



UNITED NATIONS
GUYANA



DECADE
OF
ACTION

UN GUYANA
ANNUAL
RESULTS
REPORT
2021





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FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

As I present this Annual Report of UN results, I invite you to share my view that 2021 witnessed the laying of critical foundations for the Guyana of the future, the Guyana which will achieve the 2030 Agenda. I am thinking specifically of the new draft 2030 Low Carbon Development Strategy, the enactment of the Natural Resources Fund Act, and consultations on the new Representation of the Peoples Act.

Together, they underpin Guyana's plans to shore up democracy, and use natural resources, including oil and gas, to deliver on the SDGs whilst negotiating a route towards a sustainable, net zero future.

And as I look at the UN results reported here, I am proud to see how the Agencies, Funds and Programmes of the UN System mobilized behind national efforts in 2021 to recover from Covid-19 and get back on track to achieve the SDGs.

We did so in particular by throwing our support behind national recovery drives in health and education. Through COVAX, the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history, WHO/PAHO helped deliver more than 300,000 vaccines to Guyana. More than 170,000 children were able to continue learning through the Covid-19 lockdowns, thanks in part to UNICEF's work with the national education system.

Just as Guyana was turning the tide against COVID, it suffered heavy rains and flooding. They impacted every administrative region and they were economically disastrous for Guyana's farmers, fishers and miners.

As this Report shows, UN agencies re-directed their work to support the post-disaster assistance provided by the government. WFP introduced a new

program to bolster social protection, whilst FAO and UN Women complemented the national assistance programs with targeted cash grants and agricultural inputs to women farmers.

Even when the floods receded, disruptions to the global supply chain continued, and food prices kept rising. These trends demonstrated the prescience of Guyana's determination to transform food systems nationally and in the Caribbean: to support this FAO was able to support a national dialogue on food systems in Guyana as part of the 2021 international Food Systems Summit.

In 2021 also, we worked with national authorities in helping Guyana uphold its human rights treaty obligations, including by protecting migrants and refugees. Gender-based violence is arguably the most egregious violation of rights. I was proud in 2021 to see UN agencies and the Government take decisive ownership of actions towards ending this scourge and laying the groundwork for integrated response and services for survivors, made possible by the largest global investment in women's rights – the EU-funded Spotlight initiative.

The resources allocated into recovering from COVID-19 and floods are stark reminders of the importance of investing in mitigating the risks of disasters and climate change. That is why I believe that the Government's Budget 2022 is also foundational for Guyana's SDG achievement: Investments in energy transition, infrastructure, education, health and social protection as foreseen in the Budget – the first Guyana national budget to use oil and gas revenues- have the potential to create that resilience and to put the country on an ambitious path towards the SDGs.

Laying foundations for the future is a momentous task. Foundations need to be strong. They also need to be balanced and inclusive. All people in Guyana are entitled to think that the foundations will buttress their own plans for a better future. In fact, they will trust their footing on those foundations if they can be part of building them.

So allow me again to recognize the development foundations laid in Guyana in 2021. I assure all of our partners that in the UN System, you will find an organization committed to strengthening the coverage, equity and resilience of the country's development foundations. You will see this in our

new Cooperation Framework for the period 2022-2026, and its Implementation Plans. And this year you will see it in our efforts to engage young people and persons with disabilities in Guyana's development discourse.

I look forward to reporting back to you next year with further news of our shared achievements.



Yeşim Oruç
Resident Coordinator
United Nations Guyana

UN COUNTRY TEAM

The following United Nations Agencies, Funds, and Programmes maintain a field presence in Guyana:



The following UN Specialized Agencies, Funds, and Programmes conduct operations in Guyana from regional offices or international offices.

In addition, the UN’s Regional Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the World Bank (a UN Specialized Agency) also operate in Guyana.



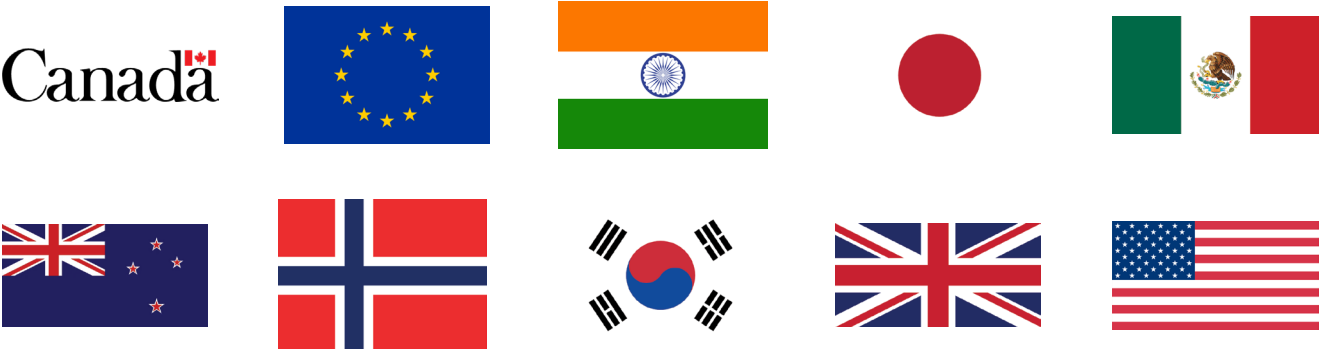
Together, these organizations are called the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and they support Guyana’s development.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN SYSTEM IN GUYANA

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Guyana thanks all UN Member States for their support of our work in 2021, and takes this opportunity to acknowledge Member States for their provision of assessed contributions, voluntary (i.e. extra-

budgetary) contributions, and contributions to the UN budget for peacekeeping operations. All are critical for the work of the United Nations worldwide.

In particular, the Guyana UNCT acknowledges the following development partners for their direct support of the UN System's work in Guyana:



In addition, the United Nations in Guyana acknowledges the contributions made by Guyana's development partners to the following funding facilities. These funding instruments have enabled the execution of a range of UN activities in Guyana:



¹ 44 donor countries have provided contributions to the GCF.
² 40 donor countries have provided contributions to the GEF.
³ More than 80 countries have made or pledged contributions to the Global Fund.
⁴ 22 countries fund the Global Partnership for Education

The United Nations celebrates its work, partnerships and activities with the following national authorities in Guyana in 2021:

Bureau of Statistics	Guyana Supreme Court of Judicature	Ministry of Natural Resources
Civil Defence Commission	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance
Director of Public Prosecutions	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce
Environmental Protection Agency	Ministry of Education	National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI)
Guyana Bar Association	Ministry of Finance	National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS)
Guyana Energy Agency	Ministry of Health	Office of the President-Department of Environment and Climate Change
Guyana Lands and Survey Commission	Ministry of Home Affairs	Office of the Prime Minister
Guyana Livestock Development Authority	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security	
Guyana Police Force	Ministry of Legal Affairs	

The United Nations is grateful to the following inter-governmental bodies for their partnership in 2021.



Finally, the United Nations would like to acknowledge the important partnerships formed and activities conducted with the following partners in 2021:

- Amerindian Peoples Association
- Artistes in Direct Support
- Blossom Inc.
- Carnegie School of Home Economics
- Child Link
- Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
- Guyana Equality Forum
- Guyana Rainbow Foundation
- Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
- Guyana Sex Work Coalition
- Guyana Trans United
- Guyana Women Miners Organization
- Help and Shelter
- HIAS
- Hope Foundation
- International Republican Institute
- MEGA 102.1 FM
- Merundoi Inc.
- N/TIP Guyana
- Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
- Private Sector Commission
- Proud To Be Trans
- Red Thread
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Georgetown
- Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination
- The Guyana Foundation
- University of Guyana
- United Bricklayers
- US Peace Corps
- Voices GY
- Worship in Spirit and in Truth (WIST) Ministries International Inc.
- Youth Challenge Guyana

CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY

POLITICS

In 2021, Guyana sought to move on from the 2020 political and constitutional crisis. Continued contestation of the election results was pursued peacefully and democratically, through the courts.

Further, new draft legislation, aimed at revising electoral laws to lessen the chances of future political crises, was presented to parliament in November, with public scrutiny of the bill continuing into 2022. After a lengthy suspension of activities, Guyana's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) resumed its work in the second half of 2021, improving scrutiny of national expenditure.

Meanwhile, a chairman and new members of the Law Reform Commission were appointed, important steps in the planned, wide-ranging revision of Guyana's legislative code.

In addition, in 2021, Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to media freedom, the safety of journalists, and press scrutiny of public affairs by becoming the 49th country to join the Media Freedom Coalition.

However, there was only limited progress in the appointment of members of constitutional bodies such as the Police Service Commission, Judicial Service Commission, and the Ethnic Relations Commission.

In addition, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was among factors that prevented the holding of scheduled local elections in 2021 and the National Tshaos' Council (last held in 2019).

In January 2021, as the International Court of Justice prepared for hearings on the Guyana/Venezuela border controversy, Venezuela seized two Guyanese vessels and their crews for alleged illegal fishing. Two Venezuelan fighter jets conducted low altitude manoeuvres over a Guyanese village in Region 7.

Guyana's President, H.E. Irfaan Ali, condemned Venezuela's actions and in September 2021 alerted the UN General Assembly accordingly.

THE ECONOMY

Guyana was one of the fastest growing economies in the world in 2021, thanks to 45% growth in oil and gas and 29.8% growth in construction.

Overall GDP growth was 19.9% in 2021, whilst the non-oil economy (which contracted in 2020) grew by 4.6%. The 2022 budget now forecasts growth of 47.5%, driven by a potential tripling in oil production, with the non-oil economy forecast to grow by 7.7%. Two major factors significantly impacted business and the economy in 2021.

First, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic: by year end, the country had recorded nearly 40,000 cases of the virus with 1,054 deaths.

A joint World Bank/UNDP report on the Latin America/Caribbean region showed that 7% of Guyanese lost regular jobs after the onset of the pandemic, and a further 16% became economically inactive.

Secondly, above average rainfalls from May to July resulted in the most serious and widespread flooding for at least fifteen years. Some 52,000 households were directly affected by floodwaters. These headwinds combined to cause contractions in the agriculture (notably rice and sugar), forestry, and fishing sectors. Operations in land-based mining were also suspended for weeks as a result of the floods.

Inflation for the year was 5.7%, with food prices up by 11.6% on the previous year due to global supply chain issues and lower domestic agricultural output. The rise in food prices continued into 2022.

A series of policy measures were introduced to attenuate the social and economic damage caused by the floods and coronavirus, including social protection measures. The Government announced GY\$7.8 billion (USD\$37.5 million) flood relief package, with assistance going to large commercial farming businesses, smallholder farmers, and homeowners. By mid-December, Guyana had fully vaccinated some 55% of adults (and a slightly smaller proportion of the total population), making significant

progress towards achieving national herd immunity. The monthly national minimum wage in the private sector was increased to GUY\$60,000 (about US\$290) in 2021, representing a 35.7% increase.

Meanwhile, a 7% salary increase was announced for all public servants, teachers, and government pensioners.

Finally, 2021 saw the passage of a 'local content' law, which aims to ensure that access to oil and gas business opportunities are available to local service providers as well as to international firms.

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

Social policy initiatives in 2021 included the legalisation of 'cross-dressing'. The step eliminates a law that the Caribbean Court of Justice previously flagged as inhibiting the right of freedom of expression.

Guyana retained its 'Tier 1' ranking in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report, and launched 592STOP, a hotline dedicated to reporting on people trafficking.

National authorities recommitted to upholding their humanitarian obligations to migrants, and, with support from the UN, responded to the acute needs of migrants in remote areas of the country. The Guyana Police Force (GPF) reported an 18.8% decline in serious crimes in 2021 (as compared to 2020), but also registered a 50% increase in reported rapes.

To combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Guyana launched a '914' hotline to provide support and assistance to survivors of SGBV. The country also appointed eight government ministers and representatives from 13 public entities and CSOs to the National Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Violence.

