

Guyana
Project Launch and Implementation Support Mission
Guyana Early Childhood Education Project (P129555)
Aide-Memoire
September 15-18, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

A World Bank mission visited Guyana from September 15-18, 2015 to participate in the Project Launch and to conduct an implementation support mission for Guyana Early Childhood Education Project. The team consisted of: Hongyu Yang (Sr. Education Specialist, Task Team Leader); Plamen Kirov (Senior Procurement Specialist), Ingrid Bjerke (Operations Analyst), and Ian Marfleet (Civil Works Consultant).

The main objectives of the mission were to:

- a) Participate in the Project Launch for GECEP;
- b) Review status of implementation activities; and
- c) Update the Procurement Plan.

The mission would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Honorable Minister of the MoE, Dr. Roopnaraine, Permanent Secretary Delma Nedd, Chief Planning Officer Evelyn Hamilton, Mr. Balgobin of the Ministry of Finance, and the officials and staff of the Ministry of Education (MoE), as well as staff from our development partner UNICEF. A list of institutions and persons met is in Annex 1.

II. PROJECT LAUNCH

The project was launched successfully on Wednesday September 16th, 2015 in Bartica, Region 7. The launch was arranged by the MoE, with a range of high-level speakers including the first Lady of Guyana, Her Excellency Mrs. Sandra Granger, Vice President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs Hon. Mr. Sydney Allicock, Minister within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Hon. Ms. Nicolette Henry, and Assistant Chief Education Officer (Nursery) Mrs. Ingrid Trotman. Also present were Ministers from within the Ministries of Human Services and Social Security (Ms. Simona Broomes) and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe), Chief Planning Officer Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton, Regional Chairman of Region 7 Gordon Bradford, and Regional Education Officer Charles Holmes. There was also observed a large presence of, and active participation by the community leaders, parents, and children. The Project was well received and broadly represented in the media, including a segment in the opening section of the nightly news, top story online of the national newspaper Guyana Chronicle on the evening of the event, as well as the featured center page story of the Guyana Chronicle on the subsequent day.

III. SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Guyana Early Childhood Education Project was approved by the World Bank in May 2015. The Grant Agreement was signed by both the WB and the Ministry of Finance on June 5, 2015. The Project was officially launched on September 16, 2015. The Project Development Objective is to improve emergent literacy and numeracy outcomes for children at the nursery level and primary Grade 1 in hinterland regions and targeted remote riverine areas.

Implementation of the Project has made good progress. All baseline data were established before the Project signing. Procurement process for all consultancies and goods has been started. Specifically, consultancy for Component 1 teacher training has been advertised. A list of learning resource kits with technical specifications has been finalized and is ready for procurement. The TOR for mass media campaign was cleared by the WB and is ready to be advertised. TOR for parent/caregiver training modules have been prepared and selection of local consultants will follow in the immediate future. Both the Project Designated Account and local account were opened.

IV. PROJECT PROGRESS BY COMPONENT (reflects discussion by VC on September 10, 2015 and during the Mission Sept 16-18, 2015)

Component 1: Capacity Building of Nursery and Grade 1 Teachers

This component aims to improve the quality of instruction and learning at nursery and grade 1 level, by strengthening teachers' content knowledge and pedagogy, particularly for the implementation of new strategies for the development of emergent literacy and numeracy skills.

The Nursery Diagnostic Assessment (NDA) was administered to a nationwide sample of children in October 2014, providing baseline data and rich information on children's preparedness for entry to nursery school. The NDA for the new cohort of 2015 will be conducted in October, 2015. The NDA results will provide a monitoring tool for the project progress as well as help inform the design of the teacher training.

Expressions of interest for the international consultant to develop the teacher training have been advertised locally, regionally, and internationally, with a deadline for submissions on September 24th, 2015. The Mission and MoE agreed to aim to shortlist for the consultancy by October 10, 2015. In addition, there is need for a national consultant to provide support to the Project team and the international consultant to help with the preparation of the modules for training. The Project team will identify a list of persons that can be called upon to perform this role by September 23rd 2015. A more precise TOR for the national consultant will be developed by October 30th, 2015.

In addition, further details of the implementation was discussed. In particular, the observation of classrooms that is planned during implementation should not be done by the trainers who worked with the teachers of those classrooms to avoid a conflict of interest (i.e. field officers could be used for observation but only if not used as a trainer). The MoE and the project team will identify Master trainers in the near future. Details need to be developed and discussed further at the next mission. Training modules should be ready by February 2016, with Master trainers identified and trained by April, 2016, in time for training of teachers starting early July 2016 (immediately after the school year closes). The MoE will inform teachers in advance to ensure maximum attendance.

