, by strengthening social and institutional networking and improving open participation of groups and individuals to expand the voice of the poor in government policies and make public services responsive and accountable to the community. The TC will finance the following components and activities:

C. Component I : Strengthening participatory democracy

- 3.3 Ensure that at least 80% of all events, matters, issues, requirements, questions and all other topics and themes generated under this program will be conveniently addressed, by: a) extending the possibilities of day to day continuous communications with communities and individuals; b) ensuring that agendas will reflect previous consultations and extended intervention of the participants with focus in what is workable and implementable and; c) improving the flows of information included in SIGOB to ensure timely and accurate reports of processes, outcomes, results, groups and individual requests.

D. Component II. Development of enhanced and fully accessible information

- 3.4 Guarantee that public information flow timely and reflects accurately the goals, activities, processes and results of the CCG's, with identification of

responsibilities, resources and solutions. It is expected that by the end of this TC, (a) five Regions actively participate and are integrated in building up a new culture of information and feed-back with regard to the CCG's endeavors and departmental and municipal authorities participate, receive and transmit accurate results being the actions to be financed the upgrade of the SIGOB information CCG's module and the integration of regional systems in a synchronized, real time and online information system; (b) reports in the information system identify responsibilities for the processes and outcomes, to ensure responsiveness over the government obligations and; (c) territorial entities that require specific technical support and internal communications systems have the necessary support to manage their information technological base according to their specific needs.

E. Component III. Improving monitoring and evaluation systems

- 3.5 Develop responsiveness and answerability, and supporting regional and local civil society groups to hold national and local governments to account. It is expected that with the actions included in this component at least: (a) 80% of online visitors find that the information is complete, consistent and truth worthy; (b) 100% of the activities reported by the system are linked online with territorial entities; (c) all the territorial entities are fully informed of the technological and institutional arrangements that support the information flows and reports of the CCG's; and (d) a continuous follow up and monitoring and evaluation system has been established and operates under a fully professional and participatory approach.

F. Component IV. Strengthening fundamentals of future sustainability

- 3.6 Aimed at ensuring that there is in place, functioning on a long term basis and instituted a new mechanism of participative democracy that supports good governance in Colombia. The TC will finance actions that will extend social networking and social capital linked to this participative methodology and will strengthen the organizational settings of the current institutional cluster involved and in charge for the activities and results delivered through the President's office.

IV. BUDGET

- 4.1 Total costs estimates are shown in the following table:

	Trust Fund	Local Counterpart	Total
Component I	46.000		46.000
Component II	84.500	22.000	106.500
Component III	64.000		64.000
Component IV	60.500	53.000	113.500
Sub Total	255.000		255.000
Evaluation	35.000		35.000
Auditing	10.000		10.000
GRAND TOTALS	300.000	75.000	375.000

- 4.2 Eligible activities to be financed by the IDB contribution will not include the necessary supplies, space allocations, travel, and sponsorships for these events, that will be financed with local counterpart. The contribution will not support

recurrent expenditures of the government and funding of public officers expenses to attend the meetings in the consultations with the different communities. Local contributions for the period of this TC are approved for US\$1.7 millions. Resources of the contribution for the financing of goods (supplies, equipment, etc) will not be more than 30% of total Bank financing. Local counterpart resources up to the amount of US\$ 75,000 will be in-kind.

V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 5.1 The Technical Cooperation will be conducted by the Office of the President through the General Secretary with the support of the Presidential Agency for Social and International Cooperation, assisted by the UNDP. Disbursements will be made following IDB procedures for reimbursement of expenses. An initial disbursement equivalent to 10% of total IDB contribution will be made upon contract signature and completion of conditionalities. The executing mechanisms utilized under the TC have been satisfactorily implemented and similar mechanisms and procedures will be used in the current TC. Under Component IV the executing agency will also receive institutional strengthening that will allow for an enhanced implementation of this project.

VI. MAJOR ISSUES

- 6.1 No special issues were identified. The TC intends to increase demand focus, centering on what has to be done in terms of effectiveness and efficient allocation of responsibilities among actors, capacities to implement effective actions, enhanced ability to monitor and evaluate the processes and outcomes, institutional sustainability and increased accountability and ownership.

VII. ACTION PLAN

- 7.1 The Plan of Operations will be ready and presented for approval by the second week of February 2008. For that purpose, 25 days of consulting services will be needed for the preparation of the final documents.

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

- 8.1 The Community Councils have generated collective spaces for open dialogues between public servants and citizens. In Colombia taking a long term view and building a common language for dialogue with urban and rural communities that otherwise stay largely far away from the political processes creates a broader political space for a viable market oriented and democratic state and for peaceful solutions from which the main beneficiaries will be the urban and rural poor. Progress in government's pro-poor and social policies have been clearly demonstrated and will expanded with this TC making public interventions more significant and sustainable and expanding mechanisms for effective accountability. Direct beneficiaries of the TC will be the urban and rural communities in which the consultations are taking place.

- 8.2 No negative environmental impacts are expected; and according to the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy GN-2208-20 and OP-703, the operation has been classified as “C”. On the contrary, the CC mechanism demonstrated increased awareness for environmental issues in the communities. Solving sanitation issues, improving environmental management at the local levels was extensively requested and worked out with effective solutions. Community participation building up environmental awareness was already present in the agendas and meetings of the Community Councils.

IX. APPROVAL

Approved by: (Original Firmado) Date: 02/07/2008
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CAN/CAN

Approved by: (Original Firmado) Date: 02/05/2008
Mario Marcel, General Manager
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Concur: (Original Firmado) Date: 01/31/2008
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Concur: (Original Firmado) Date: 02/04/2008
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