



Be Your Own Boss Progress Report

January to April 2016



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Skills and Knowledge for Youth
Employment (SKYE) Project

Overview

December 11, 2015 EDC through the USAID funded Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment Project signed a MoU with the Ministry of Communities governing the funding of the Sustainable Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development (SLED) initiative. This funding of GYD 20,000,000.00 was awarded to oversee the implementation of the business ideas amongst disadvantaged youths in an effort to boost and sustain growth and development in Guyana.

EDC through SKYE has been able with the funding through SLED ensured the funding of startup businesses for 44 youth in regions 3, 4, 6, and 10 (**See Appendix 1**). Further 58 additional disadvantaged youth accessed training through SLED funding. However, fifty six (56) youth (**See Appendix 2 & 3**) have completed their business plan presentations in the month of April and have expressed interest in starting up businesses to empower themselves and develop their communities. SLED funding is realizing the opportunity for communities to benefit from increased economic activity thereby allowing youth and their families to enjoy *the 'good life for all'*.

Regional description added to growth and success

Region 3

This region has several communities that are depressing with little opportunities for youth development. Youth who received start up kits came from communities within East Bank Demerara, West Bank Demerara and West Coast Demerara. These communities have very high unemployment levels, hence making it difficult for youth to access financial resources to adequately care for themselves. Due to the lack of sustainable employment youth are prone to crime and possible suicide. Under the SLED funds and BYOB initiative, seven youth received BYOB kits and started up businesses. Some of the areas of business are poultry rearing, grocery shop, barber shop and a snackette.



Kevon Lynch one of the recipients, was overjoyed as he anxiously awaited his supplies to start his barbering business. Currently, he has a barbering chair at a barbershop he is sharing with an associate in Stanleytown. Previously, Kevon was working with the associate, but since he learnt that he will be receiving the BYOB Kit he negotiated with the associate to operate as an independent barber paying a small fee for use of the building during the



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Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment (SKYE) Project

first six months of business. Kevon is conveniently located on the public road of Stanleytown where it is easy for customers to access his business. He has reported that business is very good as he benefits from some of his associate's customers whilst improving his barbering skills as he observes his associate.

Also, three youth namely, Collette Burgess, Keandra Archer and Yosan Mc Donald who did the training whilst in the New Opportunity Corps started their business through the SLED funding. Even though Keandra is pregnant, she has erected a stall outside her home in Parafaita Harmony and sells snacks such as egg ball, pholouri etc. at the stall and by walking through the community on given days.

Collette Burgess (Region 3): Collette is a smart youth who recently received a BYOB kit and started her poultry business. Collette dropped out of school in third form and has no educational qualifications. Collette lives with both parents even though she has learnt lately that there are not biologically related. The mother is visually impaired and the father has a minibus which is on route to generate income. The father is the sole provider for the home. Collette has no other siblings living in the home, thereby using it to her advantage to



always get her own way. The parents have often found it difficult to control Collette especially since she is easily influenced by friends. This situation together with having friends who were primarily interested in night life and a determination to have one's own way led her to the New Opportunity Corps (NOC) for wandering. Because of Collette's smartness she was very vocal, participated in debates and headed the catering classes at the NOC. However, the youth continued to struggle with attitude problems, lack of respect for authority, conduct and being influenced by the wrong friends. Today, Collette has been released from the NOC, improved her overall attitude, employed at Qualfon and she started her poultry rearing business. Collette is confident that her poultry business will be able to develop her capacity and help her to overcome some of her weaknesses. Had it not been for the BYOB kit through the SLED fund and SKYE, Collette would not be employed and preparing to pluck her first batch of chickens in two weeks, but rather be living at no stable residence with no steady income which could lead her back to NOC or even in prison.

Region 4

Generally, there is a lower preference for self-employment as compared to the other regions which can be likened to more available employment opportunities. The youth from this region reside in central Georgetown, on the East Coast of Demerara and East Bank of Demerara as far Diamond Housing Scheme. The youth in Georgetown are mostly driven by 'the get rich quick'



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**Skills and Knowledge for Youth
Employment (SKYE) Project**

syndrome where they expect that they should receive large sums of money for their labour. Such risky behaviour often leads to petty crime which can eventually lead them to prison. Some of the areas of business in this region are boutique, welding and fabrication, grocery shop, internet café and refrigeration.

