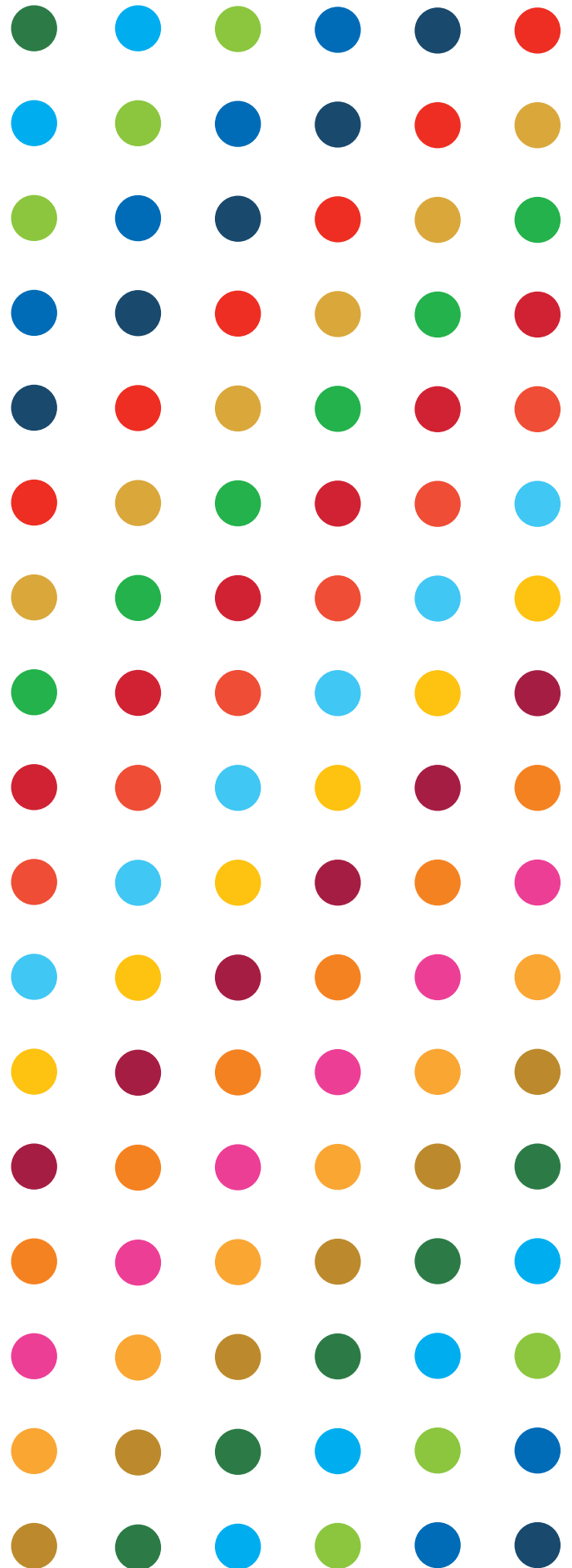




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ANNUAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA/ UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

•	AA-HAI	Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents
•	ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
•	ADF	Amerindian Development Fund
•	ALT	Amerindian Land Titling
•	ANC	Antenatal Care
•	BUR	Biennial Update Report
•	C4D	Communication for Development
•	CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
•	CDC	Civil Defence Commission
•	CDP	Community Development Project
•	CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
•	CID	Country Implementation Plan
•	CLAC	Climate Landscape for Children
•	CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
•	CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
•	DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short- course
•	DRM	Disaster Risk Management
•	DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
•	ECD	Early Childhood Development
•	EIMMS	Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System
•	ESP	Education Strategy Plan
•	EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
•	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
•	FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
•	GCF	Green Climate Fund
•	GCRG	Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
•	GEF	Global Environment Facility
•	GIS	Geographic Information System
•	GLDA	Guyana Livestock Development Authority
•	GPF	Guyana Police Force
•	GPS	Global Positioning System
•	GRDB	Guyana Rice Development Board
•	GSDS	Green State Development Strategy
•	GTC	GUYSUCO Training Centre
•	GTI	Government Technical Institute
•	GTU	Guyana Transgender United
•	GUYSUCO	Guyana Sugar Corporation Inc.
•	HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
•	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
•	HPRCs	Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities
•	ICT	Information and Communications Technology
•	IHR	International Health Regulations
•	ILO	International Labour Organization
•	IOM	International Organization for Migration
•	IPDET	International Programme for Development Evaluation Training
•	JPCU	Joint Port Control Unit
•	KKTC	Kuru Kuru Training Centre
•	LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
•	LLINs	Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets
•	M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
•	MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
•	MDA	Mass Drug Administration
•	MhGAP	Mental Health Gap Action Programme

LIST OF ACRONYMS

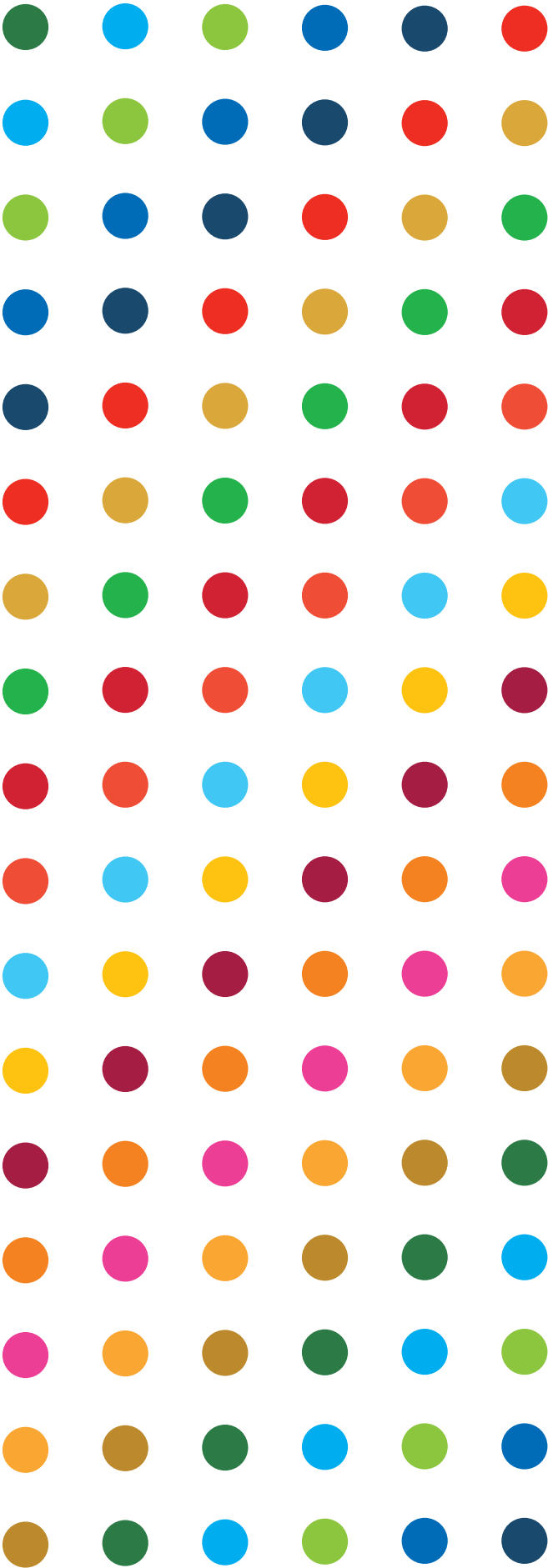
•	MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
•	MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
•	MoE	Ministry of Education
•	MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
•	MoPS	Ministry of Public Security
•	MoSP	Ministry of Social Protection
•	MSDF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
•	NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
•	NAREI	National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute
•	NBRIS	National Biodiversity Research Information System
•	NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
•	OCC	Office of Climate Change
•	OCF	Open Case File
•	OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
•	PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
•	PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
•	PARD	Plan of Action for Regional Development
•	PD	Positive Discipline
•	PICSA	Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture
•	PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-To-child Child Transmission
•	PRIMES	Population Registration and Identity Management EcoSystem
•	RDRMS	Regional Disaster Risk Management System
•	SCD	Sport and Culture for Development
•	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
•	SIP	Perinatal Information System
•	SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
•	SRH	Sexual & Reproductive Health
•	STC	Sophia Training Centre
•	TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
•	TNC	Third National Communication
•	UG	University of Guyana
•	UN	United Nations
•	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
•	UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
•	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
•	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
•	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
•	VSG	Venezuelan Support Group
•	WAD	Women Across Differences
•	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
•	WCO	World Customs Organization
•	YAG	Youth Advisory Group



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FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The roll-out of year one of the 2018/2019 Country Implementation Plan (CIP) was characterised by concerted efforts by the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (GCRG), with effective leadership by the coordinating agencies, the Ministry of Finance and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), to achieve the outcomes of the four (4) pillars of the CIP: An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Guyana; A Healthy Guyana; A Safe, Cohesive and Just Guyana and A Sustainable and Resilient Guyana.

The Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Pillar included initiatives which resulted in the development of the National Policy for the Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers into the Formal School System, promotion of healthy lifestyles in children and adolescents, sector planning support, policy development, data generation and capacity strengthening and enhancing communities via entrepreneurship and leadership programmes.

The Healthy Guyana Pillar included initiatives to improve service provision, manage diseases, establish a nutrition coordination mechanism, conduct public awareness around various health concerns and develop health guidelines.

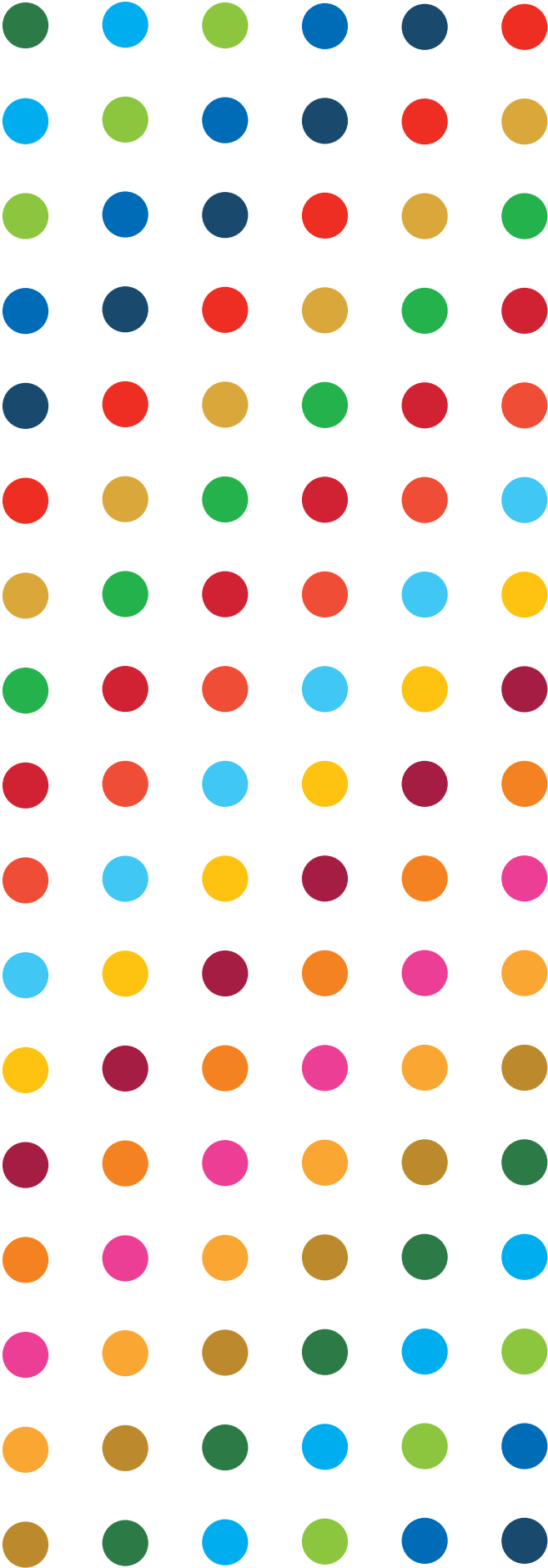
The Safe, Cohesive and Just Guyana Pillar focussed efforts to strengthen the justice sector and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide investigation and prosecution. Capacity strengthening was undertaken to fight corruption, enhance evidence based decision making for citizen security and improve data collection systems. Efforts were also made to provide access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services.

The Sustainable and Resilient Guyana Pillar contributed to the establishment of the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) Coordination Office, enhancement of disaster risk management practices, testing and implementing climate - smart agricultural practices and building capacity for various sectors, among other areas.

Across the four pillars the United Nation (UN) provided support to the Government to respond to the influx of Venezuelan migrants. This included the provision of counselling on registration, regularisation and naturalisation services, rapid assessments, immunisations, laboratory sampling and testing.

The realisation of the results achieved in 2018 was supported by ongoing monitoring of the CIP by the Ministry of the Presidency on behalf of the President and Cabinet, which added to that of the well-coordinated efforts of the Ministry of Finance, as the interlocutor Ministry. This support augured well for the whole of Government approach to strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of programme implementation and reporting. A joint Government/UN M&E Group was established, the first in the Caribbean within the context of the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF).

KEY
DEVELOPMENT
TRENDS IN THE
COUNTRY



KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN THE COUNTRY

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana continues to see advancement in its socio-economic prospects as it has over the past few years with sustained growth. The development trajectory promises to continue along this path, with the consolidation of the national vision for the future, being captured in the Green State Development Strategy - the succeeding national development plan. The GSDS is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will endeavour to sustainably transition Guyana to a green economy. In 2018, work on the GSDS advanced significantly with a draft document being developed and presented to Cabinet, with the support of the United Nations Country Team. Guyana is also one year closer to first oil, which promises to provide additional resources to be utilised for national development priorities centred on improving socio-economic outcomes within a green economy.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Growth in the Guyanese economy is estimated to be 3.4 percent for 2018, above the 2.1 percent for 2017, notwithstanding volatile international commodity prices. This performance is driven largely by increased activity in the construction, services, manufacturing and agriculture fishing and forestry sectors. Noteworthy is the continued structural reform of the historically significant sugar industry, which resulted in just over 4,000 workers being made redundant. The reform entails the recapitalisation of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUICO) in order to return it to profitability and the implementation of socio-economic programmes in support of those made redundant. Government recognises the potential of further structural economic changes, especially with the implementation of the GSDS and impending oil production and has committed to ensure that it strengthens national capacity for the effective management of the economy and delivery of public services.

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The political landscape of Guyana is expected to undergo change given the developments in 2018. At the end of the year, it was expected that the next general elections would be held in the upcoming months, a full year ahead of the five-year general elections cycle. Notwithstanding this development, it is anticipated that public programmes will continue to be delivered uninterrupted, including the Joint Government/UN Country Implementation Plan.

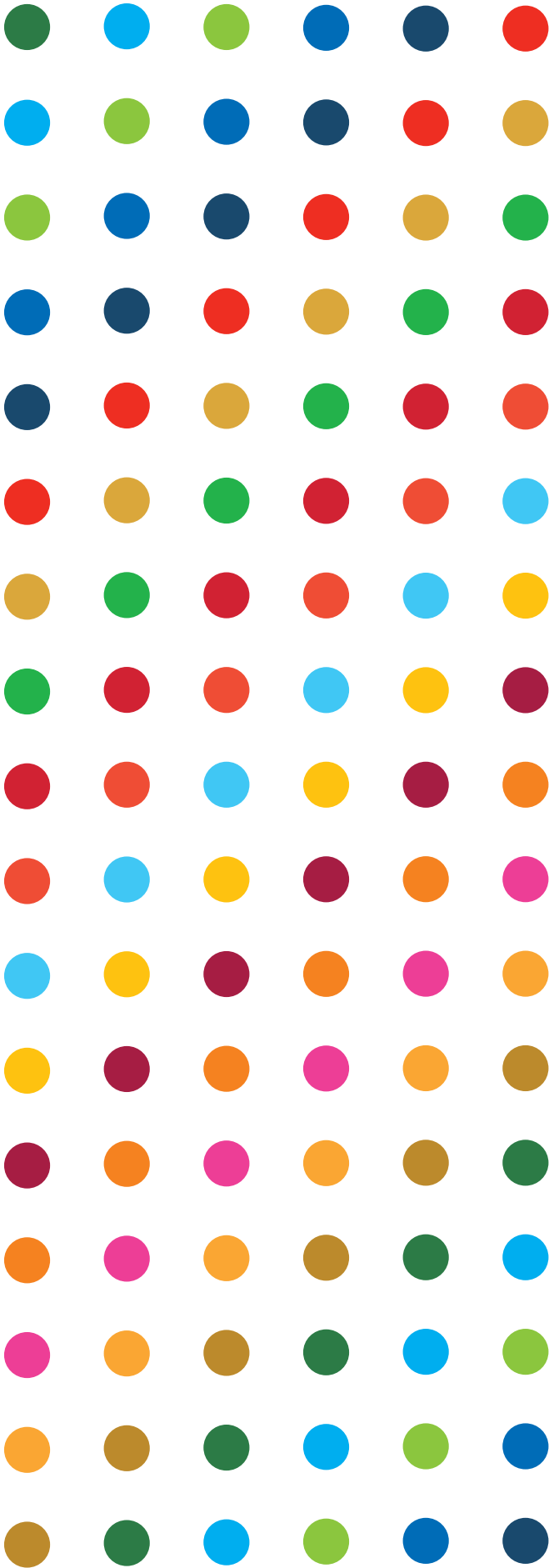
With regard to foreign policy, the dispute between Guyana and Venezuela over Guyana's sovereign territories continues. The UN's Good Offices process did not yield a solution to the border controversy - and the issue was referred to the International Court of Justice in January 2018. To complicate matters, in December, the Venezuelan navy intercepted a surveying vessel associated with an international oil company operating in Guyana's waters. The Guyana Foreign Ministry issued a [statement](#) addressing this matter.

SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Social services continue to attract the largest budgetary allocation of the central government, which are directly linked to the achievement of the SDGs. While some gains have been made in health, education and social protection, gaps still remain. For health, national focus continues to be placed on the 90/90/90 "treat all" policy for HIV, reduction of the prevalence of tuberculosis, promotion of healthy lifestyles to reduce non-communicable diseases and improving the maternal and child health programmes, among others. Overall, the life expectancy of a Guyanese at birth in 2017 was 68.2 years, an improvement from the previous expectancy of 66.8 years in 2010. Educational outcomes, however, continue to be mixed. Guyana has achieved Universal Primary Education and continues to work towards attaining Universal Secondary Education. There has been increased focus on early childhood education, which has seen improvement in numeracy and literacy rates. However, at the primary level performance on standardised tests indicates there is need for greater focus and intensified efforts to improve quality at this level. The sector is currently updating its strategic plan and this is expected to address the core challenges.

Current domestic issues in Venezuela have led to migrants and refugees crossing into Guyana. This sudden surge required Guyana's social protection framework to cater for their needs. Plans are being devised and funds are being allocated to areas of the country where the migrants reside and critical works are being done to establish a legal framework to address this situation. The UN has been a key partner in monitoring, surveying and evaluating Guyana's response to the situation by providing support and capacity building to local institutions.

RESULTS OF THE 2018 COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



PILLAR 1: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS GUYANA



The Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous pillar aims to: (1) increase access to quality education and life-long learning for enhanced employability and sustainable economic development and (2) improve access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities.

Achievements

- National Policy for the Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers into the Formal School System finalised.
- Child Labour Policy developed.
- National Occupational, Safety and Health Policy adopted.

In 2018, the United Nations supported the Government to achieve the first objective through initiatives such as reintegrating teenage mothers into the formal school system, promoting healthy lifestyles in children and adolescents, and supporting sector planning. Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities was improved through various initiatives inclusive of policy development, data generation and capacity strengthening and enhancing communities via entrepreneurship and leadership programmes.

NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE REINTEGRATION OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS INTO THE FORMAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Ministry of Education (MoE), with support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), finalised the National Policy for the Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers into the Formal School System; this marked a significant step towards increasing school completion rates. To date, two (2) adolescent mothers were reintegrated in two (2) schools in Georgetown. A costed plan to inform a national roll-out of this policy is underway.¹

¹ The Out of School report while noting the non-participation in-school rate at the primary level of at 1 0.7% (B) and 0.9% (G), highlights the decreasing trend in in-school participation beginning at upper primary through to secondary resulting in the lower completion rates at secondary with boys at 47%. It also gives insight into the barriers and bottlenecks to participation and offers recommendations for addressing these.

SPORT AND CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT (SC4D) AND HEALTH AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (HFLE)

Efforts to promote healthy lifestyles among adolescents were strengthened through the Ministry of Education’s Sport and Culture for Development and the Health and Family Life Education programmes. The Ministry of Public Health also engaged in HFLE through its Adolescent Health Clinics initiative in Regions 4, 8 and 9. Over 200 teachers in primary and secondary schools, in Regions 3, 4 and 9, were equipped to deliver HFLE in the classroom as a result of a life skills capacity building workshop that was conducted. Over 22,000 students are expected to benefit from the improved skills of teachers. The routine monitoring visits in Regions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 confirmed the use of these skills and those previously acquired. The strategies to address gaps in the HFLE programme are continually informed by the findings of the United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) regional assessment of the implementation of HFLE. UNICEF’s collaboration with Women Across Differences (WAD) commenced work in building local capacity for the monitoring and sustainability of both the SC4D and HFLE programmes. UNFPA continues to advocate for the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in line with international standards.

SCHOOL HEALTH

The Ministries of Education and Public Health, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), developed and disseminated health promotion materials, which included posters, banners and manuals, in all primary and secondary schools to encourage healthier school environments (internal and external) and improve health and well-being among students.

EDUCATION SECTOR PLAN

The Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF, commenced development of the new Gender Responsive Education Strategy Plan (ESP) 2019-2023 with a 20/30 Vision. UNICEF is providing support through the funding of five (5) consultants, while the MoE is conducting the education sector analysis, information gathering for the youth perspective on education and refining the financial modelling for the strategy.

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

Despite the legality of corporal punishment in schools and in all institutions, except in detention centres for juveniles, Communication for Development (C4D) strategies accelerated the promotion of Positive Discipline (PD) in schools for Guyana. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with UNICEF, scaled up and intensified the implementation of the positive discipline programme in 2018, towards certifying 'bully-free' schools in 2019. A monitoring system, to track progress towards behavioural change from all fronts, was pretested and has since seen the contextualisation of the programme by Regions.

CHILD LABOUR POLICY

In 2018 Guyana's Child Labour Policy was presented to and approved by the Cabinet. This was a significant milestone towards reducing the prevalence of child labour in Guyana. The policy provides the legal underpinning for the prevention of child labour, in keeping with the Convention of the Rights of the Child. This policy immediately came into effect and the development of a national plan of action commenced. The policy was developed by the Ministry of Social Protection in collaboration with UNICEF.

With the new policy in place, the Ministry of Social Protection's Department of Labour, Occupational Safety and Health (LOSH) in collaboration with the ILO engaged labour focal points in a regional initiative that promoted a Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region free of child labour. Representatives of the Ministry also participated in a further regional training initiative, which resulted in a training proposal and country-specific draft training manual/materials on child labour for labour inspectors. Plans to finalise and deploy the adapted training materials for national-level training of Guyana's labour inspectors are underway. Noteworthy, there will be heightened focus on the hinterland regions in the implementation of this initiative.

NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL, SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) POLICY

The National OSH Policy, which was supported by the International Labour Organisation, was adopted by Cabinet in 2018. The policy will be launched in 2019.

DATA GENERATION & REPORTING

A number of key studies, one (1) survey and one (1) evaluation were commissioned in direct response to the demand from Government and other key stakeholders for empirical

data and reliable demonstration of trends to inform programming for Guyana's 293,915 children, including the most vulnerable. Fifteen data generation and dissemination activities were planned with a completion rate of almost 90%. There were a few seminal pieces, which included the Evaluation of the Guyana Nursery Education Programme 2006–2016, the first formal evaluation of the over-forty-year-old Nursery programme. An assessment of the Impact of Climate, Energy, and Environment on Children in Guyana and the study on Social Norms as it pertains to violence against children, were also conducted. The implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) rounds 6 commenced in 2018 and will contribute 48% of the data provided by household surveys for the SDGs. On the way to realising universal access to disaggregated data on children for decision making, the Government, in partnership with UNICEF, continues to invest in the gathering of a wide range of strategic information on children.

With support from the ILO, the Bureau of Statistics revised its data collection instruments and conducted training for data collection for the Labour Force Survey. A bulletin, designed to provide a quick and complete snapshot of the labour market for policy makers and general stakeholders, was produced in 2018.

The National Insurance Scheme, with support from the ILO, developed a draft report on the extension of the Social Security Coverage of self-employed persons, which is under review.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Towards a better match between monitoring and evaluation skills and functions in partnering organisations, UNICEF Guyana in collaboration with its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean conducted training in sampling techniques for over 50 M&E practitioners across line ministries and civil society organisations. This builds on the capacity gains of the International Programme for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) session that was supported by UNICEF Guyana in 2017. The Bureau of Statistics will continue further training in sampling for statisticians and M&E practitioners across line ministries in 2019.

In 2018, civil society organisations also supported capacity development, in collaboration with UNFPA, in the form of digital media training, to further the realisation of national and sub-national policies and programmes that are informed by the needs and rights of vulnerable young people. UNFPA's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is playing a significant role in ensuring its continued efficient implementation.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

In support of entrepreneurship and leadership programmes for women, youth, and indigenous people, under the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) 34 communities received G\$103,779,600 to fully capitalise their grants, while two (2) communities received G\$6,808,000 in their first tranche for Community Development Projects (CDPs). This brings the total number of communities receiving grants to date to 154, for ventures such as cattle (22%), crops (22%), village shops (13%), transportation (12%), hospitality (10%), poultry (9%), furniture manufacturing (6%), fisheries (4%) and forest based artisanal (2%).



Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs Photo | Cashew Island residents trained to smoke and salt fish.

The CDPs are making a tangible difference in the communities by improving food security, providing part time and full-time employment opportunities, easier access to goods and services at reduced costs, and income generation through sales of goods, products and services. In addition, a study to provide support for the strengthening of linkages between indigenous CDPs and the private sector and institutional framework to support local/village economies was completed. It is anticipated that the recommendations would be used to engage in fund raising for the continued support of the CDPs, toward the sustainable development of the communities. The ADF is administered for the Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Under the Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) project, land demarcation of the Four Miles village, located in Region 1 was completed. The project was scheduled to end in 2018, however, an application for a five (5) year extension has been submitted to the Kingdom of Norway for its endorsement.

Efforts to support the Ministry of Business in the implementation of its strategic plan continued. A mission to examine Guyana's innovation ecosystem was undertaken and it is anticipated that the recommendations of this report would advise on the gaps and interventions that are required to embrace innovative mechanisms to drive economic development and promote competitiveness in doing business.

