

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

GUYANA

SUPPORT TO SAFETY NET AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT IN GUYANA

(GY-G1011)

PROJECT PROFILE

This document was prepared by the project team consisting of: Marco Stampini, Team leader; Luis Tejerina, Alternate Team Leader; Beatrice Fabiani; Ofir Marer; and Martha Guerra (SCL/SPH); Gina Andrade, Alternate Team Leader (SCL/GDI); Jason Malcolm Wilks (IFD/ICS); Lucas Hoepel (VPC/FMP); Patricia Yamilee Payen (VPC/FMP); Javier Jimenez (LEG/SGO); Clevern Liddell (CCB/CGY); and Anaitee Mills (CSD/CCS).

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PROJECT PROFILE

GUYANA

I. BASIC DATA

Project Name:	Support to safety net and gender empowerment in Guyana
Project Number:	GY-G1011
Project Team:	Marco Stampini, Team leader; Luis Tejerina, Alternate Team Leader; Beatrice Fabiani; Ofir Marer; and Martha Guerra (SCL/SPH); Gina Andrade, Alternate Team Leader (SCL/GDI); Jason Malcolm Wilks (IFD/ICS); Lucas Hoepel (VPC/FMP); Patricia Yamilee Payen (VPC/FMP); Javier Jimenez (LEG/SGO); Clevern Liddell (CCB/CGY); and Anaitee Mills (CSD/CCS).
Beneficiary	Cooperative Republic of Guyana
Executing Agency:	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS)
Financial Plan:	Canada Cooperation Framework (CCF): US\$3,149,728 ¹ Total: US\$3,149,728
Safeguards:	Policies triggered: ESPS 1; ESPS 2; ESPS 10 Classification: "C"

II. GENERAL JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 **Safety net.** Despite the recent favorable macroeconomic context in Guyana, poverty remains high. According to data from the Guyana Labor Force Survey, in 2021 42.3% of the population lived under the poverty line of US\$5.50 per day (adjusted for purchasing power). To reduce poverty and vulnerability, the MHSSS implements a safety net that includes cash transfers and several social services with focus, among others, on older persons, persons with disabilities, economically excluded women, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and survivors of human trafficking. The IDB has recently approved a policy-based program ([5828/OC-GY](#)), of which this investment grant is the continuation, that aims to increase the efficiency and quality of the safety net and MHSSS' implementation capacity.
- 2.2 **Institutional capacity of the MHSSS.** The MHSSS has been investing in improving its institutional capacity; however, based on a recent assessment,² important gaps still need to be addressed. The current organizational structure has shortfalls in the functions that are explicitly dedicated to organizational performance. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity is limited. Processes focused on overseeing, coordinating, planning, and reporting are similarly limited. Results based management work is done for individual programs, but it is missing at Ministry-wide level. Senior managers and staff require more training in

¹ The IDB will administer these funds through a Project-Specific Grant (PSG). The Department of Global Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada (DFATD) will contribute CAD 4.5 million, which is equivalent to US\$3,315,503 at the exchange rate of US\$1=CAD1.35726 as of April 2, 2024. Out of this contribution, US\$165,775 will be set aside as a 5% administration fee. The remaining contribution of US\$3,149,728 corresponds to the project amount as indicated in the Basic Information table.

² Baastel (2024). Consulting services for the design of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit for the MHSSS. Unpublished document.

M&E and results-based management, in areas such as risk identification, indicator development, baseline collection, target setting, and data analysis.³ These gaps hinder their ability to undertake comprehensive data analysis, including disaggregation and trend monitoring. Finally, the Ministry relies on multiple systems and databases, resulting in scattered and unconsolidated data that hampers effective decision-making. It is working on a Beneficiary Registry and Document Management System (MIS), and on the conceptualization of a new information technology unit, but these initiatives require important additional efforts. All these gaps affect the implementation of the safety net, whose additional challenges are detailed in the following paragraphs.