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Component 2: Improved Supply of Teaching and Learning Materials

This component will support the procurement and distribution of early childhood education (ECE) resource kits to all nursery and Grade 1 primary classes in the Hinterland regions and in targeted Riverine areas, along with a Teachers' Manual for their use.

The technical specifications of materials to be procured under this component have been finalized, and the bidding documents are ready. The team determined that 450 kits will be procured. It is expected that the bidding documents will be sent to the World Bank for no objection by September 21st and advertised by September 28th 2015.

The Mission continued discussions with the MOE regarding the need for a secure and dry storage facility to store the resource kits as they are received from different vendors, and then assembled into kits for distribution to the schools. It was suggested that the MOE consider allocating/reserving storage space for the exclusive use of Nursery Education for this purpose, possibly including renting a short term space. The MoE will commit to finding a suitable location. The distribution will coincide with existing distribution of books. Other channels will also be explored to aid in this process. The Resource Kits should be procured and distributed to all targeted schools in time for the second term of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Finally, the Mission and MoE discussed issues of cultural appropriateness. The kits are standard for all regions, but include a Teachers Manual that describes how to use the resource kit as well as how to adapt local materials for educational use. The TORs for creating the Teachers Manual will be developed by NCERD by October 13th, 2015.

Component 3: Primary Caregiver Education

This component aims to support the development of emergent literacy and numeracy among nursery and Grade 1 children in participating schools, and among their siblings not yet of age to attend nursery school, by reinforcing parents' efforts and abilities to promote children's learning at home.

Training for parents/primary caregivers will be designed, then implemented on a regular basis. Community consultations regarding primary caregiver engagement in children's learning have been conducted in selected hinterland communities. The report of the consultation provided information on key messages, design of the activities, and methodology for training primary caregivers. The TORs for the design of the parent/primary caregiver training modules, training of trainers sessions, and development of learning materials have been prepared. The consultant will use findings from the community consultations and the NDA as well as use existing materials to develop the training content, and work collaboratively with the MoE to develop the modules, training sessions and materials. The MoE will identify suitable persons by September 25th 2015, with a view to select a person by October 15th, 2015.

A mass media campaign will be used to complement the parent/primary caregiver training, and reinforce messages about caregivers playing a critical role in their children's development of emergent literacy and numeracy and providing tips on how to actively do this. In addition to media avenues already identified (websites, DVDs/CDs, radio and television (the Guyana Learning Channel), instructional posters, picture booklets, "information-push" campaigns through broadcast messaging to all cell phone owners), specific utilities were discussed, such as a cellular gaming interface for parents and use of teaching tool CD/DVD from UNICEF. UNICEF has also produced posters with key ECD messages that exist in three different local languages (Macusi, Akawaio, and Wapishiana) which may be useful. Translation into a fourth language (Patamona) widely used in Region 8, is currently being considered. The Bank has provided comments and no objection to the mass media TOR and the consultancy will be advertised by September 23rd, 2015.

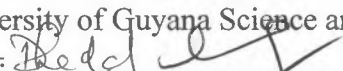
It was confirmed that parent/primary caregiver engagement activities would build upon existing work (training community health workers (CHWs) in ECD) by UNICEF, and that the MOE and MOH will continue to coordinate closely going forward, including sharing the UNICEF CHW facilitators manual with the MoE and participation in the next Monitoring event. Further details on implementation is needed, such as identification of trainers (i.e. Head teachers, Nursery Field Officer, nursery or Grade 1 teachers, and CHWs) and Master trainers, and will be discussed through VC in November.

Procurement

Procurement Plan (PP) and implementation: The Bank's and MOE's Planning Unit's (PU) procurement specialists (PS) discussed the latest revised version of the project procurement plan. Particular attention was paid to: (i) Procurement of Resource Kits – given the multiple different goods/items the project team PS has carefully considered the required goods/items and the local market conditions and potential suppliers and will send to the Bank proposal for grouping of the items under separate lots under the planned NCB and respectively revised procurement plan to reflect the proposed lots. It was also discussed and agreed that the NCB should be also advertised locally and regionally; (ii) Requests for Expressions of Interest for Mass Media Campaigns will be advertised. It was agreed that the project team PS will also update the dates and comments in the procurement plan and will send the revised version to the Bank for review and clearance by September 23rd, 2015.

Procurement capacity: The procurement under GECEP is carried out by the Procurement Specialist of the MOE's Planning Unit (PS). The PS has attended the Regional Procurement Workshops in Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad, and Dominican Republic and has gained significant experience in the process of the implementation of the EFA-FTI and GITEP. The capacity of PS is satisfactory.

