

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

- ★ The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has continued efforts at increasing professionalism in its ranks. It has drafted 14 policies and procedures for employees and generated 250 job descriptions. The GRA has identified 18 functional units/divisions as part of its restructuring and is continuing to make reforms. It also completed a training needs workshop which will guide its training agendas moving forward.
- ★ The newly established Total Revenue Integrated Processing System software is in use, and is being implemented in the Customs Unit.
- ★ Completion of a comprehensive review of the tax system highlighted recommendations for streamlining audits, enforcement and taxpayer services.
- ★ Following completion of a diagnostic report on training needs, the Government of Guyana is paving the way for further reforms with upgrades to the Parliamentary Library and increased capacity building for the Public Accounts and Economic Services Committees.
- ★ A service providers’ workshop was conducted in August 2008 for government entities to agree on ways to move forward to reduce the number of days to start a business. The group agreed that steps should be taken to increase coordination and communication among different agencies involved in business start-up, and should consolidate their different paper forms into a common electronic form for the entire business registration process. They also determined that it would be beneficial to computerize nearly 100,000 paper-based Deeds Registry records into an electronic database for greater information look-up efficiency.

Threshold Status	
Status.....	Implementation, Year 1
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