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| IDB Group Civil Society Engagement review 2016-2017 | This review presents the Civil Society activities executed in 2016-2017.  Espinoza, Viviane |

**Outline**

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The Vice Presidency for Countries wishes to express its gratitude to all operating and sector specialists for their invaluable guidance and contributions during the preparation and completion of this review, to all experts on Civil Society from other Multilateral Development Entities for their ideas and exchanges, and to all Civil Society Organizations for their feedback and comments that have led to the materialization of this review.

A special thank you for the information, suggestions, editing and most importantly the work, dedication and commitment of the IDB colleagues in the Headquarters and Civil Society Liaisons in 26 IDB Country Offices: Juana Alvarez Abad, Aleyda Montalvan, Alyssa Noble, Amrita Deonarine, Andrea Durango, Andreina Alvarez, Anna Beatriz Araujo, Dorri Agostini, Eduardo Daniel Arraiza, Emiliano Sanchez, Fiorella Salazar, Gevon Moss, Gladys Morena Gómez, Gloria Teresa Rojas, Hugo Amador Us Alvarez, Jennelle Thompson, Jennifer Linares, Kevin Rawle Bonnett, Leandro Gastón Andrian, Maria Delina Otazú, Mariana Vega, Michel Serge, Nadia Martinez Huezo, Natasja Deul, Paola A. Robles Alzamora, Sudaney Blair, Susana Castañeda Palacios, Yajaira Archibald.

1. **Acronyms**

ATI Access to information

CAN Country Department Andean Group

CCB Country Department Caribbean

CID Country Department Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic

ConSoc Civil Society Consultative Group

CS Civil Society

CSC Country Department Southern Cone

CSO Civil Society Organization

LAC Latin America and the Caribbean Region

MDB Multilateral Development Banks

NGO Non-governmental Organization

SCL Social Sector

TC Technical Cooperation

VPC Vice Presidency for Countries

1. **Foreword**

The IDB Group is the leading development agency in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our focus is to improve the lives of citizens in Latin America and the Caribbean by continuously strengthen strategies and identifying new development trends. We at the IDB believe that the most important actors for development are Governments, Private Sectors and Civil Society.

Latin America and the Caribbean are changing. The region’s democracies have matured and its institutions are being modernized. Its citizens demand greater transparency and accountability. These changes have forged a new relationship between Governments, the Private Sector and Civil Society.

With Civil Society the IDB Group works to contribute to the advancement of governments’ development agendas, support the best implementation of private sector initiatives, and strengthen civil society’s technical and participatory capacities. This second review of Civil Society activities remarks how Civil Society operates and conducts programs in 26 member countries through five strategic lines of action aimed at: a) strengthening and promoting capacities to access and generate *information*; b) fostering constructive *dialogue* to achieve shared-value agendas; c) strengthening capacities and instruments for due diligence in *public consultations*; d) identifying and supporting opportunities for *collaboration* that generate knowledge; e) leveraging *partnerships* to multiply resources and reach more beneficiaries.

Civil Society is one of the main actors towards development. The gradual involvement and strengthening of Civil Society has allowed citizens to become more aware of the importance of a true accountability. Therefore, a better and organized civil society is needed to allow citizens to be firmer in their demand for proper services and accountability for their leaders.

This review constitutes a vital step to better understand Civil Society Engagement in the region. This work, led by the Bank is indispensable to provide pertinent information needed for future endeavors. In the next chapters, we will see the operations led by the Bank where Civil Society provides an indispensable step needed for future endeavors.

1. **Introduction**

This second review under the leadership of the Vice President for Countries, Alexandre Meira da Rosa, looks to clarify the scope, reach and impact of the work of the different Bank sectors, departments, divisions and units conduct with CS, as well as to optimize the use of resources available. These actions can be summarized in:

* Include CS as part of a set of innovative solutions for effectively addressing development challenges identified by the Bank by incorporating human capital with technically prepared Civil Society Organizations (CSO);
* Increase added value in a regional thematic roundtable in order to build knowledge during regional meetings, with a view to prepare common agendas on development challenges identified in the Region.

At a regional level, Civil Society Consultative Groups (ConSoc) continued to be strengthened in all 26 countries. These groups represent an invaluable network of collaboration and direct interaction with the Bank in the form of technical and territorial perspectives and experiences.

Also, the annual regional meetings ‘’IDB Group–Civil Society Caribbean Forum’’ and ‘’IDB Group-Civil Society Regional Forum’’ were also reinforced and executed in Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic (2016) and in Jamaica and Bolivia (2017) and respectively. These meetings include the participation of CSO leaders, experts on different fields and sector, and Bank specialist to explore opportunities for joint solutions.

