SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT IN DESIGN * (*)

Delivering Medical Aid via Drones to Guyana's Hinterland Communities

PITCH ELIGIBILITY DATE	COUNTRY(IES)
07/16/2024	Guyana

ALIGNED WITH COUNTRY STRATEGY?
Yes

PARTNER(S)
19Labs

PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT
N/A (**)

TOTAL BUDGET	IDB Lab	LOCAL COUNTERPART AND COFINANCING
US 995,000	US 500,000	US 495,000

DESCRIPTION

The problem Guyana is the fastest growing economy in the hemisphere with growth rates propelled by its rapidly expanding offshore oil exploration and production. As the economy grows, the government is seeking ways to invest in the delivery of expanded and advanced services and opportunities for its citizens. Guyana has the opportunity to leap into digital and technological innovation in the health sector so as to improve the delivery and quality of health services, especially in remote and underserved areas such as the hinterland regions where approximately 20% of the population live in small and highly dispersed villages. Guyana's demographics (with widely dispersed small communities in the hinterland), vast terrain and limited infrastructure connecting remote communities to main urban centers and towns, pose serious challenges in deploying inclusive solutions to delivery of services and benefits, particularly to the many small rural and indigenous communities that are highly dispersed across the country’s hinterland regions.

These factors can hinder the timely delivery of medical supplies and services, Limited financial resources and a lack of transportation infrastructure impede the efficient delivery of healthcare services to remote villages and communities in the country’s hinterland region. Delivering essential medical supplies and services such as vaccinations, antivenom serum, and specialty medication to Guyana's scattered populations across its vast hinterland regions is a logistical and financial challenge, particularly when targeting remote areas that can only be accessed by plane or boat or off terrain vehicles. This limited access to timely medical supplies exacerbates health disparities and puts these communities at greater risk of diseases and even premature death due to otherwise preventable causes.

The solution 19 Labs has proposed a partnership with IDB Lab as the innovation lab of the IDB Group to pilot the use of drones for transportation of medical supplies as a complement to its work as a partner of the Ministry of Health in deploying telemedicine as a solution in improving access to quality health care. The pilot will commence Guyana’s Region 1. This region is targeted for the pilot

*The information mentioned in this document is indicative and may be altered throughout the project cycle prior to approval. This document does not guarantee approval of the project.

**The IDB categorizes all projects into one of six E/S impact categories. Category A projects are those with the most significant and mostly permanent E/S impacts, category B those that cause mostly local and short-term impacts, and category C those with minimal or no negative impacts. A fourth category, FI-1 (high risk) Financial Intermediary (FI)’s portfolio includes exposure to business activities with potential significant adverse environmental or social risks or impacts that are diverse, mostly irreversible or unprecedented, FI-2 (medium risk) FI’s portfolio consists of business activities that have potential limited adverse environmental or social risks or impacts, FI-3 (low risk) FI’s portfolio consists of financial exposure to business activities that predominantly have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.