

TC DOCUMENT

I. BASIC INFORMATION

Country:	Venezuela
TC Name/Number:	National System of Youth and Child Orchestras of Venezuela. Impact evaluation follow-up. / VE-T1038
Associated Loan/Guarantee Name and number:	None
Team Leader/Members:	Leader: Xiomara Alemán (SPH/CVE); other members: Marco Stampini (SCL/SPH); Suzanne Duryea (SCL/SCL); Sofia Greco (LEG/SGO); Ezequiel Cambiasso (FMP/CPE); and Martha Guerra (SCL/SPH)
Date of TC Abstract authorization:	11 April 2013
Donors providing funding:	Special Program for Employment, Poverty Reduction and Social Development in Support of the Millennium Development Goals (SOF)
Beneficiary:	The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela - Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar (FUDAMUSICAL BOLIVAR)
Executing Agency and contact name:	Inter-American Development Bank through SCL/SPH
IDB Funding Requested:	USD990,000
Local counterpart funding, if any:	None
Disbursement period:	20 months
Required start date:	June 10, 2013
Types of consultants:	Individuals and firm
Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH
Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL/SPH
TC Included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Y
TC included in CPD (y/n):	Y
GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Social Policy for Equity and Productivity

II. BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSOCIATED LOAN/GUARANTEE

- 2.1 Venezuela's system of children and youth orchestras (known as *el Sistema*) offers musical training within choruses and orchestras to children and youth, with special focus on those belonging to the lower socioeconomic strata. It represents a large-scale and innovative social program, aimed at promoting positive skills and behaviors (such as planning skills and pro-social practices) through musical education, group work and orchestral practice. In 2011, under the direction of the Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar (FUNDAMUSICAL Bolívar), *el Sistema* enrolled about 350,000 children and youth in 285 centers (or *núcleos*).
- 2.2 The Inter-American Development Bank has been supporting *el Sistema* through the "Programa de Apoyo al Centro de Acción Social por la Música", to which the proposed technical cooperation is related, due to the fact that the Program seeks to expand the

coverage of *el Sistema* and the technical cooperation will provide rigorous evidence on cognitive and non-cognitive impact of *el Sistema* on children.

- 2.3 Phase II of this program, financed by VE-L1017 (1869/OC-VE), aimed to expand coverage of Venezuela's system of children and youth orchestras from 250,000 to 500,000 beneficiaries through the construction of seven regional music centers. To date, the rate of execution is at 52%. The international bidding process for the construction of the centers is ongoing. However, due to upward trends of international prices, it is estimated that funding will only be sufficient for the design and construction of three regional centers.
- 2.4 The objective of Phase III currently under preparation (VE-L1038), is to further expand coverage of the system of orchestras, through: (i) construction and equipping of the remaining four regional musical centers; (ii) training of music instructors and supply of musical instruments; and (iii) implementation of a beneficiary information system to help FUNDAMUSICAL Bolívar manage the network of local music centers.
- 2.5 In order to strengthen the rationale of the above mentioned operation (Phase III), in 2012 IDB and FUNDAMUSICAL Bolívar have embarked in the first experimental impact evaluation of the causal effects of participation in *el Sistema* in terms of cognitive development, socio-emotional skills and pro-social behavior. Financial resources for the evaluation were provided by the technical cooperation VE-T1026 (ATN/OC-12915-VE).
- 2.6 About 3,000 applicants between 6 and 14 years old have been randomly assigned to treatment and control groups. The former were offered admission for the academic year 2012/13 (i.e. starting from September 2012), while the latter were offered delayed admission for the academic year 2013/14 (i.e. starting from September 2013). A first round of data has been collected between October 2012 and February 2013 through the international firm Unión Temporal SEI-Econometría.