Adyssa Henry (Region 4): Adyssa is a single mother with a three year old daughter. She dropped out of

school in grade 10 and has no secondary education. She lives with her mom since both parents separated at age eight. She had an assault charge which was dismissed in the Magistrate's court.

With no parental supervision as her mom travels to Barbados frequently since she was younger, Adyssa became a victim of teenage pregnancy. With five other siblings and no financial support from her daughter's father Adyssa found it difficult to develop her skills and provide a better life for her herself. After joining the

SKYE project and receiving a BYOB kit through SLED funding, Adyssa has opened a grocery shop which is serving residents in B Field Sophia. Even though there are other grocery shops in the community Adyssa is providing products at various quantities at an affordable price. Today, Adyssa is a proud business owner, building her capacity and is on the road to providing a better quality of life for herself and daughter.



Also worth mentioning is Lawrence Joe who started his clothing retailing business and is satisfied with his sales thus far. He recently came into the office to sort out documentation and showed his record of sales for the month which is satisfactory. Lawrence indicated that because of the increase in sales he needed to repurchase some items that were sold out. Lawrence suffers from Napoleon Complex of which he is often overlooked because of his physical stature. Such discrimination can

affect a young man's self-esteem leading to risky behaviours. Lawrence is operating in South Ruimveldt at the moment and is trying to secure a stall in the Bourda or nearby markets. The communities of Sophia, South Ruimveldt and other environs will benefit from the new business



enterprises as it allows for monies to be circulated within the communities raising its economic status and giving youth the opportunity to build their capacities as business owners.

Region 6

The assessment for region 6 includes youth residing on the Corentyne and East Bank Berbice. This region proves to be most successful for the BYOB. The success is attributed to several factors including high interest in business ownership, high unemployment, closer community network, stronger family support, minimal livelihood opportunities, high teenage pregnancy and increase suicide rate. Since the implementation of the BYOB, youth have been showing significant progress through business expansion. Some of the successful areas of business include poultry rearing, grocery shop, snackette and food vending and hairdressing salon.

Sarah Seuraj (Region 6): Sarah is the eldest of five siblings. Her mother had a kidney transplant some time back and has a terminal disease. Sarah has the responsibility to care for her parents and siblings which is very pressuring on the youth. The youth does not have much passes at CXC thus making it more difficult to enter the job market and start a

career. Sarah lives in Rosehall community which is known for little employment opportunities and high crime. Sarah relocated many times to Georgetown with the aim of getting a job but failed on every occasion. This was a very difficult period for Sarah as there seem to be no doors of opportunity for her to develop her capacity and earn a steady income. Such circumstance can often lead to risky behaviour notably suicide which is prevalent in the Corentyne region. Since joining the SKYE project, Sarah has developed her capacity to be able to start and efficiently manage a grocery shop. Sarah Seuraj started her grocery shop and has reported that since opening her business within less than a month she has repurchased many items such as snacks and included new items such as cosmetics as was requested by customers. Sarah is very satisfied with the way business is operating. She plans to expand the shop to include more groceries and also include an internet café.

Orlando Singh (Region 6): Orlando lives with an extended family. His father is mentally unsound and often leaves the home for days until he is





found. Orlando has few CXC passes and has been trying several options such as dancing to be able to build his capacity and generate income. Orlando is also battling with obesity which he is finding difficult to control since at a young age he has been cooking for his family and now as a business. Living in Rosehall community and having such challenges can often lead to risky behaviours such as suicide and crime. However, since joining the SKYE project and receiving a BYOB kit through the SLED funding, Orlando is enjoying increasing sales and generally satisfied with business.

Rebecca Johashen hails from a very large family; she is 1 of 12 siblings with her father being the sole breadwinner of the family. He is a cane harvester and life gets very difficult when Cane is out of crop. Despite their circumstances, the family adopted a disabled child bringing the number of children to 13. The family receives some help from the father's employer, who assisted them with a piece of land to build a home. Rebecca has a learning disability, she is slow to comprehend, she was however able to attain 2 cxc. Rebecca is very thankful



for the opportunity afforded her through SKYE with the issuance of a BYOB Kit, she is rearing poultry and it has allowed her to contribute to the family's wellbeing. In 3 weeks' time she will pluck her first batch of chickens.