- 2.3 **Gaps in payments of cash transfers.** Most recipients of cash transfers (including persons with disabilities and older persons) still receive their benefits through vouchers that are cashed at post offices. This is a challenge for residents of remote areas, as travel costs incurred to cash the transfers can amount to 20% or more of their value. Efforts have been made to introduce alternative payment methods, including direct cash payments, payments through alternate venues (other than the traditional post offices), bank transfers and the Mobile Money Guyana wallet application. However, electronic payments represent less than 2.5% of the total and additional efforts are needed to increase uptake.
- 2.4 **Gaps in economic empowerment of women.** Guyana has a high level of gender inequality, measured by a Gender Inequality Index of 0.46. This surpasses the level of neighbor countries like Suriname (0.44) and Barbados (0.25). Despite women's higher education levels, their labor force participation rate stood at 44% in 2020, significantly lower than men's rate of 68%. In 2021, the MHSSS introduced the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), which provides training aimed to empower women with technical and vocational skills. To support WIIN graduates in their efforts to start a business, in 2022 the MHSSS launched the "WIIN in Business Clinic", which provides additional support for business management, business plan development, and guidance on legal frameworks and securing funding. To promote women's economic empowerment, the WIIN now needs to expand its activities across the country's regions and introduce initiatives to support initiation and sustainability of the businesses originated from the Clinic.
- 2.5 **GBV.** Guyana has one of the highest rates of GBV in the Caribbean region. Women report experiencing higher rates of physical violence (35%)⁴ than in other Caribbean countries, such as Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname (both at 27%).⁵ Only 10% of the reported cases of domestic violence were prosecuted in 2022. In response to this challenge, the MHSSS has embarked on a comprehensive approach to tackle GBV, implementing Hope and Justice Centers, community-based awareness and advocacy initiatives, and providing GBV survivors with psychosocial services, counselling and forensic interviews, and referrals to other supportive services. Most of these services are provided through the Survivors Advocates program. During 2022, this program provided

³ Ibidem.

⁴ Contreras-Urbina, M. et al., 2019. Guyana Women's Health and Life Experiences Survey Report.

⁵ National Women's Health Survey for Trinidad and Tobago, [2017](#); National Women's Health Survey for Suriname, [2019](#).

services to 274 survivors of GBV.⁶ The Ministry now faces the challenge of increasing the coverage and quality of these services, particularly the provision of legal support.

- 2.6 **Human trafficking.** Human trafficking is on the rise, affecting mostly women and girls (and among them, migrants and young people from rural and indigenous communities). Trafficking occurs in remote interior communities.⁷ For 2023, the government and NGOs identified 327 victims and screened 305 potential victims; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) identified 15 victims.⁸ Most of the victims are women and girls. In May 2023, Guyana approved the new Trafficking in Persons Bill, which expands the definition of exploitation and aims to strengthen the government's ability to respond to the issue. As part of the implementation of the Bill, the MHSSS needs to strengthen its capacity to provide legal support to the survivors and improve the coordination among key actors.
- 2.7 **Low empowerment of persons living with disabilities (PwD).** In Guyana, only 22% of PwD (above 15 years old) are in the labor force.⁹ In 2023, the MHSSS launched the Learning Lab, a training and empowerment center that aims to contribute to the employability, adaptive living skills, and general quality of life of PwD. The target population includes persons with physical or sensory disabilities. The Learning Lab provides training in different areas, including basic computer skills, garment construction, adult literacy and numeracy. It is in the initial stage of implementation, and more resources are needed to achieve scale and impacts.
- 2.8 **Lack of data on indigenous peoples.** The standard of living of indigenous peoples in Guyana is lower than the national average.¹⁰ Guyana has a multiethnic population of 790,000 inhabitants. The majority lives in the coastal areas, while the indigenous Amerindian population, which accounts for 10.5% of the total, lives primarily in rural areas (the Hinterlands), where poverty is concentrated. 78% of Amerindians live in poverty compared to the national average of 41.2%.¹¹ Lack of data on ethnicity in the information systems of the MHSSS makes it difficult to assess equitable inclusion of the indigenous peoples in the safety net.
- 2.9 **Strategy.** This investment grant aims to support the institutional strengthening of the MHSSS (with focus on policy design and evaluation, project management and digital transformation), and its ability to implement the country's safety net and gender and diversity empowerment initiatives, including: (i) the WIIN program, through the provision of grants in support of women's businesses originating from the Clinic; (ii) legal services for the survivors of GBV and trafficking-in-persons; (iii) the Learning Lab, with the aim to empower PwD; and (iv) the efforts of inclusion of indigenous peoples, through the collection of information on ethnicity that can be used for the design, implementation and evaluation of the safety net.

