

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project name: Program for strengthening the Offices of the Comptroller General and the Auditor General

Project number: CO-0244

Borrower: Republic of Colombia

Executing agency: Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic and Office of the Auditor General of the Republic

Amount and source:

IDB (OC):	US\$23 million
Local:	US\$19 million
Total:	US\$42 million

I. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the program is to help improve governance in Colombia by strengthening the national system of fiscal control, with a focus on its principal agency, the Office of the Comptroller General [*Contraloría General de la República*] (CGR). The CGR is expected to become a true and effective agent for change by exercising efficient and proactive fiscal control, with modernized procedures and techniques. The strengthening of the CGR, the Office of the Auditor General [*Auditoría General de la República*] (AGR) and the regional comptrollers' offices [*Contralorías Territoriales*] will seek to bring about substantive changes in the performance of entities responsible for control (central and regional), audits and supervision, and in the effectiveness of citizen participation.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To produce a genuine and effective transformation in the entities making up the national system of fiscal control, their management capacity must be strengthened and they must be equipped with the tools to perform the functions for which they are responsible. The program is divided into four components: institutional and management strengthening of the CGR, mission-related strengthening of the CGR, strengthening of the national system of fiscal control, and strengthening of the AGR.

Each of these components is composed of a number of operations plans, constituting the principal instrument for execution of the program. Each plan contains a diagnosis of the current situation, objectives, work schedule, progress indicators and an itemized budget.

The component for institutional and management strengthening of the CGR consists of the following activities: (i) worker compensation and adjustment; (ii) human resource

management and training; (iii) enhancement of internal management procedures; and (iv) information center and computer infrastructure.

To equip the CGR to carry out mission responsibilities, such as audit, fiscal accountability and enforcement, the operational strengthening component calls for the following activities: (i) support for micro fiscal control functions, primarily auditing; (ii) support for macro fiscal control functions, i.e., examination of the national accounts and preparation of fiscal statistics; (iii) support for fiscal liability and enforcement and collection procedures; and (iv) development of instruments to strengthen mission-related activities. This component will allow the CGR to coordinate its mission responsibilities so as ensure proper coordination of the entire supervisory cycle.

The third component will finance activities to help the other agencies that comprise the national fiscal control system, particularly the regional comptrollers' offices and the AGR, to improve and standardize their institutional capacity and their methodologies so as to exert effective control over fiscal management at the national and regional level. This component has two types of activities: (i) consolidation of the regional comptrollers' offices; and (ii) strengthening of the AGR.

The fourth component seeks to encourage citizens to take an active role in fiscal control, through the following activities: (i) service and guidance to the public in processing claims and complaints of irregularities in the management of public funds; (ii) social control over projects to facilitate citizen access to information on investment projects under way at the national, regional and local level; (iii) publicity and promotion to encourage greater social control of projects, and (iv) research and evaluations in support of establishing a clear State policy of promoting citizen participation in the exercise of fiscal control.