



UNITED NATIONS
GUYANA



DECADE
OF >>>>
ACTION

Annual Results Report **GUYANA** 2024

March 2025

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Jean Kamau
Resident Coordinator
United Nations Guyana

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Having joined the UN System in Guyana in 2024, I am pleased and encouraged with the progress we have made.

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Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

On behalf of the UN Country Team of UN Heads of Agencies, Funds and Programmes, I am pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report presents the achievements realised in keeping with the Country Implementation Plan 2024-2025. Having joined the UN System in Guyana in 2024, I am pleased and encouraged with the progress we have made, in close collaboration with the Government, civil society, development partners, the private sector, the media, and a diverse array of stakeholders, towards the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Guyana.

Under the strategic guidance of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, and other key ministries, our collective efforts have yielded significant advancements in shared prosperity, well-being, environmental resilience, and justice through targeted initiatives. Key achievements include our contributions to strengthening agri-food systems and rural livelihoods, expanding digital inclusion, enhancing policy frameworks, and improving equitable access to education, health, and social services. Alongside these efforts, we helped to bolster disaster preparedness, promote climate-smart agriculture and biodiversity conservation, strengthen governance and justice systems, enhance GBV response, and advance HIV response and inclusivity, collectively building foundations for a more resilient, inclusive, safer, fairer, and more equitable Guyana.

In 2024, the Sustainable Development Report, based on international estimates and not directly on national statistical data, indicated gradual progress on the SDGs for Guyana since 2020. According to the 2024 report, Guyana is on track to achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It is moderately improving on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

This progress is underpinned by the Government's commitment to improve the welfare of all segments of the population, particularly the most vulnerable among us.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Member States and our valued donors for their indispensable financial contributions, which are the lifeblood of our work. Your unwavering support is profoundly appreciated. A special note of gratitude is expressed to the Government and people of Guyana for the fundraising exercise undertaken in 2024 to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Finally, and most importantly, this report is a tribute to the extraordinary dedication and tireless efforts of the 165 staff members across our Agencies, Funds, and Programmes in Guyana. They are the unwavering backbone of our operations, and their commitment is the driving force behind every achievement detailed herein. To each of you, thank you.

UN Country Team

The following United Nations Agencies, Funds, and Programmes maintain a field presence in Guyana. In 2024, UNAIDS closed its office but maintained its presence in-country through the appointment of a technical advisory post in the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. The HIV/AIDS Adviser reports directly to the RC and is responsible for the coordination of the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS and its engagement with the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS), as well as all UNAIDS partnerships with CSOs in Guyana.



The following UN Specialised Agencies, Funds, and Programmes and the UN's Regional Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), conduct operations in Guyana from regional or international offices.



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

Key Development Partners of the UN System in Guyana

The UN Country Team in Guyana acknowledges the invaluable contributions of all UN Member States, whose assessed contributions, voluntary investments, and essential resources support our work. Gratitude is also extended to development partners for supporting our work in Guyana. During 2024 partnerships were also formed and enhanced with national authorities and civil society organisations.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

- Canada
- European Union
- Germany
- Norway
- North Macedonia
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

- Agence Française de Développement
- Building and Nuclear Safety/International Climate Initiative
- Center for International Forest Research
- Fundación Cultural y Social 5ta con 5ta Crew
- Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme
- Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
- Nature Conservation
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- Caribbean Broadcasting Union
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- Media Institute of the Caribbean
- University of the West Indies

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

- Civil Defence Commission
- Director of Public Prosecutions
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Guyana Energy Agency
- Guyana Lands and Survey Commission
- Guyana Livestock Development Authority
- Guyana Police Force
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Housing and Water (Guyana Water Incorporated)

- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance
- Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce
- National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute
- National Tashas Council
- Office of the First Lady
- Office of the President
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Rights of the Child Commission
- University of Guyana
- Women and Gender Equality Commission

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR

- Artistes in Direct Support
- Amerindian Peoples Association
- Blossom Inc.
- Child Link Inc.
- Empire Plus Guyana
- Family Awareness Consciousness Togetherness
- Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- GN+
- Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities
- Guyana Equality Forum
- Guyana Sex Work Coalition
- Guyana National Youth Council
- Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
- Help and Shelter
- HIAS Guyana
- National Tashas Council
- Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management
- Private Sector Commission
- Rights of the Child Commission
- Shades of the Sky
- Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination
- University of Guyana
- Women and Gender Equality Commission

Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context



01

SDGs PRIORITIES

THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE SDGs IS EVIDENT IN ITS RESOURCE ALLOCATION CHOICES.

Between 2023 and 2024, budget allocations to key SDG-enabling sectors saw substantial increases. For instance, funding for agricultural development (SDG 2) rose by approximately 60 percent, allocations to education (SDG 4) increased by nearly 30 percent, and allocations for clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) expanded by roughly 30 percent. The increased budget allocations continue to signal Guyana's continued commitment to progress.



02

OIL REVENUE

THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR IN GUYANA CONTINUES TO GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES

and fiscal space that are channelled towards national development priorities, which include addressing the infrastructure gaps across sectors and enhancing human capital development and social services as well as SDG priorities that aim to improve the long-term productive capacity of the Guyanese economy. In 2024, for example, oil revenue reached US\$2.6 billion, roughly 10 percent of GDP and more than a third of the national budget.



03

ENVIRONMENT

GUYANA'S LCDS 2030 STRATEGY PROMOTES LOW-CARBON GROWTH THROUGH RAINFOREST PROTECTION AND CLEAN ENERGY.

Guyana presented its inaugural Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) to the UNFCCC in February 2024. This report details national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, NDC progress, and mitigation/adaptation strategies. Guyana is one of only two countries to date to have submitted its BTR; the other is Andorra. Guyana's commitment to addressing climate-related challenges and their implications for global stability was highlighted at the UN Security Council as H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali chaired a high-level open debate on the impact of climate change and food insecurity on international peace and security during Guyana's presidency of the Security Council in February 2024.

