

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	GUYANA/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Support for Health Care Network Strengthening in Guyana
▪ TC Number:	GY-T1182
▪ Team Leader/Members:	MAC ARTHUR, IAN WILLIAM (SCL/SPH) Team Leader; HO-A-SHU, IAN (SCL/SPH) Alternate Team Leader; DISTRUTTI, MARCELLA (SCL/SPH) Alternate Team Leader; JIMENEZ MOSQUERA, JAVIER I. (LEG/SGO); BUSCARONS CUESTA, LUIS (SCL/SPH); GUERRA, MARTHA M. (SCL/SPH); RAMJAG, LETICIA A (CCB/CGY); NELSON, JENNIFER A (SCL/SPH)
▪ Taxonomy:	Operational Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	Health Care Network Strengthening in Guyana – GY-L1080
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	11 Mar 2022
▪ Beneficiary:	Co-operative Republic of Guyana through its Ministry of Health (MoH)
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$500,000
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	36 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ 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:	Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation; Gender equality; Diversity

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 To support the implementation of operation GY-L1080, including institutional strengthening activities and key technical studies.
- 2.2 Although Guyana has made significant improvements in the health sector in the past two decades, important challenges remain. According to an index that measures access and quality of health care for 32 causes for which death should not occur in the presence of effective care, Guyana placed 126th of 195 countries and next to last in the Caribbean, after Haiti. Life expectancy at birth in the country is the second lowest in the region. Maternal and infant mortality rates have declined but remain high, at 101 deaths/100,000 live births and 24 deaths/1,000 live births, respectively. Meanwhile, the burden of chronic illnesses continues to grow, representing one of the main causes of death for women and men.
- 2.3 While the country has an extensive offer of primary care, hospital care is more constrained, with only 1.6 beds per 1,000 persons, lower than the average in Latin America and the Caribbean. Guyana also faces severe human resource limitations, with just 0.8 doctors and 1.0 nurses per 1,000 persons, below the Latin America and Caribbean averages of 2.0 and 2.8. These indices are significantly lower in the rural interior, where most of the population is indigenous.
- 2.4 A recent assessment of 330 health facilities in Guyana showed that many of them require infrastructure rehabilitation, construction and/or upgrade. According to the

survey, 20% of the buildings had no electricity, and only 60% received water continuously during operating hours. In addition, just 20 buildings (6%) received treated water. In 54% of buildings, medical waste was openly burnt. Regarding structural, architectural, and operational integrity, 24 of the buildings were judged to require immediate rehabilitation and/or construction.

- 2.5 In terms of digital health, which is key to help countries move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Guyana lacks a health information system that could contribute to the delivery of integrated quality care, including continuity of care amongst different levels. It also lacks a telehealth system that could improve access to health specialists and diagnostic exams. Telehealth could help mitigate some of the challenges related to health human resources, and it could also contribute to reduce medical errors and improve quality.
- 2.6 Guyana ranks 137th out of 195 countries in the global health security index, with substantial weaknesses in early detection and reporting of disease outbreaks and epidemics. Although Guyana’s operational capacity to manage a pandemic is classified as medium (level 3) by the World Health Organization (WHO), the country faced many challenges in its immediate public health response to COVID-19, including an insufficient network of laboratories and limited surveillance capacity for rapid contact tracing and case identification.
- 2.7 To address the above referenced challenges, the government has requested IDB’s assistance to finance operation GY-L1080, with the objective of strengthening the health care network to expand access and improve quality of care. This operation will support investments in: (i) quality health infrastructure that is efficient, sustainable, and resilient against natural disasters and other risks; (ii) innovative digital solutions that can improve access and quality of health care; (iii) integrated health care lines (e.g., chronic diseases and maternal and infant health) that can ensure timely access and continuity of care; and (iv) pandemic preparedness.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Institutional Strengthening and Technical Support for Health Infrastructure.** Finance institutional strengthening activities and key studies related to health infrastructure: (i) preparation and/or update of environmental and social assessments; (ii) design and costing of works, including energy and water efficiency measures and disaster risk reduction features that consider climate change related risks; (iv) operational auditing services; and (v) technical assistance and/or training(s) to strengthen technical, institutional, and operational capacities within the MoH.
- 3.2 **Component II: Institutional Strengthening and Technical Support for Digital Health.** Finance institutional strengthening activities and key studies related to digital health: (i) preparation of a digital agenda and roadmap to guide investments in digital health, as well as other assessments as required; and (ii) technical assistance and/or training(s) to strengthen technical, institutional, and operational capacities within the MoH.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget (US\$)

Activity/Component	IDB/ JSF	Total Funding
Institutional Strengthening and Technical Support for Health Infrastructure	340,000	340,000
Institutional Strengthening and Technical Support for Digital Health	160,000	160,000
Total	500,000	500,000

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 Based on a request from the government, the executing agency of this operation will be the IDB, through SCL/SPH.
- 5.2 The Bank will be executing this TC given the high level of complexity and technical expertise required to prepare the terms of reference of the studies and assessments involved, as well as to supervise their implementation. SCL/SPH has the capacity and technical expertise required to carry-out these processes. Additionally, the hiring of international consultants may be required, for which the IDB hiring process is more agile, reducing the risk of delays in execution.
- 5.3 The activities to be executed under this TC have been included in the Procurement Plan and will be executed in accordance with the procurement methods established by the Bank, namely: (i) hiring of individual consultants, as established in AM-650 standards; (ii) contracting of consulting firms for services of an intellectual nature in accordance with the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Companies for Operational Work executed by the Bank (document GN-2765-4) and its associated operating guidelines (OP-1155-4); and (iii) contracting of logistics services and other services other than consulting, in accordance with policy GN-2303-28.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 For the TC to achieve its objectives, there is a clear need for robust coordination among various administrative and technical departments within the MoH as well as other key stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, in charge of expanding internet connectivity in the country, and the Regional Health Authorities, responsible for service provision and health infrastructure in Guyana's regions. Insufficient levels of coordination could lead to delays in execution as well as sub-optimal decisions. To mitigate these risks, operation GY-L1080 will promote the conduction of regular meetings amongst project's stakeholders to review the operation's implementation plan, to discuss technical aspects related to the interventions, to ensure the quality of decisions, and to identify – and mitigate – any potential execution-related challenges. These meetings will also facilitate coordination between the activities to be supported by this TC and GY-L1080.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

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