⁶ Annual Report to the Ministry of Finance.

⁷ US Department of State, 2023. [2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guyana.](#)

⁸ *ibidem*.

⁹ National Commission on Disability and VSO-Guyana, 2008. Disability issues at Glance.

¹⁰ UNICEF (2017). See: <https://statisticsguyana.gov.gy/publications/>.

¹¹ Guyana National Bureau of Statistics, 2017.

- 2.10 **Programmatic approach.** The strategy of this operation is part of a programmatic support of the IDB to the institutional capacity of the MHSSS, which has translated in previous loan and technical cooperation operations ([5828/OC-GY](#), [5180/OC-GY](#), [ATN/OC-18452-GY](#)) aimed at establishing a sound social protection policy framework. These operations focused on digital transformation, gender empowerment, inclusion of PWD, support to victims of GBV and overall institutional capacity of the MHSSS to effectively deliver safety net programs.
- 2.11 **Strategic alignment.** The Program is consistent with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631). It is aligned with its objective to reduce poverty and inequality by improving the MHSSS capacity to implement the social safety net and by promoting the empowerment of women and PwD. The Program is also aligned with the operational focus areas of: (i) social protection and human capital development; (ii) gender equality and inclusion of diverse population groups; (iii) institutional capacity, rule of law, and citizen security.
- 2.12 The program is also aligned with the Strategy on Social Policy for Equity and Productivity (GN-2588-4) in the areas of enhancing equity and supporting vulnerable populations. It is also consistent with the Social Protection and Poverty Sector Framework Document (GN-2784-12), which underscores the importance of digital transformation to increase the efficiency and responsiveness of social safety nets, and the importance to provide income support to PwD. It is consistent with the Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document (GN-2800-13), which underscores the importance of supporting GBV survivors and comprehensive policies to address this challenge and by promoting the economic empowerment of women and diverse groups. The project is aligned with ONE Caribbean (GN-3201-2) through the priority area of citizen security and the cross-cutting areas of strengthening institutions and digital transformation. The project is aligned with the IDB Group Country Strategy with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana 2023-2026, which recognizes the importance of expanding the existing safety net and supporting the digital transformation of the MHSSS.
- 2.13 **Program objectives.** The general objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of the MHSSS to implement the safety net and promote gender empowerment and social inclusion. The specific objectives are to support: (i) the institutional capacity and digital transformation of the MHSSS; (ii) gender empowerment through the economic empowerment of women, and services for GBV and trafficking-in-persons survivors; (iii) the empowerment of PwD through the activities of the Learning Lab; and (iv) the collection of information on indigenous peoples, for their subsequent inclusion across social programs.
- 2.14 **Component 1: Institutional capacity of the MHSSS (US\$2,000,000).** This component will support the capacity of the MHSSS to implement the safety net. It will be divided in two subcomponents.
- 2.15 **Subcomponent 1.1: Project management (US\$1,250,000).** This subcomponent will support the capacity of the MHSSS to design, implement and evaluate the programs of the safety net. Specific activities will encompass: (i) the

strengthening of the M&E unit; (ii) the strengthening of the project management team, which will consist of a project manager, a procurement specialist, a financial specialist, a M&E specialist, an ESG coordinator, and administrative staff; (iii) the provision of training and equipment for the mentioned units.