Overall rating on procurement: Satisfactory

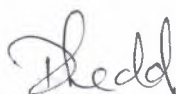
In addition, the Mission took the opportunity to review the Procurement for the Guyana Secondary Education Improvement Project (P147924) and University of Guyana Science and Technology Support Project (P125288) (~~See details in Annex 2~~). 

V. NEXT STEPS

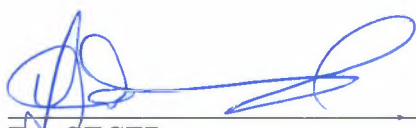
The following actions were agreed during the mission.

Action	Deadline	Responsible Party
1. Identify local persons to work with the international consultant contracted under Component 1	September 23 rd 2015	Quenita Walrond/ Ingrid Trotman/ Dana Waithe
2. Develop TOR for local persons to work with the international consultant contracted under Component 1	October 30 th 2015	Quenita Walrond
3. Shortlisting for international consultancy for Component 1	October 10 th 2015	Nandram Persaud
4. Bidding documents for Resource Kits to Bank	September 21 st 2015	Nandram Persaud
5. Advertise Invitation for Bids for Resource Kits	September 28 th 2015	Nandram Persaud
6. Develop the TOR for the Teachers Manual to accompany Kits	October 13 th 2015	Dana Waithe/ Quenita Walrond
7. Identify persons to assist the MoE with development of parent training modules	September 25 th 2015	Ingrid Trotman
8. Select person to assist the MoE with development of parent training modules	October 15 th , 2015	Quenita Walrond/Nandram Persaud
9. Advertise mass media consultancy	September 23 rd 2015	Nandram Persaud
10. Survey conducted for the 2015 NDA	October 30 th , 2015	Quenita Walrond

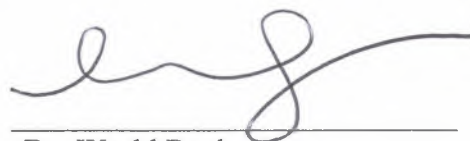
September 18, Georgetown, Guyana
Aide Memoire



For Ministry of Education
Ms. Delma Nedd
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education



For GECEP
Ms. Quenita Walrond
GECEP, Nursery Technical Coordinator
Ministry of Education



For World Bank
Ms. Hongyu Yang
Task Team Leader
The World Bank

Annex 1. List of People Met during Mission

Name	Title	Email
Mrs. Sandra Granger	First lady of the Cooperative of Republic of Guyana	
Hon. Sydney Allicock	Vice President of Guyana and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs	
Valerie Garrido-Lowe	Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs	
Simona Broomes	Minister within the Ministry of Human Services and Social Protection	
Ministry of Education		
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine	Minister of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport	rroopnaraine@moe.gov.gy
Ms. Nicolette Henry	Minister within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and	
Delma Nedd	Permanent Secretary	delmanedd_edu@yahoo.com
Evelyn Hamilton	Chief Planning Officer	evelyn.hamilton@moe.gov.gy
Ingrid Trotman	Assistant Chief Education Officer, Nursery Education	ingrid.trotman@moe.gov.gy
Shirley Madray	District Education Officer Georgetown, Nursery	shirleymadray@yahoo.com
Quenita Walrond	Nursery Technical Coordinator, GECEP	quenita.walrond@gmail.com
Nandram Persaud	Procurement Specialist, GECEP	junoper@hotmail.com
Christina Khan	Finance Officer, GECEP	tinab_k@hotmail.com
Ray Canzius	Assistant Accountant, GECEP	ray_canzius@hotmail.com
Lorna Harris-Muhammad	Representative for ACEO, Primary	Carrie59@yahoo.com
Ministry of Finance		
Tarachand Balgobin	Director, Project Cycle Management	tbalgobin@finance.gov.gy
Ronnette Hetsberger	Economic and Financial Analyst I	rhetsberger@finance.gov.gy

National Centre for Educational Resource Development		
Dana King-Waithe	Senior Subject Specialist/Unit Head, Nursery	msdanaking@gmail.com
UNICEF		
Michelle Rodrigues	Learning and Development Officer	amrodrigues@unicef.org
Elizabeth Birhuatt	Early Childhood Development Officer	ebirhuatt@unicef.org
Regional Government		
Gordon Bradford	Regional Chairman Region 7	
Charles Holmes	Regional Education Officer Region 7	
Peter Ramotar	Regional Executive Officer Region 7	