Call for submissions — Roundtable on “Education and Health: Public Policy, Local Projects and Social Development”

The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), as a part of its Health and Education Program, is organizing a roundtable discussion on “Education and Health: Public Policy, Local Projects and Social Development.” The aim of this event is to generate discussion to address the inclusion of local development projects on health and education in the design and implementation of public policies in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

FOCAL has identified a significant gap between the work being done by policy-makers and that being undertaken by actors implementing local development projects. There is a need for joint efforts to maximize the potential positive effects of improved coordination of both experiences in the design and implementation of new public policies and social programs.

The roundtable will be held in late September, 2010 in Ottawa, Canada, and will consist of a dialogue between academics, policy-makers and local development actors. The anticipated outcome of this event is the creation of a document that will identify areas of common work to allow synergies and will propose solutions to the problems identified.

FOCAL invites all actors who are implementing or have implemented local development projects in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru to present them during this discussion. FOCAL seeks projects that intend to and/or have improved health and education conditions of their target populations according to the following Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): achievement of universal primary education (goal 2), reduction of child mortality (goal 4) and improvement of maternal health (goal 5). This is in accordance with the objectives of FOCAL’s Health and Education Program, which seeks to foster dialogue on public policies in these areas to support the achievement of the MDGs.

We will accept submissions from July 7 until August 15, 2010. Actors interested in participating are asked to send FOCAL a document of no more than three pages, containing an executive summary and a presentation of their project that follows the attached guidelines. The proposal must be submitted as an electronic document (in Word 2003 or PDF), and be sent by email to the following address: rrojas@focal.ca.

Project selection will be based on sustainability and will be evaluated by a jury comprised of experts in education and health. The projects selected will be included in the agenda of the roundtable discussion and will be part of the final document.
For more information:

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Guidelines for submission

Please complete your project application by answering the following questions. We recommend short and precise answers (maximum 3 pages):

1. Problem Identification
   a. What were the needs identified?
   b. How were these needs addressed?
   c. Was there any theoretical or empirical basis for the design of the project?
   d. To what extent was the project linked with specific public policies or programs?

2. Project Programming
   a. Who is the target population served by the project?
   b. What are your general and specific objectives?
   c. What is the strategy for the project’s implementation?
   d. What are the expected impacts in the short, medium and long term?

3. Project Implementation
   a. Who are the actors involved in the project? (planning, implementation, evaluation and funding)
   b. What is the methodology for the project implementation?
   c. Does the project involve any participatory strategies with respect to the population served? What are these strategies?
   d. To what extent is the project sustainable? (financial sustainability, social capital formation)

4. Project Evaluation
   a. In terms of the objectives, what kind of information is being collected to measure the results of the project?
   b. Are there any internal evaluation processes for problem identification, programming and implementation of the project?
   c. Has the information collected in these assessments been used to improve the performance and impact of the project? How?
   d. Is there any kind of publicly available information or documentation about the project?