PILLAR 2: A HEALTHY GUYANA



The Healthy Guyana Pillar seeks to: (1) improve universal access to quality health care services and systems and (2) introduce laws, policies and systems to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population.

Achievements

- Food Based Dietary Guidelines launched.
- New National TB Guidelines finalised.
- Food and Nutrition Security Institute launched.
- Nutrition Coordination Mechanism created.

Collaboration between the Government and the United Nations resulted in several achievements for this pillar inclusive of managing diseases, establishing nutrition coordination mechanisms, conducting public awareness around various health concerns and developing guidelines.

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDS)

The epidemiological profile of Guyana shows that chronic diseases remain the major contributors to morbidity and mortality. Cerebrovascular disease and ischemic heart disease ranked as the two major causes of death. The Government continues to expand its public awareness and education and screening and treatment programmes. Awareness sessions were conducted on disorders associated with the use of alcohol and other substances for community leaders, teachers and other stakeholders across the country. This is one intervention towards attaining a global target of at least 10% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol. Additionally, there were increases in the taxes and duties on cigarettes to discourage their use.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

An increase in the incidence of the multi-drug resistant strain of tuberculosis disease was noted in 2018. The Government revitalized its Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTs) programme to ensure adequate detection, treatment and monitoring of the disease. There was continued public awareness, surveillance and follow up programmes towards the commitment to the international 90/90/90 “Treat All” Policy concerning the eradication of the HIV. New National TB Guidelines were finalised and training was conducted in the regions, for public and private institutions, to promote vigilance in an effort to further reduce the threat to health care workers and to reduce TB morbidity and mortality.

In relation to the elimination of congenital syphilis and HIV, this is part of the dual measure for the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT). Testing for syphilis and HIV continued to be part of the routine testing at ante-natal clinics, twice during pregnancy, with the enforcement of treatment and follow up care. Over the last five (5) years, the incidence of antenatal care (ANC) syphilis has been less than one (1) %, which is in keeping with the elimination initiative. Support continued to implement the recommendations of the National Dialogue on HIV and the Law. UNDP and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provided support to the Guyana Transgender United (GTU) to attend the June 28 hearing of the Caribbean Court of Justice ruling on the cross-dressing appeal that was filed by four (4) Guyanese transgender persons. A de-briefing session by the GTU with its members was also supported.

MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION (MDA)

The 2018 MDA plan was finalised and a communications campaign was launched to support MDA in Regions 3, 4, 5 and 10. In Regions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 a remapping survey (as per WHO protocol for low endemic countries) was completed. Additionally, the first mass distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) to control malaria in the endemic Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9) was completed.

VACCINATIONS

Over 15,000 vaccines were administered in 2018 as part of a vaccination campaign that was initiated in high-risk areas. A total of 6,513 MMR, 5486 yellow fever, 3,383 Diphtheria Tetanus and 145 Polio vaccines were administered to both Guyanese and foreign nationalities. Guyana continues to report daily surveillance of vaccine preventable and communicable diseases and has detected 33 suspected measles cases with rash and fever during 2018, with no positive laboratory confirmed case.



PAHO/WHO Photo | Individual being vaccinated.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

The Ministry of Public Health, with UNICEF's support, created a Nutrition Coordination Mechanism including nutrition in emergencies, established and functioning, which will guide the mainstreaming of nutrition, promotion and hygiene education.

As part of the strengthening of adolescent health clinics in Regions 4, 8 and 9 tools were established to monitor the adolescent mothers' clinic, the men and boys clinic, the community parenting support group and the general adolescent services. Additionally, in the targeted Regions, 60 percent of children (0 – 5yrs) are on track in at least three (3) of the four (4) development domains, with 45% of those in-migrant communities meeting the same targets. These results are expected to be enhanced with the integration of Traditional Birth Attendants' expertise into the formal maternal and child health system.

FOOD BASED DIETARY GUIDELINES

The Ministry of Public Health, in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), completed the revision of and launched the Food Based Dietary Guidelines for Guyana, to promote healthy eating habits and lifestyles. With financial support from the FAO, the University of Guyana (UG) officially launched its Food and Nutrition Security Institute at the UG campus.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING

In association with the Ministry of Education, FAO commenced implementation of a sustainable school feeding pilot project at Belladrum village, Region 5, to promote the use of community produce for a schools' hot meals programme.

TOBACCO CONTROL

In 2018, Guyana reached compliance with the three time-bound mandates as established in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). These include:

- FCTC Article 8 – Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke. Guyana banned smoking in all indoor public places, work places and public transportation and also in outdoor areas such as parks, playgrounds, stadiums and arenas. Guyana is now the 19th country in the region of the Americas that is complying with Article 8 of the FCTC.
- FCTC Article 11- Packaging and labelling of tobacco products. Guyana mandates pictorial health warnings of 60 percent of each principal display area and has banned misleading terms and other characteristics. Guyana is now the 17th country to effectively implement Article 11 of the FCTC.

- FCTC Article 13 – Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. Guyana has banned all forms of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship including product display and corporate social responsibility. Guyana is now the 6th country in the region to effectively implement Article 13 of the FCTC.

Guyana has also effectively passed legislation to address the tobacco industry interference (FCTC Article 5.3), sales to and from minors (FCTC Article 16) and provides regulatory authority to control tobacco products although no specific product content/emissions requirements are in the law (FCTC Art 9 and 10).

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Sensitisation sessions were conducted on the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) with medexes and community health workers in all regions. Although the mhGAP pilot is not fully representative of the entire population, if taken as a snapshot of the state of the country's mental health, the results suggest that the strengthening and expansion of mental health services is in dire need of focused attention. Capacity strengthening was conducted among health care workers from 43 primary health facilities that are equipped to offer mental health services through the mhGAP training from the Mental Health Unit in collaboration with PAHO/WHO.

In-school youths benefitted from training to conduct education and awareness sessions with their peers, which was aimed at creating an environment that allows and encourages individuals to become conscious about their health and wellbeing, to take action to prevent illnesses through adaptation of healthy lifestyle practices and choices and to effectively deal with challenging life situations.

The MoPH in collaboration with PAHO/WHO elaborated its National Plans of Action to Rapidly Reduce Maternal Mortality. This included training on Zero Maternal Mortality and Perinatal Information System (SIP) at the national level for supervisors in all administrative regions. The SIP was reintroduced nationally and plans are geared towards elimination of congenital syphilis and HIV. A core team was assembled to manage the fight against maternal mortality and an implementation plan was finalised.

Health care workers who support family planning underwent refresher training in the area of insertion of implants and other contraceptives with plans in place for additional family planning training. This was important since there was procurement of contraceptives (implants) and compressions suits for Post-Partum Haemorrhage management.

Access to care was improved for leprosy, towards disease elimination at the sub-national level. Health personnel in the hinterland regions were trained to make it possible for leprosy affected patients to have access to health care in their community.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

There was strengthening of disaster/emergency management capacity with an Incident Command Training – 42 persons (64 percent male and 36 percent female) and Mass Casualty Management Training – 39 persons (49 percent male and 51 percent female). This was in addition to the training of personnel to develop health facility contingency plans for 10 facilities. Additionally, the conservation and contingency plans and assessments of Hospital Patient Flow for five (5) healthcare facilities selected for retrofitting were completed.

Simulated field exercise (desktop and drill) for an emergency situation detection and control, using the Health Multi-hazard Emergency Management Plan and IHR capacities were developed in Region 9, by PAHO/WHO and MoPH with active participation of the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), local government, different sectors and the community, in multiple scenarios.

As part of UNFPA's support to enhance capacity for emergency preparedness and response, a two-days training on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in emergency situations was conducted. The MISP is

a set of priority activities for reproductive health that should be implemented in the initial phase of an emergency. It emphasises the prevention of mortality and morbidity of the affected population, particularly women and girls.

LAWS AND POLICIES

During 2018, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Public Health in further finalising the existing draft Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Policy in order to secure its adoption. This will allow for the implementation of the national SRH Policy and Strategic Action Plan. The document awaits Cabinet's approval.

The Ministry of Public Health partnered with PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA to develop an Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) Situational Analysis of Adolescents' Health in Guyana. The objective of this situational analysis is to present a clear picture of the available programmes that are ongoing, challenges and gaps, as well as the necessary strategies and proven interventions according to the AAHA! guidelines that could be implemented in order to reduce the mortality and morbidity of adolescents in Guyana.

UNICEF in collaboration with UNFPA supported the Ministry of Public Health in developing a Situation Analysis on Adolescent Pregnancy in Guyana which is anticipated to provide data to support interventions targeted by the Ministry.



PAHO/WHO Photo | Emergency Preparedness simulation.

PILLAR 3: A SAFE, COHESIVE AND JUST GUYANA



The Safe, Cohesive and Just Pillar seeks to: (1) strengthen capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organizations and (2) reinforce equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety.

Achievements

- Juvenile Justice Bill passed.
- Children's Court launched.
- Code for Prosecutors completed.
- 20 ft containerised test firing range commissioned.

