



Inter-American Sustainable Social
Development Bank Department Division

Social Inclusion Advances in IDB Operations

By JACQUELINE MAZZA



US President George W. Bush addressing the IDB last March. At his left is IDB president, Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias, and at right, Bono, U2 singer.

On the first visit of an American chief of state to the Inter-American Development Bank headquarters in March Of 2002, US President George W. Bush made clear in his remarks that social inclusion was

central to development: "This growing divide between wealth and poverty, between opportunity and misery...we must confront it. We must include every African, every Asian, every Latin American, every

Muslim, in an expanding circle of development."

Social "inclusion" is particularly compelling to development in Latin America and the Caribbean as it is the most unequal of all regions. In May of 2001, the Bank management adopted an Action Plan for Combating Social Exclusion due to Race or Ethnic Background, which spells out a series of commitments focused on three areas:

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From the Division Chief

In this issue of the newsletter you will find, instead of the section on "factoids," an annotated list of current SOC publications. Let us know if you find the annotations helpful, or if you would prefer to devote the space to facts. You will also find, in addition to briefs on our work, an announcement on forthcoming Bank institutional strategies. It's a package of six strategies: two overarching—on environmentally sustainable growth and poverty reduction; and four more instrumental "pillars"—on regional integration, competitiveness, modernization of the state, and social development.

The Bank is in the process of preparing these documents. Their profiles or outlines are on the web, and we need your feedback. Do write and give us your informed views on all, and especially on social development. Does the profile accurately capture the social development challenges for the Bank and the region? Does it chart appropriate courses of action for the Bank? We look forward to hearing from you.

Mayra Buvinić

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Inter-American
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From the left: Ingrid Glad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway; Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director; Enrique V. Iglesias, IDB President; Otavio Mercadante, Executive Secretary, Ministry of Health, Brazil; José Serra, Senator, Brazil; at the seminar on HIV/AIDS in Fortaleza, Brazil.

IDB Launches Its Fight against HIV/AIDS

BY LEAH-MARI RICHARDS

IDB President Enrique V. Iglesias opened a seminar on HIV/AIDS during this year's Annual Meeting of Governors in Fortaleza, Brazil, which sought to examine the challenges and possible responses to this epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean. Co-sponsored by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, this seminar was the IDB's first regional forum to encourage dialogue among governments, civil society, and networks of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the region.

While addressing the audience at the Ceará Convention Center, Mr. Iglesias noted that the Bank possesses three vital instruments, which, when used more effectively, could result in a substantial impact on the reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean. These instruments include the Bank's convening powers, analytical prowess and funding capacity. He further emphasized a future role for the Bank in financing treatment programs, including medications, for those infected with HIV/AIDS in the region.

Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS, stressed that success in the fight against HIV/AIDS requires different approaches to health. He

explained that at the core of any effective response to this epidemic is acknowledging the impact stigma and social exclusion can have on HIV/AIDS programs, and mobilizing sufficient resources to meet the needs of these programs.

Senator José Serra, former Brazilian Minister of Health, highlighted the achievements of their National HIV/AIDS Program in developing an integrated approach to prevention, treatment and care. Dr. Serra advocated for the decision made by the Brazilian government in 1996 to guarantee free and universal access to anti-retroviral drugs. He added that this strategy not only results in a reduction in economic losses as a result of fewer AIDS-related deaths in the country, but also helps to cut costs in the public health system by avoiding hospitalization of people with HIV/AIDS. In addition, Ms. Ingrid Glad, representative of the Nordic countries, stressed the need to examine the relationship between HIV/AIDS and gender when developing HIV/AIDS programs.*

For more information, send a message to aids@iadb.org.

* The studies prepared for this seminar are listed in the Publications section.

Mission Statement

The Social Development Division (SDS/SOC) supports IDB operations and helps to identify and promote new opportunities for Bank action in social development that will accelerate growth and improve the well-being of people in Latin America and the Caribbean. Working in tandem with the Bank's operational departments, the Division offers technical advice on priority issues for women and indigenous groups through the Women in Development Unit and the Indigenous Peoples and Community Development Unit. It gives similar assistance in the areas of early childhood development, health, labor markets, urban development, violence prevention and control, social inclusion, and the formulation of social policy.

