

Guyana Program Summary

Guyana’s program is helping to implement a new value-added tax (VAT) system and develop ways to assist and educate taxpayers, while at the same time helping the government better plan and control spending. The program is also supporting Guyana’s efforts to better administer and enforce customs regulations. Additionally, the grant is helping to reduce the number of days and costs associated with starting a business by modernizing and streamlining the business registration process.

Program Highlights

- ★ Supporting the Threshold Program goals, senior managers conducted a strategic planning review that resulted in a draft document, A Strategic Plan for the Guyana Revenue Authority, 2009-2011 which includes an action plan and dissemination arrangements.
- ★ The program contractor and IT staff conducted site visits in preparation for the IT equipment being purchased for Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA). The distribution plan and report on the site visits were completed and the training program has begun
- ★ A total of 95 Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for the Examinations Division of the Tax Operations and Services was completed in August 2008, and an additional of 50 SOPs are underway.
- ★ Nearly 100 managers participated in the Executive Leadership and Basic Management Skills training programs.
- ★ Tax compliance surveys on 395 businesses in three regions were conducted. The results of the surveys have been forwarded to the GRA. In addition, workshops on tax legislation issues and training courses for the GRA are underway.
- ★ The revision of the Committees’ Handbook and design plan for the upgrading of the Parliamentary Library was completed and a training program on the revisions is being conducted.
- ★ As a result of a high-level policy meeting, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Presidential Secretariat, a Cabinet Memo was drafted to seek the Cabinet’s approval of the legislative amendments required to establish a ‘one-stop-shop’ business registration system. The passage of the legislation is expected shortly after Parliamentary review.

Threshold Status	
Status.....	Implementation, Year 2
Threshold Information	
Total Amount.....	\$6.7 million
Agreement Signed.....	August 23, 2008
Country Information	
Population.....	751,218*
GNI Per Capita Income.....	\$1,130*

*World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2005