Achievements for outcome one included collaboration between Government and UN to strengthen the justice sector, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide investigation and prosecution and strengthening capacities to fight corruption. Efforts to strengthen evidence based decision making for citizen security included strengthening data collection systems and providing access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services.

LEGISLATIVE REFORM, POLICY AND BUDGETING

In ensuring that the rule of law is upheld, the Government invested G\$3.1 billion in the justice sector in 2018. Institutional strengthening was done through training of judges and prosecutors in the area of anti-money laundering, terrorism financing, violent extremism and asset recovery. This was done in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank.

The juvenile justice system was updated through the passage of the Juvenile Justice Bill. The legislation raises the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years, encourages the use of diversionary options and detention as a last resort, abolishes all status offences, prohibits the use of corporal punishment in detention centres and advances the right of legal aid for children. Further, the legislation was complemented by a costing exercise, which will serve as a primary planning tool in line ministries and development agencies to support the financial implementation. The Act brings Guyana into compliance with the UNCRC treaty, specifically articles 3,12,37,40, 43-45.

In 2018, Guyana's first children's court became operational and two (2) policies were approved: children without adequate parental care and the prevention and response to child labour. These two policies are critical, as Government and UNICEF can now strategically intensify their efforts to support prevention, including gate keeping for children likely to come into care, the deinstitutionalisation of over 700 children in formal care and discussions on strengthening social protection policies for children.

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection, UNICEF began support for the development of a plan of action for the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act, 2010. Services for the one-stop reporting and response to sexual violence were decentralised to three (3) of Guyana's 10 administrative regions. The availability of this social service is now in five (5) regions and will respond to the estimated report of over 2,000 reported cases of violence per year in the country. Additionally, strengthening of "allied professionals", as part of the social welfare improvements, resulted in the training of 15 social workers, who will be able to specialise in juvenile justice services. There was also agreement between the Judiciary and the University of Guyana to develop a training programme for all Court officers attached to the Sexual Offences Court.

As part of its response geared at addressing Gender Based Violence, UNFPA deployed a Gender Based Violence Specialist to Guyana to assess the situation and highlight recommendations for the agency's support to the Government.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING THROUGH LEGISLATION AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

With support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) legislation and policies were reviewed, while the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) to guide investigation, interviewing and prosecution were drafted and are being reviewed.

The Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) established in Guyana with the support of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)-World Customs Organisation (WCO) Global Container Control Programme seized a total of 5.5 Kg² of cannabis in 2018. The JPCU benefitted from training and mentoring delivered by UNODC.

2 This amount corresponds to the seizures conducted by the JPCU only during 2018. The JPCU comprises representatives from Customs, Customs Anti-narcotic Unit (CANU) and the Guyana Police Force.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

UNODC supported the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to complete the Code for Prosecutors, which standardises and renders more transparent decision making within the Office. Mentoring was also delivered to the State Assets Recovery Agency (SARA) and a “Walk against Corruption” was organised and carried out by SARA and UNODC with a view to raise awareness on the importance of preventing and fighting against corruption.

The Government, through SARA, has identified stolen state assets and has pursued and concluded legal settlements with several parties. The agency has over 30 additional cases it is pursuing, which are at different stages of preparation, before approaching the courts and over 1,500 individuals have been trained in 2018, to prevent the loss and misuse of state assets.

STRENGTHENING POLICE BALLISTIC SYSTEMS

The ballistic systems of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) was strengthened with support from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), with the supply and commissioning of a 20 ft containerised test firing range. The range was supplied by the Energy Containment Concepts Ltd, an internationally recognised leader in the installation of firearm ranges. Ten (10) staff from the Guyana Police Force and Guyana Forensic Scientific Laboratory received training in the maintenance of the range. UNLIREC also provided replacement Kevlar for use in the GPF’s Kevlar Recovery System.

UNLIREC also conducted an assessment of the physical ballistic samples available to create an open case file (OCF), which is a collection of spent bullets, cartridge cases and wadding from unsolved gun crime scenes. These items are retained to enable comparison with items recovered at new crime scenes. This allows incidents to be linked by reference to the same firearm. Phase 3 of UNLIREC’s Combating Illicit Firearms and Ammunition Trafficking in the Caribbean through Operational Forensic Ballistics, seeks to develop a Physical OCF to improve Guyana’s ability to link gun crimes and reduce impunity in cases of armed violence.

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING FOR CITIZEN SECURITY IN THE CARIBBEAN

A toolkit, which includes indicators and protocols for the establishment of a consistent and standardised approach to data collection, measurement, disaggregation and analysis across crime and security agencies in Guyana was

fully endorsed by the Cabinet and preparations have been completed for the piloting of the data collection forms at a selected number of police stations in Guyana, including Fort Wellington (Region 5), Alberrtown and Brickdam (Region 4).

CITIZENS HAVE INCREASED ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES THROUGH ICT AT THE NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS

A five (5)-years ICT project for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities (HPRCs) was signed and implementation arrangements have been finalized between the Ministry of Public Telecommunications and UNDP. Procurement processes are ongoing for information technology and solar power equipment for the establishment of ICT Hubs in the HPRCs. These hubs would be used to make over 200 government services accessible to the communities.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM EDUCATION

With support from UNDP’s Democratic Governance Funding Window, a project to provide Constitutional Reform Education in Guyana was signed. The first aspect of this project, a survey to measure citizens’ knowledge and interest on the Constitution and the need for reform, is on-going across the regions of Guyana. The results of this survey will guide the development of materials for public outreach and education on constitutional reform through the University of Guyana.

LOCALISATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNDP fielded an International United Nations Volunteer (IUNV) in Region 9 to support the local government in the finalisation of its Plan of Action for Regional Development (PARD). The SDGs are being mainstreamed in the elaboration of this PARD. To this effect, the IUNV engaged in SDGs awareness raising sessions as a part of the PARD consultation with villages and leaders in Region 9. The draft PARD and Standard Operating Procedures for the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit that would be overseeing the PARD implementation in the Region have been completed with finalisation planned for 2019. SDGs public awareness was also conducted in the form of exhibitions and fairs to engage students and the general public.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Support was provided to develop the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Bill; the draft legislation was amended to prescribe a decentralised approach for solid waste management in Guyana. This updated draft was accepted by the Ministry of Communities.

PILLAR 4: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT GUYANA



The need to ensure the achievement of a Resilient and Sustainable Guyana has never been more imperative than with the current impetus in Guyana to transition into a Green State. This pillar seeks to (1) put policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place and (2) adopt inclusive and sustainable solutions for the conservation, restoration, and use of ecosystems and natural resources.

Achievements

- Green State Development Strategy finalised.
- Gender Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the agriculture sector developed.
- Study on Climate Landscape for Children conducted.

Results of 2018 Government/UN collaborations include the establishment of the Green State Development Strategy coordination office, enhancement of disaster risk management practices, testing and implementing climate - smart agricultural practices and building capacity for various sectors.

GREEN STATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: VISION 2040



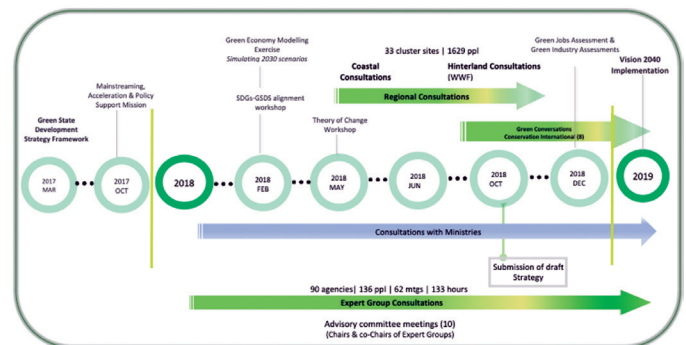
Green State
Development Strategy
VISION 2040

In 2018, the GSDS Coordination Office was established, as well as an advisory group and seven (7) Thematic Expert Working Groups, which provided significant inputs to guide the drafting and review of the GSDS: Vision 2040. The GSDS is a roadmap to achieve a more diversified, green and inclusive economy, while at the same time achieving sustainable development. UN Environment along with the ILO,

UNDP and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) provided technical support for the successful completion of various initiatives to support the elaboration of the GSDS including the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission; Green Modelling exercise: simulating 2030 scenarios; hosting of nine (9) green conversations - 33 nationwide consultations in 198 communities across all 10 administrative regions; conducting a Green Job Assessment and a Green Industry Assessment; hosting a

SDGs - GSDS alignment workshop and a Theory of Change workshop and completing five (5) research reports. These initiatives ensured that the GSDS elaboration process was inclusive and participatory in all aspects. Sector ministries and agencies utilised the GSDS guidance to develop their 2019 budgets.

The GSDS will ensure the consolidation of previous sustainable development policies into a coherent framework. The strategy will provide an enabling policy environment for improved coordination among government agencies and partners and development of institutional arrangements and programmes to manage the environment and economy as a whole to ensure a better quality of life for all Guyanese.