Guyana's childcare authorities continued to provide important summary statistics on the abuse of minors, with figures for the full year in 2020 made available, and for the first two quarters of 2021.

THE ENVIRONMENT

In October 2021, Guyana launched for consultation a draft of the new Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), with public consultations continuing into 2022. The plan describes how Guyana aims to moderate the effects of its economic growth on the environment and adapt to the risks of global heating. The strategy also sets out the Government's plans to evaluate and cost forest and ecosystem services and prepare for their eventual monetization on global markets. Guyana made further plans to change its energy mix, notably by building a natural gas power plant (by 2025) and the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project (by 2027).

Both projects could significantly reduce the carbon intensity of Guyana's energy production and use.

In 2021, the Escazú Agreement entered into force. Guyana was among the first set of countries to sign and ratify the Agreement. This environmental treaty aims to boost citizen participation and improve citizen access to justice in environmental matters.

In October, His Excellency President Ali welcomed the Colombian President as he hosted the third summit of the 'Leticia Pact' in Georgetown. The Pact is an alliance of Amazon countries committed to curbing the growing occurrence of wildfires in the Amazon basin. Guyana recommitted itself to preserving the Guiana Shield, a vital carbon sink.

⁵ The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CHAPTER 2

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The UN's development assistance in Guyana is delivered through a multi-country cooperation framework covering the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean.

For the period 2017-2021, this partnership framework has four priority areas, oriented around (i) prosperity; (ii) health; (iii) safety and security; and (iv) sustainability and resilience.

Priority Area 1:

An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Guyana

Access to quality education and life-long learning increased, for enhanced employability and sustainable economic development

Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities improved

Priority Area 3:

A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean

Capacities of public policy and rule-of-law institutions and civil society organisations strengthened

Equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety reinforced

Priority Area 2:

A Healthy Caribbean

Universal access to quality health care services and systems improved

Laws, policies, and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population

Priority Area 4:

A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean

Policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place

Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, restoration, and use of ecosystems and natural resources

Figure 1: The Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Dutch- and English-Speaking Caribbean, 2017-2021.

The results reported by UN entities are obtained through the work they support with national government and non-governmental partners. These results are summarised below: ⁶

⁶ UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes are typically required to report results disaggregating by sex and age segment: ensuring this obligation is met will be a priority for the 2022 results report.

Priority Area 1: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Guyana

UNICEF's programmes with pre-primary, primary and secondary institutions ensured children continued to learn even whilst schools remained closed during the pandemic, whilst UNHCR and IOM helped migrant and refugee children get into school for the first time.

Together, **UNESCO** and **UNICEF** supported the training of 750 teachers to use online education tools, resources, and platforms

Combined, the UN supported the national drive to ensure that more than **170,000 children** continued learning in 2021.

IOM completed a labour migration study to help national policymakers assess the future staffing and employment requirements of Guyana's burgeoning private sector.

UNDP helped survey 1,100 square miles of land to prepare for the transfer of land titles to Amerindian peoples.

FAO helped digitalize data collection in agricultural food systems with the Guyana Rice Development Board, improving quality control and monitoring for more than 160 tonnes of rice produced by 6,000 farmers.

WFP launched a COVID-19 support programme to strengthen national social protection systems in partnership with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSS). In 2021, 9,218 people (2,561 households) received cash transfers as part of the programme.

UNDP connected 28 ICT Hubs in remote areas to clean energy supplies as the government stepped up efforts to eliminate the digital divide in Guyana.

IFAD supported the participation of local civil society, the private sector, and indigenous communities in decision-making discussions on the allocation and use of national budget resources in Region 9.

UNHCR trained 34 individuals to instruct other trainers to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). UNHCR also provided ESL to 378 Venezuelan children and adults. A further 235 indigenous Venezuelan children were enrolled in community-based ESL classes.

UNHCR supported 130 Venezuelans with short-term work opportunities in Regions 1, 4 and 7. UNHCR also helped 44 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Regions 1 and 7 graduate from vocational courses, and provided guidance on labour market opportunities to a further 57 Venezuelans.



Priority Area 2: A healthy Guyana

UNICEF procured 40,000 items of PPE for frontline workers, whilst **UNICEF** and **PAHO/WHO** helped Guyana secure 300,000 COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility, as well as training 250 vaccinators in all 10 regions.

Over 9,000 persons used healthcare services made possible by **UNOPS'** procurement of four Toyota Landcruiser ambulances and modern ultrasound equipment for the Ministry of Health. UNAIDS assisted in making available HIV prevention pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for persons at high risk of contracting HIV-AIDS.

Over 1,000 persons, from 33 locations in Region 1, benefitted from Rapid Malaria Diagnostics and Treatment delivered by **IOM**.

FAO helped develop new nutritious school meal menus (supplied by local farms) in 6 of 10 regions.

New national standards for service provision at adolescent health service facilities were produced with **UNFPA's** support, whilst sexual and reproductive health services and supplies were upgraded in eight health facilities nationwide.

Priority Area 3:

A safe, cohesive and just Guyana

Through the joint EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, and the activities of UN Agencies supporting migrants and refugees, the United Nations contributed to security, justice and social cohesion in Guyana.

UNICEF's research on (i) new and emerging forms of domestic violence and (ii) Guyana's current family violence laws, as well as its evaluation of Child Advocacy Centres helped inform the drafting of a new Domestic Violence Bill. UNICEF also led a 'baseline assessment' for the Spotlight Initiative.

UNFPA developed a mobile Gender-Based Violence application (iMatter) helping survivors of violence access the services they need. UNFPA also increased the call-handling capacity of Guyana's 914 domestic violence hotline, and helped train 335 police officers in gender-based violence response.

UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNHCR have worked with national authorities to ensure that Child Advocacy Centres are now operational in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

UN Women cooperated with local partners to develop diversity, inclusion and equality policies for the Guyana Football Association and Guyana Cricket Board.

UNDP helped train 122 women and men from several national institutions in GBV data collection, analysis and use.

IOM worked with national authorities and CSOs to significantly increase the investigative and prosecutorial capacities of institutions working to end trafficking in persons (TIP).

UNHCR helped 13,374 refugees, migrants and returnees access a range of vital public services. UNHCR'S GBV prevention and response efforts reached more than 3,500 Venezuelan refugees and migrant women, men and children.

IOM helped provide vocational training, sexual and reproductive health education, and access to HIV prevention services to 40 sex workers in Region 7, Venezuelan migrants and refugees among them.

The '**Voices without Borders**' and '**Desire is Power**' educational initiatives implemented by IOM helped migrant and refugee communities to assimilate and integrate into Guyanese society. UNDP supported the training of 139 human rights defenders to help them better determine and advocate for the interests and inclusion of LGBTI people.



Priority Area 4:

A sustainable and resilient Guyana

Multiple UN entities, including **ECLAC**, supported a Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) and Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) after Guyana experienced extremely serious floods in May-July.

FAO distributed US\$54,000 in grants to 200 small farms to offset the effects of the flooding; UN Women provided agricultural inputs to 1,629 farmers (majority women) after the floods.

Meanwhile, **UNDP**, through the Small Grants Programme (SGP), a part of the Global Environment Facility, provided seven micro-grants with a total value of US\$23,295 to villages in Regions 5, 6 and 7 to bolster food security.

Guyana adopted a National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, with support from UNDRR.

Working with **UNOSAT**, **UNDP** enabled 11 staff from national agencies to participate in an Operational Flood Forecasting System course for the purpose of improving early flood warning systems.

UNEP trained 20 staff from national bodies in so-called 'statistics value chains', demonstrating the importance of data collection, collation, coding, analysis and distribution to protect the environment.

FAO trained 50 national officers in the preparation of applications to the strategically important Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Some 58 fisheries officers were guided by **FAO** in their development of a new fisheries regulatory framework for Guyana.

FAO facilitated the introduction of a new geographical information system (GIS) designed to transform the way that Guyana manages its land for environmental sustainability and economic opportunity.

FAO helped familiarize 459 indigenous people in 10 villages with Guyana's timber trade legality system, a key element in balancing economic prospects with environmental sustainability in Guyana's rainforests.

IFAD and the Ministry of Agriculture provided US\$313,313 in support for 52 community public infrastructure and services interventions, and US\$140,817 in grants to 23 community-based enterprises in Regions 1 and 9.



2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

Priority Area 1: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Guyana



OUTCOME 1

Access to quality education and life-long learning increased for enhanced employability and sustainable economic development.

OUTCOME 2

Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities improved.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, FAO, IOM, UNDP



EXPENDITURE

US \$2,415,977

HEADLINE RESULTS



750

teachers trained in online learning techniques

more than

170,000

children continued to learn during the pandemic with the UN's support.

9,218

persons (2,561 households) reached with cash grants to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and support women's empowerment.

1,100

square miles of land was surveyed to give land titles to Amerindian peoples.



28

ICT hubs in remote areas were connected to clean energy supplies.



Quality control and monitoring systems in food production upgraded and modernized.

EDUCATION



In 2021, the UN continued to invest in educating Guyana's children. At the policy level, UNICEF helped the Ministry of Education (MoE) complete a new education plan. UNICEF also applied its 'public finance for children' methodology to help national authorities estimate the finances required to secure improved learning and attainment in schools.

Meanwhile, UNICEF delivered training to 100 education officers at national and sub-national levels to further strengthen the administration of the education sector. In support of the transition towards modern teaching styles, UNESCO (with the MoE, Blackboard, and the University of the West Indies) qualified 50 "Master Trainers" to expand the use of online teaching content, and online assessment and monitoring of student learning.

UNICEF also helped 700 teachers learn how to use online education resources, and distributed 1,000 laptop computers (with internet access) for students. In step with the global commitment to ensure that no-one is left behind from Agenda 2030, UN Agencies worked with relevant bodies to integrate vulnerable children in the education system.

For example, through the joint EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, UNICEF trained 35 School Welfare Officers during a six-week intensive Professional Development course to strengthen their gender-responsive approaches to address the psychosocial needs of children, especially violence against girls.

In remote, hinterland regions of the country, some migrants and refugees are not native English-speakers, making it hard for them to assimilate and learn in schools. To address this, in 2021 UNHCR partnered with the Pan American Development Foundation to qualify some 34 instructors in providing online English as a Second Language (ESL) lessons to students. This work resulted in 378 Venezuelan children and returning Guyanese children receiving ESL tuition. In addition, 235

Warao and Spanish-speaking children from different indigenous communities and not enrolled in schools were registered in the community-based ESL classes. Looking to the future, the UN is working with national authorities on the long-term provision of ESL.

In addition, and in collaboration with the MoE, UNHCR developed an information leaflet for non-English-speakers about enrolment in public schools. All told, the work of the UN's Agencies helped ensure that a remarkable 170,000 children enrolled in pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools continued to learn through the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

To address inequity, mitigate the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19, including on household food security and livelihoods, the UN has implemented social protection interventions. In 2021, WFP and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS) worked together to deliver cash transfers to 9,218 people (2,561 households). The intervention is part of a US\$1.2 million package of WFP support that continues into 2022, and will reach more than 5,000 vulnerable households in total. The transfers, provided with support from the Canadian Government, were delivered via Guyana's Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), and are part of post-COVID recovery efforts deliberately aimed at redressing imbalances in economic opportunities for women. In delivering this project, WFP worked closely with national authorities on data management to enhance social transfer targeting and payment reconciliation capabilities.

Specifically, this meant building a targeting survey and vulnerability scoring system with MHSSS and deploying a digital system to quickly match intended beneficiaries with actual recipients. WFP's work means that that money gets to the people who need it most, and strengthens financial accounting.

DATA, EVIDENCE, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

As the worst of the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic passes, countries around the world continue to face the consequences of high global food prices. In Guyana, the pace of economic development accelerated rapidly in 2021, with the expansion of oil production. The country is now challenged with ensuring that people in all parts of the country, and in all economic sectors, have a stake in this economic transformation.

