

TC PROFILE

Support to the Preparation of the Youth Development and Empowerment Program in Guyana

I. Basic Project Data

- **Country/Region:** Guyana
- **Program Name/Number:** Youth Development and Empowerment Program / GY-T1021
- **Team Leader/Members:** Leader: Rosario Londoño (SO3); other members: Paulina Gonzalez-Pose (SO3), David Rosas (OVE), Joseph Singh (CGY/Consultant), Marco Nicola (COF/CGY).
- **Date of Request:** February 20th, 2006
- **Beneficiary:** Ministry of Labor, Guyana
- **Executing Agency:** RE3/SO3, COF/CGY
- **Financing plan:**

IDB:	US\$	250,000
Local:	US\$	40,000
Total:	US\$	290,000
- **Tentative dates:**

Loan Committee/EVP	April 20, 2006
DIR/PRE	May 5, 2006

II. Background and Problem Statement

- 2.1 An important area of concern for the Government of Guyana (GoG), but which is currently inadequately addressed, is that of at-risk youth¹. Young people (15 to 29 years) account for 25.6% of Guyana's total population of 751,223 (2002 Census), and 36% of youth live in poverty. The result is lower human capital development among youth from families that are poor, a perpetuation of the cycle of poverty and lower levels of national productivity. Only 41% of 15-19 year olds and 9% of 20-24 year olds are enrolled in secondary or tertiary school, respectively. Furthermore, unemployment rates for the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups (36.3% and 16.9%, respectively) are several times higher than that for older age groups, and the highest in the Caribbean. In addition, the incidence of

¹ At-risk youth are defined as those that are either "unattached" (defined as those not in school, a training program, nor employment), or are currently in school but at risk for early exit.

HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) is increasing among young people, teenage pregnancy continues to be considerably high, and violence, abuse and unstable home environments pervasive.

- 2.2 **Government Youth Policy and Programs:** The Government of Guyana is committed to the continuous development of its youth and upgrading of the opportunities available to them. In order to address the challenges mentioned above, the GoG developed a National Youth Policy and is implementing a series of cross-sectoral, preventive and rehabilitative programs, primarily through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Labor. The government has requested IDB support in the development of the Youth Development and Empowerment Program (YDEP). This program aims to improve and expand the services already being provided by these ministries. In addition, it will establish new partnerships with the private sector, NGO's, parents, teachers and media, and incorporate lessons learned from other countries.

III. TC Objective and Description

- 3.1 **Objective:** The objective of the proposed TC is to support the design of the Youth Development and Empowerment Program, a comprehensive intervention for youth (10-24 years old) that will consist of both rehabilitative and preventive measures for youth-at-risk. A key feature of youth development is its multi-sectoral nature, which requires an integrated approach to project preparation, with both public and private sector actors.
- 3.2 This technical cooperation will assist the Bank and the GoG in carrying out diagnostic analyses, preparatory studies and stakeholder workshops.
- A. Components.
- 3.3 **Participatory Policy Development and Institutional Strengthening:** This component will support: a) the preparation of a comprehensive and participatory five-year action plan for the development of Guyanese youth, ages 10 to 24; b) the design of the most appropriate institutional arrangement to implement the YDEP and; c) initial institutional strengthening activities required for the YDEP.
- 3.4 **Training and Labor Market:** This component will collect and analyze diagnostic information in the following areas: a) cost-effectiveness and other operational aspects of key existing training programs (both public and private); (b) existence and capacity of private training institutions to provide relevant training to the target group envisioned under the YDEP; and c) labor market opportunities for new entrants into the work force, particularly as related to sectors that the government is targeting for growth. Special attention will be devoted to the skills and capacities required by the private sector, including the general skills that youth need to enter into the work force. Another key aspect of the analysis will be an assessment of the willingness and capacity of the private sector to accept trainees or to offer other forms of work placement and

apprenticeship opportunities, and the incentives (financial or other) necessary for this to occur.

- 3.5 **Integrative Social Support and Empowerment Interventions:** This component will: a) identify and design participatory preventive interventions that promote youth participation, leadership, civic involvement, volunteerism, social entrepreneurship and the use of information technology, among other skills; b) design participatory integrative (cross-sectoral) interventions for unattached youth and; c) develop a participatory, youth-led communication campaign. The objective is to find ways to empower² youth and their “influencers” (parents, teachers and media) to reduce school drop-outs, HIV and teenage pregnancy, human trafficking and other behavior that may lead to anti-social conduct among youth in Guyana, while opening spaces for youth involvement and ownership in their communities and in gainful economic activities. This component will also focus on integrating these interventions with other ongoing education, health and technical training activities.
- 3.6 **Monitoring and Evaluation:** This component will design and estimate costs for a project monitoring and evaluation component. The component’s objective will be to monitor and evaluate the future YDEP outputs, outcomes and impacts, and therefore to provide important feedback about the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

IV. Cost and Financing

- 4.1 The IDB’s contribution of US\$250,000 will be non-reimbursable and charged to the net income of the Fund for Special Operations (FSO). The Government of Guyana’s contribution will be in-kind and is estimated to amount to the equivalent of US\$40,000. A detailed budget will be provided in the Plan of Operations.

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 In accordance with the request of the Borrower, the Bank will have responsibility for executing this TC. In order to expedite the execution of the Program, the GoG has requested that the Bank hire the consultants financed by this operation. Accordingly, while the selection process will include the participation of the Ministry of Labor (MoL), contract and payment processing will be carried out by the Country Office in coordination with the MoL. A written request from the GoG was sent February 20th, 2006 and will be included as an annex to the Plan of Operations.

² **Youth empowerment** is an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people, including youth and adults.

VI. Major Issues

- 6.1 Presently, the BIT has limited staff and resources due to recent budget cut and delegation of additional responsibilities. To mitigate this risk, a project coordinator will be hired through this TC to support the BIT and ensure that the acquisition of goods and services will be done in a timely manner and that the consultants work effectively.

VII. Action Plan

- 7.1 On approval of the TC profile by Programming Committee, the team will proceed to prepare a Plan of Operations to be approved by the President in the second quarter of 2006.


VIII. Environmental and Social Strategy


- 8.1 The proposed TC poses no environmental issues as all actions relate to diagnostic studies, consultations, and institutional strengthening activities, which will form part of the preparatory activities for the Youth Development and Empowerment loan to the Government of Guyana.


IX. Recommendation

- 9.1 Rosario Londoño, as team leader of this project, recommends its approval and the use of resources from the Fund for Special Operations (FSO), for a total of US\$250,000 to finance this project.

X. Approval

Vo. Bo.  8 mar '06 Date: _____
Michael Jacobs, SO3/CHF

Vo. Bo.  9 mar 06 Date: 9 mar 06
Dora Currea, OD6/CHF

Vo. Bo.  13 mar 06 Date: 13 mar 06
Christian Gómez Fabling, RE3/DEP

Approved by:  13 Mar 06 Date: 13 Mar 06
Alicia S. Ritchie, RE3/MGR