

Context

Guyana is an English-speaking country in the northern part of South America with high secondary school dropout rates and increasing crime and youth unemployment levels. Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment (SKYE) directly supports the goals of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which seeks to combat root causes of crime and violence, enhance public safety and security, offer job skills and training, and build partnerships with local nongovernmental organizations to provide rehabilitation for juvenile offenders.

About the Project

SKYE will expand education, skill-building, and employment for at-risk youth in Guyana, with the goal of reducing youth crime and violence by strengthening economic participation and civic engagement. This two-year project will provide targeted alternative sentencing, work readiness training, entrepreneurship development, and livelihood coaching for youth ages 15–24. The project will operate in urban regions 4, 6, and 10, and in a rural region 9.

Partners

Catholic Relief Services
Youth Challenge Guyana
Volunteer Youth Corps
Guyana Youth Business Trust

Contact Information

Ann Hershkowitz, Project Coordinator
(Washington, DC), ahershkowitz@edc.org
Kevin Corbin, Chief of Party
(Guyana), kcorbin@edc.org



EDC has extensive experience working with young people all over the world, and we've learned how to provide skills that expand opportunities. Our work responds to a call from the Government of Guyana to help at-risk youth become more productive members of their communities.

— Kevin Corbin, SKYE Chief of Party

Project Objectives

- Expand employment, education, and skill-building opportunities for at-risk youth
- Strengthen re-integration of youth offenders into society
- Strengthen enabling environment for youth development

Project Activities

1. Conduct a labor market assessment to identify sectors that have potential for employing youth
2. Identify existing youth services via a youth mapping activity
3. Develop curricula, toolkits, and/or training designs in the areas of work readiness, entrepreneurship, and coaching
4. Provide 6–12 months of individual coaching to each participant, which includes the support to create and implement an Individual Employability Plan
5. Increase the use of alternate justice and legal diversion options for youth within the juvenile justice system
6. Collaborate with the Government of Guyana, local NGO partners, and the private sector to advance project objectives