

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

01/01/2020 - 06/30/2020

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation number: GY-T1159
Suboperation number: ATN/ME-17183-GY

Project Name: Nexus Hub Tech Solutions
Purpose:

Country admin	Country beneficiary:	Group:	SubGroup:
GUYANA	GUYANA	D	

Executing Agency: Nexus Hub
Team Leader: VASHTIED

Project cycle:

Report Date: 2020 - 07 - 01	Original Execution End Date:
Approval Date: 2018 - 12 - 10	Current Execution End Date:
Signature Date: 2019 - 03 - 19	Original Last Disbursement Date: 2021 - 03 - 19
First disbursement date: 2019 - 05 - 24	Last Current Disbursement date: 2021 - 03 - 19

SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Project's performance summary since the beginning

Overall the project has performed well since its inception. There were no marked delays or difficulties in the execution of objectives. The onset of Covid presented transient challenges which were quickly overcome with adaptations to project execution and the reallocation of project funds.

Supervision Team Leader comments

Nexus Hub has in accordance with the project objective developed 2 ICT solutions to address social issues - 1 relating to public communication and safety for an IDB roadworks project as an interactive information channel to respond to questions on COVID 19 submitted on line or via a call. The second solution uses AI to interpret local accents and expressions and uses CDC/WHO and local public health information. A key challenge has been lack of engagement on the side of government agencies to fully leverage the capabilities of these tools

Project's performance summary in the last 6 months

COMPONENT I: Hack-Solve Projects Development continued on the IRIS Solution produced at the March 2019 Hack-Solve Event. With the onset of COVID-19 in Guyana, we released a version of IRIS as a proof of concept Virtual Assistant to help inform citizens about COVID-19. More details can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3hQcA1Z> With social distancing measures enforced, IDB Lab Project Manager approved the reallocation of funds towards the support of the production deployment and further development of the IRIS COVID-19 Virtual Assistant in Guyana. Also influenced by social distancing, the design of the second Hack-Solve event was adapted into a virtual delivery with a COVID-19 focus and held on May 1 - 3, 2020. The event was a success and saw the collaboration of over 40 members, both technical and non-technical. The resulting product of the second Hack-Solve was an ICT Response Framework for COVID-19 in Guyana; this comprised the unification of existing solutions as well as the plan for future solutions. See proceedings and artifacts here: <https://nexushubinc.org/hacksolve/updates.html> See an article about the proceedings here: <https://bit.ly/3a1xQyq> An integral product to the Virtual Hack-Solve was a platform we prototyped to promote and coordinate collective action. The CoActing platform registered problems, initiatives and contributors for the Virtual Hack-Solve. Jennifer Britton of CARICOM reached out, shortly after the event and expressed an interest in scaling the CoActing platform to the region. Technically a Hack-Solve Project, the Project Manager approved the allocation of funds towards the further development of the CoActing platform for production use. The redesigned platform is currently in beta and can be viewed here: <https://coacting.org> With the arrival of the second disbursement, arrangements were made to finalize the purchase of all production licenses to support the deployment of the IRIS COVID-19 Virtual Assistant in Guyana. At the time of this progress report, we are finalizing the purchase of the final license to deploy the IRIS COVID-19 Virtual Assistant to the public. COMPONENT II: Expansion of the Nexus Hub Network A third cohort of trained AI Competency Engineers were successfully trained through the NeXus Hub AI Apprenticeship program. This program commenced in Jan, 2020 and ran for three months. The program produced seven (7) certified AI Competency Engineers. This program was funded by Clinc Inc., an AI company in Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Supervision Team Leader comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

C1 : Hack Solve Projects	Weight 30%	Qualification ~not selected~
C2 : Expansion of NeXus Hub Network	Weight 40%	Qualification ~not selected~

Milestones	Planned Value	Achieved Value	Due Date	Achieved Date	Status
Conditions Prior	1	1	2019 - 09 - 15	2019 - 04 - 29	Achieved
1st Hacksolve solution tested by users	1	1	2019 - 09 - 18	2019 - 05 - 04	Achieved
2nd Hacksolve Challenge Topic agreed by IDB Country Office and Nexus Hub Inc	1	1	2019 - 12 - 18	2020 - 04 - 06	Achieved
Launch of IRIS solution	1	0	2020 - 07 - 31		Overdue
Design of Funding Model for Seed Capital	1	0	2020 - 12 - 19		Pending
Pilot design of IRIS solution for COVID 19 completed	1	1	2020 - 06 - 30	2020 - 04 - 06	Achieved

CRITICAL FACTS THAT HAVE AFFECTED PROJECT'S PERFORMANCE

Others, Which?

Government agencies. specifically responsible for IDB Financed roadworks have not co-operated to allow for upload of required information on road safety communications platform, currently WHO information is used on the IRIS COVID 19 application to provide on demand information and responses to questions on COVID 19. Lack of active government agency engagement and support will impact project performance and impact

SECTION 4: RISKS

Impact Area	Severity	Prob.	Date	Responsible	Mitigation action
TOTAL RISKS QUANTITY: 0 IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 0					

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Indicate likelihood of project sustainability after project completion:

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Justification

Nexus Hub is anchored by a commercial ICT firm and will continue to deliver (and expand) programs to leverage ICT and build a community of ICT developers in Guyana beyond the period of IDB Lab financing

ASPECTS THAT PUT THE PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AT RISK

[There were no aspects reported during this period]

Actions related to sustainability which have been implemented in the project:

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

[There were no lessons learned reported during this period]