EDITOR: Elisa Fernández

DESIGN: Eugenia Kim

PRODUCTION: Jill Merrick

Social Development is published twice a year in English and Spanish. This and previous issues are available online at http://www.iadb.org/sds/soc/main_publication_173_e.htm.

Comments? Our editorial team can be reached at sds/soc@iadb.org or at the address below.

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Participants to the EUROLAC Forum during the working groups session.

EUROLAC and Health Sector Perspectives in Latin America and the Caribbean

BY ANDRÉ MEDICI

Since its start in 1998, the Europe and the Americas Forum on Health Sector Reform (EUROLAC) has been a platform for the exchange of experiences among leaders in the health sector from Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. Ministers and health authorities, health consulting companies, as well as project managers and experts from the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) participate in the event.

This year, the fourth EUROLAC forum was held in Malaga, Spain on February 24 to 27. The conference focused on the stewardship function of health ministries in the reform process, specifically in relation to regulation, financing, and coordination of health services and health protection, in the context of decentralization and supplementary participation of the private sector. The discussions demonstrated the need for in-depth

evaluation of the health reforms implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean. The growing resistance of certain social groups in some countries to reform processes shows that it is necessary to identify specific health objectives and adapt project design to each national context, clearly establishing the goals to be achieved, evaluation tools, and the means of civil participation to be used.

IDB financed the preparation of two case studies of health reform process: "Rural Social Security in Ecuador" and "Purchasing Primary Care Services in Haiti." These and other case studies can be found at www.worldbank.org/lac. In addition, all the case studies that were evaluated and the results of the discussions will appear in a joint publication of the World Bank, IDB and PAHO.

For more information, contact André Medici: andrem@iadb.org or 202 623 1972.

WE WANT YOUR OPINION!

IDB Development Strategies

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

<http://www.iadb.org/sds/consulta>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is preparing a set of strategies to guide the Bank's work in various fields of development in the years ahead. During 2002, the Bank is preparing:

Two fundamental strategies:

- Environmentally Sustainable Growth,
- Poverty Reduction.

And 4 sector strategies:

- Modernization of the State,
- Social Development,
- Regional Integration, and
- Competitiveness.

As part of the process, the Bank has initiated an electronic consultation procedure to obtain comments and suggestions from different sectors. We welcome your participation in this consultation process by sending your comments to consulta@iadb.org before July 30, 2002. The profiles and drafts of the strategies can be found on our web site:

<http://www.iadb.org/sds/consulta>

We, the Social Development Division of SDS, are particularly interested in obtaining your opinion about the profile of the Social Development Strategy.

We would like to know your opinion with respect to:

- Do the strategies respond to the needs of the region?
- Are they applicable and pertinent to our reality?
- What specific suggestions do you have?

When submitting your comments, please include your name, country, organization (if applicable), and indicate to which strategy are you referring your comments to.

Take a few moments now to share your thoughts with us!



Indigenous Peoples and Globalization: Some Thoughts on Strategy

BY ANNE DERUYTTERE

Despite having suffered great pressure on their natural resources and ancestral lands, the indigenous peoples are heirs to a rich natural, social, and cultural heritage. Developing knowledge and practices that are at times very sophisticated has enabled these people to adapt to fragile ecosystems and survive on the margin of society and the mainstream economy. In order to sustain themselves today, indigenous people complement the resources of the subsistence economy with income from the sale of products or services. Many indigenous peoples are promoting a comprehensive development model that addresses challenges such as integration and globalization of markets, and reduction of their “poverty” levels while simultaneously maintaining their ethnic and cultural identity.

This model is based on three mutually reinforcing elements:

1) **Strengthening the traditional subsistence economy:** protect the territories and natural resources

while improving productivity levels in order to achieve food security and provide the space for cultural and ethnic reproduction.