At the beginning of the 2021, UNDP completed a COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) on Households in Guyana. The report provided national authorities with important insights on sectors and communities hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic. In 2021, WFP continued to support the CARICOM secretariat and national governments by administering the CARICOM-WFP COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Survey.

The survey highlighted the deepening socio-economic impacts of the crisis, particularly in lower income households: the survey reveals over-reliance on coping measures that could have long-term negative impacts on poorer people. Looking to the future, IOM has worked to consider Guyana's economic transition from the perspective of market demand for labour.

IOM's labour migration study shows that Guyana's medium-term growth could create up to 50,000 jobs directly in oil and gas. The number could rise to perhaps three times as many when indirect effects on the associated and non-oil sectors are considered. The IOM report also showed the changes that will be necessary in training, skills and also the use of migrant labour, significant given Guyana's geographical location. In support of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), in 2021 UNDP worked with the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce on preparation for the deployment of the 'In Motion' toolkit.

The toolkit helps entrepreneurs engage clients, boost competitiveness, and mobilize finance, and served as a useful precursor to future MSME support.

OVERCOMING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Further, and recognizing that Guyana's new economy must be a digital one, the UN is working to support the elimination of the digital divide, with a particular focus on remote/hinterland regions. Working with the Office of the Prime Minister, and with funding from Norway under the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), UNDP provided grants to 32 indigenous communities in 2021 to construct and install ICT Hubs.

Sustainable solar photovoltaic systems required to power the hubs were installed in 28 of the 32 communities. In future, these 32 hubs will help more than 20,164 persons get consistent access to the Internet. The same project will also help extend some 200 public e-Services to an estimated 580,000 persons in hinterland, poor and remote communities (HPRCs) of Guyana. In 2021, UNDP also completed a capacity assessment and mapping of the public institutions whose services will be provided digitally in future.



15 panel array 5KW photovoltaic system installed at Bethany Essequibo Coast, Region 2, Guyana.

FOOD, FORESTRY, FISHERIES



Guyana was active in participating in the UN's global Food Systems Summit, hosting a national food dialogue in preparation for the global Food Systems Summit, and producing a 'National Pathway [document] for Food Systems Transformation.'

Guyana's own efforts on food systems transformation are oriented around (a) food security; (b) climate resilience; and (c) funding and financing, and are broadly aligned to the five 'action tracks' of the Food Systems Summit itself.

As a demonstration of its determination in addressing food security and transforming food systems, Guyana has re-committed itself to leading the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet on Agriculture, Agricultural Diversification, and Food Security.

In 2021, the UN in Guyana continued to support Guyana's agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries systems, all of which have a critical role to play in the development of Guyana's non-oil economy.

The work of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization considers both the commercial and environmental sustainability of all these sectors (see also Priority Area 4).

FAO worked with 19 government ministries, departments and agencies, 50 civil society organisations, 32 farmers' organisations, 2 educational institutions and 1 research organisation.

An estimated 2,000 people benefited directly from FAO's training and capacity development, and a further 10,000 indirectly. Collaboration included work on value chain analysis, crop and livestock monitoring, weather forecasting, feasibility studies, land use management, and climate financing.

Further, through regional engagement with CARICOM, WFP has contributed to policy discussions on food systems

resilience. It continues to monitor food insecurity in the Caribbean and highlight the impact of the pandemic in countries through national reports.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE FOOD, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES SECTORS

A crucial element of FAO's work is strengthening national institutions' situational awareness of the farming, fishing and forestry sectors, and the individuals that work in them.

One tool used to build this situational awareness is FAO's State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) methodology. In 2021, the tool was applied to assess the state of food and nutrition security in Region 1. The evidence from SOFA informs policies to ensure future agricultural practices are economically viable as well as environmentally sustainable.

FAO also collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture to use a "Farmers' Organisation Profiles Collection Tool".

The tool enables the establishment of a Farmers' Organisation Database, which now includes 30 farmers' organisations from 6 regions, and more than 1,700 individual farmers, providing national authorities with a vital tool to understand important constituents.

Responding to national demand for better livestock management, FAO also developed a registry for livestock producers. The registry is now in use by the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA).

Further, FAO began a feasibility study to establish an Animal Identification Traceability (AIT) system, a crucial component in determining livestock numbers, health, and the spread of disease.

ADDING VALUE TO FOOD PRODUCTION

To add value to agricultural production, farmers need to understand value chains (i.e. the point in the product cycle where the greatest profits are accrued).

FAO works with the Ministry of Agriculture on the adoption of value chains methodologies, helping officials assess market potential, analyse supply chains, and evaluate risks.

In 2021, the value chain methodology was applied to *Xiphopenaeus kroyeri*, better known as Atlantic seabob, a commercially important prawn found in significant volumes off Guyana's coast.

FAO also worked with the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) to apply the same methodology to small ruminants (grazing animals). These interventions provide important guidance to investors, including the government, about how to position themselves in food production systems.

TRACKING AND REGULATING YIELD, QUALITY AND FOOD SAFETY

Food systems are sensitive to short-term weather changes, and long-term climate variations. Today's consumers are highly sensitive to variations in price and quality. FAO's work with national counterparts seeks to balance these sometimes inconsistent demands. For example, in 2021 FAO helped national authorities set up the country's first National Climate Precipitation Grid.

The grid provides more accurate weather and climate forecasting for at least 10,000 men and women in the agriculture and fishing sectors, including early warning of flooding and drought events.

FAO expanded the network with the deployment of new specialist data collection systems and software to 1,500 locations across the country.

The software provides accurate, up-to-date assessments of rainfall, temperatures, dry and wet spells, and rates of water evaporation loss from land surfaces.

When made available to farmers, all these indicators provide important information about optimising crop yields and fishing catches, even in the face of changing climatic conditions.

With financial and technical support from the Mexican government, FAO worked with the Ministry of Agriculture, and the national Department of Environment and Climate Change on ten climate change impact and vulnerability studies. These model the effects of different climate change scenarios on the growth and yield of crops grown in Guyana.

FAO also worked closely with the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) on introducing new technologies to help optimize agricultural production, and improve quality control. For example, FAO trained 17 GRDB extension officers to use CPro, a system that collects, records and processes data on crop yields.

FAO also supplied 30 tablets and a server to GRDB. Together, the training, software and hardware combined to enable near real-time monitoring and quality control of 160 tonnes of rice produced by 6,000 rice farmers.

FAO also worked with national partners on improving food safety, a critical component of value addition and crucial for exports to foreign markets. In 2021, FAO trained food safety specialists from the Guyana Food Safety Authority in the FAO food control system assessment technique.

FORESTRY AND TIMBER

Guyana has historically maintained extremely low rates of forest cover loss. This has a critical role to play if the objective of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5° above pre-industrial levels is to be met. Guyana's forests can nevertheless play an important role in productive livelihoods, in particular for indigenous peoples living in areas far from urban centres on the coast. The sustainable management of forests is therefore paramount.

In 2021, with funding from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), UNDP helped survey more than 1,100 square miles of land in Regions 2, 7, and 9 ready for titling (i.e. transfer of ownership) to indigenous groups.

Land titling projects strengthen security of tenure and incentivize their holders to make longer-term investments in their livelihoods. In Guyana's case, land titling will also help indigenous people capitalize on the value of preserving Guyana's rainforest, a hugely important ecosystem for carbon capture globally.

The land titling work completed by UNDP in 2021 alone will improve the livelihoods of 11,141 people in the medium-term.



Credit: © Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

Jairo Valverde, UNDP Resident Representative and Hon. Pauline Sukhai, Minister of Amerindian Affairs discuss progress under the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund -GRIF Amerindian Land Titling Project.

Recognizing that land titling work can result in disputes over property, UNDP also supported the training of 92 people (28 women, 64 men) from 32 villages in Regions 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 in mediation methods.

This will help Toshaos, Village Council Representatives, and Community Development Officers in reaching unbiased conclusions on land titling (and other) disputes in indigenous communities.

Meanwhile, to strengthen sustainable trade in timber to the European Union, FAO supported implementation of the EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in Guyana. The VPA aims to improve the application of forest laws, strengthen forest governance and promote trade in legal wood products

With US\$278,795 in funding, FAO signed agreements with six forest partners to increase national usage of and enforcement of the VPA procedure.

Thanks to these agreements, FAO was able to instruct 26 staff from 3 government agencies in the VPA, train 459 indigenous people (46% women) from ten villages on Guyana’s timber trade legality system (GTLAS), and distribute 300 copies of VPA training manuals to forest operators.

FAO’s training resulted in 40% of participants enrolling with the Guyana Revenue Authority and 45% with the National Insurance Scheme, better integrating them into national economic systems.



Credit: PAHO/WHO Guyana

Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health (sixth from left); Dr. Luis Codina, PAHO/WHO Representative (eight from left); Irfan Akhtar, UNICEF Deputy Representative (right); UN officials and members of the diplomatic corps receiving Guyana's third shipment of COVID-19 vaccines.

Priority Area 2: A healthy Guyana



OUTCOME 1

Universal access to quality health care services and systems improved.

OUTCOME 2

Laws, policies and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

PAHO/WHO, UNOPS, UNFPA, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF



EXPENDITURE

US \$1,339,911

HEADLINE RESULTS

Procured
40,000
items of PPE for frontline workers



Supplied Ministry of Health with four new Toyota Land Cruiser ambulances



Made available over
300,000
COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility

Trained
250
vaccinators across all 10 administrative regions



Established nutritious school meal menus (supplied by local farms) in 6 of 10 regions

Finalized new standards for adolescent health service facilities and service providers

Improved sexual and reproductive health services and supplies in 8 health facilities

COVID-19 RESPONSE



Credit: UNICEF Guyana-Suriname

Nicolas Pron, UNICEF Representative (right) and Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health (left) at the handover of two solar fridges and 50 vaccine carriers to the Ministry of Health.

In 2021, Guyana continued to manage the impact of the coronavirus pandemic: by year end, the country had recorded nearly 40,000 cases of the virus with 1,054 deaths. The UN supported the government on planning and coordination, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), infection prevention and control (IPC) and operational support and logistics.

With funding from the Republic of Korea, UNICEF procured 40,000 high-quality face masks for frontline workers, including officials working to support Venezuelan migrant communities. PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health conducted epidemiological testing nationwide, including with the Go.Data health application for case management, contact tracing, and patient follow-up. In particularly hard-to-reach regions, IOM supported screening and disease surveillance efforts.

Meanwhile, UNOPS used Japanese government funds to buy four ultrasound scanners, four Toyota Landcruiser ambulances, and multiple pulse oximeters, used to help 9,000 people during the pandemic. UNICEF generated evidence and used findings to deliver information campaigns on COVID-19 prevention and good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices. In 2021, these reached approximately 420,000 people in Guyana. With respect to the longer-term management of the pandemic, the development of vaccines proved to be a game-changer.

Aided by PAHO/WHO and UNICEF, Guyana received more than 300,000 doses of AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines to protect people against infection. UN Agencies helped train more than 250 vaccinators across all ten regions, and provided tents, solar generators, and vaccination booklets to help with the COVID-19 vaccination drive. UNICEF also helped Government coordinate the distribution of vaccines. The provision of equipment (refrigerators, temperature gauges etc.) guaranteed the integrity of the vaccine cold

chain. UNDP supported the digitization of vaccination records, and helped prepare for the use of a digital solution to track vaccine distribution.

As the complexity of vaccine roll-out became clear, UNICEF conducted a vaccine hesitancy survey to better understand the reasons for hesitancy, community concerns, and to combat misinformation. In remote, hinterland regions, UNHCR supported vaccination efforts via the provision of awareness, sensitization, and interpretation services in hinterland communities. Notwithstanding all these efforts, the social, health, and economic burden of COVID-19 was considerable, as demonstrated by the CARICOM-WFP COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Survey.

In response to the economic hardship caused by COVID, WFP and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (with funding from the Government of Canada) worked together to deliver a US\$1.2 million social protection intervention (as reported above). In 2021, these cash transfers reached 2,561 of the poorest households (or 9,218 people). As it continues into 2022, it will be extended to 5,000 vulnerable households in total.

