

Primary Education Improvement Program

PARAGUAY

SECTOR: Education

PROJECT NAME: Primary Education Improvement Program
(770/OC-PR and 908/SF-PR)

TOTAL COST: \$59.0 million

FINANCING:

IDB	\$52.8 million
LOCAL	\$ 6.2 million

DATE OF APPROVAL: September 22, 1993

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this program is to improve the quality of pre-school and primary education, increase its internal efficiency and optimize the use of funds allocated to it. The program comprises the following subprograms: (a) a program for improving education quality and upgrading teacher skills, designed to improve levels of learning and the quality, coverage and efficiency of preschool and primary education; and (b) a program for management development of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, designed to meet the more pressing needs of strengthening of the ministry in order to implement the results of the program and ensure their sustainability.

The first subprogram will improve the quality of education through activities, such as reworking the curriculum to adapt it to the users' needs and expectations, preparing new textbooks and teaching materials in order to improve the students' academic performance, rehabilitating and expanding the physical infrastructure of approximately 400 primary schools, as well as information, dissemination and community training to promote the importance of basic education. It will also improve the quality of teachers through strengthening of the Ministry of Education's current system of teacher training.

The second subprogram includes the following components:

(a) management and administration information systems, including computerized administrative and budgetary information, and strengthening of the school maintenance system; and (b) educational management and computerized information, which comprises the design and installation of data processing for educational planning, establishment of a national school performance evaluation system, strengthening of supervision and carrying out of studies to measure the socioeconomic factors that affect the students' efficiency.

CIVIL WORKS: The main civil works include rehabilitation and expansion of approximately 400 primary schools and teaching institutes. The schedule of announcement for specific procurement notices is as follows: (a) civil works for teacher-training institutes: last quarter of 1993; (b) civil works for schools and teacher-training institutes: second quarter of 1994.

GOODS AND EQUIPMENT: Specific procurement notices will be published for pre-qualification and bidding on: (a) equipment (including computers), teaching materials and furnishings: first quarter of 1994; and (b) equipment, teaching materials and additional books: third quarter of 1993.

CONSULTANTS: Consulting services will be hired for a total of 242 staff/months for preparation of the study plans, development of texts, training of teachers and institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and other participating units.

EXECUTING AGENCY: Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs

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