

A FRIENDLY HAND PROGRAM REPORT

February 2015

PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND FINANCING SOURCE

While considering the IADB Country Offices Family Associations (ASOFAM.BID) expressed needs to carry out projects excluded from the Social Projects Program Regulations, the ASOFAM.BID in Washington DC, on October 4, 2007 adopted a new Program at the Board for Country Offices, entitled "A Friendly Hand Program". A total of \$5,000 out of the ASOFAM.BID Budget was appropriated in Washington, DC. For this purpose, each project would receive up to \$ 1,000. In 2007 ASOFAM.BID introduced the Program during the V Meeting of Country Offices held in Washington DC. That year, Chile and Ecuador were the pioneers. In 2008, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay joined this initiative.

In 2009, the initiative was considered as an effective means to meet the Association's stated purpose of integration through social Projects. To access the initiative, the first written regulations were drawn and submitted for consideration at the VI Meeting of Family Associations In Country Offices held in Quito, Ecuador. Taking into account the acceptance, interest and recognized significance of the Program by the ASOFAM.BID in the Country Offices, and also based on the ideas that emerge at the Meeting, it is decided seek out additional funds from the IADB. In 2010, it is planned to begin a new stage of the Program by drawing new Regulations and therefore taking the first steps to get the IADB to approve a Budget for its implementation. On July 15, 2011 the first request is submitted to the IADB President, Mr. Luis Albert Moreno. In By March, 2011, \$ 60,000 is initially appropriated and transferred to ASOFAM.BID Headquarters in Washington, DC.

A second request for U\$S 47,000 is submitted on November 13, 2011. The request made is based on the fact that up to that date seven projects had been already implemented in El Salvador, Perú, México, Paraguay, Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil. Another six projects were underway for approval and eight more countries had shown interest. By December 14, Mr. Luis A. Moreno, IADB President, communicated with Ms. Elizabeth Solórzano, President of ASOFAM.BID, in Washington, DC. to indicate the budget's approval. The funds were transferred in March 2012.

Now the program gains more momentum.

OBJECTIVES

1. To attain integration of the members of the IADB Community (staff and retirees and their families) in each country by actively and directly engaging in a project's design, implementation and follow up.
2. To participate in Bank's initiatives in Latin America and Caribbean countries in matters of education, poverty reduction, climate change and opportunities for most.

CURRENT STATUS

Thirty four requests have been submitted to date, for a total of \$81,539.1. Twenty six projects have been approved for \$64,856.1. The remaining balance totaling \$43,798.9 was available as of November 30, 2014.

Out of 26 countries, requests from 23 have been received. Currently, there are 4 inactive requests. 3 are under study and only one was not approved at the Committee because it did not comply with the Program's guidelines.

Significant progress has been made with regard to the enthusiastic participation in countries where Family Associations just have been set up, which fills us with great optimism. In other countries they have managed to implement more than one project. Some of the countries have grouped projects in one same community (Brazil), or the same type of projects have been implemented in different parts of the country, such as in the case of Paraguay with "A Roof For My Country" ("Un techo Para Mi País"). So far, the country showing most activity has been Paraguay, followed by Perú and Brazil.

Of the approved funds, 57.7% of approved funds targeted children (remodeling schools, building parks and fostering sport and cultural activities), 30.8% was targeted to meet basic needs of the community at large (mostly building pre-fabricated homes for families living in poverty), and the remaining 11.5% was used to assist seniors.

We hope that all countries will be able to implement a Project in the near future.

PROGRAM DYNAMICS (2011 TO 2014)

Since the Program began to operate, most of the projects submitted have met the poverty reduction objective. From this perspective, submitted projects have been clearly defined and they fully explained the institution and the community benefitting from the project.

The Associations and the Committee members, we have learned to channel requests and implement projects in order to fulfill our objective of integration of the IADB Community. Since 2011, this became one of the core Program matters

Whereas, this new stage of A Friendly Hand Program was launched in the second half of 2011, implementation has not been as fast as we expected, mostly because of the time it took for the learning process, as we have already described. In order to guide the Associations during this process, the Committee evaluating projects will communicate with them through emails, telephone asking questions, challenging, and in some cases suggesting activities that would favor integration in the IADB Community.