GOOD HEALTH THROUGH WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE, AND HEALTHY DIETS

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In 2021, UNICEF delivered information campaigns on COVID-19 prevention and good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices. These campaigns reached approximately 420,000 people in Guyana, whilst UNICEF's ongoing work to provide WASH goods and services benefited 40,000 people. IOM also built handwashing stations in remote communities in Regions 1 and 9 to help prevent the spread of COVID and water-borne diseases.



Credit: IOM Guyana

Handwashing station built by IOM in Region 1



The national school feeding programme uses fresh foods provided by smallholder farmers for balanced diets.

Healthy diets

Successfully encouraging young people to adopt healthy eating habits is one of the most effective health interventions and plays a critical role in preventing non-communicable diseases.

In 2021, FAO worked with national authorities⁷ and the Carnegie School of Home Economics to help formulate Guyana’s National School Feeding Policy. Through consultations with 250 stakeholders, including nutritionists from the Ministry of Education, FAO helped develop a 4-week menu cycle for schools in 6 of Guyana’s administrative regions.

FAO also assessed the capabilities of 318 smallholder farms to supply goods for this school feeding programme.

The agreed school food menus privilege healthy, fresh foods provided by smallholder farmers for balanced diets in schools. Through its partnership in the national school feeding programme, FAO provided full sets of clean water equipment (tanks, pumps, sinks) to 14 primary schools in Amerindian villages.

As well as promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices generally, the equipment has immediate impact in preventing the spread of COVID.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

The UN continues to invest heavily in the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of people in Guyana. Sexual and reproductive health rights, and sexual and reproductive health services are critical for the health of newborn children, and, more broadly, empower youths, particularly girls and young women. In 2021, the UN helped educate the mothers of 5,500 infants on nurturing and caring for their children. This education was provided as part of the UNICEF-PAHO/WHO ‘Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative,’ which promotes newborn care, in particular to identify and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea.

⁷ The Ministries of Education, Human Services and Social Security, and Agriculture; National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI); and Carnegie School of Home Economics.

At the policy and research level, UNFPA published a study of the socio-economic consequences of adolescent pregnancy in Guyana. UNFPA's 2021 study follows from a 2018 UNICEF situational analysis of adolescent pregnancy, and explains the clear educational, employment status, income, and health consequences of teenage pregnancy.

In response, and working with Guyana's Ministry of Health, and thanks to the support of the Government of India, UNFPA helped finalize new standards and guidelines for adolescent health service facilities and service providers.

UNFPA also worked with the Ministry of Health's Adolescent Health Unit and two CSOs⁸ to purchase SRH commodities (contraceptives, menstrual hygiene items etc.).

This improved SRH service delivery in a total of eight health facilities in remote areas, including the Kumaka District Hospital (Region 1) and in Lethem and Annai (Region 9).

To better educate children on their SRH rights, UNFPA trained teachers in comprehensive sexual education, and distributed information, education and communications (IEC) materials to schools.

UNFPA worked with the Ministry of Education to update the 'comprehensive sexuality education' (CSE) element of the national curriculum, and by developing a CSE toolkit for out-of-school youth.

So as to ensure that key SRH messages are received throughout communities, UNFPA also engaged with indigenous peoples leaders, parents, and adolescents in information sessions and discussions.

Recognizing the criticality of children's decision-making in SRH, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Health with 54 samples of the Adolescent Kits for Expression and Innovation.

The kits use a range of materials to help young people learn a range of life skills, like communication and expression, identity and self-esteem, leadership, and creativity and innovation.

Combined, the competencies make a foundation for good SRH among young people. Since the kits were launched in 2017, they have been used by 160,000 girls and boys in 21 countries worldwide.

The UN's sexual and reproductive health work also includes support to demographics at elevated risk of sexually-transmitted diseases. UNAIDS made available the pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication to 10 people: the treatment

significantly reduces the risk of contracting HIV through sex. IOM and Guyana's Hope Foundation provided vocational training, SRH education, and access to HIV prevention services to 40 sex workers in Region 7.

In Regions 1, 3, 6 and 7, UNHCR partnered with the Guyana Sex Work Coalition (GSWC) and HIAS to improve the SRH of women engaged in survival sex. The collaboration disseminated critical SRH information to 1,614 sex workers through GSWC's peer educators network and helped distribute some 75,000 condoms from the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS).

To expand the range of (non-state) service providers helping combat HIV-AIDS, UNDP trained 26 people to accurately estimate the costs of providing particular prevention services.

In the medium-term, the initiative will form a cadre of civil society organizations who can engage in 'social contracting' with the state, whereby national authorities 'contract out' (health) services. In addition, UNDP trained 200 police officers in recognising and assisting vulnerable groups who may face stigma and discrimination when seeking HIV services.

The training, conducted by the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS) with UNDP financing, complements regional initiatives to engage Caribbean judges on problems of human rights, HIV, and the law.

REDUCING THE SPREAD OF MALARIA

In 2021, the UN supported Guyana on implementing its National Malaria Programme (NMP). Malaria remains a major public health concern, particularly among miners.⁹

By training 85 miners, loggers, and shopkeepers in 32 locations across Region 1, PAHO/WHO and IOM helped deploy the 'Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests and Treatment Project'.

This project ultimately tested 1,034 people for malaria, with 346 people testing positive and treated for the disease.

⁸ Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA) and the Guyana Women Miners Organization (GWMO).

⁹ In November 2021, Guyana's Minister of Health reported that 61,663 malaria tests had been conducted for the year, with 14,786 positive cases recorded.



Priority Area 3: A safe, cohesive and just Guyana



OUTCOME 1

Capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organisations strengthened

OUTCOME 2

Equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety reinforced

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES
IOM, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP

 **EXPENDITURE**
US \$5,790,509

HEADLINE RESULTS



335
police officers trained in gender-based violence response



Child Advocacy Centres now operational in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7

Diversity, inclusion and equality policies developed for Guyana Football Association and Guyana Cricket Board

Support

provided for drafting of a new Domestic Violence Bill



Gender-Based Violence application (iMatter) developed

122

women and men from national institutions trained in GBV data collection, analysis and use

139

human rights defenders trained to determine the needs of and advocate for the inclusion of LGBTI people

13,374

refugees, migrants and returnees assisted with a range of public services.

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

The UN continues to support the strengthening of security and justice for all.

In Guyana, UNDP implemented USAID's CariSECURE project, which adopts a 'public health' approach to citizen security, and focuses on evidence-based solutions to preventing crime.

In 2021, UNDP supported national authorities with the continued roll-out of the Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS).

PRMIS enables the collection and analysis of security data for use in the policy-making and operational decision-making of law enforcement agencies.

In collaboration with UNODC, the CariSECURE project also enabled the mapping of 832 criminal offences in Guyanese law to their corresponding standardized international codes (ICCS).

Because PRMIS is customized with this ICCS mapping, Guyanese law enforcement bodies are now better equipped to make use of international best practice in their own crime analysis and crime-fighting efforts.

The UN's work on safety, security and justice in Guyana is based on achieving progress in the protection of universal human rights.

Human rights are vital for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2021, the UN helped Guyana protect citizen rights enshrined in international and national frameworks.

To enhance respect for universal rights, OHCHR began supporting the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (MPAG) to develop a five-year comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plan.

OHCHR also trained Guyana's Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee to strengthen its capability to report on human rights protections and, where necessary, respond to violations.

To protect children, UNICEF worked with Guyanese authorities to ensure the universality of birth registration. Simple steps like this are vital for protecting the human rights of every newborn child.

UNICEF also engaged with national authorities to apply the global Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to Guyana's legal framework, and respond to CRC Committee recommendations.

Guyana's child protection systems and coordination mechanisms (Integrated Child Protection Network, Juvenile Justice system and Child Labour) also received technical assistance from UNICEF.

Meanwhile, UNDP helped train 139 human rights defenders (109 females and 30 males) to better meet the needs of and advocate for the inclusion of LGBTI persons.

UNDP also produced a 'Being LGBTI+ in Guyana' report documenting concerns affecting LGBTI rights and offering advice to national duty-bearers on LGBTI protection.

As part of the same initiative, Guyana's Minister of Health also joined UNDP and national human rights advocates in a regional dialogue on Being LGBTI in the Caribbean.

ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE/GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: THE EU/UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE AND OTHER UN INTERVENTIONS

The Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls is a joint EU/UN initiative.

Spotlight works across five pillars: (i) laws and policies; (ii) institutions; (iii) prevention; (iv) services and (v) data. The year 2021 was its first full year of implementation in Guyana.

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, and UN Women all used Spotlight Initiative funds to combat gender-based violence, whilst UNHCR and IOM also pursued complementary activities to end GBV.

Laws and policies

In 2021, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security on two pieces of GBV research.

A study on New and Emerging Forms of Violence and a Legislative Analysis of the Family Violence Laws were both critical in the drafting of a new Domestic Violence Bill.

The Spotlight Initiative also delivered policy options that contributed to Guyana's planned overhaul of social services. More than 100 key stakeholders were consulted on the social care reforms in 2021.

Institutions, data



Hon. Robeson Benn, Minister of Home Affairs (front row – fifth from left); Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security (front row – fourth from left); Adler Bynoe, Liaison Officer, UNFPA (front row – second from left), and UN officials with graduates of the COPSQUAD training on gender-based violence.

Much of the UN's work on GBV in Guyana helps public officials gain the skills required to respond to domestic and family violence in the community.

The UN worked with the ministries of Human Services and Social Security, Health, Education, Home Affairs (including the Guyana Police Force), Legal Affairs, and Governance and Parliamentary Affairs. Agencies also worked with the judiciary, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Regional Administrations, Amerindian Village Councils, and CSOs to eliminate GBV.

With justice institutions, UNICEF opened nine virtual court hearing rooms and interview rooms. These facilities enable survivors of domestic violence to give evidence against perpetrators without having to re-live the trauma by coming face to face with their attackers.

Meanwhile, UNFPA helped train 335 police officers in 2021 as part of the government's 'COPSQUAD2000' initiative. These officers can now respond better to the needs of GBV survivors. The UN also worked with a variety of non-state institutions on behavioural and social change.

With Merundoi Inc., a civil society organization, UN Women drafted diversity, equality, and inclusion policies for the Guyana Football Federation and Guyana Cricket Board.

These policies include standards on dealing with sexual harassment, bullying, exploitation and abuse, and contain guidance on handling and referring cases.

UN Women also worked with faith-based organisations on tackling harmful norms and stereotypes, and developed an accountability scorecard for public institutions.

The scorecard enables scrutiny and benchmarking of the efforts that particular organizations are taking to eliminate GBV. It will be piloted in the health and law enforcement sectors by CSOs.

UNDP helped train 122 women and men from several national institutions in GBV data collection, analysis and use.

The Spotlight Initiative also enabled a review of the University of Guyana's Master's Degree in Social Work. It also led to the establishment of a new course on Family Violence, supported by UNICEF.

Prevention

The Spotlight Initiative works to prevent the incidence of domestic violence by working with both its (potential) perpetrators and survivors.

In Region 1, UN Women, working with MHSSS, the University of Guyana, the Amerindian Peoples' Association and Baramita Village Council welcomed 100 boys and men in GBV awareness sessions. In Region 1, 3, 6,7 and 8 UNHCR, HIAS Inc., GSWC and Blossom Inc. engaged more than 2,000 people (and at least 300 men) in the GBV prevention and sensitization sessions.

By training 35 School Welfare Officers, UNICEF is giving schools staff the skills they need to assist young people with psychosocial difficulties or trauma as a result of abuse.

For its part, UN WOMEN's Foundations Programme is based on the premise that violence is always intentional, and is a method for gaining control over others.

In 2021, the Programme trained 16 facilitators who work in schools and faith-based organisations across the country. The facilitators help young women aged 13-24 to gain the knowledge, self-esteem and self-sufficiency to ensure that violence can never be used as an instrument of control over them.

