

Press Release

Ministry of Public Security
Support for the Implementation of the Citizen Security Strategy (ATN/OC-
14259-GY)

Youth at-risk Training in Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Skills
– Knowledge-Sharing Workshop
28 January 2016 at Salon D, Marriott Hotel, Georgetown

Knowledge-Sharing Workshop on skills training for youth at-risk... strengthening the approach for positive impact in the communities

The Ministry of Public Security will host a workshop to share knowledge on mapping of technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills training provided by various training-providers, addressing key challenges in providing effective skills training to youth at-risk, ways youth development stakeholders can collaborate and international best practices relating to Guyana's environment.

The objective of the workshop is to improve the approach to providing skills training to youth at-risk for employment and self-employment in order to reduce youth involvement in criminal activities.

The workshop will be held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, on Thursday, 28th January 2016, and will see the participation of a number of training-providers and youth organisations. It is undertaken through a Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): *Support for the Implementation of the Citizen Security Strategy* (ATN/OC-14259-GY), referred to herein as the 'TC'.

With financing from the IDB, the Ministry pursued several interventions through which technical and vocational skills training for youth at-risk and community cohesion were undertaken. The

Citizen Security Programme which closed in June 2014, saw 1,377 youths trained in technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills in Regions 4 and 6. The end of project evaluation report indicated that 75% of youth trained were employed. The TC is expected to train about 700 youth at-risk, and the recently launched Citizen Security Strengthening Programme (CSSP) targets about 8,400.

A sum of US\$6.5 million was allocated under the TC and the CSSP for the upcoming skills training for youth at-risk and community cohesion. Given this significant investment and recognizing the dire need for such training in the communities, the Ministry is steadfast in ensuring effectiveness of the interventions, positive impact on crime prevention in the target communities and incremental contribution to safe neighbourhoods.

The beneficiaries will be provided with psychosocial, counseling and personal development support in preparation for taking the training and while in training. In cases where such support is required after the training, arrangements will be made for the provision of such support. The beneficiaries will also receive a stipend to offset transportation expenses while taking the training.

Specific upcoming interventions in the communities, through the projects, include mainly: (i) addressing crime and violence vulnerability in target communities (addressing risks associated with interpersonal violence and norms – parenting, gender norms and conflict resolution), (ii) community needs assessments with interventions tailored to community needs, (iii) community asset assessments (physical and human which can be utilized to support developmental interventions in the communities), (iv) labour force and labour market needs (vocational and remedial education, job-readiness, job seeking and job placement, entrepreneurship, mentoring, counseling and psychological skills training, and literacy programs), and (v) training of community members to resolve community problems through a bottom-up approach to identify solutions to prevent crime and violence.

The Ministry is looking forward to collaborating with training-providers, governmental organisations, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and community organisations in mobilizing youth at-risk, providing the social, psychosocial and personal development support to youth in training and presenting employment opportunities for youth after training.

Ministry of Public Security
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