

Public Health Strengthening in Guyana

Public Health Strengthening in Guyana (PHSG) is a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded bilateral project between the governments of Canada and Guyana executed by the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) in collaboration with the Guyana Ministry of Health (MOH).

The **Project's goal** is to improve and maintain the health of Guyana's population, by supporting an integrated approach to disease, prevention, diagnosis, management and care at the national and regional levels.

The **Project's purpose** is to strengthen the public health system by enhancing the capacity of the Government of Guyana to better manage, deliver and monitor disease prevention and control programs in the areas of STI/HIV/AIDS/TB; and effectively plan, manage and evaluate health care services.

PROJECT CONTACTS

Ottawa Office:

Roumyana Benedict, Project Director
Phone: (613) 241-5785, ext. 307
rbenedict@csih.org

Guyana Field Office:

Stephanie Brunet, Project Manager
56 Main Street, Georgetown
Tel: (011 592) 231 7986
csih@guyanapsu.org.gy

CSIH

The **Canadian Society for International Health** is a national non-governmental organization with members committed to the promotion of international health and development. CSIH members offer a solid network of experts and experience with the Canadian government, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia.

CSIH Mission

The Canadian Society for International Health, a national voluntary organization, facilitates and supports health and development activities around the world through the mobilization of Canadian and other resources.

CSIH advocates for health policy and programming which contributes to global objectives of health for all, equity, and social justice and builds partnerships with Canadian and other institutions and organizations.

The goal of CSIH for the upcoming years is to promote and sustain equity-based mobilization of Canadian expertise and international resources.



Canadian Society for International Health
1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1105
Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7 Canada

Phone: (613) 241-5785

Fax: (613) 241-3845

Email: csih@csih.org

PUBLIC HEALTH STRENGTHENING IN GUYANA



Managed by the
Canadian Society for
International Health



Prevention, Management and Care of HIV/AIDS/STIs and Tuberculosis

HIV/AIDS/STIs/TB - PHSG focuses on strengthening the local capacity to deliver and sustain the prevention and management of STIs, HIV/AIDS and TB. National Guidelines have been established for all three conditions. An STI baseline pathogens survey is underway to accurately determine the types and extent of STIs in Guyana and a CSW and MSM study was completed with the objective of improving access to care. Training and mentoring on STI, HIV, TB and counselling are continuous. The Train-the-trainer approach is favoured.



Attendees of the 1st Annual National TB Conference in Georgetown hosted by PHSG and the Guyana Chest Society

PHSG assists with the implementation and expansion of the DOTS program. The project also established a network of STI and TB laboratories, including a central lab with the capacity to do cultures for STI and TB. The ability to do cultures and link with external reference laboratories helps to determine the extent of drug resistance and also impacts on future treatment and guidelines. The 2006-2011 National plan for TB was developed in collaboration with the National TB Program (NTP). PHSG also works with all educational institutions in Guyana to ensure that training and new standards of care are sustained



Training technologists on STI and TB diagnostics

Developing a Health Information System

Developing HIS - This component focuses on establishing an electronic health information system (HIS) to support the collection, storage and communication of health data, and the processing of that data into health information. Version 0.5 (out of 1.0) of the database has been installed and is being piloted in three clinics in Georgetown. Over 70 database users from the three clinics have received training in database application and the software is currently being rolled out to New Amsterdam and Linden. In addition the MOH has been fully networked and users trained.



NetCorps intern Alam Khan helps staff at the Genitourinary Medical Clinic learn how to use the new system

Strengthening Community and Home-Based Care

Home Based Care - The focus of this component is training and capacity development for the delivery of home based and palliative care to TB and AIDS patients. National HBC Guidelines and modules for trainers were developed. PHSG has been instrumental in developing a National Home-Based care strategy with the Ministry of Health, as well as assisting in its implementation and the training of nursing coordinators, volunteers, and family members.



Home-based care orientation meeting in 2005