Services

In support of national authorities, UN Agencies analysed GBV services in Regions, 1, 4, 6 and 7 as part of plans to upgrade Guyana's standard package of essential GBV assistance.

UNFPA worked with MHSSS to identify and map the various service providers who play a role in responding to GBV.



Mikiko Tanaka, former UN Resident Coordinator; Fernando Pontz Cantó, former Ambassador of the European Union to Guyana; His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security; and Adler Bynoe, Liaison Officer, UNFPA at the launch of the iMatter app.

The mapping enabled the development and release of the iMatter app, an online portal that provides critical information to survivors on GBV services and referral pathways.

The app is linked to the national 914 GBV hotline service. In 2021, UNFPA increased the call-handling capacity of this hotline through the provision of additional telecoms equipment.

Over the last three years, UNICEF has worked with national authorities to establish Child Advocacy Centres in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 7 and has conducted an evaluation of its procedures and practices.

The centres provide vital psychosocial support and referral services for child survivors of abuse. In 2021, UNFPA also helped establish two further Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) in Region 6, in collaboration with the MHSSS Childcare and Protection Agency, and ChildLink.

Meanwhile, UNHCR worked with the MHSSS and Blossom Inc. to establish a CAC in Port Kaituma (Region 1), and trained 152 frontline response staff. UNHCR also ran child protection awareness campaigns that reached 504 children and adults.

Combined, the UN's support means that Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, now all have CACs. These helped support more than 600 children in 2021.

UN Women also supported four civil society organizations to increase levels of service provision for GBV, whilst UNHCR, in partnership with HIAS Inc., GSWC, and Blossom Inc. provided a range of GBV services to 171 individuals, both children and adults.

In the legal sector, the 2021 launch of the Legal Pro-bono 500 Initiative (by MHSSS and the Guyana Bar Association) aims to help 500 GBV survivors each year. Supported by

UNFPA, the initiative allows all law firms in Guyana to do pro bono work, including providing free legal assistance to GBV survivors.



Fernando Pontz Cantó, former Ambassador of the European Union to Guyana; Yeşim Oruç, United Nations Resident Coordinator; Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security; Shanielle Hussain-Outar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security; Pauline Chase, President of the Guyana Bar Association; and Adler Bynoe, Liaison Officer, UNFPA at the launch of the Legal Pro-bono 500 Initiative.

SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2021 there were approximately 24,500 Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Guyana who have left their home country owing to extremely challenging economic and political conditions.

UN Agencies provide a series of specialist services to people in the most acute need.

These services are consistent with the protection of universal human rights, and support Guyana's own stated determination to meet its obligations to all vulnerable people in the country.

Migration management

IOM is working with national authorities to develop comprehensive and progressive migration management policies.

In 2021, this began with a Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) Assessment for Guyana, which sets out and assesses the configuration of migration-focused national authorities.

IOM also trained nine government officials from six ministries in the Fundamentals of Migration Management (FMM), notably on policy, data, international migration law, and regional cooperation.

Meanwhile, UNHCR continued to offer the PRIMES registration system to the Government to be used as a digital biometric database for data storage of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country.

Combating Trafficking in Persons

Supported by funding from the US Department of State¹⁰, IOM has strengthened Guyana's institutional response to trafficking in persons (TIP). IOM worked variously with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the associated Ministerial Task Force on TIP, and the Guyana Police Force, the N/TIP national network of 9 CSOs, and Voices GY.

Through IOM support, Guyana developed new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for protecting the victims of trafficking (VoTs) and began drafting a revised TIP Act. Victim advocates were also trained in conversational Spanish to improve communications with non-English-speaking VoTs.

The result of IOM's work will be to better prepare national institutions to identify those who have been trafficked, to conduct investigations, and prosecute the leaders of trafficking rings.

Protection of rights, access to justice for migrants and refugees

IOM worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Voices GY to train police investigators and immigration officers and help refugees and migrants access justice services.

Reception and basic support services

For migrants, refugees and Guyanese returnees, the first months and years in a new situation can be among the most difficult. In response, the UN provides essential reception and support services. These services include shelter, health, counselling, food and non-food items, GBV referrals, education services, and COVID-19 vaccinations.

UNHCR helped 13,374 refugees, migrants, returnees and host community members in 2021.

In regions 1, 2, 4 and 7, this included the distribution of food hampers benefiting 4,124 persons; baby kits used by the mothers of 724 infants; 500 mosquito nets; 200 jerry cans, 5,000 cloth face masks, and 500 sleeping mats. A further 1,606 people received hygiene kits.



Exceptional multipurpose cash interventions were also provided to help 568 persons of concern. UNHCR accompanied 3,415 persons of concern to use immigration, legal, and health services, and interpretation services for Spanish-speakers. UNHCR also provided emergency shelter for 67 people.

With the MHSSS, Ministry of Health, and other partners including Blossom Inc., the Roman Catholic Church and N/TIP, IOM provided a range of support services to migrants and refugees (shelter, sanitary/hygiene items, mental health support, GBV referral).

IOM's work included efforts to boost inclusion and integration of migrants and refugees. The 'Voces sin Fronteras' ('Voices without Borders') weekly radio programme promotes cohesion, and provides migrants with important information in their own language.

IOM also created a music training programme designed to foster social cohesion, with 45 young people (32 Guyanese, ten Venezuelans, and three re-migrants) participating in 2021.

IOM's 'Querer es Poder' ('Desire is Power') project provides after-school homework and tutoring. In Region 9, the project helped 25 migrant youth (10 females and 15 males).

UNHCR implemented a range of initiatives to improve the social and economic integration of refugees and migrants in remote, hinterland regions of Guyana.

In Regions 1, 2, 4 and 7, UNHCR field teams gave individual counselling to 57 Venezuelans, helping them get a foothold in the labour market.

In Region 1 and 7, UNHCR supported vocational courses provided by the Guyana Foundation, a local charitable trust.

Some 44 students graduated from the vocational courses with viable economic skills in textile manufacture and catering. Participants also received job readiness training, including instruction on writing application letters, curriculum vitae, and applying for jobs.

The project engaged 109 people from five of Guyana's ten regions, trained them in textile production, and provided them with an income as they manufactured 80,000 COVID-safe face masks.

A further 20 indigenous refugees and migrant women in Region 1 were supported to scale-up production of handmade indigenous-style hammocks. These were then distributed to newly arrived Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

¹⁰ Specifically, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.



Presentation of preliminary findings of the Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment to government officials - Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance; Hon. Juan Edghill, Minister of Public Works; Hon. Vickram Bharrat, Minister of Natural Resources; Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture; and Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health.

Priority Area 4: A sustainable and resilient Guyana



OUTCOME 1

Policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place

OUTCOME 2

Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, restoration, and use of ecosystems and natural resources

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

UNEP, FAO, UNDRR, UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNICEF, IFAD, WFP

 **EXPENDITURE**
US \$14,148,434

HEADLINE RESULTS

New National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted



UN Agencies supported Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA) and Damage and Loss Assessment after the May-July floods in Guyana

50 national officers trained in preparing applications to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

58 fisheries officers supported to develop new fisheries regulatory framework for Guyana



New geographical information system (GIS) introduced for Guyana's land management

Bureau of Statistics and Environmental Protection Agency trained in 'Statistics Value Chain'

459 indigenous people in ten villages instructed in Guyana's timber trade legality system

US\$54,000 distributed to 200 small farms to offset the effects of serious flooding in Guyana



Agricultural inputs, support provided to 1,300 farmers (majority women) after the floods

GOVERNANCE, STRATEGIC PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS

The good governance and strategic planning of Guyana's environment and ecosystems will depend on solid data and analysis.

So in the same way that the different stages of 'added value' can be determined for physical products, so the UN has helped national authorities map the so-called 'statistical value chain' (SVC). SVC approaches demonstrate to every data collector, collator, analyst and user the interdependency of their respective tasks, and ultimately contribute to greater evidence-informed policymaking.

In 2021, UNEP helped the Guyana Bureau of Statistics and Environmental Protection Agency assess Guyana's environmental SVC. In a series of technical training sessions delivered to 20 technical professionals, UNEP introduced new international standards to the relevant authorities, promoting inter-agency data exchange.

Meanwhile, strategic environmental planning also requires substantial climate financing, particularly for small developing states like Guyana facing major disaster risks as a result of climate heating.

In 2021, UNDP provided the second tranche of seven micro-grants to farmers' groups in Regions 5, 6 and 9. The grants, worth US\$23,395, helped bolster food security and prepare farmers for climate-related damage and loss.

Working with UNOSAT, UNDP enabled 11 staff from national agencies to participate in an Operational Flood Forecasting System course for the purpose of improving early flood warning systems.

In 2021, FAO partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture on a project proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to strengthen the resilience of coastal food production systems. The proposal aims to address the effects of climate change on existing and future agriculture activities in Guyana's coastal production areas.

FAO also helped train more than 50 officers at the Ministry of Agriculture to improve Guyana's capacity and prospects of making successful future applications to GCF.

To help national authorities prepare for climate-related disasters when they do occur, UN Agencies worked with counterparts on disaster preparedness plans.

For example, UNDRR and the Office of the Prime Minister issued Guyana's new National Strategy for Disaster Risk

Reduction, which itself supports the revised Low Carbon Development Strategy. And to ensure that children continue learning even during national emergencies, and building on the lessons identified from the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supported the production of a new national risk management policy for the education sector.

Guyana also benefitted from WFP's partnership with the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency.

This partnership has helped develop the CDEMA Logistics system for relief management, and build staff capability in emergency logistics and shock responsive social protection.

It has also helped laid the foundations for a Regional Logistics Hub and Centre of Excellence for the Caribbean. In time, this will result in improved regional support to Guyana's Civil Defence Commission and MHSSS.

Meanwhile, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator submitted to the Civil Defence Commission a Flooding Contingency Plan.

The plan sets out exactly how UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes will respond in future to serious flooding emergencies in Guyana.

FLOOD RELIEF AND SUPPORT



Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) Team meeting with Region 9 representatives.

The year 2021 saw some of the worst flooding in Guyana for 15 years. Extended heavy rainfall in May-June resulted in more than 50,000 households in all 10 regions being affected by floods.

In response, UN Agencies provided direct technical support to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

(CDEMA) and the Government of Guyana. In June, CDEMA deployed a team (including staff from UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, FAO, UN OCHA, UNFPA and UNDP) to conduct a Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment (DDSA).

The findings of the study, submitted to the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), helped inform the major package of medium-term economic relief developed by the government. In addition, in September 2021, the UN's Regional Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean (ECLAC) deployed a team of 5 staff to support Guyana's CDC with a Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA).

UN Agencies also helped those directly affected by the floods. FAO granted US\$54,000 to some 200 small farms to offset the effects of serious flooding in Guyana.

UN Women, with Guyana's agricultural research institute (NAREI), provided seeds and additional support to 1,300 farmers, the majority of them women.

WFP with assistance from the Canadian government, worked with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS) to distribute US\$1.2 million in direct cash to 9,218 of Guyana's poorest people (2,561 households).

CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND USE OF ECOSYSTEMS

In 2021, the UN worked closely with national authorities to put in place the long-term foundations for sustainable, long-term use of Guyana's forests and riverine ecosystems. Both have been identified as critical to the country's low carbon economic development.

For example, FAO analysed the current legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks for inland fisheries and aquaculture. The analysis identified a series of potential improvements in the management of commercial and environmental interests.

As a result, FAO was able to develop the first draft of amendments to the National Fisheries Act and update the Inland Fisheries Strategic Plan. In addition, 58 fisheries officers and technical staff at the Ministry of Agriculture's Fisheries Department were trained to draft the new regulatory framework required to enforce new legislation.

In the field, FAO provided fisheries management support to twenty settlements along the Essequibo, Rupununi, and Rewa Rivers. On land, FAO worked closely with the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) on a five-year Strategic Plan, and a policy paper that informs updates

to the 2013 National Land Use Plan. With GLSC, FAO also introduced the Esri¹¹ Land Administration Modernization Program (LAMP).



