

PUBLIC

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

**Regional**

**International Conference on Girl's Education**

**TC9802340**

**Operations Plan**

**May 1998**

A-01015-5901-03  
12-1-1998

**REGIONAL**

**PLAN OF OPERATIONS**

TC-98-02-34-0

PROJECT NAME: Participation of Honduran and Haitian Advocates in International Conference on Girls' Education, Washington, D.C., 6 to 8 May, 1998, and In-Country Follow-Up

TEAM MEMBERS: Leader: Isabel Nieves (RE2/SO2), Paulina Gonzalez-Pose (RE2/SO2) and Anki Sundelin (COF/CGU).

EXECUTING AGENCY: SO2/RE2

AMOUNT: US\$61,564

FUND: Norwegian Fund for Innovation in Social Programs (NFISP)

**I. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In a joint recognition that gender issues in education need to feature prominently in the agendas of development agencies, the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Delegation of the European Commission and several private sector organizations are sponsoring an international conference: "Educating Girls: A Development Imperative". This three-day event will take place at the International Trade Center in downtown Washington, D.C., on May 6 to 8, 1998. The conference's goal is to strengthen public sector, private sector, and civil society partnerships and commitments to address gender concerns in education, in particular to increase girls' schooling worldwide. It will gather about 500 individuals from approximately 20 countries to attend conferences, panel discussions, workshops, plenaries with experts in the field, and country sessions. The conference announcement appears in Annex I and Annex II contains a draft conference schedule.
- 1.2 The IDB's involvement in conference preparations and in the event itself will be substantial. An internal working group from the three social programs divisions, the Women in Development Unit, the External Relations Unit and the publications facility has been coordinating our contributions. President Iglesias has agreed to speak at the inaugural ceremony, along with Brian Atwood of USAID, Carol Belamy of UNICEF and James Wolfenshon of the World Bank. Executive Vice-President Birdsall will give a key-note address at a reception hosted by the Bank during the evening of 6 May. The April issue of IDB Americas will feature a main article on the gender gap in education in Latin America.
- 1.3 This proposal seeks funding for seven individuals from Haiti (six advocates and one facilitator) and an equal number from Honduras to

participate in the international conference; in addition it requests funding to provide seed money for these groups to initiate awareness-raising activities related to gender issues in education in their respective countries, in coordination with the IDB-financed education investment projects, after the conference. SO1 and SO3 are independently seeking funds to enable groups from RE1 and RE3 countries to attend the conference. USAID and UNICEF have committed funding for groups from Africa, Asia and other Latin American countries to participate in the conference, including Guatemala, Bolivia and Brazil.

## **II. OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY**

- 2.1 The ultimate goal of this activity is to support in-country advocacy for gender issues in education in two RE2 countries in which these issues are important and the Bank is financing basic education activities. The objectives are to: (i) enable a group of advocates from each of two countries to attend the conference; (ii) support post-conference advocacy activities by these groups in coordination with the execution of IDB-financed basic education programs.
- 2.2 Participant selection will follow a procedure agreed to by all sponsoring agencies. The event has been conceived for leaders, advocates, opinion makers and activists who are interested in or committed to working towards gender equality in education from a variety of social sectors, primarily civil society (NGOs), business, government, the media, religious and academic organizations, and grass roots movements. At least six and no more than 15 carefully identified and selected individuals from each participating country will be invited to attend. (For Haiti and Honduras each, the country teams will have six members and one facilitator.) This will require in-country preparatory work. Although not a delegation in the formal sense, these individuals will be expected to meet at least once before the conference to start building a sense of association. In RE2 countries the probabilities are high that many of these individuals know each other and have collaborated on this or other issues.
- 2.3 One of the sponsoring agencies' country office will assume the role of coordinator or will appoint a facilitator to identify the relevant social sectors in that country, identify potential participants, engage their interest in and commitment to the conference and to the follow-up activities. Criteria for selecting conference participants have also been agreed among the sponsoring agencies and include: (i) national or regional influence; (ii) influential in his/her sector and with peers; (iii) willingness to collaborate with other participants on activities in-country following the conference; (iv) appreciation of the importance of gender issues in education for his/her country.
- 2.4 For Honduras and Haiti, the project team proposes to hire an in-country facilitator to work as a consultant based in the Country Office for one month prior to the conference and two months (non-consecutive) afterward. The facilitator will bring the group of conference participants together in-country before the conference. One of the facilitator's main task will be to familiarize the conference participant's with the IDB's education activities in each country,

