

PROJECT TO DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE WHEELCHAIR INDUSTRY

(TC-01-06-04-1)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executing agency:	The International Foundation for Solidarity with Persons Disabled by War (SOLIDEZ)
Beneficiaries:	Approximately 50 micro and small workshops and their workers will directly benefit from project activities. Most of those workshops will learn new techniques for producing wheelchairs and will therefore be able to broaden the spectrum of their businesses. Once the repairs and production system has been launched, the project will have an immediate impact on at least 1,300 disabled persons in Nicaragua who have not had access to high-quality wheelchairs. At least 1,200 wheelchair users in urban and rural areas are expected to receive repair services from microenterprises participating in the project.
Objectives:	The general objective is to help provide more mobility-impaired persons with access to high-quality wheelchairs enabling them to take part in the social and economic life of Nicaraguan society. The specific objective is to develop a local sustainable wheelchair production industry that efficiently meets the demand of the country's disabled population.
Description:	<p>To achieve its objective, the project has three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Component I: Transfer of appropriate wheelchair production technology: The objective of this component is to transfer to local workshop entrepreneurs and workers the most current knowledge and techniques for producing wheelchairs suited to local conditions and, in turn, to reduce production costs and improve product quality.(ii) Component II. Incentives and wheelchair repair and production training for microworkshops: The main objective here is to increase the number of microworkshops specializing in wheelchair repair and production, to give users easy access to repair services.(iii) Component III. Promoting local wheelchairs. Through this component, the project seeks to promote the expansion

of a national market for local wheelchairs in order to maximize use of available resources to procure wheelchairs.

Financing:	Modality: Nonreimbursable (Small Enterprise Development Facility)	
	MIF	US\$304,600
	Local counterpart:	US\$ <u>275,200</u>
	Total:	US\$579,800
Execution timetable:	Execution period:	36 months
	Disbursement period:	42 months
Environmental and social review:	The Committee on Environment and Social Impact (CESI) reviewed and approved the project abstract on August 10, 2001. No observations were made at the meeting.	
Special contractual clauses:	As conditions precedent to the first disbursement of the Bank's contribution, SOLIDEZ shall demonstrate, to the Bank's satisfaction, that: (i) the Operating Regulations approved by the Bank are in effect (paragraph 5.5); (ii) the AJWS contribution has been deposited in a special bank account (paragraph 4.1); and (iii) the project coordinator has been selected (paragraph 5.4).	
Exceptions to Bank policy:	None.	