Region 1 residents undergo training as part of the EU-FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) process.

LAMP is a combination of drone technology, land mapping software and training that digitizes and automates multiple dimensions of land use mapping, planning and valuation.

To boost the sustainability of Guyana's timber trade, FAO helped progress the EU-FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

With US\$278,795 in funding, FAO signed agreements with six forest partners to increase national usage of and enforcement of the VPA procedure. Thanks to these agreements, FAO was able to instruct 26 staff from 3 government agencies in the VPA, train 459 indigenous people (46% women) from ten villages on Guyana's timber trade legality system (GTLAS), and distribute 300 copies of VPA training manuals to forest operators.

As well as strengthening the implementation of the VPA, FAO's training also resulted in 40% of participants enrolling with the Guyana Revenue Authority and 45% with the National Insurance Scheme, better integrating them into national economic systems.

As part of sustainable ecosystems management, FAO's work also extends to wildlife protection. In Region 9, FAO worked with the Wapishan Wizii Wildlife Committee (WWWC) on the establishment of a new area management plan.

WWWC surveyed 140 homes, resulting in the elaboration of 7 village "wildlife use" ordinances. As a result of these ordinances, one hundred giant anteaters were tracked for the first time.

¹¹ Esri, or the Environmental Systems Research Institute, is an international supplier of geographic information systems (GIS).

2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Innovative Partnerships with the Private Sector

Internationally, UN Women has partnered with the UN Global Compact, a corporate sustainability initiative that enlists the private sector in aligning enterprise and business with the SDGs. Together, they have formulated the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), perhaps the most important component of the business sector's response to gender equality dimensions of Agenda 2030.

In 2021, as part of the Spotlight Initiative, UN Women began implementation of the WEPs in Guyana, holding a series of advisory discussions with leaders and key stakeholders. These included the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and the nascent Women's Chamber of Commerce.

These consultations aimed to introduce the WEPs as a tool for inclusive and sustainable business growth through gender equality. Companies that commit to the WEPs are supported to develop further gender analyses of their workforces, and implement gender action plans.

The GCCCI is Guyana's biggest private sector entity, and counts more than 500 individuals among its members, with more than one third of them women.

South-South and Triangular Partnerships

INDIA

In 2021 the UN's work in Guyana was supported through the joint India-Guyana-UN Development Partnership Fund (UNDPF) which aims to reduce adolescent pregnancy rates in Guyana.

The UNDPF supports a wide range of interventions designed to strengthen the provision of sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents, and increase the uptake of these services. Many of the sexual and reproductive health results presented in this report have been achieved thanks to India's support to the Ministry of Health, UNFPA, and the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association.

The project targets two of the ten administrative regions in Guyana, regions 1 and 9, which have the highest levels of adolescent pregnancy in Guyana.

Highlights from 2021 include the development of new standards in service provision; the validation of new service delivery guidelines for primary healthcare workers; healthcare worker training and equipping of health facilities; the procurement of contraceptives; and the implementation of a range of information and sensitisation campaigns aimed at adolescents and the people that engage most closely with them.

2.4 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

Cooperation Framework Formulation

In addition to the evaluation of the 'legacy' MSDCF, 2021 also saw the submission of joint agency 'Common Country Analysis' to the Government of Guyana, and the completion of a UN 'Common Multi-Country Analysis' for the Caribbean region.

Each of these informed the formulation of a new, multi-country sustainable development cooperation framework (MSDCF) for 2022-2026, elaborated in partnership with some 22 countries and territories in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean. This was presented to national governments for signature. Guyana was the second signatory on 10th December 2021 (for further details, see Chapter 3).

Joint Programmes

In Guyana, the UN Country Team implements a number of joint programmes that bring multi-disciplinary approaches to complex humanitarian and development challenges. Different Agency mandates position UN entities to respond to the particular needs variously of women, children, persons living with HIV/AIDS, migrants, and refugees.

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Together, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA with support from IOM, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, and ILO implement the Spotlight Initiative, funded by the EU.

Headline results of the Spotlight Initiative in 2021 are the launch of the iMatter GBV survivor support app, and the launch of the Legal Pro-bono 500 Initiative (by MHSSS and the Guyana Bar Association) which aims to offer legal aid to 500 GBV survivors each year.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA (R4V)

IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and PAHO/WHO continued to work in support of the more than 24,000 Venezuelan refugees, migrants and Guyanese returnees through R4V. The R4V is an inter-agency coordination platform that harmonises assistance and support across multiple sectors. In Guyana, Agencies implementing R4V focus their response on education, health, integration and protection.

JOINT PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

In Guyana, the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS conducts activities via UNAIDS, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA. Together, these Agencies collaborate on diagnosis, care, treatment, prevention, 'social contracting' (where the Government contracts NGOs and CSOs to deliver services), human rights issues, and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMCT).

ENGENDER

The EnGenDER project, funded by the Governments of Canada and the UK, seeks to enable gender-responsive disaster recovery and climate related resilience. In Guyana, the project is implemented by UNDP in partnership with UN Women, WFP and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. In 2021, given the ongoing pandemic, the EnGenDER project implemented activities which

addressed gender-based violence and helped curb the spread of the coronavirus.

It also provided essential goods, services and income support to the most vulnerable, including through the distribution of food hampers benefiting 470 women.

Business Operations Strategy and the UN's Efficiency Agenda

In 2021, the UNCT in Guyana completed the "Common Premises stocktake" exercise.

This collects data from the more than 130 countries where a UN Country Team is in place, and identifies which Agencies, Funds and Programmes are co-located on a common site.

In Guyana, there are 10 UN entities co-located at UN House on Duke St., and a further two (FAO and WHO/PAHO) with premises elsewhere.

The Common Premises stocktake is part of wider efforts aimed at implementing efficiency gains in the UN.

The efficiency agenda, a critical part of UN Reform, aims to achieve US\$310 million in savings or cost avoidance globally by the end of the decade.

Besides co-location at a common premises, the principal mechanism for achieving cost savings in the operations of the UN in Guyana is the Business Operations Strategy (BOS).

When the BOS was first written in March 2021, it projected a total of US\$322,000 in cost avoidance by the end of 2025.

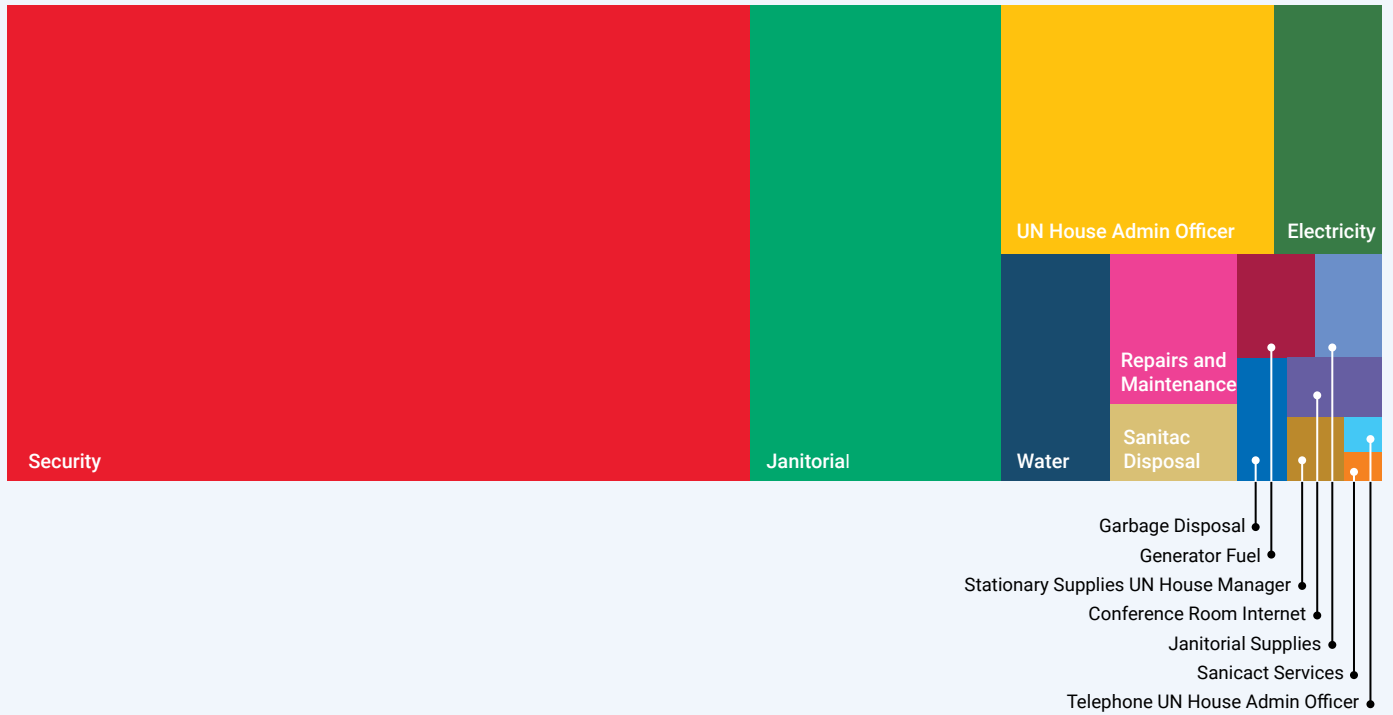
After the first year of implementation, \$81,352 in cost savings have been achieved through joint procurement exercises.

At the end of the year, and on the basis of jointly procured services for hygiene services and supplies, refuse collection, security and cleaning, an annual review of the BOS was conducted.

The BOS review elevates the level of ambition, and indicates that a total of US\$684,767 can be achieved by harmonising common business operations across the UNCT by the end of 2025.

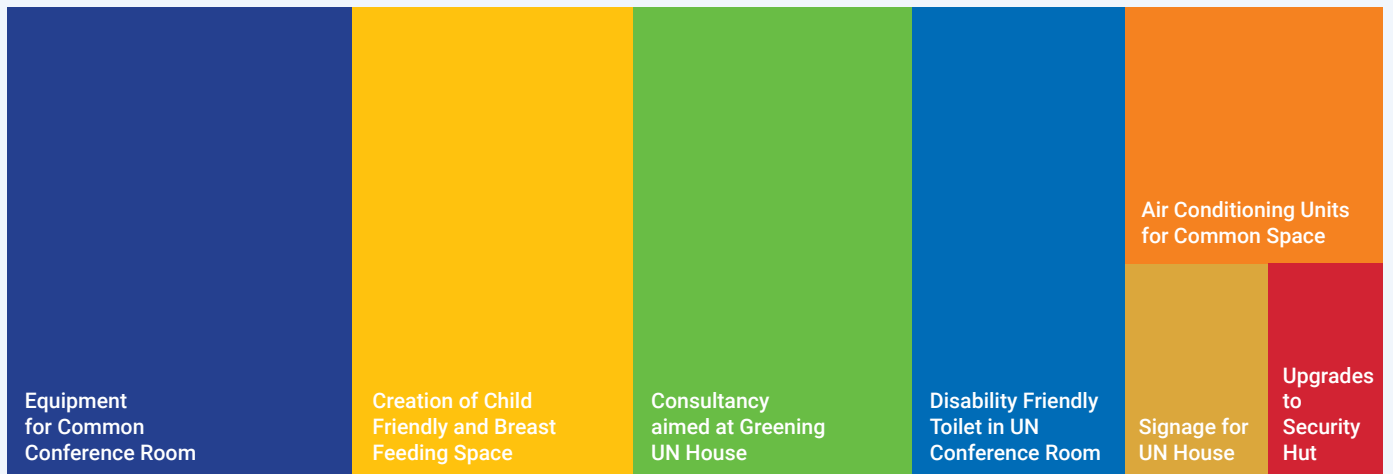
Commonly Procured Services at the UN House - 2022 - Recurrent Costs

(Total projected: US\$221,632)



Capital Investment Costs UN House - 2022

(Total Estimated: US\$28,850)



Communicating and Advocating Together

In Guyana, a joint communications and advocacy plan helped generate coordinated messaging on Agenda 2030.