- 2.16 **Subcomponent 1.2: Digital transformation and electronic payments (US\$750,000).** This subcomponent will support the digital transformation of the MHSSS and the process of expansion of electronic payments of the cash transfers. Specific activities will include: (i) the creation of additional modules of the Management Information System (MIS), including the beneficiary portal; (ii) an evaluation of the functioning of the new MIS; (iii) workshops to foster interoperability, collaboration with other ministries, and to improve coordination with the National Data Management Authority; (iv) enhancement of the user journey for both beneficiaries and staff; and (v) expansion of electronic payments for beneficiaries of cash transfers programs.
- 2.17 **Component 2: Support to gender empowerment through the economic empowerment of women and services for survivors of GBV and trafficking-in-persons (US\$900,000).** This component will support the economic empowerment of women involved in the WIIN in Business Clinic, the strengthening of GBV related policies and the consolidation of the Survivors Advocates program. Specific activities will include: (i) grants for the WIIN in Business Clinic to support new businesses of WIIN graduates; (ii) technical support for the strengthening of the GBV Draft policy framework and the draft of the Family Violence Bill; (iii) legal support and training for survivors of GBV and human trafficking; and (iv) strengthening of the package of services available to survivors.
- 2.18 **Component 3: Support to the empowerment of persons living with disabilities (US\$110,000).** This component will support the economic and social empowerment of PwD. Specific activities will include the expansion of the activities of the Learning Lab, including skills training and equipment.
- 2.19 **Component 4: Support to the inclusion of indigenous peoples (US\$139,728).** This component will support the collection of information on indigenous peoples. Specific activities will encompass data collection efforts to identify the size and characteristics of indigenous peoples, to increase their inclusion across social programs offered by MHSSS.
- 2.20 **Beneficiaries.** The direct beneficiaries of the program include: (i) the recipients of cash transfer programs, who will benefit from expanded access to electronic payments; (ii) women, who will benefit from: increased economic empowerment through business grants for the graduates of the WIIN in Business Clinic; increased support against GBV from the Survivors Advocates program; increased support to survivors of human trafficking; (iii) PwD, who will benefit from the expansion of services of the Learning Lab; and (iv) indigenous peoples, who will benefit from the inclusion across social programs. Overall, the populations in poverty and vulnerability, that are the target of MHSSS safety net, will benefit from a stronger and more efficient institution.

III. TECHNICAL ISSUES AND SECTOR KNOWLEDGE

- 3.1 **Technical issues.** Two decades of Bank's experience have shown that social registries and electronic payment mechanisms are essential tools for an efficient implementation of cash transfer programs, and for rapid response to economic crisis. This technical knowledge motivates the support to the digital transformation of the MHSSS, and the support to the expansion of electronic payments. Similarly, the Bank's sector knowledge and operational experience shows that addressing GBV requires a comprehensive set of policies and articulated interventions.¹² This motivates the support to the implementation of a GBV policy framework and to the implementation of the Survivors Advocates program, which provides a broad set of services to the survivors of GBV.
- 3.2 **Sector knowledge.** The Bank has been working in the social protection sector in Guyana for two decades. This project builds on the recently approved IDB's policy-based program [5828/OC-GY](#), that leveraged parallel financing of up to CAD 120 million from Global Affairs Canada (P-012580: Sovereign Loan to Guyana for Social Protection). It is the continuation of IDB's technical work on digital transformation of the MHSSS (under operations [ATN/JF-16525-GY](#), [ATN/OC-18452-GY](#) and [5180/OC-GY](#)), support to the empowerment of PwD ([ATN/JF-16525-GY](#) and [5180/OC-GY](#)), support to the victims of GBV through the Survivors Advocates program (under [5180/OC-GY](#), [3369/BL-GY](#) and [3876/BL-GY](#)). This project represents an opportunity to consolidate past efforts and bring them to fruition by completing the construction and evaluation of an information system that allows managing all MHSSS' safety net programs.
- 3.3 **Lessons learned.** A key lesson learned from previous operations ([ATN/JF-16525-GY](#), [ATN/OC-18452-GY](#), [5180/OC-GY](#)) is that the digital transformation of the Ministry goes way beyond the purchase of software and hardware. It is a multidimensional reform that includes organizational structure, staffing and ownership of the project (change management) and the development of a clear vision of the future state of the MHSSS. A holistic solution requires also specialized workforce that supports the digital transformation process. These efforts are in process and need to be consolidated. These lessons learned are incorporated in Component 1, which includes substantial institutional capacity building.
- 3.4 **Risks.** The key risk of this project is slow execution due to low project management capacity of the MHSSS. This risk will be analyzed in detail through the institutional capacity assessment conducted as part of project preparation and mitigated through investments in project management capacity under Component 1. Another risk is that the efforts to increase MHSSS' institutional capacity are not sustained after the project ends, in case the Ministry does not ensure the continuity of the investments in human resources. This risk will be mitigated by maximizing the presence of MHSSS' permanent staff in the

