

The mission [www.iadb.org/sds/mission_e.htm] of the Sustainable Development Department is to develop and support the implementation of sector strategies, policies and guidelines; to contribute to the design and review of projects; and to create and disseminate knowledge.

SDS support for *the development and implementation of sector strategies, policies, and guidelines* is discussed in detail in the next section.

The Department contributes to the *design and review of projects* in several ways. SDS specialists participate in project teams and provide technical support and expertise. This is particularly important in areas that are in the process of being mainstreamed into Bank operations. SDS staff participates as team members for lending projects, as well as technical cooperation grants. SDS also participates and leads the design of some regional technical cooperation operations and MIF operations, and coordinates the Social Entrepreneurship Program. The Department plays an active role in various project review committees that enhance the quality of operations. This includes, in particular, the Committee on Environment and Social Impact (CESI) [www.iadb.org/sds/env/publication/gen_183_57_e.htm], which SDS chairs. As its name implies, the CESI reviews the environmental and social impact of Bank operations and suggests measures to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive ones. SDS also participates in the Managerial Review Committee (CRG), as well as in the Bank's various Management Committees: Programming, Private Sector Coordination, Loan, and Audit and Evaluation. In addition, the Department mobilizes external resources, which are generally used to provide technical cooperation grants to assist in the implementation of Bank projects.

The Department's *knowledge creation and dissemination* efforts are carried out through many different means, including: print and electronic publications; seminars, workshops, forums and conferences; support for special programs; and sponsorship of thematic networks.

PRINT PUBLICATIONS

SDS publishes three series of departmental papers that include strategies and sector policies, technical papers, and best practices papers. Strategy papers [www.iadb.org/sds/publication_type_3_e.htm] identify the priorities and criteria for Bank action on specific sectors. Technical papers [www.iadb.org/sds/publication_type_2_e.htm] are analytical reports and research on issues, sectors and specific topics of interest in areas of present or future Bank activity. These papers serve to generate know-how on relevant development topics. Best practices papers [www.iadb.org/sds/publication_type_1_e.htm] relate lessons learned from experiences that have worked in various areas of Bank involvement. They have policy relevance, and help in the formulation of Bank sector strategies, as well as project conceptualization and design. Recent papers examined topics such as climate change, disaster risk management, markets for business development services, cultural land use analysis, HIV/AIDS, and corporate social responsibility, to name just a few.

In addition to the departmental papers, SDS publishes books, special reports [www.iadb.org/sds/publication_type_4_e.htm], and newsletters [www.iadb.org/sds/publication_type_5_e.htm]. The books published by SDS are generally collections of essays on topics of particular timeliness and relevance. In some instances, these books constitute the proceedings of Bank-sponsored conferences. Recent books outlined the findings of the first phase of the Social Equity Forum; examined social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean; analyzed the challenges posed by the Millennium Development Goals; and addressed the issue of energy integration. Special publications include annual reports on particular topics such as rural development or financial markets, and reports on Bank support to various issues, such as urban development or microenterprise development.

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

All SDS publications are disseminated by means of the SDS Internet site, which also provides access to many other types of information, including draft working papers (and other papers published to encourage the exchange of ideas), events, information on special programs, conference papers and other material. Most books are sold through the IDB Bookstore [<http://shop.iadb.org/iadbstore/>].

In addition to the SDS Internet site, the Department produces various CD-ROMs as well as videos on topics that include the sector strategies, domestic violence, information technology for development, and more.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS

[www.iadb.org/sds/event_list_e.htm]

SDS participates in the organization of different types of meetings to disseminate information inside and outside of the Bank. These range from brown-bag lunches on topics of current interest to ministerial meetings and forums for presidents and high-level national authorities. Recent events of this type included forums on social cohesion, microenterprise, corporate social responsibility, business climate, infrastructure investment, urban and rural development, etc.

Regional Policy Dialogues

[www.iadb.org/int/DRP/defaulteng.asp]

The Regional Policy Dialogues date to 1999. Their aim is to create an environment in which the countries of the region can deepen and broaden their dialogue and exchange of experiences to face the challenges of globalization and develop regional cooperation processes. The Bank identified seven topics for the Regional Policy Dialogues, creating a specialized network for each one. Participants in these networks include high-level ministry staff (usually deputy ministers or their equivalent) in charge of making decisions and designing public policies. Five of the seven networks fall under the technical responsibility of SDS. They are the networks dealing with natural disasters, education and human resources training, public policy administration and transparency, environment, and poverty and social protection.

Summit Meetings

[www.iadb.org/sds/special_list_e.htm#SUMMIT]

SDS staff serves as the Bank's representatives to various international forums. A significant amount of work goes into support for these events, including sponsoring and organizing high-level meetings, developing special programs, and producing and publishing special research to support joint efforts.

The IDB has participated actively in the Summits of the Americas, which bring together the Heads of State and Government of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common concerns, seek solutions and develop a shared vision for the future economic, social, and political development of the region. SDS has published special reports on Bank efforts to further Summit goals. The IDB has carried out intensive and complex financial and technical activities in the context of 22 strategic programs presented at the Quebec Summit, which cover public governance and political development, integration

and economic development, ecology and sustainable development, equity and human development, and connectivity and technological development. Those activities are highlighted in the most recent report to the Special Summit of the Americas held in Monterrey, Mexico, in January 2004. SDS staff also contributes to the Bank's participation in the European-LAC Summits, notably the 2004 Summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, on social cohesion, as well as other regional conferences.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

[www.iadb.org/sds/POV/publication/publication_21_3594_e.htm]

The IDB plays an active role in supporting efforts to adapt the MDGs to the needs and realities of the region, and to support member countries in achieving the goals. Under the leadership of SDS, the Bank published a book and CD-ROM that provides an in-depth progress report, suggestions for investment priorities, and an agenda of reforms for achieving the MDGs. The book also presents a set of tools that the IDB has used to support countries in their efforts to achieve the MDGs. The topics include poverty and hunger, education, gender equality, child and maternal health, HIV/AIDS, and environmental sustainability. SDS also played a seminal role in follow-up regional conferences that gave rise to the Brasilia Declaration.

[www.iadb.org/sds/publication/publication_3749_e.htm]

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

SDS provides significant support to special programs on a variety of topics, including those that seek to mobilize resources to finance regional public goods. They include:

- The Social Entrepreneurship Program
[www.iadb.org/sds/mic/publication/gen_159_3805_e.htm#top]
- The Indigenous Fund [<http://www.fondoindigena.net/>]
- The Program for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD) [www.iadb.org/sds/prolead/]
- Information and Communication Technology for Business (ICT4BUS)
[www.iadb.org/sds/ICT/publication/gen_5935_3999_e.htm]
- The Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO)
[www.iadb.org/sds/ENV/site_5080_e.htm]
- The Program for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI)
[www.iadb.org/sds/pov/site_19_e.htm]
- The Social Inclusion Fund [www.iadb.org/sds/soc/site_5594_e.htm]
- The Education Portal of the Americas [www.educoea.org/]

THEMATIC NETWORKS

SDS coordinates 22 electronic networks on topics ranging from agriculture and rural development to competitiveness and competition policy; education to early childhood development; financial market reform to health sector reform; and community development to violence prevention. These informal networks of Bank staff meet periodically to discuss papers and presentations, and exchange information through email and mailing lists.