III. OBJECTIVES AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE TC

A. Justification

- 3.1 The completion of the impact evaluation is needed to produce rigorous evidence of the effectiveness of *el Sistema*, which would justify future investment in children and youth orchestras both in Venezuela and in other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Previous studies in Venezuela and in other programs have established suggestive correlations between participating in the youth orchestra and youth outcomes but have not had the methodological rigor to establish causal impact. The production of a toolkit for the measurement of multidimensional youth outcomes will lower the cost of future evaluations of youth projects.
- 3.2 The proposed technical cooperation complements (continues and widens) the work started under VE-T1026. Two reasons motivate the new request of funds. First, although

the budget of VE-T1026 included the follow-up survey, the cost of field work in Venezuela has exceeded all initial estimates. This was due both to high costs of logistics and to the adoption of a very innovative survey instrument including games administered through personal computers at the home of the interviewees. Second, due to the limited age range of the children participating in the impact evaluation (6-14 year old), it has become evident that the preparation of a toolbox valid for youth programs, i.e. for 15-24 year-old beneficiaries, requires additional work for the adaptation of scales and observational games.

B. Objectives and products

- 3.3 The new technical cooperation has three objectives, which correspond to three products:
- 3.4 First, it aims to fund the follow-up survey. This data collection is a necessary step for measuring *el Sistema's* impacts in terms of cognitive development, socio-emotional skills and pro-social behavior, by comparing treatment and control groups after one year of exposure to the program.
- 3.5 Second, it aims to fund the production of *el Sistema* impact evaluation report.
- 3.6 Third, the technical cooperation aims to produce a measurement toolkit which extends the instruments employed for the impact evaluation to children and youth aged 12-24 years (i.e. older than those in the sample of *el Sistema* impact evaluation). This toolkit will represent a public good that will be employed by IDB for the measurement of the effects of projects focusing on youth at risk.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

A. Activity 1: collection of follow up survey data

- 4.1 The collection of follow-up survey data will involve the following activities:
 - a. Preparation of questionnaire and tests (based on the instrument used for the baseline survey);
 - b. Field work planning;
 - c. Training of field supervisors and interviewers;
 - d. Field work supervision (including random spot checks and daily interaction with data collectors);
 - e. Data collection (face to face home interviews) of children and guardians;
 - f. Data cleaning and consolidation of data set.

B. Activity 2: production of impact evaluation report

- 4.2 The production of the impact evaluation report will involve the following activities:
 - a. Data analysis;

- b. Writing of impact evaluation report;
- c. External peer review;
- d. Publication of the report;
- e. Workshop for the dissemination to policy makers and academics.

C. Activity 3: production of the toolkit for children and youth aged 12-24

4.3 The production of the toolkit for children and youth aged 12-24 years will involve the following activities:

- a. Design of the instruments and test (based on those used for the impact evaluation);
- b. Field testing and validation (through the administration to older kids participating in *el Sistema*);
- c. Production of the toolkit;
- d. Production of user manuals;
- e. On-line publication of toolkit and manuals.

D. Budget

4.4 The total cost of the Project is estimated at U\$990,000 which will be financed by the Bank with resources from the Special Program for Employment, Poverty Reduction and Social Development in Support of the Millennium Development Goals (SOF) on a non-reimbursable basis. The budget is summarized in the following table and in the [Detailed Budget](#).

Activity / description	Amount (USD '000)
Collection of follow-up survey data	
a. Preparation of questionnaire and tests	80
b. Field work planning	25
c. Training of field supervisors and interviewers	55,5
d. Field work supervision	25
e. Data collection	360
f. Data cleaning and consolidation of data set	25
Total	570,5
Production of the impact evaluation report	
a. Data analysis	40
b. Writing of impact evaluation report	44
c. External peer review	5
Total	89,34
Production of the toolkit for children and youth aged 12-24 years	
a. Design of the toolkit	19,15
b. Training materials	100
c. Results Public documents and visual materials	103,81
d. Training logistics	57,2
Total	280,161
Incidentals	50
Grand total	990

- 4.5 TC activities will be supervised by CVE through the TC team leader Xiomara Aleman. It is estimated that the cost for travel and logistics will amount to USD10,000, which will be covered by SPH/CVE.
- 4.6 Two IDB headquarter staff involved in the execution of the TC are expected to travel to Venezuela twice, for a total budget of USD 20,000 which will be covered by SCL/SCL and SCL/SPH.
- 4.7 Since the TC is executed by the Bank, there will be no audit.

E. Indicative results matrix

- 4.8 The impacts of the technical cooperation include increased welfare for children and youth, as a result of the availability of more rigorous information on the impact of music programs, and more broadly the effects of children and youth programs, as measured by the toolkit. These impacts exceed the time framework of the proposed technical cooperation, hence the results matrix below contains only the related outputs.