Rapid growth in the country, as well as external factors, introduced challenges including imported inflation, vulnerabilities, and potential political tensions, alongside environmental concerns from fossil fuel extraction and industrialisation. Despite these emerging issues, Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development through its Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, aiming to balance economic progress with environmental stewardship.

TERRITORIAL ISSUES

In 2024, ongoing diplomatic efforts, often facilitated within CARICOM frameworks and involving regional partners, were held to address the Guyana-Venezuela territorial issues and promote enhanced regional cooperation. The case continues before the International Court of Justice.



04

HUMAN RIGHTS

IN 2024, GUYANA ADVANCED HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH SEVERAL DOMESTIC PROVISIONS. A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED,

the Family Violence Act 2024 replaced the Domestic Violence Act, and the National Mental Health Action Plan and Suicide Prevention Plan 2024-2030 were launched to reduce suicide rates. Supported by the UN, a Situational Analysis (SitAn) for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, commenced. Furthermore, Guyana strengthened its anti-trafficking efforts by passing an amended Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act to enhance victim protection and prosecution of traffickers. Guyana also completed its periodic review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

CHAPTER 2

UN Development Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) for the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean is a key tool for planning and executing UN development efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It coordinates the UN's support to countries in the region, including Guyana. From 2022 to 2024, our work has focused on the four main priority areas of the MSDCF:



Since 2022, UN Guyana, partnering with Government and national partners, accelerated SDG progress through inclusive, rights-based support for social sectors and key populations, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, LGBTIQ+ persons¹, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and Venezuelan migrants (including those who have been forcibly displaced)².

In 2024, UN Guyana's work significantly advanced shared prosperity and well-being. Agri food systems and rural livelihoods were strengthened, digital inclusion expanded, and policy frameworks enhanced. The UN also prioritised equitable access to education, health, and social services, reaching thousands of individuals with vital support and launching a "major" mental health campaign. These efforts assisted in building foundations for a more resilient and inclusive Guyana.

Environmental resilience and justice were also key focus areas. The UN helped to bolster disaster preparedness while promoting climate-smart agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Simultaneously, governance and justice systems were strengthened, gender-based violence (GBV) response and prevention enhanced, and HIV response and inclusivity advanced, demonstrating a holistic commitment to safer, fairer, and more equitable societies.

In 2024, some global initiatives were also partially implemented. Through OHCHR's Surge Initiative funding, targeted technical support was provided to the Ministry of

Human Services and Social Security to assess the existing social protection framework for persons with disabilities and senior citizens. This UN collaboration, involving UNICEF, ILO, WFP, and UNFPA, in alignment with the UN Secretary-General's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, facilitated the drafting of strategic plans for the newly established Senior Citizen Unit and Disability Unit. These strategic plans now provide a roadmap for these two new units to reach these population groups.

Also, following a launch in June 2024, elements of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech were implemented in collaboration with the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) Guyana, a constitutional body with a mandate to promote ethnic harmony and good relations among all Guyanese. Through a multi-agency UN effort (OHCHR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, and IOM), youth, social media influencers, DJs, and media workers identified strategies to counter misinformation and hate speech. Preparatory consultations led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the ERC to strengthen the latter's Media Monitoring Unit, thereby improving its methods for countering disinformation, hate speech, and analysing social media data. Further, in August 2024, the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change guided a youth session on misinformation and disinformation in the digital era. This event also saw participation from H.E. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly.

¹ According to the Ministry of Health-National AIDS Programme HIVSION, Guyana's National HIV Strategic Plan 2000-2025, LGBTIQ or key populations are designated as a vulnerable group.

² UNHCR acknowledges that Guyana is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national asylum framework. For this reason, "forcibly displaced people" is used instead of "refugees" when referring to people who had to flee. This terminology allows for recognising the urgent and compelling reasons that have forced individuals to flee Venezuela, while respecting the national legal framework. Moreover, it ensures that the protection needs of those affected are acknowledged and that their experiences are legitimised, even in the absence of a refugee status determination procedure under Guyana's domestic law. Venezuelan migrants is the term used in the national context referring to persons from Venezuela who have been displaced from their country.



- Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience
- Equality, Well-being & Leaving No One Behind
- Resilience to Climate Change/Shocks & Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Peace, Safety, Justice, and the Rule of Law

2.2 Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Outputs



Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience

UN agencies supported the delivery of targeted interventions that fostered rural development, promoted digital transformation, and built essential national capacities, all while prioritising inclusion and leaving no one behind. The results demonstrate a strong commitment to building a more diversified, resilient, and equitable economy for Guyana.

Sustainable Development Goals



UN Implementing Agencies

- FAO
- OHCHR
- UNICEF
- IFAD
- UNDP
- UNHCR
- IOM
- UNFPA
- WFP

Partners

- Guyana Lands and Survey Commission
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
- National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Office of the President
- Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management

EXPENDITURE

\$4,424,797 Million (USD)



RESULTS SUMMARY

1,475

individuals trained across various initiatives, including vocational skills, climate-smart agriculture, digital skills, and capacity-building for rural organizations and institutions.

1,014

Venezuelan migrants received language training to access essential services.

120

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) hubs established in remote areas.

Resilient and Productive Agrifood Systems

Together, UN agencies are supporting the Government in strengthening the foundations of the agri-food sector and empowering key stakeholders to drive sustainable growth. IFAD is facilitating capacity building at the institutional level, empowering 152 rural organisations, governmental institutions, and stakeholders to create and implement more effective policies and programmes. FAO is directly enhancing agricultural practices through technology transfer and training, and in collaboration with WFP, which is forging innovative links between local farmers and national programmes such as school feeding, building on/supporting interlinkages between improved livelihoods, enhanced food security, and a more resilient agri-food sector overall.

FAO and WFP's initiatives are contributing to modernising farming practices, with 77 farmers trained in Region 9 in climate-smart agriculture

and more benefiting from enhanced greenhouse systems. WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme, typically benefits approximately 14 to 16 primary schools in Region 9 and about 2,500 to 2,600 schoolchildren within those schools. The programme provides nutritious meals to schoolchildren in Region 9 while simultaneously supporting the livelihoods of local smallholder farmers by purchasing their produce for these meals. This acts as a catalyst for rural development, benefiting 75 local farmers through dedicated training workshops (28 women and 47 men) and creating a stable market for their produce. Furthermore, WFP's innovative School Menu Planner PLUS tool, poised for a national rollout, promises to improve school nutrition nationwide while further prioritising locally sourced foods.