The previous considerations explain the need for a biennial review that helps to better understand the IDB Group’s level of engagement with Civil Society, draw lessons learned and to coordinate the Bank’s future actions. Note that the review supports and highlights the work of IDB Group Civil Society in each of the 26 borrowing member countries of the region: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

*five strategic lines of action: (i) strengthen and develop internal capacities to capture, process and give access to information for the relationship with SC; (ii) strengthen the integration of spaces for direct dialogue with Civil Society; (iii) optimizing and adjusting public consultation processes; (iv) to identify and expand spaces for collaboration with civil society; (v) maximize the value of strategic alliances with Civil Society.*

1. **Methodology**

A. CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT: The IDB Group has gained experience and enriched its work with a range of activities and lessons learned in the context of its operational-sectoral work and the generation of knowledge. In order to systematize this universe of experiences, the IDB Group has adopted Bank's work with Civil Society has been analyzed from five different action approaches: information, dialogues, consultations, collaboration and alliances.

The division into five levels of engagement was conceived based on the examination of the IDB Group's work with Civil Society (SC), as well as the exchange of CS topics with other experts from the different Multilateral Development Banks (MDB)5, especially the World Bank.

B. INFORMATION PROCESSING:The information

from the 26 countries was received and actions

were organized into the corresponding levels,

adding a reference to the work the IDB carries out

with CS from its Head Office in Washington D.C.6

C. NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE REVIEW: This

exercise seeks to highlight the Bank’s enormous

and outstanding efforts with the third actor –Civil

Society– and to better coordinate present and

future development opportunities. Far from being

a detailed inventory of the projects, programs

and activities involving CS participation in one

or more levels of engagement (see the “Level of

Engagement by Activity”), the review provides

new guidelines for designing CS-related activities

and engagement strategies in the future.

D. CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION

BY COUNTRY: This review is to be understood

in context and not as a comparison between

countries. The reason is that individual country

activities are dependent upon the volume of

the operations portfolio and the influence of

external and internal factors that result, for

example, from changes in work teams and their

short-term impact on CS-related topics. Also, by

definition each country has its own context and

identity that determine the interaction between

the three main actors, which, as we will see,

varies significantly from country to country.

Accordingly, each Country Office takes the steps

needed to increase compliance efficiency in

line with the Country Strategy agreed with the

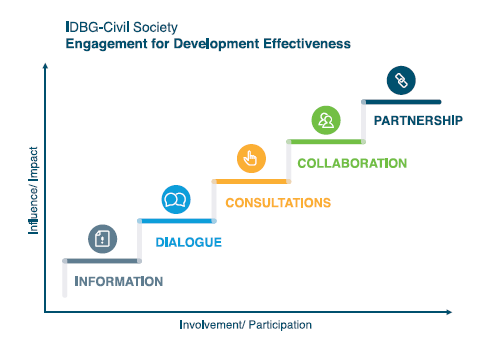
respective government, promoting opportunities

for development by incorporating CSOs that can

contribute specific local and technical knowledge,

if deemed pertinent.

1. **Levels of engagement:** the IDB understands the five levels of engagement as the following definitions:



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| **Partnership:**  When an organization receives and manages funds the Bank gives, to execute a project or a project’s component. These organizations could be: Universities, Social Associations, NGOs, Foundations, Social Investment Organizations, etc. (**i.e**.:  a road safety NGO manages and executes a transportation project or one of its components.) |
| **Collaboration**: When the Bank offers scholarships to civil society capacity building or other training to Civil Society. (i.e: collaboration with an organization to produce a knowledge product related to a sector, technical exchanges in workshops, institutional capacity training programs, awareness campaigns, education campaigns, trainings, scholarships for Civil society, etc.) |
| **Consultations**: When the Bank needs input about a project, a strategy or a policy. -  Surveys to members of the Civil Society regarding a project or country strategy.  (i.e. a public consultation with Civil Society members regarding a project or project’s component) |
| **Dialogue:** Exchange in theme tables to discuss punctual subjects such as sector notes in civil society forums/events. (i.e.: Organization participating in IDB Group - Civil Society forums and/or ConSoc regular meetings aiming at maintaining the relationship with the Country Office; etc.) |
| **Information:** When information is disseminated about projects, policies, strategies, through webpages, e-mails or online publications. (i.e.: activities to promote good practices for access to information or other activity relevant information for the development of the Region. (i.e.:  webinars to disseminate activities, communication materials related to a specific topic, information about policies published in the internet page of the Bank) |