With a combined following of more than 7,500 persons across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, digital content from UN platforms reached over 160,000 persons during the reporting period.

Digital content complemented more traditional forms of communications (live events, radio, TV, newspaper, print media, etc.).

As part of the Spotlight Initiative, the joint EU/UN programme to eliminate violence against women and girls, some 80,000 people were informed of national efforts to address GBV.



Yeşim Oruç, UN Resident Coordinator, with the cast of 'Those People'.

By partnering with a local comedy sitcom, the UN was able to reach a wide audience with targeted message placements about GBV services and support networks, the rights of persons living with disabilities, and human rights.

UN Agencies implementing the Spotlight Initiative brought further attention to the '16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence' campaign by lighting up UN House in orange, the internationally-recognised colour of the global commitment to eliminate GBV.



Fernando Ponz Cantó, EU Ambassador (fourth from right); Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security (fifth from left); Yeşim Oruç, UN Resident Coordinator (fourth from left); UN Heads of agencies; and representatives of Implementing Partners at the light up reception of UN House during the 16 days of activism.

The UN continued to work closely with national authorities on 'risk communication and community engagement' (RCCE) activities to raise awareness about the ongoing danger of COVID-19 and to improve vaccination rates.



Juliette Gouveia, Village caretaker of Region 8 Village Council participates in a community outreach.

On 24th October, one of Guyana's premier radio and television broadcasters, Gordon Mosely, joined new UN Resident Coordinator Yeşim Oruç and representatives of FAO, UNICEF and IOM to commemorate UN Day at a 'Facebook Live' event. Celebrated each year, UN Day marks the creation of the UN Charter and its codification of the major principles of international relations.

The UN System supported the Guyana Council for Persons with Disabilities (GCOPD) in its human rights advocacy efforts, and helped explain the [mission and wider work of GCOPD](#) through a video production.

By joining the GCOPD at a December 2021 GBV workshop, the UN helped highlight the incidence of gender-based violence committed against women living with a disability.



Yeşim Oruç, UN Resident Coordinator; Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security; and Ganesh Singh, President of the Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities, during the opening ceremony of a workshop on gender-based violence and women with disabilities.

Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. By 2030, the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion.

The United Nations youth agenda is guided by the [World Programme of Action for Youth](#), which covers fifteen youth priority areas and proposals for action. In 2017, Jayathma Wickramanayake was appointed as the UN Secretary-General’s Youth Envoy at the age of 26.

In Guyana, the UN System continued to engage young people as critical torchbearers for the 2030 Agenda.

The UN supported the participation of two young Guyanese people at the ‘Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition’ event, held in Milan in September 2021.

The event, taking place in the run-up to COP26 resulted in the production of a ‘[Youth4Climate Manifesto](#)’, in which young people appealed to the world’s decision-makers to make greater efforts to address the climate emergency, and uphold basic principles of climate and social justice.

In support of the Youth4Climate event, and COP26, the UN in Guyana implemented a [social media campaign](#) that enabled Guyanese youths to describe their urgent climate priorities.

Meanwhile, UNICEF’s [Climate Changemakers Initiative](#) gave further support to the efforts of young people in Guyana to advance climate action. The CCI provided direct assistance to six young people in their efforts to restore mangroves in West Demerara, protect freshwater resources in the Rupununi, and more generally engage young people in climate and environment activism.

The UN’s work with youth also included partnership to end gender-based violence. In Baramita, Region 1, football coaching was used to engage young men on gender-based violence, as part of the Spotlight Initiative. Sessions focused on toxic masculinity, financial planning, teamwork, and leadership.

The UN in Guyana was also able to support a youth dialogue on mental health organised by the First Lady of Guyana, Mrs. Arya Ali.



H.E. Arya Ali, First Lady, with UNICEF’s Deputy Representative and members of the Climate Changemakers group during a discussion on youth mental health at State House.

In 2018, the Caribbean Court of Justice ruled that Guyana’s laws criminalising cross-dressing inhibited the rights of freedom of expression.

Subsequently, UN Agencies in Guyana, including UNDP and UNAIDS [worked with rights advocates](#) to raise awareness of the CCJ’s ruling through a series of public sensitisation campaigns.

Meanwhile, UNDP and UNAIDS worked with Guyana Trans United and Guyana’s Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD) to propose amendments to the Prevention of Discrimination Act (1997).

These sought to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination in any employment or occupation

In August 2021, and thanks to the efforts of years of advocacy work, Guyana’s parliament legalised ‘cross-dressing’.

Marking the legal milestone, Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall stated “We have a duty not only to make new laws, or amend laws but to remove from our legislative architecture those provisions that have been found to be repugnant and repulsive to our constitution and we are simply delivering on that responsibility.”

Also in 2021, IOM and UNDP worked closely with SASOD on building evidence-based understanding of the effects of the COVID pandemic on livelihoods among the LGBTIQ+ community, and distributed food packages to particularly vulnerable individuals.

In June, during LGBT Pride Month, [the universally-recognised rainbow pride flag was hoisted](#) by the UN Resident Coordinator at UN House.



Mikiko Tanaka, former UN Resident Coordinator hoists the pride flag.

2.5 Evaluations and Lessons Learned

Evaluation of the MSDF 2017-2021

In May 2021, an independent consultant completed an evaluation of the 2017-2021 MSDF, the cooperation framework agreed by the UN and countries in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean.

The UN Management Response to the evaluation is pending, but many of the recommendations from the evaluation have already fed into the successor Cooperation Framework (see Chapter 3, below).

Recommendations 1 and 2 of the evaluation related to the design of multi-country cooperation frameworks, and to results-based management respectively.

In response, the new MSDCF for 2022-2026 has already adopted clearer “theories of change” so as to set clearer strategic direction for the full cooperation framework lifecycle. The new Cooperation Framework also establishes a common, SDG-based results framework as a basis for stronger accountability and verification of results. These measures notwithstanding, the evaluation demonstrates that considerable new resources and expertise must be directed towards the collection and collation of verified, trusted data for the certification of SDG progress in Guyana and the Caribbean as a whole.

Recommendations 3 and 4 of the evaluation relate to inter-Agency coordination, cooperation and strategic planning, notably with respect to individual Agency planning cycles.

The recommendations are already being addressed principally through the significant additional coordination resources provided to the Office of the Resident Coordinator.

Some structural elements of UN configuration will nevertheless continue to require careful attention to maximise the potential of wider UN Reform.

Recommendations 5 and 6 of the evaluation covered joint programme implementation and resource mobilization respectively.

Again, the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator System has an important role to play in responding to these recommendations. For example, the addition of a human rights adviser, peace and development adviser, economist and partnerships officer to the Guyana RCO has already strengthened the analytical capability of the UNCT and is supporting the formulation of joint programmes.

Finally, recommendation 7 of the evaluation addresses opportunities to further engagement with civil society and the private sector; recommendation 8 relates to knowledge management, record keeping, and documentation; whilst recommendation 9 relates to the alignment of UN programmes to national policy initiatives.

Each is being taken forward in the new MSDCF.

2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

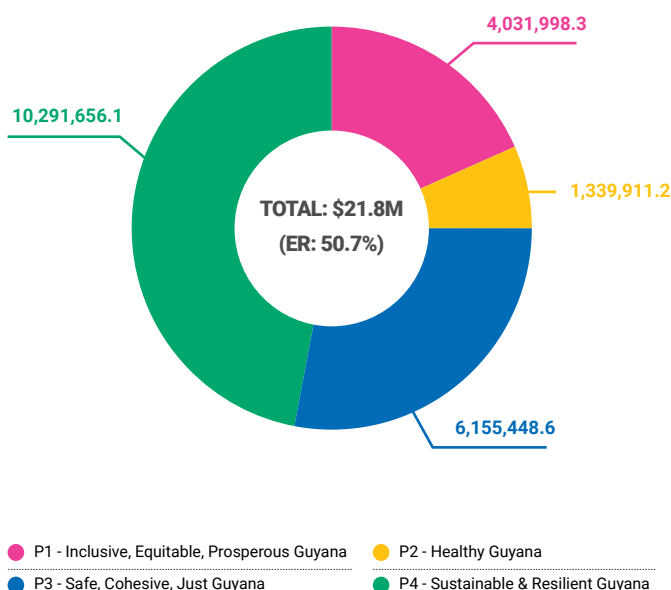
For the 2021 financial year, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes executed US\$21.8 million in programmes, with an execution rate of 50.7%. This includes US\$907,399 in expenditure on the Spotlight Initiative, principally funded

by the EU. For the full term of the MSDF 2017-2021, the UN executed an estimated US\$44.7 million in programmes, with an execution rate of 62.7%.

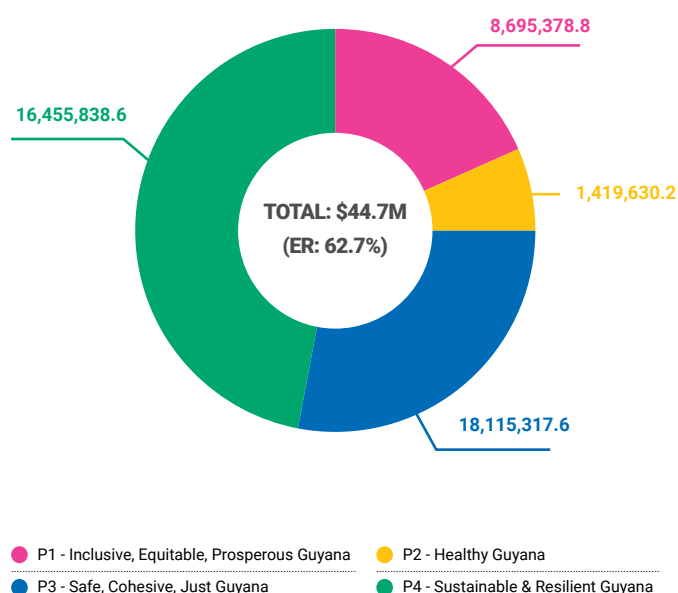
	2021 Budgeted	2021 Executed	Execution Rate 2021	Total Budgeted 2017-2021	Total Executed 2017-2021	Average Executed Rate 2017-2021
P1 - Inclusive, Equitable, Prosperous Guyana	10,845,705.2	4,031,998.3	0.4 %	16,399,593.3	8,695,378.8	50.3 %
P2 - Healthy Guyana	1,861,259.2	1,339,911.2	72.0 %	1,994,909.2	1,419,630.2	71.2 %
P3 - Safe, Cohesive, Just Guyana	12,105,456.4	6,155,448.6	50.8 %	25,406,458.2	18,115,317.6	71.3 %
P4 - Sustainable & Resilient Guyana	18,246,231.4	10,291,656.1	56.4 %	27,522,195.6	16,455,838.6	59.8 %
GRAND TOTAL	43,058,652.2	21,819,014.2	50.7 %	71,323,156.2	44,686,165.2	62.7 %

UN development programmes for the period were concentrated in Priority Area 3 (Safe, Cohesive, Just Guyana), which accounted for 41% of programme expenditures, and Priority Area 4 (Sustainable & Resilient Guyana), which accounted for 37% of programme expenditures.

UN MSDF 2021 - Total Funds Executed (US\$)



UN MSDF 2017-2021 - Total Funds Executed (US\$)



Resource Mobilization

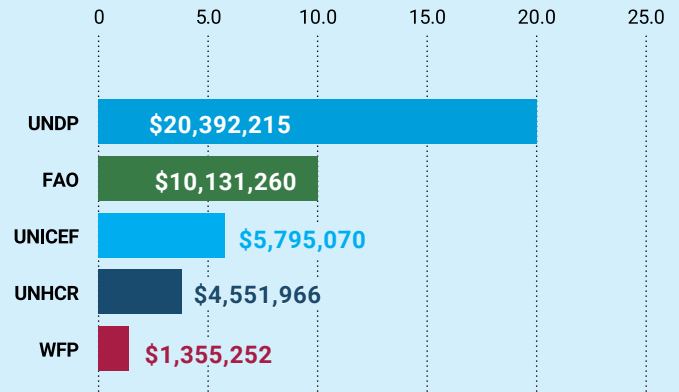
Agencies, Funds and Programmes typically fund projects with a combination of 'core' funds mobilized by their respective headquarters, and locally-mobilized resources.

