

## **GUYANA FORUM FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING (GFLL)**

Refer to NGO Profiles section for basic organizational and contact information.

1. ***Briefly describe the members of your network, including any rules for membership.***

Within our leadership programme – **LeadCom** – with our Canadian-based partner, CASRI, our community leadership network consists of over 50 community leaders who are active in over 80 NGOs and community organizations from Regions 2-7 and 10. The network meets in local Community Forums as often as needed and any leader who is working or want to work for positive change and is open to working collaboratively, is welcomed.

2. ***Is your network more formal or informal?***

The leadership network is both informal and semi-formal. Small leadership teams meet regularly and have volunteer co-coordinators as well as an agenda of priority tasks. The Community Forum sessions are semi-structured and facilitated but relations among Forum participants are informal at this stage.

3. ***List at least two significant benefits that the network provides for its members.***

- (a) Sharing and exchanging information, ideas, approaches, ways of overcoming obstacles and advancing the process of change.
- (b) Encouragement and moral support.
- (c) Training in leadership skills.
- (d) Support in developing and implementing collaborative community projects.

4. ***What special challenges have faced you as a network, and how were they overcome (or not)?***

The network is relatively new and challenges are yet to emerge. However, the main challenges that are beginning to emerge are:

- the heavy workload of the small group of leaders that are located in the various communities or districts and
- the need for persons to co-ordinate the leadership program on a national as well as Regional basis (the number of leadership teams in the Regions are growing).

**5. *What advice would you give to others on networking or forming/joining a network?***

- (a) Be clear on the shared purpose of the network
- (b) Have clear goals and key tasks that everyone knows and have agreed to
- (c) Ensure that the roles and activities of the network are realistic and meet the priority and felt needs of members.
- (d) Members should be truly open to working collaboratively and should have clear roles in relation to tasks.

**6. *Is there anything else that you would like to say about networking or networks/coalitions?***

Building networks and coalitions in Guyana is a major challenge given our culture of leadership, the persistent low capacity and economic resource within groups and organizations. In the process of building collaborative work, a cultural change is needed and that would take 5-10 years.