



OPIC Projects

OPIC Focuses on Development

In 2002, OPIC created a sophisticated measurement tool including a comprehensive scoring matrix that weighs each developmental indicator according to its importance in contributing to the economic and social welfare of the host country. With this tool, OPIC is better able to demonstrate its success in implementing its developmental mission.



Providing for Basic Needs

That is exactly what OPIC is helping to provide in Mexico through a \$2.5 million loan to the U.S. nonprofit, Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF). Proceeds of the loan flow through CHF to Mexican nonprofit organizations, which in turn lend money to private citizens to finance home improvements or new home construction.

The project especially targets the need for safe and adequate housing for workers along the U.S.-Mexico border. CHF is also offering educational programs for potential lenders and borrowers.

No Longer a Pipe Dream

Following last year's groundbreaking project in Kenya, OPIC and Texas-based nonprofit Living Water International (LWI) are working together again to make a clean glass of water an everyday experience for people throughout Africa.

Just \$100,000 in OPIC financing will provide LWI a new drilling machine, air compressor, and other equipment to drill dozens of wells in Ghana, providing local communities with clean water and the better health that goes with it.

Communities raise the funding to pay for drilling the wells, driven by both the need for clean water and the knowledge that similar LWI projects have reduced the rates of water-borne diseases by 95 percent.

To protect public health, all wells are tested for contamination before use. LWI trains local citizens to maintain the wells, pumps, and storage tanks, keeping them free from contamination. To finance maintenance and give the communities a sense of ownership, local water boards established at each site are encouraged to sell water for a penny a bucket. OPIC will continue to build partnerships with organizations like LWI as well as other members of the Millennium Water Alliance to bring potable water to communities throughout Africa.

Boosting Afghanistan's Recovery

Identifying projects which can best help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, OPIC increased its line of credit to the country from \$50 million to a minimum of \$100 million.

In January 2002, President Bush announced that OPIC would establish a \$50 million line of credit to promote private sector investment in Afghanistan. Now, OPIC will redouble its efforts to seek additional U.S. partners who will help in the reconstruction process.

As part of the reconstruction in Afghanistan, a 200-room hotel, the Hyatt Regency Kabul, will receive up to \$35 million in financing and political risk insurance.

Helping to rebuild the education infrastructure in Kabul, OPIC will provide political risk insurance for the construction of three schools, at least one of them a girls' school.

OPIC will provide \$35,000 in insurance to Vermeer Manufacturing Company, an Iowa-based industrial and agriculture equipment manufacturer for the transportation of a compressed earth block machine to Kabul, where it will be donated to Shelter for Life (SFL), a Wisconsin-based non-governmental organization.

SFL will use the machine to construct the schools under the auspices of the U.S. Agency for International Development.



OPIC is a U.S. government agency that helps U.S. businesses invest

overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy.

Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers. Since 1971, OPIC has supported nearly \$145 billion worth of investments that will generate \$65 billion in U.S. exports and create more than 254,000 American jobs.

For general information, contact OPIC's InfoLine at (202) 336-8799. For information via the Internet please go to <http://www.opic.gov>.