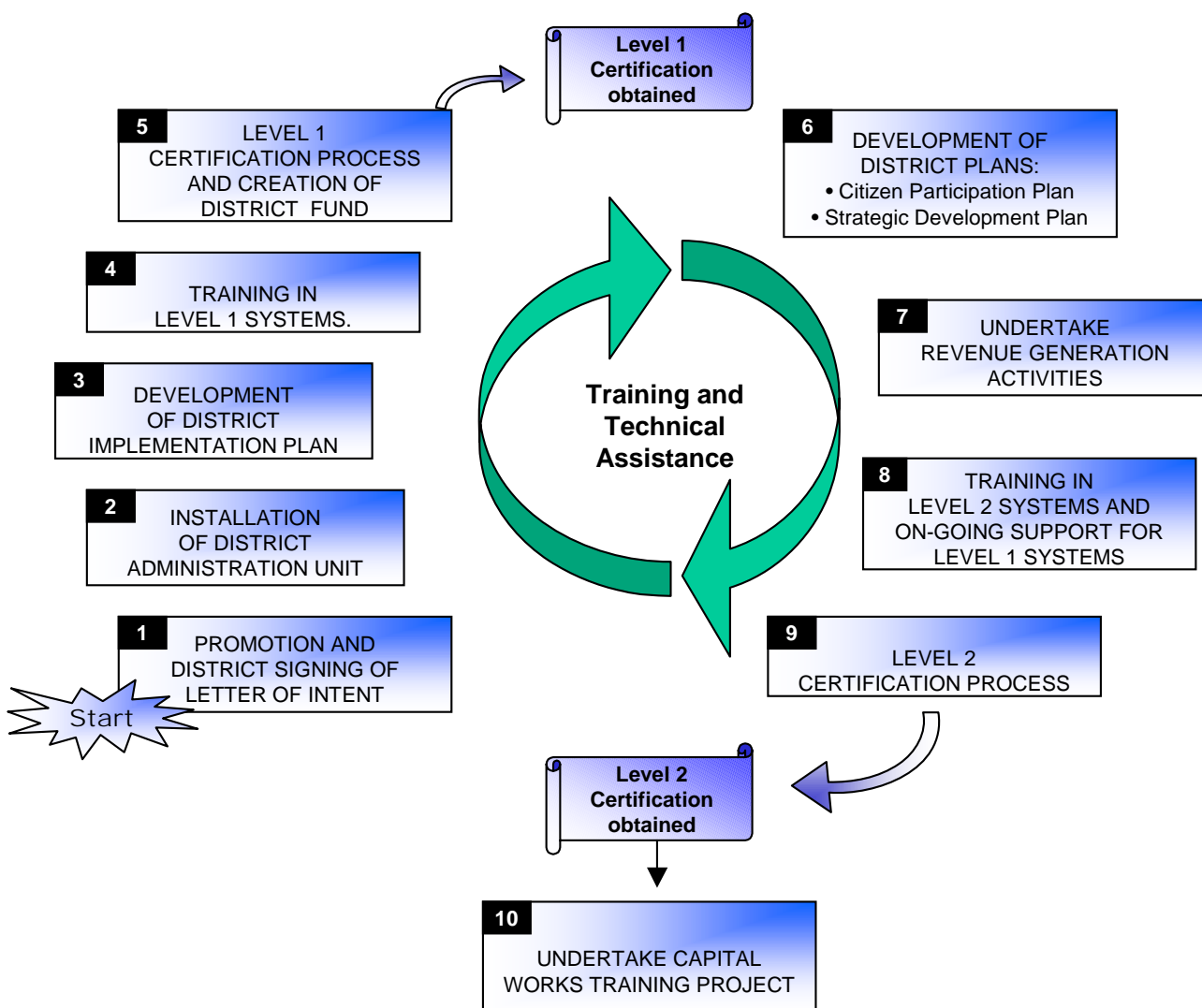


11. The Certification Process¹¹

The Project Cycle



Certification Levels

The district capacity building component involves a two-level certification process. Each level of certification has associated with it a set of clearly defined Program activities geared towards strengthening the districts in priority areas. Districts will be required to achieve Level 1 certification in order to be eligible to benefit from the Program activities associated with Level 2 certification. Level 1 certification corresponds to the certification process that is referred to in article 7 of the Interim Law (2003, 33), see Annex (See: Certification Table in accordance of the Guidelines (Memorandum of Understanding) of Minister of Finance) . The Level 2 certification process, however, is specific to the DLGP.

Level 1 certification encompasses the following activities:

- (i) Installation of a District Administration Unit (FPU), including:
 - Hiring and training of a District Administrator, a Budget and Financial Manager, a Bookkeeper and a Cashier;
 - Rehabilitation of the District Commissariat to accommodate the FPU;
 - Acquisition of furniture, equipment (communications and computer) and materials to support the FPU;
- (ii) Development of a District Implementation Plan for participation in the DLGP.
- (iii) Installation of a Budget and Finance Management system, a district administration system, a human resource management system and accounting software.
- (iv) Training and technical assistance in the aforementioned systems; the attainment of an adequate level of proficiency by the FPU and district staff.

Level 1 certification requires the certification by the Ministry of Finance and by the MRD that the district has achieved the aforementioned systems. Level 1 certification provides districts with the authority to create a District Fund, to

¹¹ DLGP Operating Regulations and Guideline July, 2004

undertake revenue generation activities and to manage district funds. It is estimated that six months are needed upon starting in a district to reach Level 1 certification. It requires "formal" Level 1 certification by Ministerial Decree.

Upon attaining "technical" Level 1 certification by the Managing Director of PIU, pilot districts. Districts Wanica, Nickerie and Para are eligible to be certified for Level 1 in November 2005 and shortly after the districts Commewijne and Marowijne will follow.

Level 2 certification requires at least the "technical" Level 1 certification by the Managing Director of PIU plus (i) the completion and adoption of a Strategic Development Plan; (ii) the development and adoption of a Citizen Participation Plan; (iii) the achievement of the established benchmarks for revenue generation, including the implementation of structures to obtain private donations to implement public works projects; and (iv) installation of a public works, road and maintenance management system; (v) installation of a capital investment programming & budget system; and (vi) proficiency in the use of the aforementioned systems including the successful implementation of two successive quarters of the district's annual budget.

Though the PIU will be overall responsible for implementation, the MRD will certify the successful completion and adoption of the Strategic Development Plan, certify the adoption of the Citizen Participation Plan, certify the installation of the public works, road and maintenance management system, certify the installation of the capital investment programming & budget system, and proficiency in the use of the aforementioned systems. The review and approval of the achievement of revenue generation benchmarks and the successful implementation of two successive quarters of the district's annual budget will be certified by TMOF¹².

Upon attaining Level 2 certification by the Managing Director of PIU pilot districts will be eligible to receive co-financing from the DLGP for one road rehabilitation-training project and one road maintenance - training project. The Districts Wanica, Nickerie and Para will be eligible for Level II certification in December 2005, while the districts Commewijne and Marowijne will follow soon after.

¹² Task Force Ministry of Finance