

STATUS OF PROJECTS IN EXECUTION – FY05
SOPE
REGION: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
COUNTRY: PANAMA

Operations Policy and Country Services
SEPTEMBER 23, 2005



Report on the Status of Projects in Execution - FY05
Region: Latin America and the Caribbean
Country: Panama

Introduction

The Status of Projects in Execution (SOPE) Report for FY05 provides information on all IBRD/IDA projects that were active on and beyond June 30, 2005. Thus it bridges the gap in information available to the public between the Project Appraisal Document, disclosed after the Bank approves a project, and the Implementation Completion Report, disclosed after the project closes.

The World Bank has issued a SOPE Report every year as an internal communication to the Board of Executive Directors. Now, in accordance with the Bank's revised disclosure policy, the SOPE Report is also available to the public. By publishing this improved report, we have addressed one of the main concerns we heard from the public during disclosure consultations – that the public has very little access to information on projects while they are being implemented. Readers familiar with past reports will note that projects that closed during the fiscal year are no longer included in the SOPE, since their Implementation Completion Reports are now also disclosed.

The FY05 SOPE introduces a new element: in order to disclose project-by-project comparisons of disbursement estimates and actual disbursements, the SOPE report contains a line chart¹ showing the original estimated disbursement schedule, the latest approved revised schedule (if any) and actual disbursements for investment operations and a table showing the loan/credit/grant amount and disbursements to date.

¹ Notes:

- Amounts for Projects in currencies other than U.S. dollars may not match exactly due to exchange rate fluctuations over the life of the project.
- Disbursement graphs are not included for Development Policy Loans, which provide quick-disbursing external financing to support policy and institutional reforms. For these loans, funds are disbursed in one or more stages (tranches), released when the borrower complies with agreed conditions.
- Projects which are not yet effective may not have a planned disbursement schedule and thus may not include a graph.

Country: Panama

Project Name (ID): Land Administration (P050595)

Country: Panama

Board Approval Date: 01/16/2001

Midterm Review Date: 07/30/2004

Closing Date: 09/30/2006

Loan/Credit/Grant Number: IBRD-70450

Sector(s): Central government administration (79%), Forestry (16%), Other social services (3%), Sub-national government administration (2%)

Theme(s): Land administration and management (P), Administrative and civil service reform (P), Personal and property rights (P), Law reform (P), Indigenous peoples (S)

Project Development Objectives:

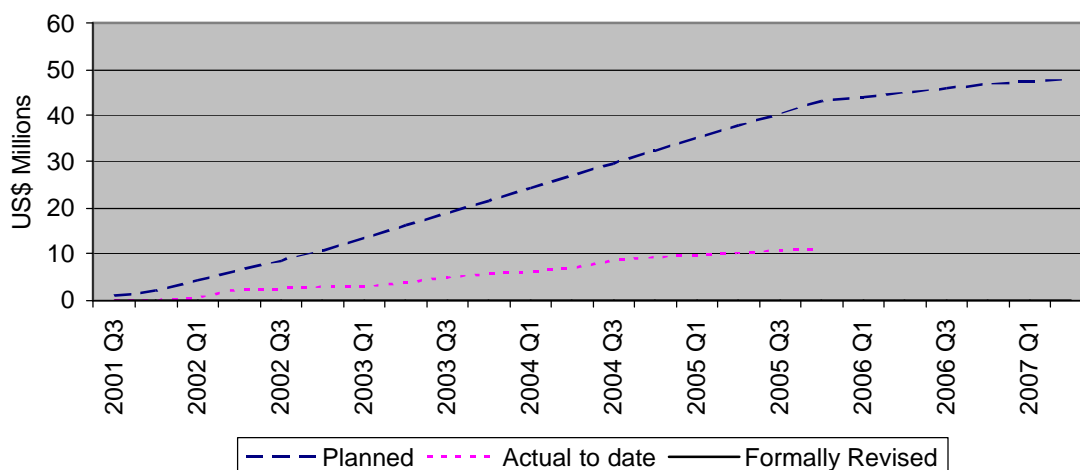
The objectives are to: (a) promote equitable access to land and improve tenure security, and (b) enhance natural resource conservation.

Progress toward achieving development objective(s):

The project continues to under perform, mainly due to fiscal constraints and weak management capacity. The new Administration (since September 2004) has also been extremely slow in proposing project restructuring. An agreement was reached in November 2004, but the Bank only received the proposal in May 2005. The Bank is currently discussing this proposal with the Government and Board approval of the restructuring is anticipated during fiscal year 2006. Some project activities have proceeded reasonably well, particularly regarding demarcation of protected areas and indigenous peoples territories.