Summary of the GSDS Consultations Process for the elaboration of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040. Source: GSDS Coordination Office

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The enhancement of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Guyana continued. The Civil Defence Commission received support from UNICEF to re-engage the established Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Committee and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the Baramita community to develop databases and maps, which will illustrate the Baramita community's specific hazard through the use of drone, satellite imagery and GPS technology.

Further work in DRM was supported by FAO and UNDP in collaboration with three (3) agencies in the agriculture sector: National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) and Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB). Fifty-nine (59) extension and administrative officers were trained in DRR principles, concepts and tools; climate-smart agriculture practices and operational aspects of natural hazards; risk prevention; early warning systems; impact mitigation and preparedness measures. Farmers, livestock holders and fisher folk of 5 villages - Now or Never, Lovely Lass, Fryish, Number 4, and D' Edward - were oriented towards disaster

risk reduction concepts, climate smart agriculture practices for natural hazards, risk prevention, and impact mitigation and preparedness through 14 training sessions. Livelihood and vulnerability profiles were completed and distributed to residents of each of the five (5) pilot communities to aid in better decision making.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

To support farmers' learning, demonstration sites for pilot testing climate smart agriculture approaches and disaster risk reduction best practices were established by GRDB in Lovely Lass. NAREI successfully transferred technology and knowledge in vermicomposting, improved planting and farming techniques, shade house construction and use, and Integrated Pest Management methods at D'Edward, Lovely Lass and Now and Never. GLDA held practical sessions in the five (5) pilot communities in herd management – refuge mound construction, animal health and nutrition – making of silage and molasses urea blocks and pasture management with the use of improved grass varieties for pasture. Two (2) pastures were established in Fyrish, Lovely Lass, Number 4 and Now or Never.



FAO Guyana Photo | Introduction of the cassava Seed Bank technique in Paruima Village, Region 7

In an effort to transfer technology and innovation for climate-smart agriculture, GRDB introduced GRDB15, which is a climate-smart rice variety with accompanying improved soil health management practices through zero burning of rice straws, minimal pesticide exposure, adaption of low seed rate and balance nutrition programmes, to all five farming communities. Rice farmers of the communities and across the other rice growing regions adopted and are practicing the Best Agronomic practice on DRM: zero-burning (incorporating straw into the field), better seed treatment programmes, choosing the resilient rice variety, time of sowing, balance nutrition, and better land levelling techniques.

Additionally, a Gender Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Agriculture Sector in Guyana was developed by UNDP in collaboration with FAO. The strategy seeks to guide efforts to integrate gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction and agriculture projects and programmes in the future.

FAO has also commenced implementation of two CARICOM regional projects, in the coastal and hinterland communities of Regions 2, 7, 8 and 9, to build resilience in the agricultural sector against the effects of climate change and also to improve the governance framework for disaster risk management within that sector. Additionally, FAO has supported initiatives conducted to identify, document and facilitate uptake of integrated and multi-sectoral strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Similarly, with the Ministry of Agriculture, three (3) adaptation pilot projects were identified to demonstrate measures to combat climate vulnerabilities: implementation of climate smart agriculture such as shade house technology and production in Region 3, integrated agriculture production on marginal soils utilising livestock production coupled with shade house production in Region 4 and use of raised pens for small ruminant to mitigate the effects of flooding in Region 5.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

To support the phasing out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) in the servicing sector, five (5) training schools (University of Guyana, Government Technical Institute (GTI), Sophia Training Centre (STC), Kuru Kuru Training Centre and Guyana Sugar Corporation Inc. (GUYSUCO) Training Centre received laboratory refrigeration and air conditioning equipment from the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydromet Division with assistance from UNDP. The University and the STC successfully installed their first refrigeration and air conditioning training laboratory. Six (6) instructors from GTI, STC and the Essequibo Technical Institute were trained to use local materials for the construction of demonstration equipment and units including training boards, which were completed for GTI and STC. A tertiary level training course on Refrigeration Management was tailored for the Faculty of Technology, UG. This new course was delivered to third year students in the Industrial Engineering Degree programme. Approximately 57 students will be trained under the refrigeration and air conditioning course annually at the University and the STC. Further work is underway for the preparation of a HCFC Phase-out Management Plan, which is expected to assist in capacity building and education of key stakeholders as it relates to the work of the Montreal Protocol.

Three hundred (300) stakeholders from ministries, media, mining, logging and private businesses were equipped through capacity building sessions by the Department of Environment, with support from UNDP, to improve environmental management and the general institutional mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on environmental issues. The policy and institutional arrangements in keeping with the three conventions³ were completed, which allowed for the collation and distribution of legal instruments to agencies to facilitate environmental

3 The three conventions are: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

management. A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with its accompanying manual; Financial and Economic Analysis of Monitoring and Enforcement of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification Implementation; and Strengthening Technical Capacities to Mainstream and Monitor the Rio Convention implementation through policy coordination were among several documents produced. The first phase for the development of a centralised system for environmental management was achieved with the completion of a feasibility study for the Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System (EIMMS). Line ministries were trained in the environmental database management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enhance their data management capacities. Nine hundred (900) persons now have an increased awareness of global environmental values to promote greater appreciation for addressing global environmental obligations.

FAO collaborated with the NGO - Specialists in Sustained Youth Development and Research Inc. to strengthen and expand young people's capacities, knowledge and skills, and rural employment creation, while engaging them in policy debates in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. Ninety (90) youths received training in business proposal writing, small business management and the principles of entrepreneurship with the overarching goal to access decent employment opportunities. Over 80 young people (with 74 percent being females) were presented with seed grants (individual and group grants ranging from US\$ 500 to US\$5,000, which totalled US\$106, 605). These grants are intended for business start-ups in market-oriented agricultural and food related activities, including production, small-scale processing, agro-tourism, input supply and marketing, and other derived opportunities. The awardees were also involved in policy dialogues, engaged in the Guyana Learning Route and participated in the Regional Learning Route.

REGULATIONS/STUDIES/REPORTS

The development of policies and citizens' sensitisation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) was undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with support from UN Environment. It facilitated the drafting and revision of the ABS Regulation, which will enhance the negotiating capacity of the Amerindian communities. Upgrades were made to the National Biodiversity Research Information System (NBRIS). ABS sensitisation tools were developed – one documentary is under production, one ABS training module developed, and three (3) ABS signs developed and installed at three (3) ports of entry.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Office for Climate Change (OCC), conducted a study on Climate Landscape for Children (CLAC) using a mixed methods approach consisting of a review of relevant documents that focus on children, national policies, strategies and action plans and 'face to face' semi-structured interviews with twenty-one stakeholder agencies. The CLAC provides a framework to continue

working with the Government and other development institutions to address the issue regarding children and their access to energy services in Guyana.

The OCC, with support from UNDP and FAO, prepared the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA), Biennial Update Report (BUR), and Third National Communication (TNC) report in order to meet its reporting obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The TNA was completed and will aid sector agencies in the prioritization of technologies, preparation of barrier analysis and action plans. The BUR and the TNC are being undertaken with the Project Implementation Plan being prepared for the BUR. The TNC is approximately 50 percent completed with the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Vulnerability and Adaptation assessment, Mitigation Assessment, and National Baseline Assessment being at different stages of completion. Additionally, UNDP provided technical assistance to the OCC for the drafting of a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) report on the Greening of Towns in Guyana and is currently facilitating the review of Guyana's draft Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The OCC and UNDP secured US\$1.7 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the Mainstreaming Low-emission Energy Technologies initiative, which aims to accelerate the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies by reducing national dependence on imported fossil fuels and support Guyana on its path to more decentralised, inclusive and resilient development. The sum of US\$300,000 was mobilized from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the development of a readiness proposal, which will enable the development of national capacities to access the GCF through the accreditation of a direct access entity.

The sum of US\$1.5 million was mobilised through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, to provide financial and technical support over a period of four years, for the transition towards a green and inclusive green economy in Guyana, thus supporting the implementation of the GSDS.

A sum of US\$2.7million was secured from the Government of Japan by UNDP for the Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity of Women initiative. The resources will fund a four year project (2018-2021) which will address gaps in gender analysis, hazard and risk data, limited integration of climate change and disaster risk planning and practices in the agriculture sector and limited access to appropriate, sustainable finance for vulnerable small farmers and women's groups. Following a Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) launch ceremony at the Bina Hill Institute in the North Rupununi, two Training-of-Trainers sessions on the methodology were held. As a result, 39 farmers from 20 communities and 28 extension officers from Regions 6 and 9 were equipped to make informed decisions on disaster resilient livelihoods using the PICSA method.

VENEZUELAN MIGRANT SITUATION RESPONSE

In 2018, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) established its presence in Guyana for the first time to support the government to address the needs of Venezuelan refugees, migrants and returning Guyanese. Through its implementing partner, the Venezuelan Support Group (VSG), counselling was provided to 2900 persons on registration and regularisation of stay for Venezuelans and counselling on verification and naturalisation for returning Guyanese. The agency has also supported immigration and health authorities with interpretation services for registration and issuance of stay permit. The majority of Venezuelans arriving in Guyana were women, with children to support in Venezuela, at high risk of exploitation, in either the mining industry or through prostitution, and at risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

Achievements

- 2900 persons counselled on registration, regularisation, verification and naturalisation.
- Deployment of mobile teams for birth registration services.
- Provision of immunisations

The Department of Citizenship was supported by UNHCR with equipment for their immigration post and roaming immigration officers to digitalize registration of Venezuelans and returning Guyanese through the database management system - Population Registration and Identity Management EcoSystem (PRIMES). The equipment enabled immigration officers to capture biometric data ensuring integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of registration, protection, assistance and solutions programmes, which is highly dependent on the accuracy with which persons of concern are identified and their identity data managed.