- 2) **Reducing segregation and discrimination in the labor markets and the sale of products:** increase the capacity of indigenous people to compete under equal conditions with other groups of society through: improved access to education; financial services; labor regulations; and reduced ethnic, racial, cultural or linguistic discrimination.
- 3) **Using the comparative advantages of the cultural, social and natural heritage of indigenous peoples:** coordinate knowledge and ancestral practices with a focus on business and efficient marketing and production technologies, and seek niches for quality products and services in high demand (ethnotourism, medicinal plants, management of protected areas, craftsmanship, forestry, among others).

The application of this model presents two major challenges: a) how to support well-informed decision processes that make it possible for indigenous people to define the combination of those elements that are most appropriate for them, and b) how to create a legal and institutional framework that protects the intellectual property rights to their cultural heritage and provides them with tangible benefits for their communities.

In recent years, the Bank has supported integrated participatory development projects for indigenous communities based on these strategic guidelines. Examples include the following programs: DECOPAZ in Guatemala, vulnerable groups in Argentina, papin ethno-engineering in Honduras, and the comprehensive development program for indigenous communities in Chile.

For more information, contact Anne Deruyttere: anned@iadb.org or 202 623 1254. Visit the SDS/IND Web site at: <http://www.iadb.org/sds/ind>.





Consultations Focus on Human Capital and Labor Markets

BY JACQUELINE MAZZA AND ANDREW MORRISON

To say, “The future of Latin America and the Caribbean lies in its human capital” leads to a room full of nodding heads in any forum in the region. It is widely agreed that the region cannot nor should it try to compete with low wage labor in other parts of the world to advance in the global marketplace. Rather, Latin America’s future lies in increasing the skills and productivity of its workforce and in creating fluid labor markets where workers advance and move easily between work, education, and training.

While there is widespread agreement on the importance of human capital investment and functioning labor markets in Latin America, there has been less accord on how to do this best. In particular, how does Latin America move from the problematic labor markets of today to achieve the longer-term vision of human capital systems and labor policies that promote continual investments in training and education?

The region is filled with antiquated, high cost training systems that do not prepare workers for real jobs in the private sector. Skills training is particularly limited for low-income, low-skilled workers who need it most. Moreover, the onerous system of labor



Cecil Arnold, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Belize (left), and Andrew Morrison, IDB Social Development Senior Specialist; during the labor market consultation in Panama.

market rules and regulations found in many countries can drive up the costs of hiring new workers and may help push many workers into the unprotected, informal sector. The informal sector—a clear sign that something is awry in formal labor markets—has climbed to 50 percent of the economy in many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

With the financial support of the Ford Foundation, the Social Development Division, working with each of

the Bank’s regional operations divisions, has initiated a series of three regional consultations that bring together leaders from government, business, labor, and civil society from Central America to the Andean states, to the Southern Cone. These consultations are intended to stimulate discussion on labor market needs and problems, identify lessons learned from current programs, and provide input for future Bank and national policies. The first regional consultation was held in Panama with the support of the Panamanian Ministry of Labor in November 2001. A second regional consultation is planned for Peru in July and a third for Argentina in September 2002.

The regional seminars are backed by a series of policy briefs that review the experience of Latin America and the Caribbean, and make concrete policy recommendations. (See *Publications on page 6.*)

For more information on the regional consultations, contact Ignacio Fiestas: ignaciof@iadb.org or 202 623 3631.

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outreach, both in the region and within the Bank; research; and, project development.

While much remains to be done, there have been notable advances on this action plan in the last year, including:

- the three regional operational departments have exceeded their goals of approving two projects each in social inclusion in 2001;
- the IDB adopted an internal diversity plan and is proceeding with a

pilot internal census and outreach on diversity to ensure that the Bank itself is more “inclusive;”

- INDES, the Bank’s unit for training leaders in the region, is implementing new training courses for indigenous and Afro-descendent leaders;
- LRN, which trains Bank staff, has provided additional financing for social inclusion training;
- the central departments (SDS and

continued on page 8

PUBLICATIONS

The following papers were produced or commissioned by SDS/SOC, and are available online at <http://www.iadb.org/sds/soc>. They can also be requested via email: sds/soc@iadb.org.