¹² IDB forthcoming, Changing Norms, Policies for Gender Equality and LGBTQ+ in LAC; Alvarado et al. (2022). [La trata de personas en América Latina y el Caribe: situación, tendencias y respuestas del sector de seguridad y justicia.](#)

implementation of this IGR. This staff will be the focus of the training and capacity building activities.

- 3.5 **Justification of the instrument.** The decision to use the investment grant instrument for this operation is explained by the need to support the purchase of goods, works and services¹³ that will support the reform program started with previous operations, particularly the policy-based program [5828/OC-GY](#). The investment grant allows financing grants for women entrepreneurs under Component 2 (which would not be possible in a technical cooperation program). Also, the investment grant will be executed by the MHSSS, contributing to its institutional strengthening.
- 3.6 **Source of funding.** The Department of Global Affairs, Trade and Development expects to commit CAD4,275,000 to this project, equivalent to US\$3,149,728, at the exchange rate of US\$1=CAD1.35726 as of April 2nd, 2024. Final resources in US Dollars will depend on the exchange rate of the date when the resources are received by the Bank and converted into US Dollars. In case a significant adverse fluctuation in the exchange rate reduces the value in US Dollars in this budget, and the contingency line cannot cover such an amount, the project activities will be decreased appropriately, and the project team will adjust the budget accordingly.
- 3.7 The Department of Global Affairs, Trade and Development will provide these resources through a Project-Specific Grant (PSG). The Bank administers a PSG according to the “Report on COFABS, Ad-Hocs, and CLFGS and a Proposal to Unify Them as Project Specific Grants (PSGs)” (Document SC-114). As contemplated in these procedures, DFATD's commitment will be established through a separate Administrative Agreement. Under such an agreement, the Bank will administer the resources for this Facility.
- 3.8 The project team will be responsible for preparing and submitting the project reporting to the donor, as well as for all other actions and deliverables pertaining to project execution and agreed with the donor in the Administration Agreement.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS AND FIDUCIARY SCREENING

- 4.1 **Environmental and social aspects and environmental classification.** In attention to the Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF), the operation was classified as Category “C” since only minimum or no negative environmental or social effects are to be expected.
- 4.2 **Fiduciary Aspects.** The beneficiary of this IGR will be the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. This instrument is considered to be appropriate due to its fixed scope, logical interdependence of the components and its physical and technical individuality. The executing agency will be the MHSSS. The MHSSS has previous experience executing IDB financed projects (see par. 3.2). However, it has not recently undergone an institutional capacity assessment. This assessment will be conducted as part of project preparation, and will inform

¹³ The cost of procurement represents more than 30% of the total cost of the project.

the institutional strengthening work under Component 1. This IGR will have a 5-year implementation period. Acquisitions financed by the Investment Grant proceeds will follow GN-2349-15 and GN-2350-15 policies; and financial management will follow the provisions of guide OP-273-12. No exceptions to Bank policies are anticipated. Fiduciary risks will be identified and analyzed, and their level and guidelines that need to be included in the operating manual will be determined.

V. RESOURCES AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1 **Resources and Preparation timetable.** Annex II details the schedule and resources needed to prepare the operation (US\$46,540). The submission of the Proposal for Operation Development to QRR is scheduled for August 6, 2024; approval of the Draft Grant Proposal by the OPC by September 3, 2024; and presentation to the Board of Executive Directors by October 10, 2024.

CONFIDENTIAL

¹ The information contained in this Annex is confidential and will not be disclosed. This is in accordance with the "Deliberative Information" exception referred to in paragraph 4.1 (g) of the Access to Information Policy (GN-1831-28) at the Inter-American Development Bank.