Digital Transformation

UNDP supported the OPM in the establishment of 120 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) hubs in remote areas, in an effort to bridge the digital divide in underserved communities. These hubs are now vital access points for technology, information, and digital skills development in underserved communities. To make sure this digital infrastructure lasts, the

organisation trained 161 individuals (129 hub managers and 32 ICT technicians) to support the long-term functionality and continued impact of these vital hubs. Further, through training, 723 people acquired essential digital skills to facilitate greater usage of the hubs and to boost their employability to support community development.

Policy and Institutional Frameworks

The UN system is focusing on enhancing long-term, sustainable development by promoting policy cohesion and coherence and robust national institutions. FAO is supporting land governance through tangible improvements to infrastructure and data systems, facilitating the construction and rehabilitation of two regional offices for the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission (GLSC), and providing crucial Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) mapping data across 15,200 km² to inform policy-making and sustainable development planning. These efforts, combined with expanded geodetic networks and technical training, are directly contributing to enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness of land administration at the local level.

The UN system also supports the development of national capacities through targeted training and policy influence, which complements infrastructure and data enhancements. UNICEF's Public Finance for Children (PF4C) programme trained 29 technical staff and middle-level managers from Guyana, Suriname, and Jamaica, establishing a regional Community of Practice dedicated to child-friendly budgeting.

Inclusion of Key Populations

Through coordinated initiatives, the UN System is aiding in tackling systemic barriers and empowering marginalised groups to participate fully in Guyana's economic and social life.

UNDP ensured equitable access to opportunities and fostered inclusive participation as a total of 227 participants benefited from these, with 114 women (50.2%) and 113 men (49.8%). Targeted training in remote sensing, GIS, and data collection has equipped agency staff to monitor natural resources, chemicals, and contaminants effectively. Procurement of essential equipment, including drones and mercury analysers, has further supported the tracking and assessment of restoration sites, enabling safer and more sustainable mining practices. UNDP provided vocational training to 30 marginalised individuals. Efforts were also made to promote gender equality in the mining sector, with the achievement of 75% female participation (9 out of a total of 12) in mining-related consultations facilitated by the UNDP.

IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, is actively building bridges for migrant integration and social cohesion, reaching communities through sports campaigns and workshops. Also, directly addressing xenophobia and hate speech in collaboration with UNHCR, OHCHR, and ERC, in Region 4. Initiatives like sports and workshops aim to build social cohesion and address discrimination, reflecting a multi-agency approach.

In 2024, UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, HIAS, and the Guyana Association of Women's Lawyers, carried out extensive legal awareness outreach across Guyana to support migrants (Venezuelan migrants who are forcibly displaced) and host communities. In April, outreach sessions were conducted in Bartica, Region 7, complemented by focus group discussions in Mabaruma, Region 1. These initiatives provided critical information on labour laws, domestic violence protections, and available support services. This initiative involved conducting one-on-one legal awareness sessions where members engaged with the public, offering valuable legal guidance on various aspects of the law.

Further activities were undertaken in other regions, including the hinterland areas, where trained healthcare workers facilitated outreach and awareness sessions within hinterland migrant and host communities. Additionally, at the University of Guyana, a panel discussion was organised on World Refugee Day featuring the participation of UNHCR, IOM, HIAS, and the Guyana Association of Women's Lawyers. Together, these activities helped to enhance access to legal protections and essential services for vulnerable populations.

UNHCR also advocated for a national registration system for displaced populations and supported the Ministry of Home Affairs in providing registration services for asylum seekers and Venezuelan migrants, improving their access to protection and essential services.

Further, UNHCR is supporting efforts to promote inclusion for Venezuelan migrants through language training, empowering over 1,014 individuals to overcome language barriers and access essential services.



Training

UNICEF supports the Supreme Court with the establishment of the first mental health court through capacity building and operationalisation. This has resulted in children having access to tailor-made services that will both support their access to justice and comprehensive mental health treatment, which is in keeping with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2018 and the Mental Health Act, 2022. UNICEF has supported the developments of inter alia, inter, Participation Engagement Guidelines for the Effective Operation of the Mental Health Court; General Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Mental Health Courts: Legal Framework, Procedures, And Special Considerations; a Mental Health Court Referral Form; and A Memorandum of Understanding between the Mental Health Court and the Ministry of Health.

UNHCR, in partnership with HIAS, trained 66 (55 females and 11 males) frontline workers in Regions 1 and 7, while an additional 35 were trained, directly by UNHCR. Beneficiaries of this training included authorities, healthcare workers, and immigration officers, and the said training helped to improve their ability to respond to the needs of Venezuelan migrants effectively. In addition, UNFPA organised training workshops for over 50 case workers, focusing on trauma-informed care, ethical considerations, and safety planning. Post-training evaluations revealed a significant increase in participants' confidence and skill levels.

Decent Work

In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, CAGI, and the GTUC, crucial progress was made towards launching Guyana's third Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP), preparing tripartite constituents for its operationalisation. An ILO-facilitated Decent Work Country Diagnostic workshop (October 8-10, 2024) resulted in the collective validation of the DWCP's strategic direction, including the articulation of priorities, identification of Country Programme Outcomes (CPOs), and refinement of results-based monitoring frameworks. This collaborative process, involving interactive analysis and feedback consolidation, ensures the forthcoming DWCP (launching in 2025) is robustly designed to meet Guyana's specific decent work needs and challenges.



Equality, Well-Being, and Leaving No One Behind

Through coordinated efforts and leveraging the expertise of diverse agencies, the UN system collectively delivered impactful results across key areas, strengthening national capacities, promoting inclusive policies, and directly benefiting vulnerable populations.