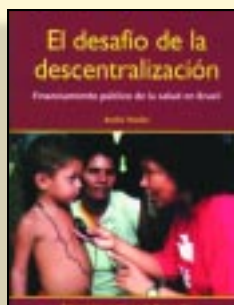


Domestic Violence

- *Violencia doméstica: intervenciones para su prevención y tratamiento.* Paz Castillo-Ruiz et al. SDS/WID: 2001. (In Spanish only.) Policies and programs against domestic violence within and outside Latin America are found in this nine booklet set.

Health

- *El desafío de la descentralización: financiamiento público de la Salud en Brasil.* André Medici, BID. 2002. (Currently in Spanish only.) How is health sector decentralization financed in federated countries? This book attempts to answer this question by providing a comprehensive data base on health financing and expenditures in Brazil at the central, regional and municipal levels.*



- *Gender Inequality in Health and Work: the case of Latin America and the Caribbean.* Mayra Buvinic, Antonio Giuffrida and Amanda Glassman. SDS/SOC in collaboration with RE3/SO3: 2002. The paper analyzes women's specific occupational health risks and reviews the effects of paid work on women and children's health.

- *Sistema de cuentas de salud.* OCDE. IDB. 2002. (In Spanish only.) Presents a methodology developed by the OECD to collect data on economic and financial flows in the health sector. This is a valuable tool for analyzing results and planning health policies in developing countries.*



HIV/AIDS

- *El impacto de la respuesta comunitaria al VIH/SIDA en Latinoamérica y el Caribe.* ICASO (Canada). 2002. (In Spanish only.) Assessment of the institutional capacity and structure of regional networks of persons living with HIV/AIDS and selected NGOs, also identifying the conceptual linkages between the development of network/community responses and HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.
- *Financiamiento y gasto en respuesta al VIH/SIDA en América Latina y el Caribe.* José Antonio Izazola (SIDALAC, México). 2002. (In Spanish only.) Identifies the relationship between epidemiological need and funding for and expenditures on HIV/AIDS activities, based on a methodology for examining resource flows into and within HIV/AIDS programs in the region.

- *La prevención del VIH/SIDA en América Latina y el Caribe.* Carlos F. Cáceres. SDS/SOC: 2002. (In Spanish only.) Identifies approaches to prevent HIV/AIDS, the impact of prevention activities on regional programs and the implementation capacity to conduct such activities. Also examines how prevention activities have been and can be integrated into care and support activities.
- *Resource Requirements to Fight HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean.* INSP (Mexico); the Futures Group International (USA). 2002. Proposes model costs of HIV/AIDS care and support by identifying the range and cost of care interventions and services provided, and by estimating current coverage on care and national and international spending on HIV/AIDS.

- *Stigma, Discrimination and HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean.* Peter Aggleton, Richard Parker and Miriam Maluwa. SDS/SOC: 2002. Analyses the nature of HIV/AIDS-related discrimination and stigma, including the role of individual, socioeconomic and cultural factors, and its impact on policy and program development.
- *Vulnerability and Resilience: Gender and HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean.* Geeta Rao Gupta (ICRW, USA). 2002. Identifies the influence gender has on the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention programs and the access to treatment, care, and support services; as well as the role of ethnicity and age on gender.

Labor Markets

- *Informal Employment in Latin America and the Caribbean: Causes, Consequences and Policy Recommendations.* Samuel Freije (IESA, Venezuela). 2001. As the informal sector grows, poverty and inequality also increase and undercut the objective of economic development. This report summarizes characteristics of the growing informal sector and offers policy recommendations.