Operation Information

Operation Name	
Support to safety net and gender empowerment in Guyana	
Operation Number	GY-G1011

Operation Details

Organizational Unit	IDB Sector/Subsector
SCL/SPH	GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
Type of Operation & Modality	Original IDB Amount
IGR /	\$3,300,000.00
Executing Agency	Borrower
GY-MHSSSS	
ESG Primary Team Member	Team Leader
	Marco Stampini
Toolkit Completion Date	Author
20/03/2024	Jessica Eileen Arango Laws (Esg Guidance Service)
Applicable ESPs with requirements	
ESPS 1; ESPS 2; ESPS 10	

Operation E&S Classification Summary

Environmental and Social Impact Categorization (ESIC)	C
Disaster and Climate Change Risk Classification (DCCRC)	Low
Environmental and Social Risk Rating (ESRR)	Low

Summary of Impacts / Risks and Potential Solutions

The project has no environmental and social impacts and/or risks therefore no Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) or Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process will be conducted for the project during preparation.

There are no contextual risks associated with the project (e.g. political instability, oppression of communities, armed forces in the project area).

The operation will not have direct impacts associated with child labor or forced labor in the workforce.

The operation will not have significant indirect and/or cumulative impacts associated with child labor or forced labor in the workforce.

The Executing Agency or other relevant entity (in relation to the operation) has a proven track record to respect and protect the fundamental principles and rights of workers (including fair treatment, commitment to non-discrimination, equal opportunity, protection of workers including workers in vulnerable situations, work accommodations, migrant workers' rights, collective bargaining and rights of association) and compliance with national employment and labor laws.

The operation will not result in the direct loss of employment (i.e. retrenchment).

The operation will not result in the indirect and/or cumulative loss of employment (i.e. retrenchment).

The Borrower will prepare and operate a Grievance Redress Mechanism for all workers (direct and contracted).

The operation will not cause direct impacts associated with accidents, injury, and disease arising from, associated with, or occurring in the course of work.

The operation will not cause indirect and/or cumulative impacts associated with accidents, injury, and disease arising from, associated with, or occurring in the course of work.

The operation will promote a sustainable use of resources including energy, water and raw materials.

The operation will not have direct adverse impacts on human health and the environment due to pollution from project activities.

The operation will not have indirect and/or cumulative adverse impacts on human health and the environment due to pollution from project activities.

The operation will not generate direct impacts generated by solid waste (hazardous and/or non-hazardous).

The operation will not generate indirect and/or cumulative impacts generated by solid waste (hazardous and/or non-hazardous).

The operation will not have direct negative impacts to the environment and human health and safety due to the production, procurement, use, and disposal of hazardous materials such as PCBs, Radiological Waste, Mercury, CFCs, etc.

The operation will not have indirect and/or cumulative negative impacts to the environment and human health and safety due to the production, procurement, use, and disposal of hazardous materials such as PCBs, Radiological Waste, Mercury, CFCs, etc.

The operation will not have direct negative impacts to the environment and human health and safety due to the production, procurement, use, and disposal of pesticides.

The operation will not have indirect and/or cumulative negative impacts to the environment and human health and safety due to the production, procurement, use, and disposal of pesticides.

The operation is not expected to or currently produce directly GHG emissions.

The operation is not expected to or currently produce indirectly-cumulatively GHG emissions.

The operation is not considering alternatives to implement technically and financially feasible and cost-effective options to avoid or minimize project-related GHG emissions during the design and operation of the project.

The operation has no exposure to climate transition risks related with a loss of value of a project driven by the transition to a lower-carbon economy, result from extensive policy, legal, technology, and/or market changes to address climate change.

There are no direct health and safety risks associated with the design of structural elements or components of the operation (e.g. existing or new buildings, earthworks, bridges, drainage, roadways, power stations, transmission and distribution poles, underground utilities, and dams), and/or road transport activities (e.g. transport of heavy or over-sized equipment) which could result in health and safety impacts to third parties and project-affected people.

There are no indirect and/or cumulative health and safety risks associated with the design of structural elements or components of the operation (e.g. existing or new buildings, earthworks, bridges, drainage, roadways, power stations, transmission and distribution poles, underground utilities, and dams), and/or road transport activities (e.g. transport of heavy or over-sized equipment) which could result in health and safety impacts to third parties and project-affected people.

