

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	PERU/CAN - Andean Group
▪ TC Name:	Hybrid Learning in Peru: Evaluating the Use of the Platform Conecta Ideas at scale
▪ TC Number:	PE-T1477
▪ Team Leader/Members:	ARIAS ORTIZ, ELENA (SCL/SCL) Team Leader; MENDEZ VARGAS, CAROLINA PATRICIA (SCL/EDU) Alternate Team Leader; CRISTIA, JULIAN P. (RES/RES); HOLGUIN MADRINAN, ALEJANDRA (SCL/SCL); PULIDO RAMIREZ, XIOMARA (RES/RES); ALMEIDA OLEAS, NATALIA (LEG/SGO); BLASCO, IVANA (SCL/EDU); ALEMAN, MARCO ANDRES (VPC/FMP); ARGUELLO, MARLENE ZORAIDA (VPC/FMP)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	30 Mar 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	Peru
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$250,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	30 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/EDU - Education
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL/EDU - Education
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 This project seeks to evaluate the impact of the Conecta Ideas platform on math learning in Peru when used at scale. In addition, the project will generate evidence on cost-effective strategies to promote the use of learning platforms, a fundamental input for the countries of the region that are seeking both to address the COVID-19 emergency and promote the use of effective hybrid learning models.
- 2.2 Because of the COVID-19, schools in Latin America and the Caribbean were fully closed for 158 days on average during 2020, compared to a global average of 95 days (UNICEF, 2021) affecting 158 million students. In order to ensure the continuity of education services, Peru adopted a multichannel strategy with its program Aprendo en Casa (Learning at Home) that includes TV and radio but also a website that provides access to learning materials such as guides and workbooks. As part of the efforts to maintain learning in key learning areas such as Math, the Ministry of Education of Peru (MINEDU) partnered with the Bank and other organizations (PE-T1431) to adapt and use Conecta Ideas in Lima during 2020, an on-line platform aimed at improving math learning that was highly successful in Chile (Araya et al. 2019). The following adjustments were made: (i) weekly exercises using a website or an app, as well as videos aligned with the math curriculum in Peru and the Aprendo en casa program; (ii) personalized automatic reports provided to teachers

about their students' academic achievement; (iii) text messages and reminders sent to parents to promote the use of the online learning platform at home. Conecta Ideas Peru was implemented in 59 public schools in Lima in 2020 to promote home-based learning and improve math skills. Approximately 15,000 public school students in 4th and 5th grade and 500 teachers accessed the platform first at school, then at home. A website called Conecta Ideas Peru was designed, with instructions on how to connect and videos on mathematics topics. The platform was accessible from any digital device, including cellular phones (over 90% of participating families have a cell phone with internet access). Despite the challenges generated by the pandemic, the pilot had great results. Between July and December 2020 the percentage of students connected weekly to the platform increased from 1% to 35%, and 58% of students have used the platform at some point. For MINEDU, Conecta Ideas is a useful tool for the hybrid education model they expect to implement during 2021. MINEDU requested IDB support to scale access to the platform to all students in public schools attending grades 4 and 5 and extend the contents to students in 6th grade (1.4 million students in public schools). This TC will support the government in the scale-up of the Conecta Ideas program nationally and ensure the tablets that will be distributed will have age appropriate content and activities linked to the curriculum in Mathematics. It will also promote the development of digital skills of teachers and the use of technology as an instructional tool. Finally, the evaluation will collect evidence on how to incentivize the use of the digital platforms in a hybrid learning setting at scale. In the immediate future, a growing adoption of technology in education the Latin America and the Caribbean is expected given the rapid transition of education systems towards a digital environment triggered by the pandemic (Arias Ortiz et al., 2020). Existing evidence shows Computer Assisted Learning is an effective tool to promote learning in a recent meta-analysis (Escueta et al. 2020) and Conecta Ideas in particular, can have significant impact on Math learning when implemented in a school setting (Araya et al. 2019). Thus, this large scale pilot is an opportunity to learn how to promote the use of these platforms at scale.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Component I: Adapting Conecta Ideas Peru at scale..** The activities in this component will include: (i) content: developing additional exercises in the online platform, videos and related materials aligned to the 6th grade curriculum in Peru; (ii) Personalization: the automatic reports to teachers on the performance of their students will be improved to allow for further personalization; (iii) teacher support: develop tutorial videos to promote autonomy and long term adoption and large-scale support sessions; (iv) management and implementation.
- 3.2 **Component II: Component II: monitoring and evaluation of the program.** The activities in this component will include: i) design of strategies to promote use: the large-scale communication channels used by MINEDU to promote the use of the app including TV, radio, web, the press, and social media as well as text messages; ii) design features that generate automatic indicators of students and teachers; iii) dashboard with key statistics to analyze how the platform is updated weekly; iv) conduct an impact evaluation of the strategies used to promote use.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component I: Adapting Conecta Ideas Peru at scale.	US\$150,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$150,000.00
Component II: monitoring and evaluation of the	US\$100,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$100,000.00

program			
Total	US\$250,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$250,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 By request of the Ministry of Education of Peru, this TC will be executed by the Bank.
- 5.2 The Bank has developed strong expertise in technology for learning from the evaluation in Chile and the implementation of the previous pilot in Lima, Peru. Moreover, the Bank has also edited a book on how to use technology for math learning and a Technical Note on how to promote effective programs in technology in education. This accumulated expertise will be exploited to ensure a strong implementation of the TC and to ensure that the findings from this project are embedded in future Bank operations, policy dialogue, and are used to promote capacity building in countries in LAC that are seeking to use technology for learning effectively. The letter from the client is included as Annex I.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 One of the major risks is the political change in the country given that there will be general elections in 2021. However, there is wide consensus on the need to make good use of the tablets purchased, especially in the context of COVID-19 given that most schools will be transitioning from distance education to hybrid or full in person over the academic year. To mitigate the risks, the team works in close coordination with key stakeholders at the Ministry of Education. In addition, a large share of expenses in the program to distribute tablets and internet are already included in the annual budget of the government of Peru for 2021.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

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