

# National Payments System

## Bank of Guyana

### Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

#### Overview

The Bank of Guyana (BOG) in recognizing that a well-developed and efficient payment system is essential for economic growth and financial stability has with technical and financial assistance from the World Bank undertaken a comprehensive and strategic reform of Guyana’s National Payments System (NPS) and to advance the use of electronic payments.

The development of a NPS will support economic growth through the financial sector that is stable and enables efficient financial intermediation. Payment and securities settlement systems have a strong bearing on financial stability as it can reduce operational, credit, legal, liquidity, investment and general business risks in a system.

Furthermore modernization efforts from paper-based instruments to electronic payments can result in significant cost savings in processing money transfers and increased efficiency in the processing of payments.

The BOG over the project years (four) with active participation and cooperation from key NPS stakeholders such as the Government of Guyana – the largest end-user of payment services, and the commercial banks has taken the lead role in the modernization of the NPS. This is a US\$6 million Project that will be executed from March 2017 to March 2021, with the objective to improving Guyana’s National Payments System by enhancing safety and efficiency of payments. Bank of Guyana is the implementing agency for this project.

#### Project Cost and Financing by the World Bank

Project		US\$
Component 1	Developing Payments System Infrastructure	4,300,000
Component 2	Capacity Building of the Bank of Guyana	1,380,000
Component 3	Project Implementation Unit	320,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,000,000</b>



## Structure of the Implementing Unit (PIU)

The Bank of Guyana created a Unit within called the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to fulfill its mandate. The PIU is responsible for the day-to-day management of the development of the National Payments System (NPS) in collaboration with the World Bank. The PIU was created in fiscal year 2017 as a Project Unit to execute the implementation of the NPS, as mentioned before it is projected to be completed in fiscal year 2021.

The PIU is staffed with full-time, capable and qualified personnel for the implementation of the project. The team recruited is trained and equipped to coordinate, manage, implement, and supervise all project activities.

In addition, a technical team from BOG (IT Department) and other key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance, the National Insurance Scheme, the Guyana Revenue Authority and the six (6) Commercial Banks also provide technical support to the PIU.

The PIU main functions are as follows:

- Coordinate, manage, implement, supervise, finalize, and document all the activities related to the Project;
- Manage the implementation of project activities;
- Manage the procurement and financial management aspects;
- Coordinate the preparation, adjustments, and use of the project management tools, including the operational manual, working annual plan, procurement plan, and disbursement projections;
- Monitor the progress of project development indicators and the intermediate indicators of the Results Framework;
- Prepare project reports; and
- Act as the main point of contact for the World Bank.