Sustainable Development Goals



UN Implementing Agencies

- FAO
- UNAIDS
- UNHCR
- IOM
- UNFPA
- UN Women
- PAHO/WHO
- UNICEF

Partners

- Blossom Inc
- Empire Plus Guyana
- Guyana Police Force
- GN+
- HIAS Guyana
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance
- National AIDS Programme Secretariat (Ministry of Health)
- Shades of the Sky
- Office of the First Lady

EXPENDITURE

\$4,486,700 Million (USD)

RESULTS SUMMARY

☒ **160,000**
persons reached through joint mental health campaign.

☒ **24,000**
people provided with vital health information and services.

☒ **15,800**
girls and boys vaccinated.

☒ **National Early Childhood**
Policy drafted.



Equitable Access to Quality Education

UNICEF has played a key role in supporting the strengthening of the national education system through various initiatives. These include training 92 education staff on the Education Management Information System (EMIS), which will help the Ministry of Education to improve data-driven decision-making and resource allocation. UNICEF also invested in Early Childhood Development (ECD) by supporting the drafting of the National ECD Policy and training over 60 childcare providers, laying the foundation for improved early childhood development services. UNICEF also supported inclusive education for children with disabilities through the use of assistive technologies which benefited 32 children from three regions and 19 Special Education Needs (SEN) teachers.

Addressing the diverse needs of migrant children, significant collaborative strides were made in educational support. UNHCR, working closely with the Ministry of Education's Migrant Learning Support Unit, funded and delivered direct in-school ESL classes to over 800 children. This core language support was complemented by a UNICEF (with the Ministry of Health) and UNHCR partnership, which provided bilingual learning resources to over 680 Venezuelan children, facilitating their school integration. IOM further expanded ESL opportunities. Beyond academics, UNHCR's collaborative efforts ensured broader access through donations of over 17,000 school items, essential equipment (including boat engines and tarpaulins), and crucial enrolment support, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to integration.

Strengthening Immunisation Systems

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in upgrading cold chain infrastructure, increasing vaccine storage capacity, and implementing real-time temperature monitoring to reduce wastage and ensure potency with 81 PQS-certified refrigerators and two walk-in cold rooms. To aid in the expansion of immunisation coverage to underserved communities, UNICEF equipped two vaccine boats for immunisation outreach and emergencies. Over 15,800 children (10,193 girls and 5,627 boys) received the HPV vaccination, directly contributing to improved health outcomes and protecting a generation from HPV-related diseases. Extensive communication campaigns accompanied these initiatives, reaching approximately 400,000 people.

Strengthening Health Systems and Services

PAHO's technical support and USAID's End Fund (a private philanthropic initiative to eliminate the most common neglected infectious diseases in the world by 2030) financing of the Lymphatic Filariasis Mass Drug Administration Campaign contributed to the achievement of 85 percent and 66 percent coverage, in Regions 3 and 4, respectively. The PAHO-supported HEARTs initiative for better Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) management achieved 64 percent adoption

by community health centres countrywide. PAHO Guyana has supported the upgrading of the national nursing programme curriculum as well as the development of protocols and standards for the certification and supervision of kidney donation and transplantation, and trained 75 Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Maternal, Paediatric and Adolescent health interventions to improve community-level healthcare delivery.

UNICEF supported initiatives to strengthen breastfeeding nationwide through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Committees and focal points in 27 hospitals. Further, the knowledge of over 1,800 healthcare staff was enhanced, leading to improved breastfeeding counselling for over 10,300 mothers and 73 percent of newborns benefiting from early initiation of breastfeeding. UNICEF's support for Community Health Committees (CHCs) empowered communities in Region 9, reaching 24,000 people with vital health information and services.

With technical assistance from UNICEF and the CHDP, CHCs in Region 9 have broadened their focus, adopting an integrated health approach to encourage health-seeking behaviours. CHCs now lead social and behavioural change (SBC) activities in areas such as safe motherhood, child nutrition, immunisation, sanitation, dengue fever and malaria prevention. This expansion is supported by focused capacity-building initiatives and SBC materials.

Reaching an estimated 24,000 individuals, the CHCs have successfully advocated for formal inclusion in the regional budget for 2025. Building on this success, the Ministry of Health, alongside the CHDP and other partners, are exploring how to scale the CHC model to other regions in the country

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Authorities in better integrating sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights into policies and plans. This allowed for the provision of support in the operationalisation of an existing comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy. The Policy incorporates an essential, integrated

service package of sexual and reproductive health interventions, which was disseminated to healthcare providers through sensitisation sessions conducted on the various provisions of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy.

As part of UNFPA's support to the Ministry of Health and Regional Health Authorities, "Adolescent Health Service Delivery Guidelines for Health Care Providers" as well as the "Standards for Quality Health Care Services for Adolescents in Guyana" were disseminated to health care providers through sensitisation sessions conducted with over 150 healthcare providers, stakeholders, and Peace Corps volunteers, promoting gender-sensitive and adolescent-friendly healthcare services.

UNFPA helped to obtain the physical supplies and medicines (health commodities) needed by the Ministry of Health to meet the population's demand for services related to family planning, safe motherhood, and STI prevention.

The UN system prioritised equitable and inclusive access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. Under the "Being LGBTI in the Caribbean" (BLIC) project in Guyana, UNDP enhanced access to HIV and mental health services for 27 LGBTIQ+ persons. This was achieved through targeted capacity-building initiatives focused on LGBTIQ+ rights, psychosocial self-care and effective pathways to mental health services, ensuring LGBTIQ+ communities received the inclusive and essential care they need.



Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

In 2024, UNFPA supported Guyana’s Ministry of Health to enhance maternal and sexual reproductive health (SRH) services through a multi-pronged approach. This included strengthening human resources, improving emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), promoting respectful, human-centred maternal care, and boosting the efficiency of procurement and distribution for essential drugs and family planning commodities within health facilities. Simultaneously, UNFPA worked with national partners to expand access to essential SRH information and services, specifically targeting women and girls in geographically isolated areas through SRH outreaches in remote hinterland regions. These outreach efforts placed particular focus on Regions 1 and 9, areas noted for high adolescent pregnancy rates and significant challenges in accessing SRH services, and which are home to many Indigenous communities. Initiatives like the "Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy in Regions 1 and 9" project, backed by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, directly addressed these challenges by aiming to improve access to quality SRH information and services within these priority regions.

