

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	JAMAICA/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Strengthening Implementation and Risk Response of the Skills Development for GSS in Jamaica
▪ TC Number:	JA-T1198
▪ Team Leader/Members:	PAVON, FERNANDO YITZACK (SCL/LMK) Team Leader; GONZALEZ HERRERA, BEATRIZ MARIA (SCL/LMK); BROWN, NICOLE (CCB/CJA); CECILIA SICCHA (SCL/LMK); MAXWELL, JODY KAY AMOY (SCL/LMK); VILA SAINT-ETIENNE, SARA (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	28 Jul 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	JAMPRO
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$146,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/LMK - Labor Markets
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL/LMK - Labor Markets
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Productivity and innovation

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 Strengthening implementation support and risk response of the skills development for the Global Services Sector (GSS) in Jamaica.
- 2.2 The Global Services Sector (GSS) is critical industry for Jamaica's economic recovery and job recuperation post-covid. In 2019, the total number of GSS employees was 43000 but fell to 33000 in May 2020 as the economy came to grips with public health interventions for Covid-19. By January 2021, the industry was back to pre-covid level employment. The GSS is expected to meet the overall development objective of 50,000 employees by the end of December 2021. However, the ongoing pandemic has brought about unprecedented changes which have slowed the implementation of the Skills loan (JA-L1079). This TC is a crucial intervention at this time as it will fill the capacity support gap to the EA and the PEU as they navigate a challenging implementation period, that has been otherwise provided under JA-T1151 (but which expires in August 2021). This TC however, will have the added benefit of strengthening and enhancing risk management for the implementation of the Skills Programme (JA-L1079). Given geopolitical interferences that have been affecting the pace of deployment of the vaccines globally, coupled with new strains of the virus, it is envisaged that the implementation of the loan (JA-L1079) will be further impacted. Furthermore, with structural changes to governance and other institutional changes concurrently taking place within beneficiary and other partner agency, it is imperative that the Bank increase its support to the loan for the remainder of the execution period.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Component 1: Support to the GSS industry and PEU with risk response for the GSS.** Technical assistance to strengthen implementation support and improve risk response planning and management of the Skills Program and to the GSS sector.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component I: Support to the GSS industry and PEU with risk response for the GSS.	US\$146,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$146,000.00
Total	US\$146,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$146,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Bank, through LMK/CJA, will execute this technical cooperation, to facilitate the execution, according to the indicative request of the Government of Jamaica. The Labor Markets and Social Security Division (SCL/LMK) will be responsible for the direction, supervision and coordination of this TC. The Bank will coordinate its work extensively with JAMPRO, and by extension the Global Skills Sector Project Executing Unit, the main beneficiary.
- 5.2 This execution scheme is proposed for the following reasons: (i) the Bank has particular technical expertise and resources to help support risk management and risk response planning specifically based on international best practices; and (ii) reduce the administrative burdens of the government, particularly in the identification and contracting of international experts.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 Potential risks include: (i) coordination challenges among beneficiary and other key stakeholders to identify project risk and agree on risk response and action plan; and (ii) difficulty to operationalize risk management plans giving the changing nature of the GSS industry and the ongoing COVID-19 challenge to the sector. To mitigate these risks, this TC will: (i) strengthen JAMPRO capacity to coordinate risk response through dedicated risk management training of beneficiaries and stakeholders; and (ii) assigned technical support to develop risk response and risk management plans as well as support to the implementation of GSS Action plan.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "C".