1. **Compiling of information:** The information from 26 countries was received and actions were organized per the pertinent levels. The information was processed in IDB Headquarters, Washington D.C
2. **Contextual analysis of the review:** This review is to be understood in context and not as a comparison between countries. Note that the countries have individual activities and are dependent on the volume of the operations portfolio and the influence of external and internal factors that result from changes in work related teams and their shot term impact on Civil Society related topics. This review provides an opportunity to analyze the different levels of engagement to understand the impact on each actor’s development and manage available resources more efficiently.
3. **The role of Civil Society in development:** It is evident that the review bases the Bank’s recognition of CS as a key actor of development.
4. **Success stories:** Some stories of collaboration for development with CS were selected among the countless examples received to illustrate how the different levels of engagement have been put to practice.
5. **Sectors**

The Bank works in the sectors mentioned in Table I. Civil Society participates at different levels of engagement with the activities, projects, strategies, and programs for the sectors mentioned. As part of its strategy to achieve development in the Region and within the following priorities 1) reducing poverty and inequality; 2) promoting productivity and innovation, 3) generating integration and promoting development through the private sector; 4) address the damages of climate change, renewable energy and environmental sustainability; and 5) promoting regional cooperation and integration. The Bank seeks to maximize development opportunities by incorporating Civil Society actors with experience in these sectors that can add value through their products, initiatives, activities and programs, especially in rural and/or remote areas where CSOs play a fundamental role.

1. **General Levels of Engagement of the IDB Group**

In 2016, the IDB executed 220 operations with Civil Society in any of the engagement levels, collaboration, consultation, dialogue, information, partnerships. The CAN region has the highest amount of collaboration. The CCB region represents the highest set of Consultations and Dialogue. The CID region had the highest amount of information and partnerships. The top three sectors throughout the five levels were: gender equality, energy, microenterprises, childhood and youth.

**Consultations**

Of all the consultations, CCB conducted most of them with almost 20% of consultations in the Region. Following by CID (5,14%), CAN (4,12%) and CHA and CSC (3,9%) each. Among the predominant product types are the following: Public consultation regarding a project or country strategy or public consultation with civil society regarding a project’s component.

By product type:

**Collaboration**

Of all the collaborations conducted in the 26 countries where the IDB operates, the highest number took place in the CAN region (15,38%), followed by CID (12,3%), and by CSC (8,21%), and CCB (4,10%). Among the predominant product types are the following: Project management for results; webinar to disseminate activities, and workshops.

By product type:

**Dialogue**

The LAC region with the largest dialogue activity is CCB (16,33%) followed by CAN and CID. The predominant product types this engagement level offers is the following: organization participating in a civil society forum/regular meetings.

**Information**

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean with the largest number of information actions is CID (16,53%), followed by CAN (7,23%) and CCB (5,17%). The most predominant product type is the dissemination of meetings or information disseminated in the internet.

**Partnerships**

The region with the highest partnership rate is CID (33,28%) followed by CSC (40%) and CSC (21%). The most predominant product type is the provision of funds to execute a project or a project’s component. Brasil is the highest executing country in the partnership level.

1. **CAN region**

The CAN region is composed by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. In general, 2016 civil society engagement can be explained by the following:

For the CAN region, the highest engagement level is partnership (17,30%). Followed by collaboration (15,27%) by the participation in the civil society capacity building programs. The following engagement level is dialogue (13,23%) with the participation in regional forums organized by Civil Society. Consultation processes represent (7,13%).

**Collaboration**

The country with the highest collaboration rate is Ecuador (8,33%) followed by Bolivia and Peru (3,8% respectively). The predominant product types are the following: workshops and participation in forums for the Civil Society. Countries not mentioned in this graph, did not executed operations on this level in 2016.

**Consultation**

In 2016, the CAN countries who executed consultation activities were Bolivia and Peru. The predominant areas were public consultation with Civil Society regarding a project or a project’s component or a country strategy consultation.

**Dialogue**

In 2016, almost all CAN countries had a similar participation rate in dialogue activities. All countries participated in civil society or regular meetings for civil society.

**Information**

All CAN countries participated in information activities. Ecuador had the highest rate with 43% participating in all the information activities. The predominant product type for this level is the following: meetings to disseminate information regarding activities or projects.

**Partnerships**

Ecuador and Peru had the highest amount of partnerships per level. Peru and Ecuador had a considerate amount of partnerships, 11 and 12, respectively

1. **Bolivia**

Of all the civil society actions in Bolivia, the top one belongs to dialogue (34%) followed by consultations (25%) and collaboration (25%)

**Success Story**

Bolivia executed two ConSoc meetings. The first one in La Paz for the planning of rural activities. The second one in Santa cruz to present the data about the Country Strategy. These meetings work really well because it allows that the IDB works in specific subjects with close coordination with the ConSocS.