IOM conducted health outreaches benefiting over 200 individuals, extending healthcare access to migrant populations.

Mental Health

UNICEF and PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health with the creation of an implementation plan to address the mental health of children, adolescents, and youth as part of the operationalisation of the National Mental Health Action Plan. To aid the expansion of access to mental health support services, UNICEF trained 22 healthcare providers and counsellors. Addressing the issue of stigma, UNICEF funded the training of 20 journalists, editors, and communication professionals on responsible reporting on suicide, fostering a more informed and sensitive public discourse and reducing barriers to help-seeking behaviours.

Further, UNICEF and PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady and the Ministry of Health, launched the ‘Hear Me Out’ campaign, directly targeting

adolescents and their parents through social media and town halls. This public awareness initiative has already reached over 160,000 persons since its launch, demonstrating significant success in encouraging mental health care-seeking attitudes and promoting open conversations around mental well-being.

These collective UN efforts, bolstered by high-level political commitment from H.E. Arya Ali, First Lady of Guyana and her office, are raising the profile of mental health issues and fostering a supportive environment for related initiatives across Guyana.

Strengthening Social Safety Nets and Providing Essential Assistance

The UN system in Guyana has assisted Government with the coordination of a humanitarian response, enhancing safety nets and providing essential assistance to vulnerable populations. UNICEF played a key role in improving access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, which directly benefited over 3,000 individuals in Guyana’s hinterland communities. Over 3,000 people gained access to clean drinking water through the upgrading of water facilities and the provision of supplies for better household water collection, treatment, and storage. A Mobile Hygiene Corner project was also piloted, providing targeted menstrual hygiene support to 860 women and girls under the WASH programme.



UNHCR and IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, have further expanded the reach of humanitarian assistance, ensuring comprehensive support for vulnerable and displaced populations. IOM’s relief efforts directly met the urgent needs of Venezuelan migrants, delivering vital food and non-food items, transportation, and accommodation assistance. UNHCR provided protection services that included counselling and support for over 7,000 Venezuelan migrants in accessing Government services such as health, education, child protection, and documentation. Key UNHCR initiatives included ESL training for 169 adults to bridge language barriers, promote economic and social inclusion and provide access to livelihood skills. In terms of basic needs, multipurpose cash assistance was given to over 300 vulnerable individuals and in-kind assistance to 478 persons. UNHCR also delivered GBV prevention sessions and case management services to 1,319 Venezuelan migrants. Additional initiatives include 5,190 people reached through information, awareness, and sensitisation sessions, 380 children and caregivers who received child protection services, 1,833 people who received protection services and 101 consultations held on UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services. IOM directly addressed the specific needs of migrant children and families through the distribution of 100 baby kits and joint medical outreaches. To ensure a coordinated and effective future emergency response, UNHCR formalised its commitment through an MoU with the Civil Defence Commission, strengthening collaboration on emergency responses.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response

A holistic and coordinated strategy was implemented to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and advance gender equality. UN Women coordinated and spearheaded broad-reaching capacity-building initiatives throughout 2024, impacting and engaging training of over 150 technical stakeholders – police officers, healthcare professionals, RDC representatives, teachers, and academia – from Regions 3, 4, and 7 to integrate global frameworks on gender equality and women’s empowerment into their planning, programming, and reporting. This extensive training supports mainstreaming gender equality across diverse sectors, ensuring a more gender-responsive approach to national and sub-national development.

Complementing these training efforts, UNHCR focused on frontline responders, conducting targeted training sessions for frontline workers in Regions 1, 4 and 7, equipping authorities, healthcare workers, and immigration officers to effectively address GBV within their specific sectors. UNICEF strategically integrated gender into its entire country programme, addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys, and men, promoting gender-equitable outcomes across all sectors.

Supporting Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is driving a unified and impactful response to support Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) at risk or affected by HIV. UNAIDS is championing the sustainability of Guyana’s national HIV response by securing critical resources and delivering targeted technical assistance. Key achievements include technical support for the development of Guyana’s Global Fund funding request, which was successfully negotiated by the Government for US\$ 4.5 million, empowering civil society and community-led partners to implement life-saving HIV and tuberculosis programmes. This investment strengthens Guyana’s capacity to address the epidemic, protect vulnerable populations, and advance health equity in the years ahead.

UNAIDS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS

(PANCAP) and PLHIV-led organisations, GN+ and Empire Plus Guyana, supported the implementation of Guyana's first HIV Stigma Index 2.0. This is a community-led process that utilised standardised tools to collect evidence-based data on the impact of stigma and discrimination on people living with HIV (PLHIV). The findings directly inform national policies and programmes, enabling more targeted and effective interventions to reduce stigma, protect the rights of PLHIV, and improve their overall quality of life.

UNICEF supports youth in taking an active role as agents of change for HIV/STI prevention. Fifty-five individuals, including 30 peer educators and 25 students from School Health Clubs in Regions 2 and 10, were equipped with the knowledge and skills to confidently and accurately promote preventative behaviours among their peers. Additionally, case navigators are transforming the fight against vertical transmission of HIV, securing brighter futures for mothers and their babies. They are actively identifying and tracking 95 HIV-positive pregnant women and 199 HIV-positive mothers, therefore ensuring seamless linkage to and consistent access to optimal HIV and maternal health care. This dedicated and proactive intervention is breaking the cycle of HIV transmission, giving children the chance to start life free from HIV and empowering mothers to thrive with the care they need.

UNHCR in partnership with Shades of the Sky and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health through NAPS, is driving impactful change by expanding HIV prevention services to vulnerable and Venezuelan migrants and members of host communities in Guyana. In Regions 3 and 8, 656 individuals—92 percent of whom are women, including 588 Venezuelan migrants and 68 host community members—were reached with comprehensive HIV combination prevention services, addressing critical health disparities among marginalised populations. By concentrating efforts in Region 3 (reaching 78 percent of beneficiaries), this targeted approach ensures that those most in need are prioritised. To comprehensively address sexual and reproductive health needs, UNHCR, with support from the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS) and Shades of the Sky (SOTS), distributed essential commodities: 67,018 condoms, 9,910 sachets of lubricants, 36 PrEP kits, and HIV self-testing kits, allowing these individuals to protect their health and well-being.