* Book for sale at the IDB Bookstore, www.iadb.org/pub

PUBLICATIONS

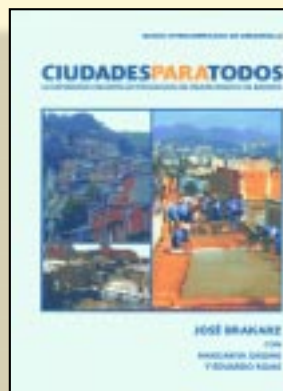
- *Labor Intermediation Services: A Review for Latin America and Caribbean Countries.* Jacqueline Mazza. SDS/SOC: 2001. This paper examines the characteristics of labor intermediation services, reviews reform efforts and institutional models, and concludes with policy recommendations for the region.
- *Latin American Labor Markets in the 1990s: Deciphering the Decade.* Suzanne Duryea, Olga Jaramillo and Carmen Pagés. IDB/RES: 2001. Examines major labor market trends in the region, focusing on unemployment and wages. It finds that total household income depends mostly on labor earnings, hence generating opportunities in the labor market is a critical need.
- *Latin American Youth in Transition: A Policy Paper on Youth Unemployment in Latin America.* Caroline Fawcett (American University, USA). 2001. At present, youth move from unemployment to schooling, unpaid employment and low-wage unskilled employment. The paper tries to capture this dynamic and its impact on the determinants and policies of youth unemployment in the region.
- *Occupational Safety and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean: Overview, Issues and Policy Recommendations.* Roberto Fontes Iunes. RE3/SO3: 2001. Besides the direct health consequences, safety and security in the workplace are directly linked to labor productivity, poverty, and the social security system. This paper lays out key policy issues and implications of improving occupational health and safety on economic and social development.
- *Training the Workforce in Latin America: What Needs to be Done?* Gustavo Márquez. IDB/RES: 2001. Discusses the status of training policies in Latin America, and reviews approaches that are shaping the evolution of policies and institutions in the region, in the context of globalization and economic integration demands.

Social Inclusion

- *Best Practices in Afro-Latin Community Development: Lessons from a pilot Project on the Atlantic Coast of Honduras and Guatemala.* Margarita Sánchez (CAMA FROH, Honduras). 2002. Describes a pilot project on local development in Afro-Latin communities in Honduras and Guatemala, that achieved high levels of community participation, training of new grassroots leaders (mainly women), and institutionalized community support mechanisms.
- *Ethnicity and Earnings in Urban Peru.* Hugo Ñopo, Jaime Saavedra and Máximo Torero (GRADE, Peru). 2001. Compares the status of whites, indigenous and mestizo population groups based on three factors of exclusion: income, education, and access to credit, using results of household surveys conducted in Peru in 2000.

Urban Development

- *Ciudad para todos.* José Brakarz, Margarita Greene and Eduardo Rojas. IDB. 2002. (In Spanish only; English version forthcoming.) Presents the methodologies used in neighborhood improvement projects financed by the IDB. Such projects have spread rapidly throughout Latin America as a strategy for combating urban poverty and as an effective instrument of social policy.*



- *La preservación del patrimonio histórico urbano en América Latina y el Caribe.* Eduardo Rojas. SDS/SOC: 2002. (In Spanish only.) Analyzes the various aspects that affect the value of cultural heritage and related social processes, and identifies measures to improve the links between the benefits of urban heritage preservation and its promotion. Also provides a critical overview of Bank-financed projects in the area and proposes various reforms.
- *Making Decentralization Work in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Background Paper for the Sub-national Development Strategy.* SDS/SOC: 2002. Background research that supported the Bank's strategy on subnational development.

Indigenous Peoples

The following papers were produced by SDS/IND, and are available online at <http://www.iadb.org/sds/ind> or can be requested via email: sds/ind@iadb.org.

- *Consulta comunitaria: El caso de Darién.* Carlos Perafán and Helí Nessim (IND-107). SDS/IND. 2001. Describes the circumstances that led the Panamanian Government and the Bank to transform a highway rehabilitation project into a sustainable and participatory development project.
- *The Land Titling and Indigenous Peoples.* Roger Plant and Soren Hvalkof (IND-109). SDS/IND: 2002. Studies land titling and regularization policies and programs that affect the indigenous peoples of Latin America.
- *Social Investment Funds and Indigenous Peoples.* Jonathan Renshaw (IND-108). SDS/IND: 2001. A brief analysis of the social investment funds for indigenous people financed by the IDB and their effectiveness in meeting their needs.

* Book for sale at the IDB Bookstore, www.iadb.org/pub



Brazilian Environmental Councils Offer Lessons from Their Experience

BY ADA INÉS PIAZZE



Carlos M. Jarque, SDS Manager, emphasized the Bank's interest in supporting initiatives with high civil society participation.

