

Critical Issues Facing Garment and Textiles Sector in Guyana

Critical Issues Identified in Workshop #1	
Human Resource/Workforce Development	
Critical Issue	# of Votes
Lack of skills at all levels: trained machine operators, machine mechanics, supervisors or technical production experts, pattern makers	9
Lack of training to international standards	0
Lack of training based on needs of industry	6
Lack of company specific training	6
Infrastructure	
Critical Issue	# of Votes
High overhead costs due to poor infrastructure - high cost and unreliability of electricity supply and high cost of transportation and long shipment times	13
Access to Finance	
Critical Issue	# of Votes
Access to affordable, competitive finance	4
Prohibitive loan repayments	2
Government	
Critical Issue	# of Votes
Lack of clear government policy regarding the industry	11
Economy	
Critical Issue	# of Votes
Small size of local market	1
Industry Specific	
Critical Issue	# of Votes
Lack of awareness about global developments facing sector, competition, and demand	8
Difficulty in accessing raw materials at a competitive cost	7
Lack of critical mass and economies of scale	0
Outmoded technology	1
Lack of shared vision for the industry	4
Lack of export diversification	7
Lack of focus on niche markets	4
Competing undervalued/dumped products	0
Insufficient awareness of quality standards and implementation of quality control procedures	6

Additional Issues Identified in ATC Report¹	
Infrastructure	
Critical Issue	
Lack of access to affordable factory space	
Delays at customs	
Government	
Critical Issue	
Insufficient incentives to work due to low tax threshold and high job protection	
Insufficient incentives to manufacturing - led to culture of importing	
Industry Specific	
Critical Issue	
Insufficient government-private sector information sharing e.g. impact trade agreements	
Lack of independent design capabilities	

¹ Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation and Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (2004), *The Phasing Out of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing: Meeting the Competitiveness Challenge by Building Competitiveness in Guyana Clothing and Textile Sector*, Draft Working Paper