

TC Abstract

I. BASIC PROJECT DATA

▪ Country/Region:	El Salvador
▪ TC Name:	Improving the Quality of Care in Early Childhood
▪ TC Number:	
▪ Team Leader/ Members:	Luis Tejerina (SPH/CES) Team leader, Karen Munguía (CID/CES), Xiomara Alemán (SPH/CVE)
▪ Indicate if: Operational Support, Client Support, or Research & Dissemination	Client Support
▪ If Operational Support TC, give number and name of Operation Supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Reference to Request ¹ : (IDBDOCS #)	IDBDOCS-#38382651
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	7-March-2014
▪ Beneficiary	Whole Child International
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	Whole Child International, Meghan López
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$1,000,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period (which includes execution period):	24 months
▪ Required start date:	30-June-2014
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms and individual consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CID/CES
▪ Included in Country Strategy (y/n);	N
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	N
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	The program is consistent with IDB's Ninth General Increase of Resources (AB-2764) and contributes to the priority areas of the Social Sector Strategy on Social Policy for Equity and Productivity by efficiently supporting the investment of early childhood development.

II. OBJECTIVE AND BACKGROUND

The objective of the technical cooperation is to improve the quality of care that vulnerable children ages 0-6 receive, through the strengthening of key public stakeholders responsible for this segment of the population.

In El Salvador, there are approximately 41% of all children aged 0-6 living in poverty (World Bank, 2009; CEPAL-UNICEF, 2010). The public system of care for children in En El Salvador is composed of Child Development Centers (CDI by its acronym in Spanish) in the urban areas and Centers for Integral Wellbeing (CBI by its acronym in Spanish) which provide daily care, and Protection Centers (CdP by its

¹ Una copia de la Carta de Solicitud, ayuda memoria de la misión o reunión de Programación/Revisión de Cartera, o Informe solicitando la CT deberá ser presentada con el Abstracto de CT.

acronym in Spanish), which provide protection to children at risk who are not living with their families as well as serving as orphanages.

Currently, there are 14 Child Development Centers, 190 Integral Wellbeing Centers, and 13 Protection Centers serving approximately 7000 children (approximately 1237 in CDIs, 4894 in CBIs and 500 in CdPs). Aside from the limited availability of services, the country does not have a comprehensive evaluation of the quality of care of the centers that serve this vulnerable population. Whole Child International (WCI) is a non-profit organization whose main focus is to improve the quality of care of the children at existing Childcare Centers and Protection Centers (orphanages) in developing countries. WCI has successfully worked with Protection Centers, Childcare Centers, and parents in Nicaragua under the Technical Cooperation ATN/KP-12327-NI; for example between 2006 and 2012 the percentage of children displaying an intellectual disability, in spite of not having one, was reduced from 82% to 14.6%²; and challenging behaviors, such as aggressivity, self stimulation, and other behaviors associated with children not receiving developmentally appropriate care, were also reduced. The program is consistent with IDB's Ninth General Increase of Resources (AB-2764) strategy and contributes to the priority areas of the Social Sector Strategy on Social Policy for Equity and Productivity by efficiently supporting the investment in early childhood development given that the work is based on improving the quality of existing models, without elevating recurrent costs.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Component 1. Contribute to Regional Knowledge: Evaluation and Monitoring: In Nicaragua, under the previous TC the "WCI-QCUALS" rating tool was developed to evaluate children's centers in developing countries. Under this TC, the rating tool (currently in print) is expected to convert to a smart phone application. This rating tool will have the capability of evaluating childcare centers and children's protection centers in different areas such as environment, quality of care, and the development of the participating children. Staff indicated by the government of El Salvador will be trained in the usage of this tool. Utilizing WCI-QUALS in addition to other evaluation measures to evaluate the 217 Governmental child care centers (204 CDIs and CBIs, and 13 CdPs), will result in an innovative and holistic study never before developed in any country of the actual state of early childhood. We will work with the Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research (CHPIR) of Duke University.

Component 2. Best Practices in Early Childhood: Capacity Building at the University level: also under the TC ATN/KP-12327-NI, the first certificate university program on Early Childhood was developed in Nicaragua. Following this model, of a university certificate program on Best Practices for the Management of Programs in Early Childhood³ will be provided. The certificate program on Management of Early Childhood will be offered to approximately 60 people from the Government of El Salvador, who

² Groark, C. J., McCall, R. B., McCarthy, S. K., Eichner, J. C., Warner, H. A., Salaway, J. and Palmer, K. (2012) The Effects of a Social-Emotional Intervention on Caregivers and Children in Five Central American Institutions. University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development, Prepared for: Whole Child International and the Inter-American Development Bank, Technical Cooperation ATN/KP-12327-NI.

³ Shabazian, A. N. (2012). Developing the Whole Child: Best Child Care Practices in Limited Resource Settings for Children 0-8 Years of Age. M.E. Lopez (Ed.) Los Angeles, CA: Whole Child International.

work with children at risk in different government entities (Technical Secretariat, El Salvadorian Institute for Development of Children and Adolescents –ISNA-, the National Committee on Children and Adolescents –CONNA-, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, etc., based on the interest of the government). This certificate program will focus on best practices for managing programs and systems in early childhood. For the different components of the certificate program, the University of Central America “José Simeón Cañas” (UCA), the University of Johns Hopkins (health), the University of Harvard (executive management), and the University of Loyola Marymount (child care) are expected to be collaborators.

Component 3. Operations and Dissemination of Results: This component foresees the dissemination of results from the evaluation through dialogue and publications.

IV. INDICATIVE BUDGET

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Amount
1) Regional Knowledge: Evaluation and Monitoring	1.1) Consultants, transportation, & materials	\$111,600		\$111,600
	1.2) Duke: Evaluation (software/analysis)	\$179,700		\$179,700
2) Capacity Building at the University Level	2.1) Consultants, transportation, & materials	\$208,000		\$208,000
	2.2) UCA: Certificate University Programs	\$50,000		\$50,000
	2.3) Harvard: Management Certificate University Program	\$100,000		\$100,000
3) Operations and Dissemination of Results	3.1) Personnel	\$309,300		\$309,300
	3.2) Transportation and Materials	\$41,400		\$41,400
Total		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000

V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND STRUCTURE OF THE EXECUTION

Based on Whole Child International’s (WCI) previous experience in Nicaragua, they will be charged with the execution of this TC. The TC implies a technical and broad cooperation between WCI and the Government of El Salvador for the purpose of transferring of knowledge and capacity building of the national authorities involved in the social protection, in particular ISNA.

VI. IMPORTANT RISKS

The biggest risk is the government change in El Salvador following the March 9th, 2014 elections. Given that there is a continuation in the political party in power, minimal impact in the transition is foreseen. Given that the project contemplates a research component of the care that children receive, its environment, and the children’s own development, specific measures will be taken to protect the dignity of the children and the safety of the information. Duke University has ample experience in this area- its POFO research, which included 7 countries in 10 different locations, maintained a high level of security during 10 years of research and a continuous monitoring of practices in the 7 countries involved. Duke, as it does for all its research, will apply to obtain permission from the Institutional Review Board – IRB- and will also request permission from each of the children’s guardians. The

information obtained will be kept in a high-level control system and be kept anonymous to the participants.

VII. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLASSIFICATION

Given the nature of the activities to be funded, it is not anticipated that there are risks associated with environmental or social impacts. According to the Policy Environment and Safeguards Compliance, this TC is classified as a category "C".