Brazil is one of the countries in the region that has made the most progress in addressing socio-environmental issues due, in large part, to the democratization and transparency of environmental management. Brazilians attribute their success to the creation of the National Environmental Council (CONAMA) and its state and municipal counterparts. CONAMA is a deliberative body—with representatives from government and civil society—created to resolve conflicts, propose innovations, and solve major issues concerning environmental policy and management of renewable natural resources. Its resolutions are legally binding and applicable throughout the country.

To draw on lessons that may help improve the management of the social sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Brazilian case was presented during the March Annual Meeting of the IDB Governors in Fortaleza. The seminar, entitled “Social and Environmental Dialogue: Learning from Brazil’s Environmental

Councils,” was organized by the Social Policy Dialogue project, an IDB initiative financed by the government of Denmark and led by former presi-

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RES) have advanced research to identify and document socially-excluded populations through censuses and household surveys and to analyze the economic and social consequences of exclusion;

- Bank activities are now coordinated through the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race (including the World Bank, the Inter-American Dialogue, PAHO, and major foundations); and;
- the IDB sent a high-level delegation to the United Nations Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa.

The work of the IDB, in partnership with other international and regional organizations, has been an important first step, but just that. The past year has identified some key challenges—limited data and research on

dent of Chile, Mr. Patricio Aylwin.

Some factors contributing to the success of dialogue processes are:

- Creation of a public awareness of change, facilitated by the media;
- Motivation of citizens to actively participate in public issues, generated by a strengthened democratic climate conducive to representation and transparency; and by the decentralization processes;
- A strengthened and organized civil society; and
- Definition of dialogue processes that have clear rules, well-defined objectives, and technical support to translate results into concrete actions.

For more information, contact Ada Piazz-McMahon: adam@iadb.org or 202 623 2049.

socially-excluded populations, inadequate demand from national governments, and most important, limited capacity both in the region and within the Bank to develop and execute projects of social inclusion. Through the Bank’s internal technical staff working group on social inclusion (TWG), Bank staff and management are working toward the next stage of the action plan and evolution of the IDB strategy. It is clear that this stage will need to emphasize both internal and external capacity-building in order to build the foundation needed to achieve the long-term objective of fully integrating social inclusion within Bank and national operations.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Mazza: aquelinem@iadb.org or 202 623 1776.



Gender Training: A Tool for Gender Mainstreaming in the Region

BY ANNE MARIE URBAN

Strengthening institutional capacity to identify and address gender issues in development programs and projects is an important part of gender mainstreaming. One capacity building tool that has been developed and tested by the Women in Development Unit over the past years is a gender analysis training course for IDB country office staff, national governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Between 1996 and 2001, approximately 625 professionals involved in the design and execution of IDB-financed projects in 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries benefited from IDB-sponsored gender training. The course was developed to closely follow the IDB project

cycle, including a focus on stakeholder analysis with a gender focus, the design and execution of objectives and activities that address gender issues, and gender-sensitive indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

The response from the field has been very positive in terms of the course's relevance and applicability to participants' daily work. Participants have reported using workshop materials for in-house seminars and meetings with other executing agencies, and as input for institutional studies, terms of reference or actions plans.

In order to expand the impact of the gender training initiative, local educators were invited to participate in most of the country workshops.¹

As a result of these efforts, additional training courses were implemented using the course curriculum (with local adaptations) in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay. In November, 2001, the Bank offered the first training of trainers (TOT) course for participants from ten countries. And since the TOT workshop, two courses have already been offered in Ecuador, and three have been scheduled in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. At present, the WID Unit is finalizing a gender training facilitation manual and materials for publication in Spanish.

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¹ The majority of the country workshops were offered through the Department of Regional Integration's Training Program for Group C & D Countries (Belize, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, and Uruguay). This is a technical cooperation program designed to offer institutional capacity building courses and to establish a cadre of educators who could replicate them in their countries.



Participants to the Training of Trainers in Costa Rica, November 2001.



Each of the IDB's Regional Operations Departments has a Social Programs Division that works on projects related to the focal areas of the Social Development Division. A selection of these projects is highlighted below.