Output	2013	2014	Source
Follow up survey data	Data set collected and cleaned		IDB docs
Impact evaluation report		1 impact evaluation report published on IDB website	IDB publication
Toolkit		1 toolkit for children and youth aged 12-24 years	IDB website

V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 5.1 This technical cooperation is an initiative of the Bank and accordingly it will be executed by the IDB through SCL/SPH as it was with the prior technical cooperation (VE-T1026).
- 5.2 The Bank will be responsible for the contracting of consulting services (both firms and individual consultants) and will do so in accordance with Bank’s applicable policies (GN-2350-9). It is proposed that the single source selection method be used for the contracting of individual consultants and firms (SEI-Econometría) pursuant to the provisions set forth in paragraphs 3.10, 3.11 and 5.4 of document GN-2350-9 due to the fact that individual consultants and SEI-Econometria will carry out activities that are deem a continuation of their previous work carried out under the prior technical cooperation (VE-T1026). Furthermore, the consultants have proven to have the necessary experience and skills for the development of the methodological and different instruments and evaluation protocols contemplated in this program. SEI-Econometria, has also proven to have field expertise in the use of the instruments designed by the team for the study contemplated under this TC. Both, the individual consultants and the firm were selected through a competitive method following Bank’s procurement policies and based on the assessment carried out by the Bank, their performance can be considered

satisfactory. The individual consultants will be: Patrick McEwan as methodology advisor, Rodrigo Munoz as expert in survey programming and data collection supervision, Nancy Guerra as youth expert, Ariel Williamson as psychometrics expert and Adriana Mata as Field Coordinator.

VI. MAYOR ISSUES

- 6.1 Risks are limited, due to the fact that the proposed technical cooperation is the natural continuation of VE-T1026, which has allowed IDB to develop methodology, survey instruments and field work protocols that can be adjusted for the new survey. The team of international experts assembled for the execution of VE-T1026 guarantees the technical and operational expertise for the new technical cooperation.
- 6.2 Risks related to delays in data collection and to the quality of the collected data are mitigated by the adoption of online monitoring systems developed under VE-T1026, which allow the team to verify the collected data in real time.

VII. EXCEPTIONS TO BANK POLICY

- 7.1 The proposed TC requires no exception to existing IDB policies.

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

- 8.1 Based on the Environmental and Social Safeguard Filter, the proposed technical assistance has been classified as category C. No potential negative environmental and/or social impacts of the TC were identified and therefore no mitigation strategy is required to address any impact. The project has a classification of "C": indicating that there are minimal or no environmental risks (See [filters](#)).

ANNEXES:

- [Letter of request](#)
- [Terms of Reference](#)
- [Procurement Plan](#)

**NATIONAL SYSTEM OF YOUTH AND CHILD ORCHESTRAS OF VENEZUELA.
IMPACT EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP**

VE-T1038

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this operation was approved for financing under the Special Program for Employment, Poverty Reduction and Social Development in Support of the Millennium Development Goals (SOF) through a communication dated on April 11, 2013 sent by Carmen Albertos (ORP/GCM). Also, I certify that resources from the Special Program for Employment, Poverty Reduction and Social Development in Support of the Millennium Development Goals (SOF) are available for up to US\$990,000 in order to finance the activities described and budgeted in this document. This certification reserves resources for the referenced project for a period of four (4) calendar months counted from the date of eligibility from the funding source. If the project is not approved by the IDB within that period, the reserve of resources will be cancelled, except in the case a new certification is granted. The commitment and disbursement of these resources shall be made only by the Bank in US dollars. The same currency shall be used to stipulate the remuneration and payments to consultants, except in the case of local consultants working in their own borrowing member country who shall have their remuneration defined and paid in the currency of such country. No resources of the Fund shall be made available to cover amounts greater than the amount certified herein above for the implementation of this operation. Amounts greater than the certified amount may arise from commitments on contracts denominated in a currency other than the Fund currency, resulting in currency exchange rate differences, for which the Fund is not at risk.

(Original signed)

6/24/2013

Sonia M. Rivera
Chief
Grants and Cofinancing Management Unit
ORP/GCM

Date

APPROVAL

Approved:

(Original signed)

6/24/2013

Hector Salazar Sanchez
Manager a.i.
Social Sector
SCL/SCL

Date