LABOUR MIGRATION AND GUYANA’S GROWING OIL INDUSTRY

BACKGROUND

In 2020, IOM is conducting a labour migration governance study, to complement a country profile and a needs assessment on migration governance. These are distinct but interlinking projects, and each will provide a basis for the development of data-driven policies and programmes. This labour migration study investigates Guyana’s labour capacity in its burgeoning oil and gas sector, and supporting sectors, as the country’s economy is projected to grow up to 30% between 2020 and 2021 as a result of its new oil and gas industry.

Guyana’s economic growth is expected to result in important migratory inflows of people, including the return of Guyanese nationals and their families in the diaspora, nationals from other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) States and internal flows of Guyanese nationals the interior. In response, this study will assess the needs of the country in terms of labour sectors and regulatory policies in order to ensure orderly and safe labour recruitment and migration processes in adherence to international standards and fulfilment of migrants’ rights.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Public Sector
► Department of Labour of the Ministry of Social Protection
► Ministry of Foreign Affairs
► Public Service Ministry of Guyana
► Department of Citizenship and Migration
► Guyana Bureau of Statistics
► Department of Energy of the Ministry of the Presidency

The Private Sector
► Chambers of commerce
► Recruitment agencies
► Industry associations

OBJECTIVE

To support Guyana’s progress in achieving orderly, safe and regular labour migration and mobility of people, through the collection of comprehensive and reliable data to support the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
THE SCOPE

The findings and recommendations from the country assessment aims to provide relevant and current situational data that informs government officials in their formation of immigration, social, economic and labour policies, among others. The project also seeks to provide a concrete and accessible model that the government can use to guide data collection on future entries and exits in the labour force. The study aims to:

1. Contextualise the local dynamics of job creation in Guyana and the migrant labour force at the sectoral level;
2. Identify the current and anticipated stakeholders and actors responding to the increase in economic growth and consequent development programmes;
3. Conduct a quantitative analysis of current supply and demand of labour in Guyana and contribute to a forecasting model to predict labour trends and provide guidance to the Government of Guyana for reaching equilibrium in the labour market;
4. Identify areas of intervention for continuous measurement of demand for foreign labour, the means of foreign labour recruitment, and the role of the Guyanese diaspora in Guyanese labour markets.

IOM IN THE CARIBBEAN

The IOM has extensive experience working with Caribbean governments, convening officials to discuss labour market issues and providing trainings on migration governance. As part of an effort to contribute to the body of data related to migration in the Caribbean, in 2018 IOM developed a needs assessment on migration governance for ten island states of the Caribbean. Following that study, in 2019, IOM published an innovative study that analyses the impact of free movement of people on the Caribbean labour markets. In that same year, IOM also conducted study on labour needs in the Dominican Republic. The present study is based on these experiences and is part of IOM’s mission to support the Guyana government in the development of data-driven policies.

PRIOR STUDIES

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