PAHO, in partnership with the National AIDS Programme Secretariat, is advancing the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by driving retention in HIV care

to achieve the critical second “95.” Through targeted follow-ups, including home visits, telephone calls, and text messaging, PAHO has successfully supported over 605 individuals previously lost to care, ensuring they reconnect with essential HIV treatment and care services. This represents approximately 6 percent of PLHIV in Guyana. As of the end of 2024, there were an estimated 10148 persons living with HIV. This sustained, person-centred approach strengthens retention of individuals on antiretroviral therapy and improves their health outcomes. Concurrently, PAHO has been supporting the Ministry of Health in addressing key gaps (in terms of coordination, laboratory testing, supply chain, etc.) in the Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Further support was provided for developing and rolling out an integrated service delivery model for Disease Elimination. This approach, which expands screening and case finding for HIV (and other priority communicable diseases) in hard-to-reach areas and among populations in situations of vulnerability, such as mining communities of Arakaka and Matthews Ridge, Region 1.

UNFPA is amplifying HIV prevention efforts by leveraging the peer educator model to connect with key and vulnerable populations, including youth, in Regions 3 and 4. Through an innovative mix of virtual outreach via social media and targeted hotspot interventions, 181 individuals were reached with comprehensive HIV combination prevention services. Forty-one percent of those reached were from key populations, including 35 men who have sex with men (MSM) and 40 female sex workers (FSWs). To empower individuals and enhance prevention efforts, UNFPA distributed over 5,000 condoms, 18 HIV self-testing kits, and more than 200 information, education and communication (IEC) materials. This strategic approach ensures that key populations and youth have access to vital information, tools, and support needed to protect their health and well-being.

UNDP, in partnership with the Supreme Court of Judicature and the Judicial Education Institutes of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, hosted a National Judges Forum on HIV, Human Rights, and the Law, fostering critical reflection among Guyana's judiciary on the impact of stigma and discrimination on people living with HIV and key populations. This is



Guyana's first forum of this nature and represents a significant step towards looking at the impact of laws and policies on the lives of persons living with HIV and other vulnerable populations. This event was organised under the SCALE Initiative: Removing Barriers to HIV Services catalysed progress toward the 10-10-10 targets by addressing punitive laws and discriminatory practices. The forum engaged over 50 judges and magistrates, featuring impactful insights from national and international speakers. It further emphasised the judiciary's critical role in combating stigma, protecting the rights of people living with HIV, and fostering inclusive legal systems in Guyana and the Caribbean.

Data Collection

The UNICEF-supported Situational Analysis (SitAn) for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, provided crucial policy revision evidence, guiding the development of inclusive programmes and identifying systemic gaps in social sector budget allocations and access to services for children with disabilities. Key findings from the Situational Analysis (SitAn) underscore critical areas for improvement in supporting children and adolescents with disabilities. Significantly, the SitAn revealed systemic shortcomings in social sector budget allocations for children with disabilities and exposed clear barriers hindering their access to essential services.

The Ministry of Home Affairs collaborated with UNHCR and the IOM to enhance the evidence base for migrant support through a Joint Needs Assessment

and KOBO survey. This initiative aimed to improve data collection and inform interventions across various sectors, including education, integration (the multifaceted process by which migrants become accepted and participating members of Guyanese society, while host communities also adapt to the presence of newcomers), health, and social protection, among others. The collaboration focused on strengthening the Government's capacity to address the needs of migrants and host communities, particularly in the context of the Venezuelan migration crisis.

FAO, in collaboration with the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, advanced sustainable fisheries management by developing digital data collection methodologies, deploying the Calipseo tool (an open-source web application), and training fisheries stakeholders in data management.

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in developing the research protocol and securing approval of the Institutional Research Board for the execution of an Adolescent Action Research. The research will apply a Human-Centred Design (HCD) approach to engage adolescents countrywide and key community stakeholders from targeted communities in remote hinterland areas of Guyana, in identifying and addressing the barriers to effectively accessing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) services. Through the application of participatory research approaches, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health aim to explore the drivers of adolescent pregnancy, co-create intervention strategies with local communities, and pilot an intervention to reduce early and unintended pregnancy (EUP) rates. By prioritising the voices of adolescents countrywide and leveraging community-driven solutions, this study will inform culturally responsive ASRH programming that enhances adolescent agency and access to ASRH information and services, inclusive of contraceptive services. The findings will contribute to evidence-based policies and interventions tailored to the adolescent populations in the hinterland regions of Guyana.

UNFPA has also supported the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in increasing its capacity to collect, analyse, and utilise relevant data and information to address structural inequalities and to ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind. As part of this effort, UNFPA has supported the development of a draft Population Situation Analysis with a particular focus on the elderly and ageing.



Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Working together, UN agencies delivered comprehensive interventions aimed at enhancing Guyana's resilience to climate-related shocks, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, advancing the clean energy transition, and strengthening natural resource management. These cohesive UN actions are assisting in building a more environmentally sustainable and resilient future for Guyana, ensuring the well-being of its people and the long-term health of its ecosystems.

Sustainable Development Goals



UN Implementing Agencies

- FAO
- WFP
- PAHO/WHO
- UNDP
- UNEP
- UNICEF
- UNHCR

Partners

- Guyana Civil Defence Commission
- Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC)
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- Guyana Water Inc.

EXPENDITURE

\$4,612,559 Million (USD)



RESULTS SUMMARY

Eight land titles issued

enhancing land security and resource management for Amerindian communities.

First gazetted wildlife checkpoint established

to enforce wildlife trade regulations and combat illegal wildlife trafficking.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

The UN system is supporting the Government of Guyana's disaster preparedness and response through a multifaceted approach. WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, is supporting the Government's social protection digital transformation agenda by enhancing service delivery and data-driven, evidence-based decision-making for vulnerable and shock-affected populations.

