

EX POST EVALUATION OF NATURAL DISASTER PROJECTS

Project in response to flooding

March 2004

Abstract

Background. Following high rainfall leading to significant flooding and damage to property and infrastructure, the authorities of the affected region submitted a loan request to the CEB for the purpose of rebuilding or repairing damaged structures and take the measures needed to restore the region's normal economic and social conditions. Additional and equivalent funds were obtained from other local and international sources, mainly from the EIB.

The joint funds were used for (a) the reconstruction of the secondary and local road network; (b) repairs to the water supply infrastructure and to irrigation networks; (c) repairs of administrative buildings and of public schools; (d) assistance to people affected by the disaster; and (e) the restoration of forest trails. Approximately 700 subprojects were identified, more than half of the funds being reserved for the transport sector.

Evaluation findings. The flexible and pragmatic design of the subprojects made most of them highly relevant in restoring economic and social conditions. Some of them went beyond the immediate purpose of the project, providing preventive measures as well as repair works. All subprojects were very well managed, and, benefiting from the timeliness of the CEB loan, most were completed within twelve months through efficient identification, cost management and implementation. A cost/benefit analysis was not carried out prior to project implementation but the subprojects that were visited show that available funds were used appropriately. All CEB and other donor funds were fully utilised. Though there was limited stakeholder consultation in early project stages, local municipal authorities were involved in the design of subprojects, and the community has derived significant benefits from them. Benefits accrued to more than 1,400 families, even if there was some concern that insufficient attention was given to a small number of families and small businesses that suffered from the worst flooding. The project resulted in strengthened relationships between the transport sector and academic institutions and in improved road and flood control design standards. Project works appear to be properly maintained with appropriate budgetary support. The incorporation of preventive measures should lead to improved protection of the project-financed assets.

Rating. Overall, the project is rated **very satisfactory**.

Recommendations:

- The Logical Framework methodology should be systematically utilised by CEB and the Borrower to improve the chances of success of a project and identify project risks.
- The development of a disaster response documentation would help build CEB expertise in the sector.
- The national authorities should consider developing a more comprehensive risk management strategy, including
 - formats for subproject submissions,
 - interim and completion reports for effective project evaluation, and
 - the collation of documentation for the purpose of developing a regional disaster response plan.