

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH DIVISION (SCL/SPH)**AIDE MEMOIRE
IDENTIFICATION MISSION****MARCH 7TH - 10TH, 2022****HEALTH CARE NETWORK STRENGTHENING IN GUYANA (GY-L1080)****I. BACKGROUND**

The IDB held a virtual mission to Guyana from 7th to 10th March 2022 in order to:

- (i) Hold discussions with relevant Government of Guyana (GOG) officials to commence the preparation of an investment loan to support strengthening of the health care network in Guyana.
- (ii) Gather data and information from participating agencies, especially the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Finance (MOF), to prepare the project profile for distribution to the IDB's Eligibility Review Meeting (ERM).

The mission comprised Ian Mc Arthur (SCL/SPH) Co-team Leader; Ian Ho-A-Shu (SPH/CTT); Jennifer Nelson (SCL/SPH); Luis Buscarons (SCL/SPH); Leticia Ramjag (CCB/CGY); Jodi Johnson (ESG/CJA); Horacio Mendoza Benavente (LEG/SGO); Carlos Henriquez Cortez (INE/INE); Lorena Solorzano Salazar (CCB/CGY); Patricia Payen (VPC/FMP); Juan Carlos Lazo (VPC/FMP); Ignacio Astorga (SCL/SPH); and Marcella Distrutti (SCL/SPH), Mission Team Leader.

The mission met with Government representatives (as outlined in Annex 1).

II. MAIN RESULTS, AGREEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS**Indicative Loan Preparation Chronogram and Timeline**

An indicative project preparation chronogram and timeline (as outlined in Annex 2) was presented for discussion, to which the MOF requested whether the Bank could explore the possibility of reducing the timelines so that the loan proposal can be presented to the IDB Board by 3rd Qtr 2022. In order to accelerate loan preparation and to facilitate the loan presentation to the IDB Board in the 3rd Qtr 2022, it was agreed that GOG will share its final priority activities for each of the three (3) project components outlined below by **18 March 2022**.

Project Components

Preliminary agreement was reached with the MOH and the MOF on the following project components and indicative costs:

Components	IDB funding (US\$)
Component 1. Supporting integrated health services networks	80 M
Component 2. Strengthening digital health	12 M
Component 3. Promoting health sector management and efficiency	5 M
Administration	3 M
TOTAL	100 M

Project Objective

The objective of this project is to improve the health of the Guyanese population through increased access, quality, and efficiency of health services.

Preliminary Description of Project Component Activities

Component 1: Closing gaps and improving health infrastructure (USD\$80.0M)

The GOG emphasized its priority for the loan to fund the rehabilitation of three main hospitals: (i) Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC); (ii) New Amsterdam Hospital; and (iii) Linden Hospital Complex. In addition, and subject to confirmation by GOG, other potential activities for consideration under this component include: (i) rehabilitation/construction of new polyclinics, health centers, health posts, and maternity waiting homes; (ii) purchase of medical equipment; and (iii) maintenance of infrastructure works and medical equipment.

Component 2: Strengthening digital health (USD\$12.0M)

Subject to confirmation by 18 March 2022, GOG indicated a strong interest to finance the establishment of four telemedicine hubs in hinterland regions to facilitate teleconsultations with specialist doctors in GPHC. In addition, and subject to confirmation by GoG, other potential activities for consideration under this component include: (i) expansion of the current teleradiology and teleophthalmology networks; (ii) development of an electronic health record system; (iii) digital health governance and sustainability; and (iv) software maintenance and support.

Component 3: Promoting health sector management and efficiency (USD\$5.0M)

Potential Project Component 3 activities include the following, to be confirmed by GOG by 18 March 2022: (i) supporting the implementation of the essential package of services; (ii) strengthening supply chain management and supporting the implementation of an electronic logistics management system; (iii) strengthening the laboratory network; (iv) strengthening the national surveillance system; (v) strengthening human resources for health; and (vi) enhancing pandemic and public health emergency preparedness.