It is believed that due to the high levels of suicide, it is difficult for youth to deal with their circumstances whilst not receiving a steady income. Region 6 has been campaigning for more BYOB trainings since Coaches believe that with the high success rates of youth who started their businesses, this serves as a motivation for other SKYE youth hence the increased interest in business ownership. Also, Community leaders are advocating for a continued presence of SKYE in Berbice.

Region 10

This region also has a high success rate of business start ups. Linden is known for prolonged slow economic activities over the years with little employment opportunity as such the youth in the community views the BYOB as some hope for them to generate income, build their capacities and develop their communities. Some of the youth who started up businesses reside in Amelia's Ward to as far as Old England in the Mines. There are high levels of teenage pregnancy in the region since youth have no meaningful activity to keep themselves occupied. Many of the females are single mothers and do not have any regular source of income. Some of the areas of business include poultry rearing, grocery shop, internet café and document centre and hairdressing salon. Businesses have been reporting satisfactory performances



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Skills and Knowledge for Youth Employment (SKYE) Project

particularly youth doing poultry rearing in the mines since there is a higher demand for chicken in the community. Such demand is also attributed to the fact that residents usually travel into Linden for chicken supplies. With such demand, communities can benefit from increasing sales and stronger capacities to expand and diversify business operations.

Nodicy Couchman (Region 10): Nodicy is a twenty year old mother. She has two children, ages one year and the other several months. Nodicy has no educational qualifications since she was expelled from high school after being a part of a gang that orchestrated a plan that resulted in a school teacher suffering serious injuries. The matter was dealt with in the Magistrate’s court and the youth charged with assault. Thereafter, Nodicy found herself in a common law relationship, living in a depressed



section of Cinderella City. As a full time mother who stays at home to take care of her children, Nodicy is totally dependent on her partner who works as a construction worker whenever jobs are available. Nodicy has been experiencing prolonged financial difficulties since there is no steady flow of income making it difficult to care for her family. Such financial troubles were so severe that building her shop to start her business was halted since last year. However, after learning that she was approved for a BYOB kit, Nodicy recognized this opportunity and within less than two weeks she was able to source funds to complete the roof for her shop. Thus far, she has reported that business is very good, sales is constantly increasing where several items were restocked and she has expanded into new products such as clothing.

Conclusion

Making funding available to disadvantaged/ at risk youth was a huge challenge before the USAID SKYE project. Being able to access additional funding in the place of startup grants (BYOB kit) is the reason a larger number of SKYE youth have been able to access a ticket towards the “good life”. Some of the youth are single mothers; others are in common law relationships with no parental support and have no steady or stable form of employment. They are depending on their partners to support the family in most instances. Receiving a BYOB kit will definitely give the youth the ability to develop their capacities into income generating enterprises and be elevated out of poverty. Additionally, youth will be able to stimulate economic development within their communities by providing goods and services that are needed at an affordable price. This will ultimately result in the overall progress of the community as one additional household becomes economically independent and gainfully employed, hence reducing the likelihood of crime.



Appendix 1

First batch of youth who received BYOB kits and started their businesses

No.	Name	Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
1	Collette Burgess	34 La Grange, West Bank Demerara	263-5066, 664-1546	Poultry Rearing	3
2	Immanuel Nurse	45 Church Street, Stanleytown, West Bank Demerara	670-6845	Grocery Shop	3
3	Kevon Lynch	55 Church Street, Stanleytown, West Bank Demerara	681-2590	Barber Shop	3
4	Keandra Archer	1535 West Minister Parafaite Harmony, West Bank Demerara	667-1988	Snackette	3
5	Vanessa Chapman	76 Wellington Street, Den Amstel, West Coast Demerara	698-2934	Variety	3
6	Sabita Lochan	3349 Tushcen Phase 2 Housing Scheme East Bank Essequibo	695-4061, 613-4834	Variety Shop	3
7	Yosan Mc Donald	743 Parafaite Harmonie West Bank Demerara	663-8681	Snackette/Food Vending	3
8	Adyssa Henry	2974 Section C Field Turkeyen Sophia	690-2023	Grocery & Variety Shop	4
9	Alieo Primo	458 D Field South Turkeyen	219-0310, 666-2517	Internet Café/Game Shop	4
10	Andrew Ambrose	1207 Bock Y Section C Grove/Diamond Housing Scheme	667-9521	Customs Brokerage	4
11	Carl Scott	Block Y Section C Grove East Bank Demerara	216-2609	Poultry Rearing	4
12	Cordel Nunes	1058 Cummings Park Block E Sophia	219-0576	Poultry Rearing	4
13	Deskeane Lanferman	68 Section B Block X Diamond Housing Scheme, East Bank Demerara	216-1393, 693-4235	Welding and Fabrication	4
14	Lawrence Joe	Third Stall Plasiance Market, East Coast Demerara	688-4260	Boutique	4
15	Shemika Mc Beam	1299 Cummings Park Sophia	676-6789, 686-1650	Poultry Rearing	4
16	Quancy Henry	50 C Field South Turkeyen Sophia	219-1527, 676-9200	Refrigeration Repairs	4
17	Keshana Tulapersaud	Plegt Anker Village East Bank Demerara	611-1756, 656-2034	Variety Shop	6 (Glasgow)