The project will not directly affect the public (including workers and their families) by exposing them to hazardous materials released by the project, particularly those that may be life threatening.

The project will not indirectly-cumulatively affect the public (including workers and their families) by exposing them to hazardous materials released by the project, particularly those that may be life threatening.

There is no potential for the project or project-related activities (e.g. the influx of temporary or permanent project labor, among others) to directly result in or exacerbate community exposure to water-related (i.e., waterborne, water-based, and vector-borne diseases) and/or communicable diseases (e.g. COVID).

There is no potential for the project or project-related activities (e.g. the influx of temporary or permanent project labor, among others) to indirectly-cumulatively result in or exacerbate community exposure to water-related (i.e., waterborne, water-based, and vector-borne diseases) and/or communicable diseases (e.g. COVID).

The project's direct impacts on priority ecosystem services will not result in adverse health and safety risks and impacts to the project-affected people.

The project's indirect and/or cumulative impacts on priority ecosystem services will not result in adverse health and safety risks and impacts to the project-affected people.

There is no potential for an emergency or unanticipated event to occur in the project area of influence that demands immediate action to prevent or reduce harm to people, property, and/or the environment.

Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, droughts, landslides, floods, wildfires, or others, including those caused or exacerbated by climate change, are not likely to occur in the project area, and there will be no impact the project, and/or the project will not exacerbate the risk from natural hazards to human life, property, and/or the environment.

There is no potential direct impacts to workers and project-affected people related to the use or arrangement of security services to safeguard personnel and/or property.

There is no potential indirect and/or cumulative impacts to workers and project-affected people related to the use or arrangement of security services to safeguard personnel and/or property.

The project will not lead to direct impacts related to physical, and/or economic displacement - Impacts include, and are not limited to, relocation; expropriation; loss of shelter; loss of land; loss of assets; restrictions on land and natural resources; loss of income; loss of livelihoods; loss of social safety net.

The project will not lead to indirect and/or cumulative impacts related to physical, and/or economic displacement - Impacts include, and are not limited to, relocation; expropriation; loss of shelter; loss of land; loss of assets; restrictions on land and natural resources; loss of income; loss of livelihoods; loss of social safety net.

Vulnerable people will not be disproportionately affected by direct impacts related to land acquisition - people may be considered vulnerable by virtue of disability, state of health, indigenous status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, economic disadvantage, or social condition. Other vulnerable people include the elderly, children, single-headed households, refugees, internally displaced persons, natural resource dependent communities.

Vulnerable people will not be disproportionately affected by indirect and/or cumulative impacts related to land acquisition - people may be considered vulnerable by virtue of disability, state of health, indigenous status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, economic disadvantage, or social condition. Other vulnerable people include the elderly, children, single-headed households, refugees, internally displaced persons, natural resource dependent communities.

The operation doesn't have the potential to directly impact modified habitat that include significant biodiversity value.

The operation doesn't have the potential, including through the supply chain, to indirectly-cumulatively impact modified habitat that include significant biodiversity value.

The operation doesn't have the potential to directly convert or degrade natural habitat.

The operation doesn't have the potential, including through the supply chain, to indirectly-cumulatively convert or degrade natural habitat.

The operation doesn't have the direct potential to implement project activities in critical natural habitat.

The operation doesn't have the indirect and/or cumulative potential, including through the supply chain, to implement project activities in critical natural habitat.

The operation is not expected to directly impact a legally protected area or an internationally recognized area.

The operation is not expected, including through the supply chain, to indirectly-cumulatively impact a legally protected area or an internationally recognized area.

The project will not directly introduce (intentionally or accidentally) alien, or non-native, species of flora

and fauna that have the potential for invasive behavior in areas where they are not normally found.

The project will not indirectly-cumulatively, including through the supply chain, introduce (intentionally or accidentally) alien, or non-native, species of flora and fauna that have the potential for invasive behavior in areas where they are not normally found.

The project is not likely to adversely directly impact ecosystem services.

The project is not likely to adversely indirectly-cumulatively, including through the supply chain, impact ecosystem services.

