

**Japan Social Development Fund  
Europe and Central Asia Region**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Child Development and Disadvantaged Communities</b>
<b>Country / Program</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>
<b>Task Team Leader</b>	<b>J. Innes (jinnes@worldbank.org)</b>
<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Project Grant</b>
<b>Executing Agency</b>	<b>Ministry of Labor and Social Policy</b>
<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Community-Based Child Development Fund: US\$900,000</b> to be accessed competitively by disadvantaged communities for grants up to \$75,000 per community. The fund would be used to establish and or expand pre-school and kindergarten programs for children from the poorest communities in Bulgaria (the Roma) to prepare them for school, enhance their Bulgarian language skills, provide basic health care and defray the costs of primary school (simple food, school uniform etc.) for the poorest parents. Limited civil works would be included as necessary to adapt or refurbish kindergarten facilities and would be included within the sub-project costs. Thus the grants for sub-projects would include civil works, equipment, consumables, and facilitators fees. Sub-project selection would proceed in the following manner: (i) Information/Facilitation Phase – Facilitators from the RIF/SIF PMU would inform large Roma communities (those of more than 500 inhabitants) about the options, selection procedures and responsibilities. (ii) Preparation Phase – With the support of the facilitators, Roma communities would prepare proposals for pre-school and kindergarten services. (iii) Selection Phase – The Steering Committee would make the final selection of sub-projects based upon the agreed selection criteria. (iv) Implementation Phase – The Roma communities, with the endorsement of the municipalities and the support of the facilitators would implement the selected sub-projects. (v) M&amp;E Phase - The RIF/SIF facilitators would monitor progress. Evaluation would be undertaken through hiring independent local consultants to undertake simple baseline and follow-up surveys and beneficiary assessments in each of the 18 or so project sites.</p> <p><b>Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (M&amp;E): US\$150,000</b> to cover incremental recurrent costs for running this program under the RIF/SIF and for M&amp;E program, including baseline surveys in all beneficiary communities, and two annual audits. M&amp;E is an important activity to demonstrate the anticipated positive impacts for possible systemic replication in all poor communities.</p> <p><b>Bank Technical Input: US\$50,000</b> to help defray additional World Bank technical expertise inputs over the two-year implementation period September 2000- September 2002, to ensure effective design and implementation. These costs have been kept down to the absolute minimum to cover these complex tasks.</p>
<b>Associated Bank Financed Operation</b>	<b>Child Welfare Reform (Nov. 00)</b>