Region 1 (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

University Education for African Descendents in Brazil

BY CARMÍÑA ALBERTOS

"...Over two thirds of our poor and indigent are of African descent. Therefore, our poverty has a color. And a name: neglect."

—Paulo Renato Souza,
Minister of Education

According to official data,¹ 45.3 percent of the population of Brazil claims to be of African descent. They represent nearly half of the population, although they account for 64 percent of the country's poor and 69 percent of the extremely poor. Despite

the fact that over the last decade Brazilian social policies have succeeded in significantly improving overall education, health and housing indexes, the disparities between African descendents and European descendents have in many cases remained the same or even increased.

The disparity in education, both in access and internal efficiency, is pronounced at all levels. *Pretos* account for 2 percent and *pardos*² account for 12 percent of all university students despite representing 5.4 percent and 39.9 percent of the population respectively.³ The average years of schooling of 25 year-old African descendents are approximately 6.1 years, while white people of same age have 8.4 years of education. This 2.3 year difference in the length of study and the disparities in access to higher education have contributed to serious inequalities in labor market inclusion, and perpetuate the poverty and social exclusion of Brazil's African descendents.

To address the urgent issue of human resources training for this population group, an innovative project was recently approved aiming to promote education equality and diversity in higher education for African descendents and indigenous peoples. This will be accomplished through three lines of action.

The first will support the participatory development of policy and strategies for social inclusion and

combating racial and ethnic discrimination in secondary and higher education, through financing studies, technical meetings and workshops.

The second line of action includes institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Education (MEC) for addressing diversity, social inclusion and fighting racial and ethnic discrimination as well as the professional development of secondary education teachers. To achieve this, two Diversity Advisory Committees will be established in the Secondary Education Secretariat (SEMTEC), one for African descendents and the other for indigenous people; and a permanent information system will be set up at the MEC, which will include an Internet site on racial and ethnic inequality, diversity and MEC's measures for social inclusion. Pilot training and technical assistance projects will be financed to raise awareness among secondary education teachers, and provide teaching resources for application in the classroom.

Finally, the program will support and evaluate innovative projects that promote access to higher education for people of African descent and indigenous people, including enrollment rewards to students who complete an advanced or support course and are accepted at a higher education institution.

For more information, contact
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or 202 623 2357.



1 Pesquisas Nacionais por Amostra de Domicílios (PNAD) of 1998 and *Síntese dos Indicadores Sociais*, 1999 (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, IBGE) and "Desigualdade Racial no Brasil: Evolução das Condições de vida na década de 90", Ricardo Henriques, Applied Economic Research Institute (IPEA), 2001.

2 The Brazilian National Census classifies the population in five groups according to color: branca (white), prata (black), parda (mulatto), amarela (Asian) and indígenus.

3 Edna Maria Santos Roland. *The Economics of Racism: People of African Descent in Brazil*. 2001.



Region 2 (Mexico, Central America, Haiti, Honduras and the Dominican Republic)

The CABILICA Fund and its Work to Strengthen Local Institutions

BY CATALINA GÓMEZ

Institutional weakness and limited management capacity are two major constraints for successful project development in the region. In order to reduce this trend, the Capacity Building Fund for Local Institutions in Central America (CABILICA) was established in 1999 by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the IDB. The fund's objective is to create and strengthen the management capacity of local institutions, thus enhancing their participation in the design, execution, monitoring and impact evaluation of Bank loans.

CABILICA has US \$3.2 million accessible to finance technical cooperation projects for the ten countries of

Region 2, giving priority to initiatives from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The direct beneficiaries are local government institutions such as mayors' offices and municipal councils, and civil society organizations including capacity-building service providers and associations of the local productive sector.

Up to date CABILICA has financed 17 projects in areas such as education, health, domestic violence prevention, municipal development, and sustainable environmental management. The grants are relatively small (less than US \$150,000), because these resources are sufficient to generate significant impact. The funding mainly targets



training in: 1) design, performance and evaluation of projects, 2) participatory planning and monitoring methods, and 3) analysis of partnership capacities.