Lending Information/Disbursement Summary (USD millions, as of June 30 2005)

Loan/Credit/Grant	Status	Amount	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Cancellation
IBRD-70450	Effective	47.90	11.17	36.73	0.00



Project Name (ID): Second Basic Education (P052021)

Country: Panama

Board Approval Date: 09/07/2000

Midterm Review Date: 10/13/2003

Closing Date: 05/31/2007

Loan/Credit/Grant Number: IBRD-70320

Sector(s): Secondary education (54%), Primary education (32%), Pre-primary education (9%), Sub-national government administration (5%)

Theme(s): Rural services and infrastructure (P), Education for all (P), Access to urban services and housing (P), Social safety nets (P), Indigenous peoples (S)

Project Development Objectives:

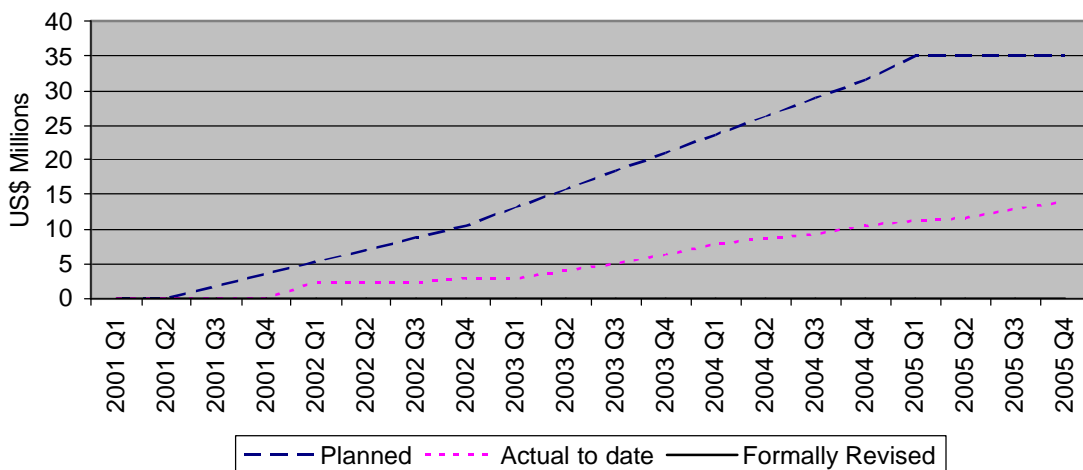
The objectives are to: (a) improve the quality and efficiency of education; and (b) increase convergence of initial and preschool education.

Progress toward achieving development objective(s):

In spite of slow progress, there is good evidence that execution is now improving under the new Administration. Important activities are being carried out that are contributing to the achievement of the objectives. The Ministry of Education seeks to expand access to lower secondary education and sees the TeleBasica pilot distance learning project as a valuable alternative delivery system, especially in rural areas. About 131 new community preschool centers will be opened in 2005 and 52 new home-based initial education groups will be created. Evaluations of both pilots are planned for 2006. Support to bilingual education has been strengthened by hiring technical support in bilingual education and launching concrete actions to design bilingual textbooks and materials for the three main Indigenous groups in Panama. The Ministry is also strengthening inclusive education, civil works and will be incorporating disability detection procedures within the initial education training modules. The project had less progress in reaching the objectives of the institutional strengthening component.

Lending Information/Disbursement Summary (USD millions, as of June 30 2005)

Loan/Credit/Grant	Status	Amount	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Cancellation
IBRD-70320	Effective	35.00	13.96	21.04	0.00



Project Name (ID): Public Policy Reform Technical Assistance (P055844)

Country: Panama

Board Approval Date: 07/31/2001

Midterm Review Date: 01/19/2004

Closing Date: 12/31/2005

Loan/Credit/Grant Number: IBRD-46350, IBRD-P3380

Sector(s): Central government administration (100%)

Theme(s): Trade facilitation and market access (P), Regulation and competition policy (P), Poverty strategy, analysis, and monitoring (P), Public expenditure, financial management, and procurement (S), Other economic management (S)

Project Development Objectives:

The objectives are to support trade policy, strengthen economic management, improve social spending, modernize national statistics, and improve public procurement procedures.

Progress toward achieving development objective(s):

The main achievements include: (a) The Ministry of Trade completed the database on patents and trademarks in support of protection of intellectual property rights; finalized the establishment of a new information center on regulations and standards; and obtained the Certificate of Quality for the Directorate of Technical Norms. The project also financed the negotiations of free trade agreements with the U.S. and Singapore; (b) For the implementation of Law 29 on consumer protection and competition policy, the executing agency has taken the final steps towards obtaining the Certificate of Quality and has restructured the strategic plan based on available resources; (c) The Directorate of Statistics published the Statistical Bulletin with the GDP accounts for 1996-2004, the Quarterly National Accounts for 1996-2003, the new Consumer Price Index, concluded the External Trade Index for 2001-2004 (imports) and is still working on exports; (d) Panama's Poverty Assessment was published, the Poverty Map was updated, and the Poverty Profile was prepared; and (e) The new Administration agreed to reprogram the support for public procurement procedures based on the Government's strategic plan.

Lending Information/Disbursement Summary (USD millions, as of June 30 2005)

Loan/Credit/Grant	Status	Amount	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Cancellation
IBRD-46350	Effective	10.50	7.94	2.56	0.00
IBRD-P3380	Closed	1.10	0.00	0.00	1.10