The project is not expected to cause adverse direct impact on Indigenous Peoples. FPIC is required when there will be (i) impacts on lands and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use; (ii) Relocation of Indigenous Peoples from lands and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use; or (iii) significant impact on Cultural Heritage.

The project is not expected to cause adverse indirect/cumulative impact on Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples are not expected to be adversely impacted by direct project related land-acquisition or access restrictions. Note that all impacts on lands and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary law requires FPIC.

Indigenous Peoples are not expected to be adversely impacted by indirect/cumulative project related land-acquisition or access restrictions. Note that all impacts on lands and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary law requires FPIC.

The project doesn't have the potential to cause adverse direct impacts on Indigenous Peoples who live in isolation and initial contact.

The project doesn't have the potential to cause adverse indirect and/or cumulative impacts on Indigenous Peoples who live in isolation and initial contact.

The project is not expected to directly damage or negatively impact cultural heritage.

The project is not expected to indirectly-cumulatively damage or negatively impact cultural heritage.

The project is not expected to directly damage or negatively impact critical cultural heritage.

The project is not expected to indirectly-cumulatively damage or negatively impact critical cultural heritage.

The project will not negatively directly affect people due to their gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The project will not negatively indirectly-cumulatively affect people due to their gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The project is not expected to lead to direct risks and impacts associated with Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

The project is not expected to lead to indirect and/or cumulative risks and impacts associated with Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

The project will not potentially face direct barriers to equitable gender-based participation.

The project will not potentially face indirect and/or cumulative barriers to equitable gender-based participation.

The project will not deal with a subject matter and/or be implemented in an area where the manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation of stakeholders has been documented.

ESPS 1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Executing Agency will not prepare and maintain an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the operation as defined under ESPS 1.

The Borrower/Executing Agency's has good organizational capacity and competency for managing environmental and social issues.

ESPS 2 - Labor and Working Conditions

The Executing Agency will prepare and maintain an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the operation with specific elements related to Labor and Working Conditions under ESPS 2.

ESPS 10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The Borrower will operate a Grievance Redress Mechanism at the Project level (direct and contracted).

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ANNEX

In accordance with the Environmental and Social Policy Framework of the Bank, the operation was classified as Category “C” because only minimum or no negative environmental or social effects are to be expected. The actions of the Program will finance the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana MHSSS and its ability to implement the country’s safety net and gender empowerment initiatives. It supports the digital transformation of the Ministry, and its efforts to expand electronic payments. It also supports the expansion of the activities of the: (i) Learning Lab, with the aim to empower PwD; (ii) WIIN program, through the provision of grants in support of women’s businesses originating from the Clinic. Finally, it supports the expansion of the provision of legal services for the survivors of GBV and trafficking-in-person.

In order to comply with the requirements of the ESPF and especially those of the Environmental and Social Performance Standards 1, 2 and 10, during preparation any existing environmental and social management instrument in the Executing Unit and/or in the applicable local regulations will be reviewed.

INDEX OF COMPLETED AND PROPOSED SECTOR WORK

Description	Author	Year	References
Guyana Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey Report	Contreras-Urbina, M. et al.	2019	https://guyana.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Guyana Womens H and E Survey Report 1.pdf
2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Guyana	US Department of State	2023	https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/guyana/
Cash transfers, poverty and inequality in LAC. IDB working paper	Stampini, Medellin, Ibararán	2023.	https://publications.iadb.org/en/cash-transfers-poverty-and-inequality-latin-america-and-caribbean
MHSSS Future State Report	MHSSS	2023	Unpublished.
GBV Case Management Strengthening in Guyana II Phase – internal report	UNFPA	2022	Unpublished.
Spotlight Initiative Guyana Annual Programme Report 2022	UN Guyana	2022	https://guyana.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/SpotlightGuyana_AnnualReport_2022%20final.pdf
Disability issues at Glance	National Commission on Disability and VSO-Guyana	2008	N/A

CONFIDENTIAL

¹ The information contained in this Annex is confidential and will not be disclosed. This is in accordance with the "Deliberative Information" exception referred to in paragraph 4.1 (g) of the Access to Information Policy (GN-1831-28) at the Inter-American Development Bank.