

Amended Environmental Evaluation

Project Location : Mexico

Project Title : More Democratic Processes Adopted
in Key Government Institutions

Project Number : 523-003

Funding : \$ 49,266,000

Life of Project : Oct 1999 to Sept 2005

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Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion

Approved: *Edward Kadunc*
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Date: *12/14/04*

Summary Activity Description

This document is to amend the Life of Project for USAID/Mexico's Democracy Program that has been implemented under LAC IEE 03-81 which is an amendment of the original ETD from LAC IEE 01-35. All activities in IRs 2 and 4 have been completed. The extension involves activities in IR1 (Capital Markets Strengthening Project) that will be extended until March 31, 2005 and IR3 (Victims of Torture Project) that will be extended until September 2005. No new activities are foreseen and this amendment recommends no change in the existing threshold determinations.

Specific activities by IR that will continue include:

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1: MORE EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN TARGET AREAS

In FY 2004, USAID supported the development of market-based models for sub-national borrowing and/or bond issuance for local infrastructure financing. The activity involves technical analysis of finance mechanism models and does not extend beyond developing technical information that can be used by municipal governments in developing bond mechanisms.

In FY 2005, USAID will complete all activities in this area by March 2005. The element planned for this year is a conference to present project results.

Recommended Threshold Decision for Intermediate Result 1

This activity currently operates and should continue to operate under **Categorical Exclusion** as supported by 22 CFR 216.2(c) (2) (i): educational, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3: MORE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN TARGET COURTS

In 2004, USAID worked with the state courts of seventeen Mexican states to more effectively support GOM initiatives in the areas of justice reform and court-annexed mediation. In addition, USAID provided support to strengthen the administrative, diagnosis, counseling and public outreach capacities of NGOs specialized in treatment of survivors of torture.

In FY 2005, USAID will complete all of these activities by September 2005.

Recommended Threshold Decision for Intermediate Result 3: The Rule of Law program that supports education and training aimed at increasing capacity to adjudicate and increasing access to justice warrants a Categorical Exclusion under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i): the action does not have an effect on the natural or physical environment.