

INFORMATION SUMMARY FOR THE PUBLIC

Host Countries:	Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Peru, Bolivia, and Paraguay
Name of Borrower:	Higher Education Finance Fund (“HEFF” or “the Fund”) (the “Borrower”) is preparing for incorporation.
Project Description:	Provide long-term loans to microfinance institutions and other financial intermediaries for the provision of higher education loans to underprivileged youth.
Proposed OPIC Loan:	\$10,000,000 with a 10 year maturity and 4 years grace.
Total Project Costs:	\$45,272,745
U.S. Sponsor:	Calvert Social Investment Foundation, Inc.
Foreign Sponsor:	Omtrix, Inc.
Policy Review	
U.S. Economic Impact:	Since this project involves the capitalization of the Fund and provision of financial services exclusively within Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru, it is not expected to have a negative impact on the U.S. economy or U.S. employment. There will be initial and operational U.S. procurement associated with this project which will result in a positive impact on U.S. employment. This project will have a net negative five year impact on the U.S. balance of payments.
Developmental Effects:	This project will have a significant developmental impact throughout Latin America as it will provide capital to microfinance institutions in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru to develop and implement their respective higher education microcredit portfolios. The higher education sector in the Fund’s target countries are characterized by low attendance at publicly-funded universities and a lack of effective higher education finance programs. The Fund’s strategy is innovative for the region and the global microfinance sector as its investments will stimulate higher education attendance rates amongst low-income populations, including students from the rural and female demographics.
Environment:	Projects involving loans to microfinance institutions are screened as Category C projects under OPIC’s environmental and social guidelines. Environmental, health, safety and social impact concerns are minimal. HEFF will be required to provide its final environmental and social policy as well as an adequate grievance mechanism.

Workers Rights:	OPIC's statutorily required standard worker rights language will be supplemented with provisions concerning the right of association, organization and collective bargaining and the timely payment of wages. Standard and supplemental contract language will be applied to all workers of the Project. The MFIs will also be required to operate in a manner consistent with the requirements of the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 2 on Labor and Working Conditions.
Human Rights:	This project received a Human Rights Clearance on May 16, 2011.