

## TC ABSTRACT

### I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	COLOMBIA/CAN - Andean Group
▪ TC Name:	Heal to Grow: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health in Early Childhood
▪ TC Number:	CO-T1678
▪ Team Leader/Members:	NASLUND-HADLEY, EMMA INGRID (SCL/EDU) Team Leader; MARAGALL, JUAN ERNESTO (SCL/EDU) Alternate Team Leader; BLASCO, IVANA (SCL/EDU); EMILIO LAGUILLO (SCL/EDU); NATALIA ALMEIDA (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	05 Apr 2022
▪ Beneficiary:	ICBF
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$250,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 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):	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality ; Gender equality; Diversity

### II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 It is imperative to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the mental health of students, caregivers, and teachers, and identify solutions to support young children. Against this background, the objective of the proposed TC is to evaluate a program to support the mental and emotional health of young children (3-5 years of age).
- 2.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented changes and challenges into the lives of people. Households throughout the world are suffering from the socio-economic impact of decreased or lost livelihoods, the loss of loved ones, and a decrease in social interactions which can all have a detrimental effect on mental health and well-being. For those involved in education, whether it be as students, teachers, or caregivers; the pandemic has been significantly challenging. The world changed overnight, and everyone was forced to adapt their learning environments and worry about each other's health and safety.
- 2.3 These quick changes to students' and families' daily lives took a toll on their mental health and well-being. A study by Vaillancourt (2021a) in the United States, shows that parents and caregivers had significantly worse mental health than adults not participating in these roles. Additionally, since the pandemic began, research has shown that teachers have shown an increase in psychological symptoms, such as stress, anxiety, and depression (Ozamiz-Extebarria et al., 2021). The well-being of these caregivers and teachers can also affect the well-being and academic performance of students. In response to the mental health crisis of young children, the

Government of Colombia has designed a program called Heal to Grow (Sanar para Crecer) which seeks to promote wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of young children. The program is implemented through the Colombian Institute for Family Wellbeing (ICBF) and is organized around seven modules: (i) psychosocial development in early childhood; (ii) psychoaffective development; (iii) my personal story; (iv) Psychoaffective Development and Emotional Education with families; (v) Comprehensive development and activities in early childhood; (vi) protection and care in early childhood; (vii) role of the educator in child wellbeing.

### III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Experimental Evaluation of Heal to Grow** . The aim of the Component is to evaluate the Heal to Grow Program. The TC will finance the contracting of a firm for the development of an evaluation design, randomizing Community Households. The experimental design will contrast any changes in wellbeing of children in the treatment group (Group I) with children from a group of comparison community households (Group II).
- 3.2 **Component II: Dissemination.** The TC will finance logistics related to the organization of a dissemination workshop in Colombia and a publication. The workshops will take place once the evaluation of the Heal to Grow program has been completed.

### IV. Budget

#### Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Experimental Evaluation of Heal to Grow	US\$240,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$240,000.00
Dissemination	US\$10,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$250,000.00</b>	<b>US\$0.00</b>	<b>US\$250,000.00</b>

### V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The TC will be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Education Division (SCL / EDU). As the executing agency of the TC, the Bank will be responsible for: (i) coordinating the actors involved in the activities of the initiative/project; (ii) identify the studies and technical work necessary to carry out the TC; (iii) select and contract consultants to provide the necessary services; (iv) supervise the consulting services to which the beneficiary provides technical inputs; and (v) manage the execution and provision of consulting services. The Bank: (a) will only hire consulting services (firms and individuals) and not works or purchase goods; and (b) will hire individual consultants in accordance with the guidelines set out in the AM-650. The procurement process for consulting firms of intellectual nature follows the Bank's Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Firms for Bank-executed Operational Work (GN-2765-4) and related Operational Guidelines (OP-1155-4).
- 5.2 The execution of the TC by the Bank is justified based on the IDB's long trajectory of designing and executing randomized control trials in the education sector in Latin America. Moreover, the survey will contribute to a larger IDB survey which is regional in scope. The justification is consistent with Appendix 10 of the Operational Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (as modified Annex 2 of GN-619-4) criteria Applied to contracting by the Bank.

### VI. Project Risks and Issues

6.1 The unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a challenge. Although many HC have reopened, it is uncertain if they will remain open. In response to this risk, the ICBF has a plan in place for the remote implementation of Heal to Grow. In addition, the execution of a any pilot based on an experimental design presents logistical challenges. This is particularly true in rural communities that often have limited road infrastructure, where most schools are located in difficult terrain and with extreme weather conditions. However, the IDB have many years of experience in working with schools in remote geographic areas. To mitigate risks associated to logistics, the project includes enough resources to ensure additional travel time when needed.

## **VII. Environmental and Social Classification**

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