The activities executed by Bolivia in the engagement levels can be summarized in the following table.

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| **COLLABORATION** |  |
| PARTICIPACIÓN EN FOROS REALIZADOS POR ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL | 2 |
| WEBINARS TO DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTIVITIES | 1 |
| **CONSULTATION** |  |
| PUBLIC CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY REGARDING A PROJECT OR A PROJECT'S COMPONENT | 4 |
| **DIALOGUE** |  |
| ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATING IN CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM AND/OR REGULAR MEETINGS | 5 |
| **INFORMATION** |  |
| ENVIO DE INFORMACIÓN MENSUAL CON INFORMACIÓN DEL BID | 1 |
| **PARTNERSHIP** |  |
| APOYO A LA REALIZACIÓN DEL ENCUENTRO DE INTERCAMBIO DE ALCALDES MUNICIPIO ESCUELA | 1 |

1. **Colombia**

**Success Story**

The engagement level Information was on a very high peek with Colombia. The Colombia IDB Group office participated with local governments, academia, enterprise sector and civil society. The objective of the Forum was to give the start of a regional analysis about the economic, social, and urban development in the area. This Forum created different thematic tables which analyze the goals and outreach of each table. The IDB Group now has a role of collaborating the tables of this Forum.

**Dialogue**

Colombia undertook dialogue activities that consisted in the participation of forums. Specifically, meetings with the CONSOC and Forums. For example, a forum about competitiveness and innovation was executed in the framework of the country strategy with Colombia. The main topics of dialogue concentrated in fiscal policy for sustainability and growth.

1. **Ecuador**

**Success Story**

Through the project Door to Door Saving, a partnership that aims to improve savings accounts in low income people. Specifically, 4,651 persons of low income now have access to programmed savings account. From the government side, 1373 beneficiaries of the public side (governments) now have access to at least 1 savings product. Furthermore 2,114 persons now have request for the first time a savings account in the formal finance system of Ecuador.

Ecuador executed activities in all engagement levels. Specially in partnerships (12,46%) followed by collaboration (8,31%) and dialogue (3,11%) and information (3,12%). Table below show the sectors where Ecuador had the most partnerships. These include financial inclusion, energy, and information technologies.

**Partnerships in Ecuador by Sector**

1. **Peru**

**Success Story**

Peru strengthened, increased and decentralized its relationship with Civil Society. Likewise, the country shared directly its concerns with Civil Society and with Bank specialists. Finally, the country experienced a growth with Civil Society both in quantity and in sectors. The country now has civil society organizations in the north and south of Peru.

Peru executed all five levels of engagement. Partnerships had the highest participation. Table below explains which sectors had the partnership levels selected.

1. **Venezuela**

**Success Story**

With the ESCI implementation of the City of Cumana in Venezuela, approximately 20 children in the city center. Thanks to the innovative methodology that empowers youth and promotes urban design, a historic part of the city. This project was implemented by Trazando Espacios, a Civil Society Organization.

In 2016, Venezuela undertook engagement levels of collaboration and partnerships. The main themes were urban rehabilitation and heritage as well as sustainable cities.

**2. CCB Region**

The CCB region executed activities on all engagement levels. The highest level was consultation (19%) followed by dialogue (16,32%), information, partnerships and collaboration.

**Collaboration**

In 2016 Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago experienced collaboration activities. Specifically participation in civil society forums, participation in webinars to disseminate activities, and participation in civil society institutional capacity fellowships.

**Consultation**

In 2016 Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago executed activities of Consultation. Specifically public consultation regarding a project or a project’s component.

**Dialogue**

In 2016, five of the six CCB countries participated in dialogue activities. Mainly belonging to participation in Civil Society Forums.

**Information**

Information activities belonging to meetings to disseminate Bank or project’s activities.

**Partnerships**

Barbados, Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago experienced partnerships. On sectors such as agriculture, gender, and health.

1. **Barbados**
2. **Bahamas**
3. **Guyana**
4. **Suriname**

Suriname took part in information activities, specifically on meetings to discuss achievements and Bank’s planned activities.

1. **Jamaica**

This country had activities in Consultation and Dialogue

1. **Trinidad and Tobago**

In 2016, this country had activities in all five levels of engagement. The highest amount belongs to consultation with 7,90 of activities happening there.

**CID Region**

**Collaboration**