Collaboration between the Guyana Civil Defence Commission (CDC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and WFP facilitated effective coordination to support regional emergency response efforts in the Caribbean, as well as capacity-strengthening activities in warehouse management systems using the CDEMA Logistics System (CLS). Furthermore, WFP launched a regional e-learning course in Emergency Logistics, equipping disaster management professionals across the Caribbean with critical expertise. This initiative directly enhanced regional surge capacity, ensuring faster and more effective disaster response.

UNFPA has supported the Government and civil society entities in better integrating sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights into policies and plans. This is geared at ensuring the integration of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health into the health sector emergency response plan, as well as the national emergency response plan. As part of this effort, a draft MISP Action Plan was developed during an MISP workshop with representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Civil Defence Commission, the Guyana Red Cross, and other stakeholders.

Climate Smart and Gender Responsive Agriculture

The UN system is supporting Guyana's agricultural sector to make it more climate-resilient and sustainable. FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, is introducing climate-resilient value chains, conducting aquaculture sector assessments, and training 77 farmers in climate-smart practices. WFP expanded this reach by training 75 farmers (including 47 women) in Regions 1 and 9 in climate-smart agriculture. This was through a partnership with FAO. It is the WFP-FAO UN-to-UN agreement funded by the WFP to support smallholder farming and community-based school feeding. FAO is aiding the enhancement of greenhouse farming systems through digital solutions and gender-responsive national workshops.

In collaboration with UN Women, UNDP successfully advanced the use of low-carbon climate adaptation technologies in agriculture while simultaneously strengthening gender mainstreaming. These achievements were realised through a combined strategy involving training (which included specific gender mainstreaming sessions), capacity-building efforts, and infrastructure development. Notably, the construction and utilisation of shade houses, aquaponics systems, caged aquaculture, and other low-carbon solutions. In total, 227 participants (114 women and 113 men) across Regions 2, 4, 5, and 6 engaged in project activities. These individuals benefited from sensitisation workshops, training in apiculture and cage fishing, and an online gender course delivered throughout these regions.

Gender considerations were integrated into climate-smart agriculture through training and capacity-building, addressing a critical skills gap in Guyana. This approach not only enhanced technical capacity across diverse groups but also supported broader goals of gender equality and climate resilience in the agricultural sector. Under the Youth Climate Leaders Programme, 60 Indigenous youth in Region 9 developed climate action plans, with the support of UNICEF.



Sustainable Natural Resource Management

UN agencies are supporting the strengthening of national capacities for sustainable natural resource management and forestry governance. FAO, along with the Ministry of Natural Resources, working closely with the Guyana Forestry Commission, conducted a rapid assessment of Guyana's sawmills to identify training needs and will introduce a national sawmilling training programme in 2025, which will contribute to stronger governance in the forest value chain. UNDP supported efforts to make mining safer and more sustainable by promoting safe practices and assisting with the restoration of old mining sites. A key component involved strengthening environmental oversight: environmental agencies received capacity-building training in remote sensing, GIS, and data collection, enhancing their ability to monitor natural resources and contaminants. The initiative also strongly emphasised gender equality, empowering women within the mining sector. This resulted in significant female involvement, including 40 percent participation in site selection and consultations, and 63 percent female representation on the Project Board. Future sustainability plans include training miners on adopting environmentally friendly technologies. UNDP trained agency staff in remote sensing, Geographic Information System (GIS), and data collection and planned training for miners to adopt environmentally friendly technologies, complementing FAO's data management capacity building in GIS-based monitoring. FAO has supported the application of GIS and drone technology in rice farming, which has improved rice production monitoring, strengthened institutional capacity, enabled direct farmer training, and provided coverage to all rice-producing areas in the country.

FAO aided national and local stakeholders in monitoring the use of wildlife and aquatic resources to support sustainable management and conservation objectives. Initiatives include the implementation of the Regional River Turtle Management Plan with Rupununi River communities and oversight of endemic brackish water shrimp farming along the Corentyne Coast. Local communities have played an integral role through participatory approaches, contributing to data collection, monitoring efforts, and sustainable harvesting practices. Community-based programmes focused on resources such as river turtles and shrimp, empower local populations to safeguard their livelihoods and concurrently conserve biodiversity, foster stewardship, and reconcile ecological preservation with economic requirements. FAO also supported the development, testing, and use of a community-based monitoring tool (protocol) for tracking terrestrial and aquatic wildlife usage by local communities in 7 communities, which included: Apoteri, Rewa, Yupukari, Katoka, Maruranau, Aishalton and Sawariwau.

Amerindian Land Titling

In 2024, eight land titles were issued (out of a target of 11 for 2024 and a total target of 45), enhancing land security and resource management for Amerindian communities. This included six absolute grants for communities in Region 1 (Hotoquai, Hobodai, and Red Hill), Region 2 (Akiwini), and Region 9 (Moco Moco and Sawariwau). Additionally, two certificates of title were awarded to communities in Region 7 (Arrau), and Region 9 (Karasabai), supporting sustainable social and economic development.

Biodiversity Conservation

FAO facilitated the training of 23 community members and Protected Area Commission monitors in turtle monitoring and translocation, empowering them to effectively implement the Regional Turtle Management Plan and contribute to biodiversity conservation. Also, to directly strengthen wildlife protection, FAO, in joint collaboration with GWCMC, established the first gazetted wildlife checkpoint in Shulinab village, and the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) to effectively enforce wildlife trade regulations and combat illegal wildlife trafficking. Advocacy for biodiversity conservation was also undertaken through the publication of the "Wildlife and People of the Rupununi" book and video, which celebrates local conservation efforts.

Waste and Pollution Management

UNEP actively supports Guyana's environmental goals across multiple fronts. Capacity building focuses on compliance with the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) for chemicals, waste, and marine litter management. The GEF "ISLANDS" initiative tackles persistent pollutants and mercury, developing regional labelling standards (draft roadmap validated). Germany's PROMAR initiative, executed by the University of Guyana, promotes circular economy solutions for plastic waste and commenced activities in 2024, including stakeholder surveys and pilot site identification. UNEP also facilitates the development of a marine litter data system.