For more information, please contact Catalina Gómez: catalinag@iadb.org, or 202 623 3155. Internet web site: <http://re2.iadb.org/funds/cabilica>.

Serving Disabilities in the Honduran Moskitia Region

BY MARISIL NABORRE

Lobster fishing is an important source of foreign currency for the Honduran economy. Its exports account for an annual income of approximately US\$29 million. Ninety-five percent of the exported product is extracted through diving by the Miskito¹ population.

Ministry of Health estimates indi-

cate that there are approximately 9,000 lobster divers in Moskitia, of which 47 percent have some type of disability. The lucrative nature of lobster fishing has given rise to its indiscriminate exploitation and a growing shortage of lobsters. As a result, fishing boats transport divers to greater depths in search of this resource. Diving at great depths without the proper training or equipment causes decompression syndrome, which results in partial or total paralysis and even death, or in other disabilities such as deafness and blindness. The risk of suffering from this syndrome increases with drug and alcohol abuse. Divers also suffer mistreatment and low wages from the boat owners, and

no adequate legal or regulatory framework protects them or ensure the sustainability of the resource.

International markets may stop importing Honduran lobster as a result of the extraction methods employed and their consequences on the health and welfare of the Miskitos. This response would jeopardize a major part of the Honduran export industry.

A new technical cooperation operation of the Social Programs Division of Region 2 (RE2/SO2) seeks to support the country in creating an action plan that promotes local development and contributes to decreasing disability rates among Miskitos. Using resources from the Japanese Special Fund (JSF), this technical cooperation will support the collection of necessary information to establish the plan

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Hazardous, unprotected diving conditions account for an increase in disabilities among lobster divers in Gracia a Dios, Honduras.

¹ The Miskito population resulted from the mixture of indigenous groups, blacks and pirates who inhabited the area from the Atlantic coast to East Honduras during the English colonization period (1633). The area is currently known as the Gracias a Dios Department.



Region 3 (Colombia, Ecuador, English Caribbean, Peru, Venezuela)

Indigenous Communities Get Education Boost

BY MARIO LOTERSZPIL

In 2001 the Bank approved a technical cooperation project (TC)¹ to improve the educational performance of bilingual teachers in charge of basic education in indigenous communities in the Department of Cauca. This

Disabilities in Honduras, continued from page 11

through sectorial studies in education, health, citizen participation and community organization, alternative productive activities to fishing and an analysis of the legal, institutional and regulatory framework of the fishing industry in Honduras, among others. The action plan will be implemented in a future loan operation. Also, a portion of the resources will be used to respond to urgent needs such as the acquisition of equipment and training in safe diving and first aid at sea. This operation was designed with the support of the IDB country office of Honduras.

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higher education program will be designed, evaluated and accredited in order to strengthen a model of basic bilingual intercultural education. The TC also supports community participation, such as involving parents in monitoring and evaluating results in the basic education of their children.

The Department of Cauca is one of the poorest areas of the nation. It also has the largest number of indigenous populations in Colombia. Eighteen percent of its inhabitants are identified as indigenous or black, compared to two percent indigenous in the whole country. In addition, 24 percent of the indigenous in this area are illiterate, in contrast with the national rate of 13 percent.

To improve the education of these groups, the Bilingual Education Program (PEB) was created in 1978, aimed at creating an education system adapted to the socio-cultural, economic and political characteristics of indigenous groups, and includes a strong collective participation. Although many

schools work under this intercultural approach, the lack of well-trained teachers is producing strong educational deficits, in particular, in mathematics and natural sciences.

In order to help to solve these needs, the project will finance the following activities:

- Training 70 bilingual teachers in order to design, test and evaluate a curriculum for a formal bachelor's degree program in community teaching and pedagogy.
- Professional training of 100 additional teachers in this program.
- Production and distribution of educational material for basic education and teacher training.
- Monitoring and evaluating teachers' performance.

In accordance with the national strategy of decentralizing the education system, the Municipality of Caldono will execute the project.

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¹ The project preparation is the result of a collaborative effort of the Indigenous Peoples and Community Development Unit (SDS/IND) and the Social Programs Division of the Regional Operations Department 3 (RE3/SO3) at the IDB.

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