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Skills and Knowledge for Youth
Employment (SKYE) Project**

No.	Name	Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
18	Lashana Bennett	131 Sisters Village, East Bank Berbice	697-7321	Poultry Rearing	6 (Glasgow)
19	Raina Tambarin	Plegt Anker Village East Bank Berbice	688-5921, 670- 0390	Poultry Shop	6 (Glasgow)
20	Reshma Bhakan	Plegt Anker Village East Bank Berbice	693-2893	Poultry Rearing	6 (Glasgow)
21	Sonia Hinds	Sandvoort Village West Canjie Berbice	649-2333, 647- 9292	Snackette/Food Vending	6 (Glasgow)
22	Angada Ramsuchit	85 C Rosehall Town Corentyne	337-4451, 615- 5946	Grocery Shop	6 (Rosehall)
23	Colbert Halley	6 Manchester Village Corentyne	665-6226	Document Centre	6 (Rosehall)
24	Orlando Singh	Rosehall Town Market, Corentyne	337-4118, 600- 8072	Restaurant/Dini ng	6 (Rosehall)
25	Melissa Khan	Rosehall Town, Corentyne	337-4312, 665- 3893	Party Services	6 (Rosehall)
26	Rebecca Johashen	104 Chesney Front Corentyne	642-1080	Poultry Rearing	6 (Rosehall)
27	Romario Gomes	5 E Persaud Street, Rosehall Town Corentyne	618-1148	Tasty Snacks	6 (Rosehall)
28	Roshana Gallaway	Rosehall Town Market, Corentyne	337-4599, 683- 5868	Vegetable and Fruit Corner	6 (Rosehall)
29	Sarah Seuraj	198 3 rd Street Swamp Section Rosehall Town	337-4449, 610- 8461	Grocery Shop	6 (Rosehall)
30	Shemeniel Adams	A Tarlogie Farm Corentyne	325-3000, 685- 2783	Hydroponic Farming	6 (Rosehall)
31	Alexis Enniss	30 Health Centre Road West Watooka	444-8960, 613- 9408	Internet Café and Document Centre	10
32	Annique Williams	1608 Central Amelia's Ward	442-3300, 676- 2453	Variety Shop	10
33	Carla Sandy	24 Section 'C' Chirstianburg Wismar	442-0165, 673- 7531	Poultry Rearing	10
34	Dinelle Cameron	602 Block 22 Wismar	444-7133, 656- 5208	Ice Cream Parlour	10
35	Jennel Payne	238 Wisroc Housing Scheme Wismar	674-2350, 613- 2577	Hairdressing Salon	10
36	Juliet Da Silvia	85 Lower Kara Kara Speightland	444-2372, 688- 2176	Internet Café	10



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**Skills and Knowledge for Youth
Employment (SKYE) Project**

No.	Name	Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
37	Keisha Spencer	West Wootooka Wismar		Poultry	10
38	Kevin Gilkes	136 Blue Berry Hill Wismar	696-4011	Grocery Shop	10
39	Kevin Williams	1764 Central Amelia's Ward	688-0948	Poultry Rearing	10
40	Lashawn Fraser	92 Half Mile Wismar	697-6081	Ice -Cream Parlour	10
41	Melissa Browman	721 One Mile Wismar	659-9552	Hairdressing Salon	10
42	Nodicy Couchman	1003 Cinderella City Amelia's Ward	679-0842, 601-4892	Grocery Shop	10
43	Valetta Wyatt	Green Heart Street, Mc Kenzie	672-3219	Snackette	10
44	Waleisa Darrell	420 Block 22 Wismar	662-6777	Hairdressing Salon	10



