

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

<b>Location</b>	Azua, Barahona and San Juan de la Maguana Regions
<b>Client</b>	Ministry of Education (SEE), Santo Domingo
<b>Financing</b>	German Financial Cooperation / KfW
<b>Period</b>	1999 – 2007 (Phases I to III)
<b>Value of Services</b>	1.675 million US\$



## Project Description

The programme aims (a) to enhance the primary school facilities available to the educational authorities in rural and urban-marginal areas of Azua and Barahona (Phases I and II) and San Juan de la Maguana (Phase III), and (b) to establish of a community based school maintenance system with the active participation of parents associations. Components of the programme are the construction and extension of schools, the rehabilitation of existing classrooms, the improvement of sanitary and electrical installations, the participatory maintenance of school buildings, and the repair and purchase of school furniture.

Targets met as per November 2004 of Programme Phases I and II were:

- Construction and extension of 57 schools with a total of 216 classrooms
- Rehabilitation of 109 schools with a total of 471 classrooms
- Improvement of sanitary (130) and electrical (90) installations of schools
- Development of participatory maintenance practices of 285 schools with a total of 1,298 classrooms

## Scope of Services

The services set out to: (i) strengthen the institutional capacity to implement and maintain school infrastructure projects with local participation; (ii) secure the sustainability of school infrastructure, in particular the schools built or improved under the Project; (iii) foster permanent community participation in the rehabilitation and upkeep of school infrastructure.

Technical Assistance to the Executing Unit:

- Evaluation and monitoring of individual projects, from the selection, planning and design stage, through the tendering and contracting process, to the supervision of construction activities
- Evaluation of technical specifications, designs and finishes of new and rehabilitated school buildings, with a view to promoting the adoption and nation-wide application by the SEE of improved building standards for school infrastructure
- Special emphasis on the development of well finished water and sanitation systems appropriate to intensive use

## Project Description (cont'd)

- Improvement of design and purchase of school furniture for 17 schools

Additionally, during Phases I and II, the Programme contributed to the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Education (SEE), through professional support which conducted to (i) the establishment of a Directorate General of Maintenance (DGM), (ii) the introduction of a Maintenance Manual, and (iii) the implementation of annual decentralised maintenance campaigns executed by the DGM.

Phase III of the Programme maintains the same objectives as the anterior phases, but with the extension into the geographic area of the Regional Directorate of San Juan de la Maguana, located in the immediate vicinity of the Phase I and II area. The following targets were defined:

- Extension of existing schools with 100 new classrooms
- Construction of 30 new pre-school classrooms
- Substitution of 40 precarious schools by the same number of multigrad classrooms
- Rehabilitation of 340 classrooms including auxiliary spaces
- Repair and acquisition of school furniture
- Participatory maintenance of attended schools

## Scope of Services (cont'd)

- Design, implementation and evaluation of a decentralized school maintenance system located in the Executing Unit, covering: the formulation of a standard manual that lays out the procedures for the allocation of, and access to, funds for decentralized maintenance activities; the registration, analysis and reporting of maintenance interventions; and the training of institutional and grass-roots participants
- Strengthening of the Executing Unit so its organization and practices can be adopted by the SEE at national level

### Technical Assistance to the SEE:

- Contribute to the design of the institutional capacity required to promote, foster and supervise decentralized maintenance activities with community participation
- Collaborate in the elaboration and implementation of concepts and strategies for mobilizing institutional support and commitment at the local level for the identification of school infrastructure needs and the upkeep of existing school buildings