

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Aguablanca Water Supply and Sewerage Project

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Impact

Regarding the sanitary conditions, the population's morbidity-mortality and the prevention of the contamination of the Cauca River, the results and products generate as much positive as negative impacts. Positive because more families have access to drinkable water in their housings, the number of cases of infectious illnesses diminished markedly and a reduction of hydric-originated illnesses is evident, as well as the installation of tank toilets in the housings. This is excellent since it is important to observe the contribution that the project makes to the execution of the objectives of the millennium. To reduce the infantile mortality whose goal is to diminish in two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the mortality of the children under 5 years; reduction of the number of children under 5 years with weight lower to the normal one; decrease of the rate of infantile and maternal mortality. Similarly, the project contributes to the execution of the objectives of the millennium, guaranteeing the environmental sustainability by furthering the reduction of the percentage of people lacking sustainable access to drinkable water and basic sanitization.

The ex-post evaluation finds that a light improvement of the quality of the water poured in the Cauca River is taking place; although it shows the difficulties to evaluate the existing impact and limitations in order to get the wanted impact about the quality of the water in the river, for the pouring of wastewaters that takes place in towns located upstream.

A negative impact of the Project for the high rates of the service is found, because they affect the family income and it is not evident in the ex-post evaluation if actions conducive to the improvement of the population's income were carried out by for the executing entity or in alliance with the municipal dependences that have responsibilities in this matter. The evaluation doesn't point out, either, how the access to the services of water and sewer system impacts on the school performance of the students and if the schools have been endowed or improved their sanitary batteries; or if educational strategies have been developed on the part of the executing entity to promote the correct connection of the household services and the good use of the system of water and sewer system. The latter is fundamental to prevent losses of water because of not well made installations or "pirate" connections and the waste disposal in the sewer system attempting against the good operation and making its maintenance more expensive.

This opinion cannot disregard the relevance that the project maintains, because its impact continuity depends on high degree of this relevance. Fortunately, on reviewing the corresponding information it is found that coincidence, relevancy and high priority exist among the objectives of the project with the national plans: "6th National Development Plan (1982-1986)", "10th Colombian National Development Plan (2002-2006)" and Municipal Development Plans of Cali (1983-1991 and 2000-2010) at the time of the appraisal and of the ex-post evaluation. Because of the previous reasons, the current Government and authorities of the city of Cali look for solutions to the problems of administrative and financial inefficiency of EMCALI, for instance, the identification of private partners that come to strengthen the company.