Appendix 2

Second batch of youth who are recommended for BYOB kit and are ready to start up business through initial savings under the SLED fund

No.	Name	Business Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
REGION 5					
1	Beveary Hamilton	Lot 491 28 Trafalgar Village, West Coast Berbice	328 2774/ 645 5054	Hairdressing Salon	5
REGION 6 – EAST BANK BERBICE					
2	Andrew Nanhu	Lot 161 Edinburgh Scheme, East Bank Berbice	668 4307	Poultry Rearing	6
3	Anella Davis	Smythfield High Dam	680 0158/ 696 8899	Poultry Rearing	6
4	Malinda Durant	Korthberadolt Village, East Bank Berbice	691 8364	Poultry Rearing (Meat Birds & Layers)	6
5	Romario Shanideo	74 Edinburgh Scheme, East Bank Berbice	648 4913	Internet Café	6
REGION 6 - CORENTYNE					
6	Bakedia Clarke	Lot 173 # 77 Village, First Street, Corriverton, Berbice	335 3969/ 671 9950	Grocery Shop	6
7	Delroy Albert	Lot 40 Dingwall Farm	325 5506/ 665 6465	Integrated Farming	6
8	Demetri Cameron	Lot 8 Auchlyne, Corentyne, Berbice	671 2310/ 671 6116	Poultry Rearing	6
9	Garfield Lashley	Lot 37 Bulletwood Street, Rose Hall Town	337 4996	Poultry Rearing	6
10	Janet Moore	Lot 227 Third Street, Rose Hall Town	690 1297	Sheep & Chicken Farm	6
11	Latchmie Mayers	239 Fourth Street, Swamp Section, Rose Hall Town	337 4130/ 627 1789	Poultry Rearing	6
12	Marcia Lashley	Lot 40 Martin Street, Rose Hall Town, Corentyne, Berbice	614 4603	Hairdressing Salon	6
13	Marria Woodroffe	Lot 158 Second Street, Swamp Section, Rose Hall Town, Corentyne	337 4809/ 684 6168	Poultry Rearing	6



No.	Name	Business Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
14	Melika George	Lot 9 Kildonan Village	666 4973	Natural Care (Beauty Centre)	6
15	Naiomi Narine	Lot 13 'G' King Street, Hampshire, Corentyne	322 5100/ 641 2049	Chowmein production	6
16	Nelisha Mc Donald	Lot 18 'A' Nurney Village, Corentyne, Berbice	331 0262/ 688 0735	Poultry Rearing	6
17	Shoneik Mc Kenzie	Lot 17 Kildonan Village	331 0192/ 680 5487	Variety Shop	6
18	Shonnette Gray	Lot 37 Section 'C' Leeds Village, Corentyne, Berbice	668 1306	Duck & Pig Rearing	6
19	Tandica Kendell	Lot 131 Mibicuri South, Black Bush Polder	686 5817	Grocery Shop	6
20	Tonzia Davis	Adventure Village, Corentyne, Berbice	699 5438/ 675 5604	Food Snackette	6
Region 4					
21	Akeem Williams	Melanie Damishana Public Road, East Coast Demerara	659 1622/ 680 7078	Honey Production	4
22	Akila Melville	Old Sand Pit Road, Kuru Kururu,	644 6178	Ice cream shop	4
23	Antonnio Seymour	Lot 122 Victoria Village, East Coast Demerara	256 0739/ 647 8372	Repair Shop	4
24	Tavis Clarke	183 Section B, Pattensen, Turkeyen, East Coast Demerara	219 2096	Landscaping Services	4
25	Tiffany Peters	Lot 35 Garden of Eden, East Bank Demerara	266 5886/ 668 9929	Poultry Rearing	4
26	Tonisha Clarke	Georgetown Public Hospital Outpatient Section, Georgetown	231 9757/ 648 4963	Snackette	4

Appendix 3

Additional youth who require funding

No.	Name	Business Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
Region 3					
1	Abigail	85 Coglan Dam, West	602 9145	Grocery Shop	3