Project Administration Budget (USD\$3.0M)

Preliminary agreement was reached on the allocation of USD\$3.0M towards project administration, which would include funding of the Executing Agency (EA), operational/logistical expenses, impact evaluation(s), and surveys to collect baseline and end-of-the project data.

Executing Agency (EA)

It was agreed that the EA of the project will be the MOH through the Health Sector Development Unit (HSDU), which is responsible for the implementation of all donor-funded health sector development projects. It was also agreed that the HSDU will include staff dedicated to the IDB project.

Project Profile

In keeping with the proposed timeline, the project profile is to be approved by the Bank on 11 May 2022, subject to receiving the confirmation by GOG of the project component activities by 18 March 2022.

Project Preparation and Weekly Meetings

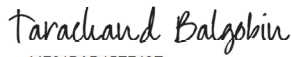
In order to accelerate and refine loan preparation activities, it was agreed that weekly meetings are to be scheduled with Dr Leslie Ramsammy and Ms Sonia Roberts of the HSDU. Accordingly, and by 18 March 2022, Dr Ramsammy will provide the preferred date/time for the weekly meetings. In addition, it was agreed that Dr Ramsammy will facilitate the fluid sharing of key documents, including the National Health Plan 2022-2030, the GPHC Master Plan, and any architectural drawings or costing information available related to the three hospitals prioritized under component 1. This information will assist the IDB team with the preparation of the loan. With respect to the ESG loan preparation activities, it was agreed that Ms. Ashley Barakat would work closely alongside Jodi Johnson, the ESG Specialist on the IDB Team, to initiate works on the required assessments.

Technical Cooperation


A Bank-executed technical cooperation (TC) in the sum of approximately US\$500,000 will be processed by the Bank to assist with the preparation and implementation of the project.

Next Steps

GOG will confirm their clearance for a Special Mission to be conducted in 25-29 April 2022, to advance loan preparation activities.

DocuSigned by:

44761BAD15E743E...

Dr. Tarachand Balgobin
Ministry of Finance
Government of Guyana

DocuSigned by:

08C276EC9E174C7...

Mr. Malcolm Watkins
Ministry of Health
Government of Guyana

DocuSigned by:

DC3E21BB1D324AC...

Lorena Solorzano Salazar
Representative, a.i.
IDB Country Office Guyana

DocuSigned by:

FD6E48406EB44CF...

Ian Mac Arthur
Team Leader, IDB

Annex I**The mission met with the following Government representatives:**

Institution	Persons
Ministry of Finance	Minister Ashni Singh
	Dr. Tarachand Balgobin
	Mr. Donald De Clou
	Ms. Ronette Hetsberger
	Ms. Mainakshi Jaiprasad
Ministry of Health	Dr. Leslie Ramsammy
	Ms. Sonia Roberts
	Dr. Ertenisa Hamilton
	Ms. Ashley Barakat
	Mr. Malcolm Watkins
	Mr. Leath Renville
	Dr. Veronica Griffith
	Dr. Narine Singh
	Dr. Ozaye Dodson
	Dr. Horace Cox
	Dr. Nadia Lu
	Mr. Thameshwar Merai
	Mr. Jailall Kisson
	Mr. Mark Singh
	Mr. Kurt York
	Ms. Karen Yaw

Annex 2

Indicative Project Preparation and Approval Timeline

Milestones	Timeline	Approval by MOF/MOPH
Draft Project Profile (PP)	March 28	March 30
Eligibility Meeting	April 25	
PP approved	May 11	
Special Mission	April 25-29	
Orientation Mission	May 16-20	
Draft Proposal for Operation Development (POD)	June 10	June 15
Analysis Mission	Jul 11-15	
Loan Proposal	Sept 9	
Negotiation	Sept 21	
Presentation to the Board	Oct 19	