UNICEF supported the absorption capacity and resilience building within marginalized host communities in the border area, which resulted in agreements with the Ministry of Education to extend access to education for students, deployments of mobile teams for birth registration services and the deployment of additional locally-recruited social workers and child protection officers to boost service capacity at bordering regions, addressing the needs of over 12,000 people including 8,400 children. These were augmented by nutrition, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and education sector interventions designed to build upon and enhance existing programmatic collaboration under the Regional Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC). Shelter, hygiene and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies were procured and distributed to a total of 180 families in Regions 1, 7 and 9.

At the regional level, UNICEF supported the CDC with operationalisation of the Regional Disaster Risk Management

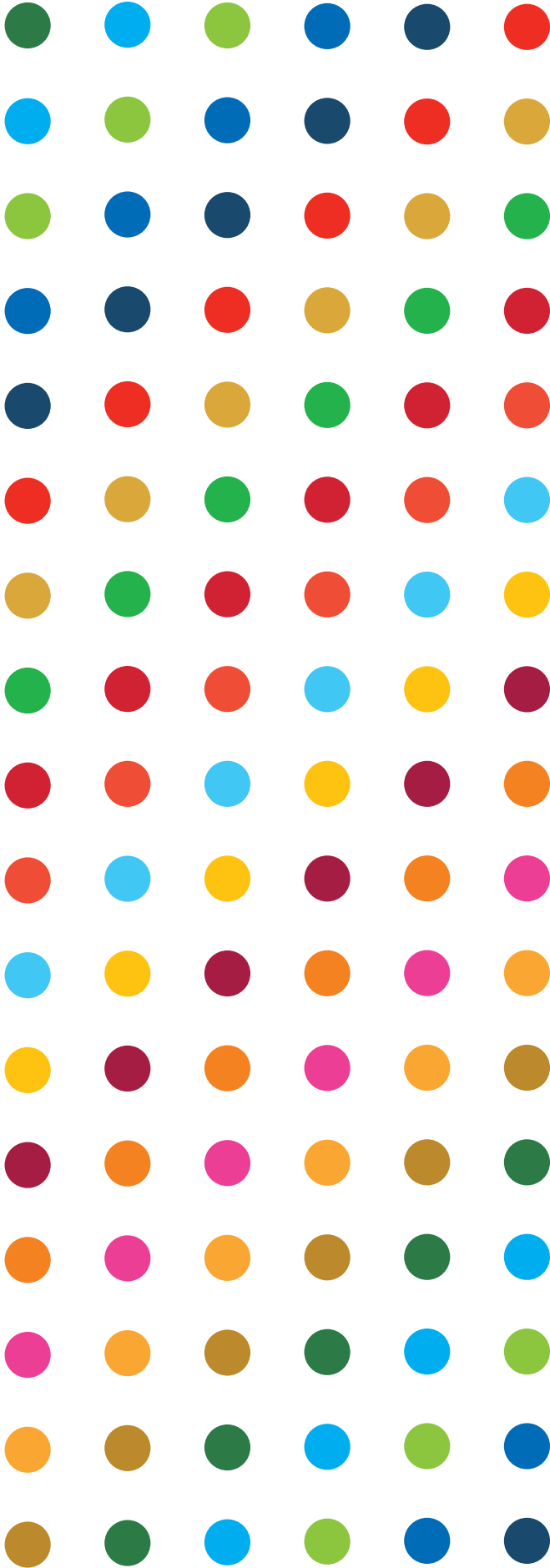


IOM Photo | Distribution of supplies to a Venezuelan migrant.

System (RDRMS) in three (3) of the administrative regions that were impacted by the Venezuelan migration situation. Through the facilitation of information management surge capacity to the national response mechanism was sourced via MapAction-UK. In country training in GIS and data management systems for DRR and emergency response was provided for CDC staff and volunteer corps members.

PAHO/WHO collaborated with national authorities to monitor the condition of migrants and strengthen epidemiological surveillance, information management, detection, verification, and risk assessments of events related to epidemic-prone diseases. The response plan for Venezuelan migrants included rapid assessments, immunisation, surveillance, laboratory sampling and testing, malaria activities, points of entry and port health, International Health Regulations (IHR), and risk communication.

RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS



RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

UN COMMON PREMISES

Ongoing engagement with the Government in 2018 yielded results with a budgetary allocation of G\$199.8 million to provide a common house for UN agencies operating in Guyana.

LONG TERM AGREEMENT (LTA)

A LTA for Sanitary Disposal Services was established.

UN PHYSICIANS

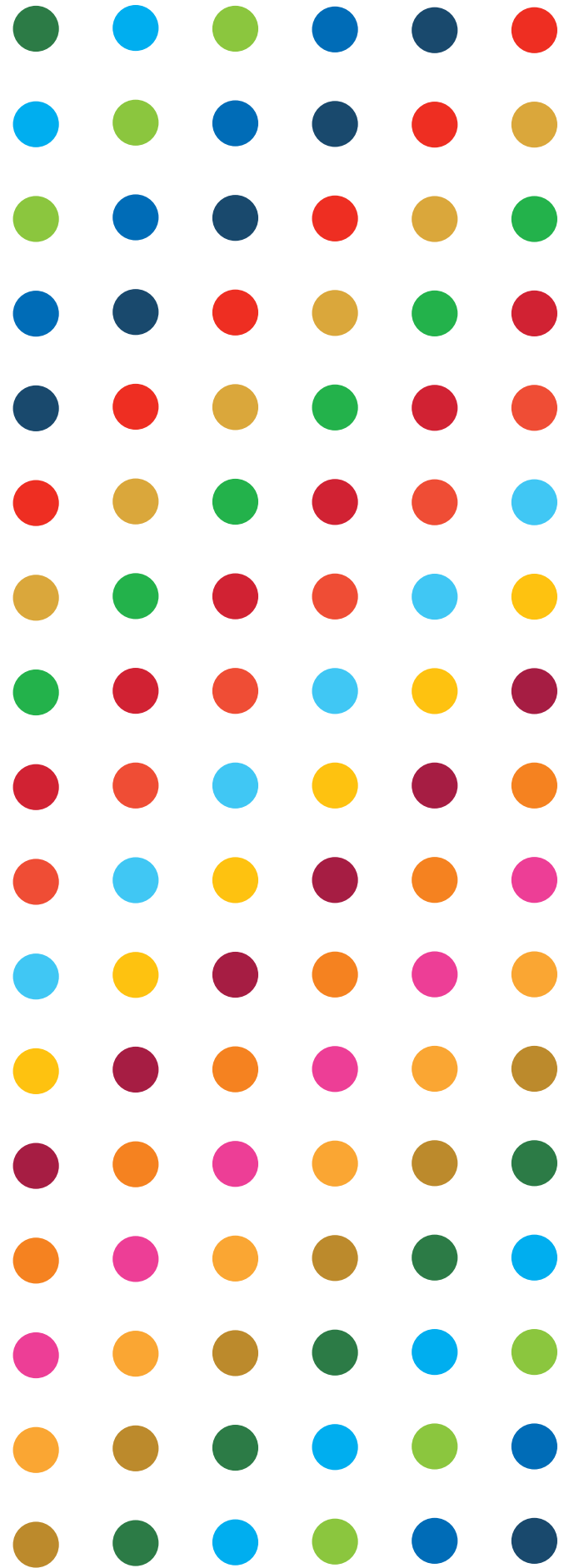
Five (5) examining physicians, registered with the Guyana Medical Council, were reviewed and approved by the UN Medical Services Division.

They cover:

- General and family medicine
- Neurosurgery
- Integrated general medicine, and
- Obstetrics/gynaecology.



RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE



RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

In 2018 communications and advocacy of the UNCT in support of the Government's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation was conducted in several ways:

- **Exhibitions:** UN agencies hosted and participated in various outreaches. Some were to commemorate UN observances while others were initiatives of the Government. These included International Women's Day, World Health Day, Harmony Village, World Day against Trafficking in Persons, and World Food Day. At these exhibitions information about the SDGs and the UN's partnership with the Government to achieve same were highlighted.

- **Schools interaction:** UN Day was observed with the hosting of two (2) information sessions with secondary school students. 20 schools from five (5) of the country's administrative Regions were represented at the sessions. The students benefitted from presentations on the work of UN agencies operating in Guyana.

- **Edutainment:** A dramatic presentation was developed to highlight key results of agencies work towards the achievement of the SDGs; this was shared during the sessions with students on UN Day.

