

FY02 Call for Proposals for Poverty Work Funding under the Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development

Subsequent to the annual consultations in Oslo on May 31, 2001, the Norwegian authorities agreed to add funds to the social window of the ESSD TF for cross-sectoral activities to be administered by the Poverty Reduction Board. The allocation for the first year of operation (July 2001-June 2002) is \$1.5 million.

The following areas of focus were endorsed:

- Analysis of social and poverty impact of public actions and growth oriented policy reform (e.g., revenue policies, public expenditures, macro economic adjustment, structural reforms)
- Analysis, monitoring and evaluation of environmental and social outcomes of Poverty Reduction Strategies, including methodological development
- Activities operationalizing the empowerment pillar of the WDR 2000/2001 (eg participatory monitoring of outcomes, participatory expenditure monitoring, activities to promote public disclosure of information, activities to increase access of the poor to environment and social assets)
- In addition, proposals coming from more than one thematic/sectoral unit, proposals intended/designed to inform the PRSP process and build capacity in local institutions, and proposals that promote cooperation with appropriate UN and other external institutions will receive priority.

The Trust Fund shall be limited to the financing of projects in countries that are in the Official Development Assistance list (ODA) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee. 50 percent of the funds should go to work in/on Sub-Saharan Africa. Elsewhere, preference will be given to IDA countries. The Trust Fund can cover consultant costs, publications, workshops, not staff salaries and staff travel; these should be covered by matching BB funds. The funds from the Norwegian TF should not be used to replace or duplicate activities for which BB and other TF funding is available.

The TF is multi-year, so we expect funds will be available in FY03 as well, and proposals can cover FY02-FY03. All commitments are one-year in the sense that TTLs will be expected to submit to the sector board, with their progress report every year, an updated work schedule and budget for the coming year, justifying the continued relevance of the activity. For this reason, proposals should be structured in stages, roughly matching fiscal years where possible.

Proposals should be in the form of a two-page write-up including: a brief description of the proposed work; how it fits within the focus areas identified above; data and methodology (one paragraph); staffing; detailed budget (including an indication of matching BB funds); timeline for output; and a description of expected outcomes. They should include a logical framework of objectives, key performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation, and critical assumptions (see template below). Proposals for country-level work should have the approval of the Country Director or coordinator (an email is fine). Progress Reports on expenditures, outputs (and any outcomes) will have to be submitted every six months.

Process

Proposals were sent to Radha Seshagiri by September 28, 2001.

The proposals were reviewed by regional PRB members and thematic leaders (listed below). They will give each proposal a rating based on relevance to thematic priorities, relevance to regional priorities, technical merit, and partnership/capacity building aspects. They will consult with HD and ESSD colleagues as needed, and submit ratings for each proposal to the full Board by October 18, 2001. The Poverty Board will then review all proposals and allocate resources at its next meeting in late October (although there may be a later round of decisions). There is no maximum funding per proposal.