

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BELIZE/CID - Isthmus & DR
▪ TC Name:	Evaluation Support for the Education Quality Improvement Program
▪ TC Number:	BL-T1159
▪ Team Leader/Members:	NASLUND-HADLEY, EMMA INGRID (SCL/EDU) Team Leader; EMMA FINDLATER (CID/CBL); GRETA OLIVARES (SCL/EDU); ORCHEL USHER (CID/CBL); WATSON, BRODRICK RAYLANDO (VPC/FMP); LUNSTEDT TAPIA, CHRISTIAN (VPC/FMP); SANMARTIN BAEZ, ALVARO LUIS (LEG/SGO); ALEJANDRA FORERO PEREZ (SCL/EDU); BLASCO, IVANA (SCL/EDU)
▪ Taxonomy:	Operational Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	Education Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II - BL-L1030
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	24 Feb 2023
▪ Beneficiary:	Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST)
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$200,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	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):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality ; Gender equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of the TC is to support the Government with the evaluation of the Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) II. The specific objective is to measure the effects of EQIP II to improve the quality of education at the primary and secondary level, with a special focus on innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education.
- 2.2 EQIP II has been designed with the objective to improve the quality of education at the primary and secondary levels, with a special focus on innovation in STEAM education. This general objective is pursued through three specific objectives: (i) improve the quality of primary school teachers by expanding the inquiry- and problem-based learning approach; and (ii) improve the quality of secondary education teachers by improving teaching practices through inquiry- and problem-based learning approach, and (iii) promote gender-sensitive STEAM teaching. The project is currently in the implementation stage with a satisfactory performance. At the secondary level of education, a STEAM Laboratory School will open for the first cohort of students in 2023. The Government of Belize (GOB) has contracted a firm that will collect the baseline data for the evaluation of the STEAM Laboratory School. However, based on

the Bank's experience in experimental research in the education sector, the GOB has requested assistance to complete the two follow-up measurements of the randomized control trial of the STEAM Laboratory School.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Experimental Evaluation of STEAM Laboratory School.** The resources will finance the contracting of a firm to collect two rounds of follow-up data for the experimental evaluation of the STEAM Laboratory School. The main product will be experimental evidence on the effectiveness of the EQIP II operation, responding to evaluation questions such as: (i) Does EQIP II lead to better pedagogical practices by teachers? (ii) Does EQIP II lead to more gender-sensitive pedagogical practices by teachers?

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Experimental Evaluation of STEAM Laboratory School	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00
Total	US\$200,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$200,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The IDB, through the Bank's Education Sector Division (SCL/EDU) will execute the TC. As the executing agency of the TC, the Bank will be responsible for: (i) identifying the studies and technical work required for the execution of the TC; (ii) selecting and hiring consultants to provide the necessary services; (iii) supervise the consulting services that the beneficiary provides technical inputs to; and (iv) manage the execution and delivery of consulting services.
- 5.2 The GOB has requested that the IDB execute the TC based on its long trajectory of experimental randomized control trials in the education sector in Belize. In line with Appendix 10 of the Operational Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (GN-2629-1), as modified in Annex 2 of GN-619-4, Bank execution of the TC is justified as contracting by the IDB enhances the independence of an experimental evaluation. Moreover, through its ongoing policy dialogue with the beneficiary country, civil society organizations in Central America, and the STEM research community, the Bank is well-placed to coordinate all activities to be financed by this TC and to serve as the executing agency.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The main risk related to the proposed evaluation methodology is that the random assignment is not respected during program implementation. When the Visible and Tangible Math pilot (BL-T1019) and EQIP I (BL-L1018) were implemented, the random assignment was respected thanks to information provided to all schools and close monitoring during implementation. With this precedent, the Project Team is hopeful that the random assignment will be respected also for BL-L1030.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

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