including projects in the pipeline and in execution.

- 2.5 The IDB country facilitator will be in charge of logistical arrangements prior to the conference and will accompany the participants to the conference. During the event, the country groups will have several opportunities to work together as a team and with groups from other countries in their regions (see Annex II: Draft Schedule). During these gatherings, the country teams will be expected to draft a short-term (six to 12 months) action plan and budget for post-conference activities. The action plan will be finalized upon their return to their respective countries. Action plans will be completed no later than June 30, 1998. These plans will focus on advocacy, lobbying and fund raising for the longer term. The Bank will review and approve these plans. The person responsible will be the Regional Gender Specialist.
- 2.6 The action plans should contain the following, at least: (i) advocacy activities to address specific gender issues in the basic education projects funded by the Bank during execution; (ii) activities related to policy dialogue with Ministries of Education, other governmental figures and the IDB project execution teams; and (iii) activities to develop a longer-term action plan or strategy. If necessary, letters of no objection will be sought from the Ministries of Education in each country for the implementation of the action plans.
- 2.7 Each country team will have a fund of up to US\$10,000 available to implement post-conference activities. This proposal requests a total of US\$ 20,000 for this purpose. It is suggested that the funds be approved in principle, and that the specific amounts be approved by the project team when the country plans and budgets are approved by the IDB.
- 2.8 The facilitator will work with the country team for a period of up to two months after the conference, finalizing the work plan and providing logistical and technical support. This assistance will not be provided necessarily over the course of two consecutive months, but will adapt to the needs of the country advocacy groups. The social sector specialist in the Country Office will become increasingly involved during this period. Thereafter, the social sector specialist will supervise and support the activities of the country team. The Regional Gender Specialist will provide additional guidance.

### III. JUSTIFICATION

- 3.1 The education of girls and young women is a pressing issue in many Latin American countries, particularly those with large indigenous, rural or extremely poor populations. The formal education of girls and young women is a vital component of poverty reduction efforts in the social sectors. The relation between formal education of girls and employment, productivity, health, nutrition and fertility outcomes is robust and well documented, throughout the developing world.

- 3.2 Gender issues in education go beyond equity in access, enrollment, attendance and graduation rates. They include concerns regarding classroom dynamics, teaching methods, testing, tracking, content of learning materials and curricula, and expectations of academic performance that reinforce gender stereotypes and short-change girls. In some countries of the region, Nicaragua, Panama and Haiti for example, a quick view of primary education statistics would reveal little need for attention to gender issues since there does not appear to be a gender gap. However, the systemic issues remain, as evidenced by lower levels of secondary school enrollment and blatant gender stereotypes in textbooks and other teaching materials. If the data were available, they would probably show the low academic performance of girls in the scientific, mathematical and technological fields starting in pre-adolescence.
- 3.3 Haiti and Honduras have been selected because the Bank is developing or financing basic education projects and has a long-term commitment to educational development in both countries. They are among the four poorest countries in RE2. Guatemala, the other potential candidate, is being sponsored by USAID.
- 3.4 The Honduras basic education project has been approved by the Bank and will be approved by the new government in the very near future. The Bank will sponsor a launching seminar in April with participation of education and gender specialists as well as government officials. The Haiti basic education project will be presented to the Board in late July. Gender issues are being considered during project preparation. The current TC is financing a targeting study which includes an analysis of gender differences in school access and attendance.
- 3.5 The activities proposed offer an opportunity to complement the activities described above with policy dialogue, advocacy and other stakeholder consultations to ensure attention to gender concerns during the executing phase. They will also help ensure that the gender issues addressed during project design are paid attention to during the implementation phase.

