

Guyana: The World Bank Approves \$10 Million Grant For HIV/AIDS Prevention And Treatment In Guyana

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Washington, March 31, 2004 – The World Bank approved yesterday a \$10 million grant to Guyana to support HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and provide treatment and care for people living with the disease.

“This grant will bolster Guyana’s efforts to curb the transmission of the HIV virus and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as prolong and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS,” said **Caroline Anstey, The World Bank’s Director for the Caribbean.**

The grant will support Guyana’s **HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project** by strengthening Guyana’s capacity to scale up its response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The project will finance activities for prevention of HIV infection, treatment, care and mitigation. The project will support the following components:

- *Institutional capacity strengthening, monitoring, evaluation and research* – This will support the country’s institutional capacity as it scales up response efforts to HIV/AIDS by financing technical advisory services, training, staffing, equipment, goods and general operating costs.
- *Scaling up the response by civil society groups and Government ministries* - The project will support prevention, treatment, care and mitigation of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections through activities of civil society organizations and Government ministries. The activities will include training, public awareness, the distribution of condoms, care of the infected and affected families, and workplace policy formulation. Civil society groups will receive grants to support HIV/AIDS subprojects for prevention, treatment, care and mitigation.
- *Expanding health sector response to HIV/AIDS* – The project will support the strengthening and expansion of prevention, treatment and care services through the health care system. This will include improved management of sexually transmitted infections, ensuring a safe blood supply, expanding voluntary testing and counseling services, prevention of mother to child transmission and treatment of opportunistic infections. Support will include upgrading laboratories, training health care workers and counselors, providing drugs including anti-retrovirals.

Guyana has the second highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the Caribbean. Between 1989 and 2000 the incidence of AIDS deaths in Guyana rose from 2.7 to 64 deaths per 100,000 people, which

represents a 2,270% increase. By the end of 2001, about 18,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS and 4,200 are estimated to be AIDS orphans.

This project is part of the Bank's \$155 million Caribbean Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Adaptable Program Lending (APL) approved in June 2001. Guyana is the seventh country to obtain support under the APL after Dominican Republic, Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

The US\$10 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA) will be implemented over five years under Guyana's Ministry of Health.

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For more information on the World Bank's work in Guyana, please visit:

<http://www.worldbank.org/gy>

For more information about the Bank's work on HIV/AIDS in Latin America & the Caribbean, please visit www.worldbank.org/lac aids