The five UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes that executed the greatest programmatic resources in the period 2017-2021 are UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP.

For 2021, the largest single sources of funding were: Norway (Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund), UNICEF regular resources, The Global Partnership for Education, The Global Environment Facility, The European Union (for the Spotlight Initiative).

MSDF 2017-2021

Agencies by expenditure (top 5 only)
US\$, millions



CHAPTER 3

UNCT key focus for 2022

Results and accountability in development cooperation

A new cooperation framework for the Caribbean and Guyana

In December 2021, Guyana signed a new Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) with the UN for the period 2022-2026. The MSDCF covers the whole Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean. To ensure that UN development assistance meets Guyana's particular needs, in 2022 the UN Country Team will agree on

a workplan (or 'Country Implementation Plan', CIP) with the Government of Guyana. The new Cooperation Framework, and the derived CIP, build on the progress of the previous MSDCF, and can be summarised as follows: 'Prosperity' (Priority Area 1), 'People' (Priority Area 2), 'Planet' (Priority Area 3) and 'Peace [and governance]' (Priority Area 4).

The CIP captures all UN programmatic and policy assistance at country level. It is formulated on the basis of the four priority areas and eight outcomes of the MSDCF 2022-2026, and adds a total of 21 country level outputs specific to Guyana.

As a formal results framework, the CIP includes indicators at both Outcome and Output level, as well as baselines, milestones, and targets consistent with the SDGs.

UN Vision 2030: Achieve all SDGs, recovered from the impact of COVID-19 in a sustainable and transformative manner, leveraging regional cooperation. A resilient region where people choose to live and can reach their full potential.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SHARED PROSPERITY	EQUITY AND WELL-BEING	RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	SAFETY, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW
<p>Outcome 1: More productive and competitive business ecosystems improve standards of living in the Caribbean, especially for women and youth</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Regional and national institutions are consistently gathering data to inform laws and policies to eliminate structural discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind</p>	<p>Outcome 5: Caribbean people and communities have enhanced adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive DRM and climate change adaptation and mitigation</p>	<p>Outcome 7: Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion and security</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Caribbean economies have transitioned to more diversified and sustainable models that support inclusive and resilient economic growth</p>	<p>Outcome 4: People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, health, educational and care services with social protection floors in place</p>	<p>Outcome 6: Natural resources and ecosystems are managed more sustainably to enhance community and people resilience as well as shared prosperity</p>	<p>Outcome 8: People in the Caribbean and communities have an improved standard of living, in safe, fair, inclusive, and equitable societies</p>



ENABLERS: Innovation - Digital Transformation - Data and Information Systems - Advocacy for development financing - Youth and civil society engagement - Regional Integration - Institutional Capacity Building - Advocacy for people at risk of being left behind



GROUPS OF PEOPLE AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND: Women and girls-Migrants and Refugees - LGBTQI people - People living with disabilities - Young male in marginalized communities - People living in remote, poor, rural areas - People living with HIV - Children - Elderly - Indigenous people

Figure 2 MSDCF 2022-2026 Framework

Narrative Summary of the Guyana CIP 2022-2024

CIP Outcome 1 ('MICRO-ECONOMY'). Jobs in the oil and non-oil sectors. Develop the skills and capabilities of Guyana's workforce to take advantage of the economic transformation (FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO). Help update employment regulations to promote decent work and economic growth (ILO, IOM, UNHCR). Support national food systems to strengthen domestic food security and promote greater intra-regional trade (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, UNIDO).

CIP Outcome 2 ('MACRO-ECONOMY'). Targets wider economic, trade and investment policies required for structural transformation. Support economic and trade policy reform to facilitate regional integration, diversification, and low carbon development (FAO, IOM, UNCTAD). Support infrastructure development that facilitates entrepreneurship and promotes inclusive growth (UNDP, UN HABITAT, UNOPS).

Priority Area 2: Equality, wellbeing, and leaving no-one behind

CIP Outcome 3 ('DATA AND LAWS FOR INCLUSION AND ONE-NESS'). Strengthen coordination on data collection, particularly in support of the national census and other surveys that will be conducted this year (PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP/Spotlight, UN WOMEN, IOM, UNHCR). Support the national legislative agenda, with a particular focus on gender equality and aspects of the health system at this time (UNFPA, UN WOMEN, PAHO/WHO, IOM).

CIP Outcome 4 ('ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY FOR INCLUSION AND ONE-NESS'). Builds on the 'data and laws' objectives of Outcome 3, and complements this with direct support to social and health services and the education sector. Investment and coordination in support of mental health programmes, digital health system and e-services such as tele-medicine. Child health, maternal health, HIV and SHRH are among areas of collaboration. Investments in social protection and access to services are also a priority. Work on expanding the e-government service offering is included. Early childhood education and alternative education will also be supported (PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, IOM, UNHCR, WFP, UNHCR).

Priority Area 3: Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management

CIP Outcome 5 ('DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT'). Supports Guyana's efforts to make its people more resilient to those elements of climate change that are already locked in. Identifies the Agencies that will provide support to Guyana in emergency relief and early recovery situations (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, PAHO/WHO, IOM, UNHCR). Establishes the support the UN will provide to enable Guyana to further prepare for future disasters (UNDRR, FAO, WFP, UNDP, UN WOMEN, PAHO/WHO, UNESCO, OHCHR).

CIP Outcome 6 ('NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT'). A "climate mitigation" Outcome which also supports Guyana's ambitions to build a new economy based on the monetization of a range of terrestrial, forest, and marine ecosystem services. Includes the UN's work to value, protect and monetise Guyana's natural resource endowment (FAO, UNDP, PAGE, UNODC) as well as interventions to reduce pollution and waste of various kinds (UNEP, FAO, UNDP).

Priority Area 4: Peace, Safety, Justice & Rule of Law

CIP Outcome 7 ('RULE OF LAW') is the CIP's "governance" outcome. Captures programmes that the UN will deliver to strengthen institutions and protect democratic norms, bolster state accountability and transparency (OHCHR), and combat organised crime (UNODC) and human insecurity. Also aims to improve access to justice for all, with a particular focus curbing the rates of violence experienced by women and children (UNDP, UNHCR, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, IOM).

CIP Outcome 8 ('HUMAN SECURITY') targets similar issues as Outcome 7, but does so through a community-based approach, seeking to address the discriminatory social norms that underpin violence against women and girls and exclusion of vulnerable groups from aspects of economic, social and political life in Guyana (UNFPA, UN WOMEN, OHCHR, IOM).

Delivering on the Cooperation Framework

The UN Country Team's activities in 2022 will be grounded in the MSDCF, the Country Implementation Plan for Guyana, and the derived plans of Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Delivery of the CIP will be facilitated by the work of the UN Development Coordination Office, represented in Guyana by the UN Resident Coordinator and her Office.

The purpose of the Resident Coordinator's office is to promote:

- Strengthened leadership for joint action and shared results by all members of the UN development system at the country level;
- Strengthened convening for integrated policy services to advance SDG solutions and ensure development financing, including in crisis contexts;
- Improved efficiencies across the UN system and enhanced oversight and management of DCO and RC Offices.

The work of the Resident Coordinator's Office is enabled by a US\$100,000 annual Coordination Fund.

Improved coordination of the UN System in Guyana will be achieved through the instruments listed below.

Communications and Advocacy

For 2022, the UN in Guyana will communicate and advocate for the purposes of advancing the following agendas:

- **Climate and environment:** notably in support of the World Biodiversity Summit, the World Ocean Conference, and in recognition of the common but differentiated responsibilities (CBRD) to prevent global heating exceeding a rise of 1.5° above pre-industrial levels.
- **Food systems:** notably in support of Guyana's own determination to transform food systems and address critical weaknesses in food security in the Caribbean region.
- **Inclusion and equality:** notably to identify opportunities to ensure that Guyana's oil and gas boom results in a sharing of the economic benefits, including among marginalised groups.

Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships

In support of the delivery of the Country Implementation Plan, and the UN's communications and advocacy efforts, a joint UN Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Strategy (RMPS) for Guyana will be completed.

The RMPS will provide an overview of Guyana's development financing position, and identify sources of funding to be explored by UN agencies individually or collectively.

It will outline the partnerships that the UN aims to establish to advance the SDGs in Guyana. In particular the UN in Guyana will step up its efforts to deliver on the global commitment to ensure that no-one is left behind from Agenda 2030, and to uphold the rights of all people.

Accordingly, the UN will seek to establish MoUs or alternative agreements (including financing partnerships) with organisations well-positioned to advocate for the needs of youth and persons living with a disability.

The UN will also seek to form new partnerships with climate and environment actors.

Risks

Key risks to the delivery of the Country Implementation Plan in 2022 include further increases in food prices, exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine.

Changes in international security priorities and international cooperation, combined with Guyana's transition to Upper-Middle Income status could also result in further changes in funding to UN entities and overall reductions in development assistance for Guyana.

The UNCT will aim to mitigate and/or address these risks through continued dialogue with government and international development partners.

The four multi-stakeholder 'Results Groups' (established to align with the four 'Priority Areas' of the Cooperation Framework) will be critical in this regard.

Likewise, the Development Partners' Group will remain an important forum for frank and transparent discussion with respect to the role of international development cooperation in Guyana's progress on Agenda 2030.

ACRONYMS

AIT	Animal Identification Traceability
ALT	Amerindian Land Titling
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CAC	Child Advocacy Centre
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDC	Civil Defence Commission
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSPro	Census and Survey Processing System
CT	Correspondence Tables
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
COWIN	COVID Vaccine Intelligence Work
DaLA	Damage and Loss Assessment
DDSA	Detailed Damage Sectoral Assessment
DoS	Department of State
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EnGenDER	Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESL	English as a Second Language
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
EU	European Union
EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMM	Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLDA	Guyana Livestock Development Authority
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GPF	Guyana Police Force
GRDB	Guyana Rice Development Board
GRIF	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
GRPA	Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
GSWC	Guyana Sex Work Coalition
GTLAS	Guyana Timber Legality Assurance System
GWMO	Guyana Women Miners Organization
HESAD	Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development Project
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPRCs	Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities

ICCS	International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICT	Information, Communication, Technology
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
KP	Key Populations
LAMP	Land Administration Modernization Program
LoAs	Letters of Agreements
MGI(s)	Migration Governance Indicator(s)
MHSSS	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MPAG	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MSDCF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises
NAPS	National AIDS Programme Secretariat
NAREI	National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute
NDA	National Designated Authority
NMP	National Malaria Programme
OP-DECC	Office of the President-Department of Environment and Climate Change
PADF	Pan American Development Foundation
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PrEP	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
PRMIS	Police Records Management Information System
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
R4V	Refugee and Migrant Working Group (RMWG) for the Venezuelan situation
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
RLPA	Rupununi Livestock Producers Association
RMPS	Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy
RMWG	Refugee and Migrant Working Group
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SI	Spotlight Initiative
SOFA	State of Food and Agriculture
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SVC	Statistical Value Chain
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UG	University of Guyana
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	The United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNLIREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOSAT	United Nations Satellite Centre
US	United States of America
VCA	Value Chain Analysis
VoTS	Victims of Trafficking
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEPS	Women’s Empowerment Principles
WFP	World Food Programme
WIIN	Women’s Innovation and Investment Network
WIST	Worship in Spirit and in Truth
WWWC	Wapishan Wizii Wildlife Committee



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OFFICE OF THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR - GUYANA

'UN House', Duke Street, Kingston,
Georgetown, Guyana

www.guyana.un.org

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