In view of the continuous staff turnover and their families, constant support is needed to guide these projects design, particularly in order to attain the integration objective established. In some cases, interactions taking place between the A Friendly Hand Committee and the requesting associations resulted in re-evaluating the project. With the exception of five projects, all have been able to adjust and be implemented with very positive results.

In March 2012, it became necessary to update the Program's regulations. The update would include directives about the concerns and experiences of the first year, specifically details referring to the integration requisite. A new review and update submitted for consideration during that year's second semester was taken to the VII Family Associations Meeting in October 2012. Projects were reviewed in a workshop consisting of different working groups, reviewing methodology.

In order to achieve a high rate of participation great leadership is needed from the people in charge of coordinating a Project. Likewise, we believe it is very important to count on the IADB's Country Office support. When this happens, we have seen achieving much greater family motivation.

ACTIVITIES ENDEAVORED BY THE IADB COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Families making up the IADB Community have found very different ways to participate in the A Friendly Hand Program: The activities range from a soccer game in the benefitting community to planting trees as part a reforestation project, carrying on all the way to building pre-fabricated houses. Most of the time activities include preparing and handing out a snack or lunch. We believe that the most frequent ways to participate occur while setting up physical conditions for recipient institutions or holding play activities. These activities allow more people to get involved because they are much easier to plan holding interests, skills and age in mind. The following are some examples of integration:

- Clean and tidy gardens, seed plants
- Paint and repair walls, front of buildings/houses, fences
- Clean and decorate the indoor and outdoor of the institution (eg: murals)
- Equip and repair a playground
- Building pre-fabricated houses
- Reading, play, dancing and theatre groups
- Art and arts and craft workshops

PROGRAM IMPACT ON ASSOCIATIONS

As per reports sent to us regarding how [these] projects impact the IADB Community families in each country, results have been very positive. In all, there has been an increase in ties among active international staff families, retirees, locals, consultants and outsourced officials interacting in an environment of solidarity and camaraderie.

At times, we have also noticed that A Friendly Hand Program has generated some changes in the manner in which families get involved. According to some reports, it used to be difficult to get people to participate in activities that wouldn't be purely social -- including fundraising for donations. These findings are very positive not only because there has been more integration with other Bank staff members and their families, but also because they have had an opportunity to cooperate personally to the wellbeing of communities that are much in need.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY THEY LIVE IN

Projects partially or totally funded with resources stemming from the A Friendly Hand Program have always been channeled to take care of those basic needs found in segments of an unprotected population, all in step with the IADB's objectives to reduce poverty, climate change and generate opportunities for most. 57.7% of projects to date have targeted children and teenage populations, mostly funding improvement jobs, providing schools with basic equipment and shelters for boys and girls. Very much aware of the importance of leisure and recreation, other projects aimed at promoting cultural activities such as art and literature as well as sports. . When funds are directed to projects that benefit children, our families add their two cents worth to allow them to develop physically, emotionally and intellectually. 30.8% of projects were carried out to meet community-type needs such as building pre-fabricated houses, reforestation and sanitary improvements for a population lacking drinking water services. Finally, 11.5% of projects focused on basic needs for seniors: improving facilities as well as offering consumer goods so they can live with dignity in old age.

These project developments have always had a positive impact on the community because work is done with institutions and organizations seeking how to improve physical living conditions for their recipients, -- all of which results in greater autonomy, self-esteem, Independence and personal development for them. If we consider that all these projects require a direct participation of the beneficiaries, then A Friendly Hand is a Program serving as a significant mechanism for members of the IADB Community to support with great enthusiasm and somehow alleviating possible needs found in the host country that took them in.

We should also highlight that while developing these projects meant strengthening ties among members of the IADB Community and the recipient population in each country, this has also closed ties with government organizations (national and local), NGOs and private sector corporations who have also enthusiastically assisted in their design and execution, ultimately translated to the project's success. In several cases, cooperation led to mobilizing additional resources for a Project, therefore, increasing the effectiveness of funds contributed by the Program. We hope that this close cooperation will increase in the future so that more resources might be channeled to this kind of projects.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2015

The Committee is determined that those Associations that have not yet submitted projects will do so in 2014, and may they all be implemented. In turn, we will undertake an intense campaign to motivate all other Associations to revisit the experience in order to meet in an informal setting, working jointly, interacting in hope that they may serve the community where they live.

We are currently reviewing different strategies to increase coverage of the A Friendly Hand Program by fostering further submittals of new projects.