THIRD-PARTY OPINION

In order to ensure the objectivity of project evaluation, the third-party opinions are attached to all project ex-post evaluation.

In order to ensure the objectivity of the evaluation, JBIC asks experts in developing countries to review the ex-post evaluation report for all individual ex-post evaluation, then publish their view for the report as the third-party opinion. The summary of their opinion for each project is attached with ex-post evaluation result with the profile of the experts. Full text of the third-party opinion on the Urban Potable Water Supply Project (see p.90) is shown below as an example. (For full-text of the third-party opinions on other projects, please refer to the JBIC website.)

Full Text of Third-Party Opinion

40 Urban Potable Water Supply Project in Costa Rica

Ms. Lina Contreras

Ms. Contreras has served as a presidential advisor, presidential vice-cabinet minister and chairperson of parliament. Currently working as a private consultant. When serving as a member of parliament, demonstrated strong leadership skills in a wide range of areas including international relations and social issues.

Relevance

The improvement in the supply of potable water for its inhabitants has been a priority for the Government of Costa Rica, which has been shown in the National Development Plans of the last years. The most important commitments have been related to the maintenance of water sources, the rehabilitation and optimization of the water and sewage systems and the protection of hydro resources and rivers. The ultimate commitment of the government has been to ensure the access of drinking water to the entire population in an environmentally sustainable way.

The financing of the Urban Potable Water Supply Project enabled the improvement in the supply of potable water and sewage system in the targeted cities. This project brought benefits to approximately two hundred and thirty thousand people. The cities of Cañas, Liberia, Esparza, Puntarenas, Guapiles, Guacimo and Pasito had very few sources of employment and a low income population. Before the project implementation, there was an important increase in the population due to heavy immigration, and there was a high demand for the water supply. They also suffered frequently from diarrhea and Hepatitis A, because of the pollution of the wells, water sources and water intakes, lack of chlorination and bad piping; this also allowed the theft and waste of the liquid. These problems, added to the lack of a local administrative capacity from the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers in charge of the water supply management in these communities, demonstrate how important the implementation of this project was. After the project implementation, it has allowed these communities to have a higher level of development, a better quality of life and more job opportunities for their inhabitants because of the ability of the executing agency to provide a constant water supply, which is also more efficient and of better quality.

Impact

There are several points of view to take into account regarding the impact of this project in the six communities. As a result of increasing the access of the potable water supply in remote cities (which would have been almost impossible without this support), they were given the opportunity to promote tourist activities, to increase agriculture and rendering of services. These activities became the main sources of employment in the communities and translated into higher levels of income. In addition, their health index improved as well. Regarding the environmental aspect, the project has had a great positive impact in the protection of water sources, by which the systems of intake and water distribution are being used correctly.

The other issue is the economic-administrative performance of the project by the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers. This institution–therefore the Costa Rican Government–obtained important benefits through this project such as: the establishment of local offices with trained personal to manage and service the water intakes, water pipping and water service facilities. For example, they educated people regarding customer service and implemented the installation of micro-meters, which improved the fees and collection rates for the services provided.

We conclude that one important element that contributed to the successful implementation of this project was the good coordination between the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA) and the contractors.