#### **IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 4.1 In accordance with the Agreement signed between the IDB and the Norwegian Government, NFISP resources shall be used to finance social sector activities for countries within Region 2. As stated in the Agreement, there are no nationality restrictions on consultants hired through NFISP resources.

#### **V. ESTIMATED COSTS AND FINANCING**

- 5.1 The cost of the activity is estimated at US\$61,564 to be charged against resources of the NFISP. Upon approval of specific activities, SO2 will create and/or transfer resources to the appropriate accounting categories required to implement each activity. Annex III presents a budget and Annex IV a GANTT chart of proposed activities.

## **VI. DISBURSEMENTS**

- 6.1 The disbursement period for the activity is expected to be 16 months, effective at the time of approval of the NFISP Technical Cooperation. Internally, RE2/SO2 will follow **standard IDB** procedures for activity resource allocation. Internal disbursements will be based on Form 83 and will require signature approval from the activity leader and SO2's Division Chief. Execution of funds will be transferred to the respective Country Offices and will be the responsibility of the social sector specialist.

## **VII. EXECUTION**

- 7.1 The Bank is responsible for managing funds under this operation in accordance with usual procedures applicable to TC Fund Operations.
- 7.2 Procurement: Goods and consultant services will be purchased in accordance with normal IDB procedures as applied to SO2 and the Country Offices.

## **VIII. REPORTS**

- 8.1 In accordance with NFISP requirements set forth by SO2-NFISP Review Panel, the project team will prepare a brief updates after the individual country plans have been submitted and approved. A final technical report will be prepared by the Regional Gender Specialist within two months after end of activity. The reports will indicate how the activity contributed to the development of a specific operation and/or to the overall social sector strategies for the region. The final activity report of approximately three (3) to four (4) pages will also include a best practices/lessons learned summary as an addendum.

## **IX. SUPERVISION AND BASIC RESPONSIBILITY**

- 9.1 The Social Programs Division (RE2/SO2) will have the technical responsibility for the NFISP operation. The Bank (headquarters and Country Offices) shall be responsible for selecting and hiring all consultants, processing the required disbursements, carrying out acquisitions, and other services required under this operation. This responsibility shall be exercised in accordance with the Bank's standard policies and procedures. Division of responsibilities between headquarters and Country Offices will be mutually agreed prior to the initial disbursement.

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**USAID**

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**World Bank**

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**Inter-American  
Development Bank**

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**Delegation of the  
European Commission**

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**UNICEF**

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**Lewis T. Preston Education  
Program for Girls**

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# International Conference on Girls' Education

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International Trade Center, Washington, D.C., May 6, 7, & 8, 1998

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## Mobilizing Leaders Worldwide

### Conference Program and Venue

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Commission, UNICEF, and the Lewis T. Preston Education Program for Girls are planning an international conference on girls' education. It will address the effectiveness of, responsibility for, and sustainability of initiatives for girls' education.

The conference will be held at the International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., on May 6, 7, and 8, 1998.

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### Girls' Education: Key to Sustainable Development

The education of girls is important for all nations. It has high social and economic benefits in terms of decreased fertility and improved family health and nutrition, children's educational attainment, productivity, and democratic participation.

All sectors of society — business, religion, the media, academia — in collaboration with the government, can make a difference in the education of children, particularly girls. Over the past decade, numerous interventions to increase girls' school attendance, completion, and achievement have been tested, and promising strategies have been identified. The critical issues of the long-term effectiveness of these interventions, and the responsibility for sustaining them over time, have not been adequately addressed.

