

Social Investment Program

PANAMA

SECTOR: Social

PROJECT NAME: Social Investment Program
(854/OC-PN and 855/OC-PN)

TOTAL COST: \$37.5 million

FINANCING:

IDB	\$30.0 million
LOCAL	\$ 7.5 million

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 21, 1994

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The objectives of this operation are: (a) to assist the government of Panama in its efforts to alleviate poverty; (b) to foster participation by civil society in the management of resources intended to improve the quality of life in poor communities; and (c) to finance small-scale investment projects that will make a direct contribution toward improving the quality of life of the target population.

The program includes two components: projects; and institutional strengthening of the Fondo de Emergencia Social (FES). The projects component is comprised of: (a) financing for small-scale infrastructure works to support the delivery of basic social services in the sectors of education, health care, sanitation, and road infrastructure; (b) the provision of equipment and materials needed to deliver the basic services associated with the projects; and (c) training of personnel and involvement of communities in the formulation, management and maintenance of projects. The institutional strengthening component is comprised of: (a) the reinforcement of institutional changes already under way within the FES; and (b) development of a more rigorous system for monitoring the environmental quality of projects.

CONSULTANTS: Consultants will be needed to: (a) train parents'

associations in the operation, supervision, and maintenance of educational facilities; (b) train community personnel in health education, self care, preventive outreach programs, and the promotion of health committees; (c) train communities in the operation and maintenance of basic sanitation projects; (d) train communities in road infrastructure project maintenance; and (e) provide environmental consulting services to implement an environmental quality control system for projects.

GOODS AND EQUIPMENT: Equipment and goods will be procured, such as furniture, equipment, and school supplies for educational facilities, and basic equipment for the health care establishments.

CIVIL WORKS: The civil works section includes: (a) the rehabilitation, expansion, and new construction for replacement purposes and/or to bridge gaps in coverage by health care institutions, encompassing health posts, subcenters, and centers; (b) the rehabilitation and/or replacement of physical education infrastructure; (c) the rehabilitation and/or installation of small-scale drinking water distribution systems; (d) the installation of latrines in rural and marginal urban areas; and (e) the construction and/or rehabilitation of small-scale projects and structures for pedestrians and/or vehicles (e.g., farm-to-market roads, fords, footbridges, containment walls to prevent cave-ins, and drainage ditches).

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