- **Video production:** Video messages were recorded and aired to mark UN Days including Zero Discrimination Day, UN Day, and Human Rights Day. Additionally, the SDGs edutainment presentation was recorded. These recordings were shared on the UN Guyana Facebook and YouTube pages.

- **Media outreach:** The UN Resident Coordinator and Heads of Agencies appeared on television and radio talk shows to sensitise the public about the support UN agencies provide to Government to achieve the SDGs. Also, there was ongoing media coverage of agencies' events.

- **Website and Social media:** The UN Guyana website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube pages were populated throughout the year with global and local content about various campaigns, observances, and activities hosted by agencies.

- **E-newsletter:** A quarterly newsletter highlighting the work of the UN agencies to support achievement of the SDGs was prepared and shared with all staff and stakeholders from Government, the diplomatic community, and non-governmental organisations.

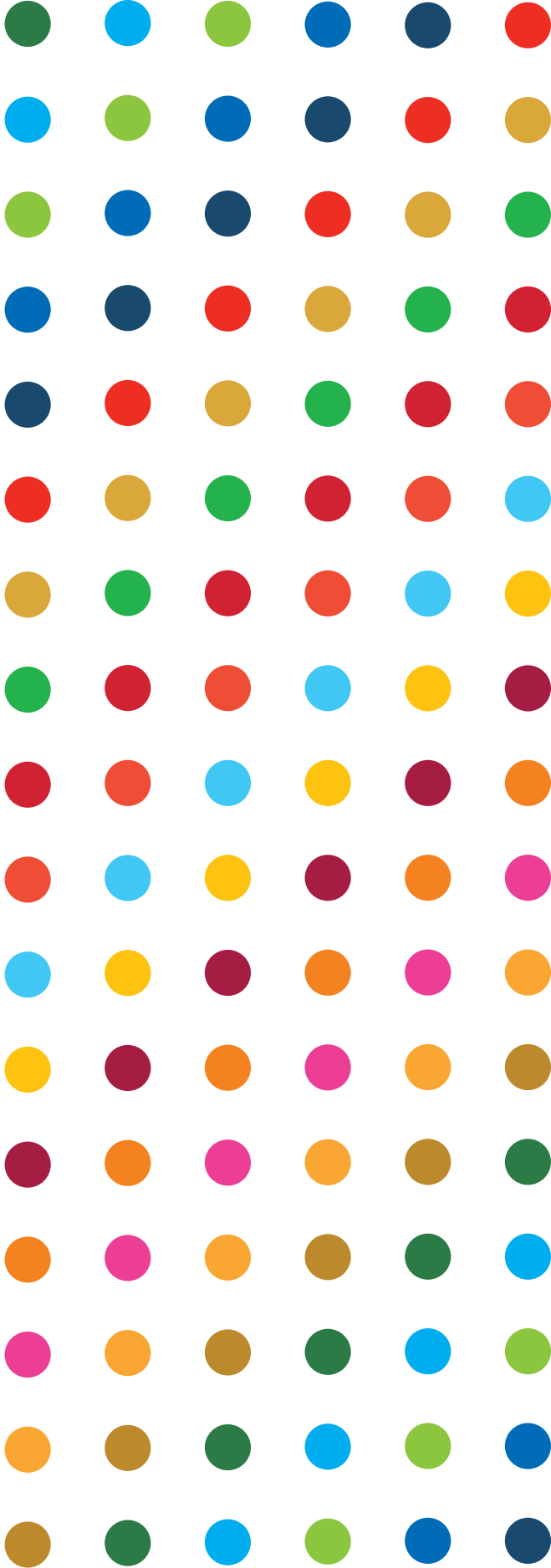
- **Speeches and presentations:** The UN Resident Coordinator and Heads of Agencies delivered speeches at various fora to inform of the UN's work in various development areas inclusive of education, sexual and reproductive health, poverty and governance, environmental issues, food and nutrition security, health, and migration and related issues. Additionally, various visual presentations were prepared and shared during interactions with stakeholders.

- **Branding:** SDGs branding continued on clothing, billboards, pens, pins, brochures, and other memorabilia and informational materials.



UN Guyana Photo | UN booth at Harmony Village, which was hosted by the Ministry of Social Cohesion.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

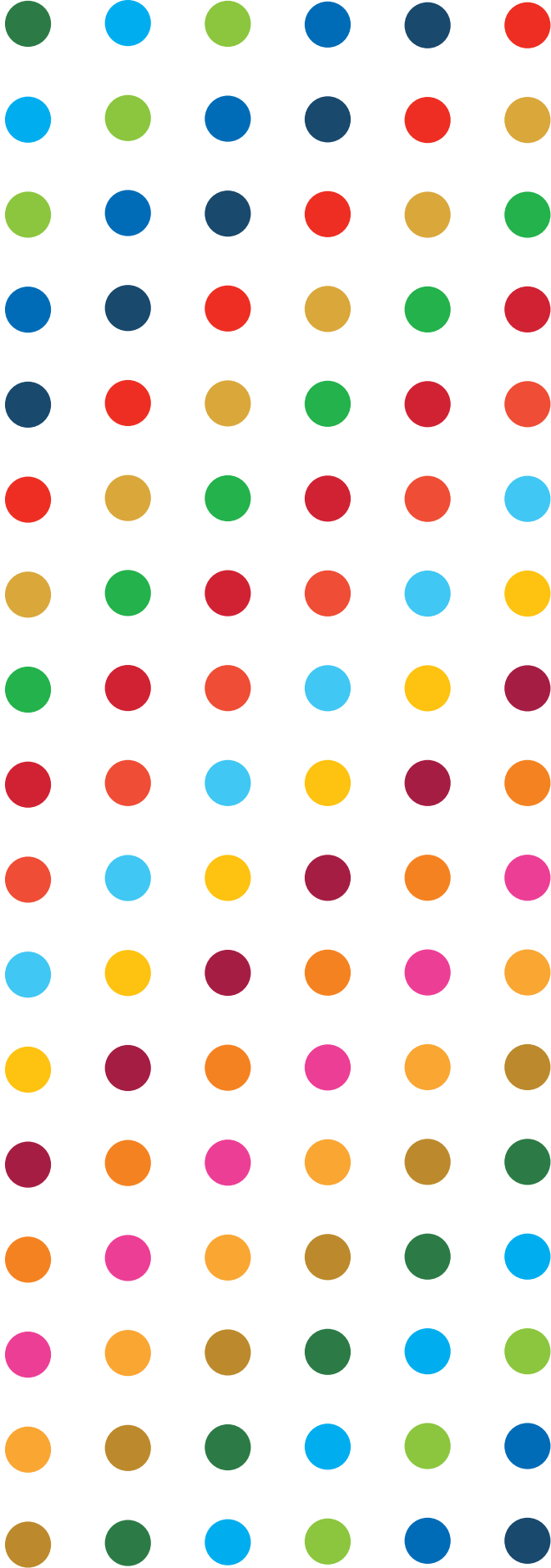


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Below is a summary of 2018 expenditure.

PRIORITY AREA	EXPENDITURE - 2018
An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Guyana	\$2,504,655.00
A Healthy Guyana	\$483,755.41
A Safe, Cohesive and Just Guyana	\$1,770,195.00
A Sustainable and Resilient Guyana	\$3,251,951.00
Total	\$8,010,556.41

LESSONS
LEARNED
AND THE WAY
FORWARD



LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

LESSONS LEARNED

Guyana's provision of support to Venezuelan migrants has been evident across all four (4) pillars. Government and several UN agencies have partnered through different mechanisms to assess the needs of the migrants and host communities and have dedicated resources to addressing their challenges. Vulnerable groups, especially women and children, are experiencing the direct effects of the situation in Venezuela and have fled to Guyana. In light of Guyana's current border controversy with Venezuela, which has reached to the level of the International Court of Justice, Guyana's response to this situation must be commended.

The review of progress of implementation of the CIP in 2018 has provided several opportunities for enhancing coordination and joint work between the Government and the UN Country Team. The high-level commitment of the Government is particularly unique and the efficient coordination/leadership from the Ministry of Finance and Department of Environment has been critical to bringing together all stakeholders and keeping partners focused on achieving development results for Guyana.

Deliberate efforts by the Ministry of Finance in Guyana to ensure all M&E Officers, who support the reporting on the implementation of CIP activities, work together more consistently, has resulted in improved efficiency and an appreciation for the processes involved in monitoring the CIP.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Delays in the review of draft deliverables, for joint activities, resulted in overruns in contracts with consultants/vendors.
- The attempt to determine the proportion of children and households covered by Guyana's social protection systems has been delayed for a second year. The joint terms of reference was proposed by UNICEF and Inter American Development Bank (IADB) for the conduct/update of a mapping of social protection systems, but it is still under review.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Joint Government/UN M& E Group shared several observations and recommendations including the need for several interventions within the context of the CIP across the public sector such as:

- 1) Continuation of M&E systems capacity assessments for central government agencies.
- 2) Identification and agreement on leadership and the role and responsibility in implementing the strategy (MoTP, MoF, Bureau of Statistics, Line Ministries, new entity etc.)
- 3) Reviewing public sector indicators and identifying necessary actions towards improvement within the context of the CIP.





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