- *What roles can the government, private sector, religious community, and other non-governmental organizations play in ensuring that girls' educational needs are addressed?*
- *How can families and communities be supported in their efforts to increase girls' school participation?*
- *What strategies are most cost-effective and sustainable in increasing girls' school participation?*
- *What approaches are most effective in improving the educational experience and learning environment for girls?*

### Goal

The goal of the conference is to strengthen public-sector, private-sector, and civil society partnerships and commitments to increase girls' school participation worldwide. To this end, the conference will:

- Engage traditional and non-traditional partners in a dialogue about how improvements in girls' education can accelerate a country's social and economic development;
- Focus international media attention on efforts to expand girls' education;
- Examine the roles of the government, private-sector, religious, and other non-governmental organizations in ensuring girls' school completion;
- Identify, showcase, and learn from leaders in government, business, industry, religious organizations, and foundations who are leading education improvement efforts; and
- Present new knowledge on cost-effective and sustainable approaches for increasing girls' educational opportunities.

### Participants

- Leaders in government, business, and religious organizations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Near East
- Private-sector, academic, and philanthropic organizations, foundations, and other non-governmental organizations
- Media organizations
- International agencies

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GIRLS' EDUCATION**  
**MAY 6, 7 and 8, 1998**

*December 6, 1997*

**Draft schedule**

	Wednesday, May 6	Thursday, May 7	Friday, May 8
8:30-9:30	Registration	unscheduled sessions	unscheduled sessions
9:30-11:00	<b>Opening Plenary</b> --(IIR) Hillary Clinton invited; video or slide show; sponsors welcome guests; Mrs. Mubarak? Who from outside the US?	<b>Media Plenary</b> -- (Polly and Michaela): Overview of effective media and communication efforts	<b>NGO Plenary</b> -- (Chloe, May and Aster): Overview of effective NGO initiatives
	Break in exhibit area	Break in exhibit area	Break in exhibit area
11:30 - 1:00	<b>Government and Policy Plenary</b> -- (Karen) Overview of conference with prominent reps from each sector presenting highlights	Expert sessions on media and communications best practices	Expert sessions on effective NGO activities
1:00- 2:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:30-3:30	<b>Private Sector Plenary</b> -- (Annette and Vivian): Overview of effective corporate and business initiatives; controversial practices?	<b>Religious Sector Plenary</b> -- (Mona, Annette, Jennifer): Understanding religious opportunities and barriers to girls' education	Country and regional action planning
	Break in exhibit area	Break in exhibit area	Break in exhibit area
4:00 - 5:30	Expert sessions on effective private sector models	Expert sessions on NGO and religious activities	<b>Closing plenary session</b>
5:30 - 6:30	Country and regional meetings (must be effectively structured)	Country and regional meetings	
7:00	<b>HOSTED RECEPTION</b>	<b>HOSTED RECEPTION</b>	

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- "( )" represents lead coordinator(s)
  - major speakers at each plenary session
  - all posters on display in the exhibit hall
  - all coffee breaks in exhibit hall
  - receptions may be on site, or at The World Bank or InterAmerican Development Bank



### Annex III: Budget

	Quantity	Unit Cost	Amount
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#### I. Consultant Services

HAITI	3 months	2500	7500
HONDURAS	3 months	3000	9000

#### II. International Trips and Per Diem

HAITI	7	600	4200
HONDURAS	7	700	4900
perdiem	56 person days	204	11424
other travel expenses	56 person days	40	2240

#### III. Communications

International Communications			2000
Conference Registration Fees*	3	100	300

#### IV. Country Funds

HAITI			10,000
HONDURAS			10,000

<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$61,564.00</b>
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\*For IDB project team members

# Annex IV: GANTT Chart

	February	March	April	May	June-Dec	Jan-Jun '99
Hire Facilitators	X					
Identify Participants	X	X				
Pre Conf. Meetings			X			
Conference				X		
Finalize Action Plans				X		
Implementation of Action Plans					X	X