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**Skills and Knowledge for Youth
Employment (SKYE) Project**

No.	Name	Business Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
	Moore	Bank Demerara			
2	Alphius Morgan	963 Belle West, Canal # 2, West Bank Demerara	610 5025	Welding Shop	3
3	Marvalus Peters	1761 Onderneeming, Parfait Harmonie, West Bank Demerara	692 9061/ 621 6942	Business Centre	3
4	Onica Anderson	11 Parfait Harmonie, Fourth Corner, West Bank Demerara	699 8133	Ice cream Parlour	3
5	Oretta Stephenson	Lot 6 Phoenix Park, West Bank Demerara	696 0962/ 264 2859	Beauty Salon	3
6	Shebiki Peroune	Pouderoyen Market Tarmac, West Bank Demerara	663 8316	Snackette	3
7	Tinnesha Henry	Lot 310 Crane Housing Scheme, East Bank Demerara	648 0784	Grocery Shop & Baby Boutique	3
8	Venu Persaud	1694 Belle West, Canal No. 2, West Bank Demerara	674 4421	Business Centre	3
9	Tiffany Ramcharran	42-48 Westminister, Parfaite Harmonie, West Bank Demerara	653 0166/ 694 0058	Poultry Farming	3
REGION 4					
10	Akita Joseph	Second Stall on left at East Ruimveldt Market	693 4257/ 231 8494	Boutique	4
11	Johnathon Anthony	281 Section A, Block Y, Grove Housing Scheme, East Bank Demerara	682 2284	Clothing Designing	4
12	Mario Parasram	491 McKennon Street, 'B' Field, Sophia	676 7588/ 219 3347	T-Shirt Designing/Printing	4
REGION 10					
13	Akeem Caesar	590 Half Mile, Wismar, Linden	663 5315/ 681 7013	Barber Shop & Chill Spot	10
14	Alex McFarlane			Poultry Farm	10
15	Althea Lorrimer	Three Friends Mines, Upper Demerara River	696 2643	Poultry Farm	10
16	Amelia Palsuram	Dora, Demerara River	697 7757	Poultry Farm	10



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**Skills and Knowledge for Youth
Employment (SKYE) Project**

No.	Name	Business Address	Contact Information	Business	Region
17	Bevon Cadogan	Maria Elizabeth Mines, Demerara River	686 9452/ 643 6115	Poultry Farm	10
18	Christina Ramdeholl	Dora, Demerara River	693 7396/ 669 2055	Grocery Shop	10
19	Dellvone Richmond	97 Wisroc Housing Scheme, Wismar	673 1663/ 627 6340	Grocery Shop & Chill Spot	10
20	Diane Bremner	Coomacka Mines, Upper Demerara River, Linden	678 6778	Stationery & Variety Centre	10
21	Falana Menton	Coomacka Mines, Upper Demerara River, Linden	678 4964/ 681 5832	Poultry Farm	10
22	Gemmaly Spencer	Muritaro, Upper Demerara River, Linden	682 7198/ 444 9283	Poultry Farm	10
23	Kayron Mingo	Lot 37 Old Kara Kara, Linden	444 4682/ 659 7279	Game Shop	10
24	Lotoya John	G5 Canvas City, Wismar, Linden	444 8232/ 673 9755	Seafood Centre	10
25	Shamika Murray	Winifred Gaskin Highway, Wisroc Junction, Linden	629 9936/ 676 8768	Snackette & Bar	10
26	Shellon Paulsuram	Maria Elizabeth Mines, Upper Demerara River, Linden	670 7597/ 674 8942	Snackette	10
27	Shamacia Duggan	Muritaro, Upper Demerara River	444 9283/ 675 9820	Grocery Shop	10
28	Suvita Pulmeyere	Coomacka Mines, Linden – opp. The Nursery & Primary schools	603 4311/ 675 3454	Meat World	10
29	Veron Lorrimer	Three Friends Mines, Upper Demerara River, Linden	670 5144	Feed & Ice cream shop	10
30	Melanie Billing	678 South Amelia's Ward, Linden	601 4840/ 442 4534	Chicken supplies	10
31	Akeem Pashur	17 Prince Williams Street, Plaisance, East Coast Demerara	220-4916	Game Shop (Business Plan already submitted)	2 (NOC) He is expected to be release soon



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Employment (SKYE) Project