The GEF CReW+ initiative is enhancing integrated water resource management and sanitation in Dakoura Creek, Linden, and Kwakwani by implementing solutions supported by decision tools, public awareness, and infrastructure upgrades. Simultaneously, UNEP's OzonAction programme has successfully assisted Guyana in achieving an 81 percent HCFC phase-out under the Montreal Protocol—through comprehensive training, vocational capacity building, and strengthened border controls—significantly boosting national capacity and the country's ability to meet global environmental commitments.



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Peace, Safety, Justice, and the Rule of Law

The UN System focused on strengthening governance mechanisms, enhancing access to justice, combating gender-based violence, and promoting human rights, all contributing to building safer, fairer, and more inclusive societies in Guyana.

Sustainable Development Goals



UN Implementing Agencies

- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UNESCO
- UNHCR
- UNFPA
- UN Women

Partners

- Child Link
- Help and Shelter
- HIAS Guyana
- Shades of the Sky
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

EXPENDITURE

\$1,019,253 Million (USD)



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RESULTS SUMMARY

Family Violence Bill passed

enhancing legal protection for victims of Gender-Based Violence.

2

adolescent/youth friendly spaces established.

162

participants graduated from the government's International Human Rights Law Certificate Course.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Protection

UN agencies supported the national response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through the delivery of essential services and protection to vulnerable individuals. UNHCR, spearheading direct service delivery with partners HIAS and Shades of the Sky, implemented specialised GBV programming that reached 1,319 individuals in terms of prevention, risk mitigation, and case management. These vital services met a critical need for those individuals seeking support and protection. UNHCR further extended crucial child protection services through Blossom Inc., directly supporting over 380 children and caregivers with care and assistance. UN Women amplified these direct support efforts through civil society partnerships, strengthening NGOs such as Help & Shelter and ChildLink to expand their reach and enhance their capacity to provide safe havens and legal aid to GBV survivors.

Beyond direct service delivery, the UN system strategically invested in building national capacity and fostering systemic change to combat GBV in the long term. UNHCR trained 35 frontline workers in Georgetown to improve the quality of GBV response. UNFPA trained GBV case workers in the GBV Essential Services Package, equipping them with essential skills in case management and psychological first aid and strengthening partnerships with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and CSOs. In 2024, UNICEF's advocacy and system-strengthening efforts supported the drafting of the Family Violence Bill in Guyana, a key legislative step aimed at enhancing legal protection for victims of gender-based violence (GBV). This initiative reinforces national efforts to address GBV through a comprehensive legal framework that upholds the rights and safety of survivors. UN Women identified laws and policies which are discriminatory or which adversely impact gender equality, and drafted recommendations which can support a Gender Equality Bill to strengthen the legislative framework for gender equality. UN Women also implemented awareness campaigns and public art initiatives to foster a culture of zero tolerance for violence.

In 2024, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in establishing two Adolescent/Youth Friendly Spaces, known as 'Youth Connect Hubs', aimed at promoting the health and well-being of young people. These safe spaces provide adolescents and youth with free access to information, education, and services, while fostering peer interaction in a supportive environment.



The hubs were launched in Wismar, Linden (Region 10)—serving youth from five surrounding schools—and in Mahaica (Region 4)—reaching adolescents from four nearby schools. These initiatives mark a significant step in creating inclusive, youth-centred environments that address the needs of young people in underserved communities.

UNFPA also supported Government entities and civil society organisations to have strengthened mechanisms and capacities to address discriminatory gender and social norms that perpetuate Gender-Based Violence and harmful practices and that undermine the ability of individuals to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

To broaden access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for out-of-school youth, capacity was strengthened within Government entities and civil society organisations to deliver the CSE toolkit. Dedicated training workshops equipped a total of 50 facilitators and peer educators: 25 individuals were trained at the IT Lab in Mahdia Primary School (Region 8), and another 25 at the Guyana Technical Institute (GTI) and Board of Industrial Training (BIT) in Georgetown (Region 4). This crucial capacity-building lays a strong foundation for future scaling and wider rollout of CSE delivery across the nation.

Following their training, these facilitators delivered CSE workshops to 121 out-of-school adolescents and youth across diverse regions, reflecting a

commitment to Leaving No One Behind by reaching communities in: Mabaruma (Region 1) with 20 participants; the Bartica Community Centre (Region 7 - Cuyuni-Mazaruni) with 21 participants; Mahdia Primary School (Region 8) with 21 participants; Aishalton (Region 9) with 32 participants; and at GTI in Georgetown (Region 4) with 27 participants.

Further, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in the conduct of a number of assessments in the hinterland regions of Guyana (specifically Regions 1 and 7), to guide the establishment of Women and Girls Safe Spaces that will provide an entry point for women and girl survivors of GBV and women and girls at risk of GBV to safely access information, specialised services, and referrals to health, protection, and other related services.

UNFPA also supported the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in training 260 individuals in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) through the hosting of four awareness-raising workshops in Georgetown. Police officers, magistrates, victims' advocates, social workers, CSOs working on protection issues, public servants from Government Ministries, and Government gender focal points are expected to have an enhanced understanding of PSEA as a result.

Human Rights Education

The UN system advanced human rights in Guyana by supporting the Government's International Human Rights Law Certificate Course, which trained and graduated 162 participants from across the country. Delivered with contributions from OHCHR's Treaty Body Programme, the course featured expert presentations on international human rights treaties, along with thematic sessions from the UNESCO Caribbean Office on Artificial Intelligence and human rights, and FAO Guyana on Global Food Security and the right to adequate food.

Graduates—including public servants, civil society members, legal professionals, educators, and youth leaders—gained practical knowledge of human rights frameworks, treaty obligations, and rights-based approaches. The initiative significantly strengthened national capacity and empowered participants to promote and apply human rights standards in their communities and professional roles.

Justice and Protection for Vulnerable Populations

UN agencies worked together in collaboration with the Government and other stakeholders to enhance access to justice and protection for vulnerable populations, driving systemic improvements and direct support. UNDP supported the justice system reform through a digital case management system, enhancing efficiency and responsiveness, particularly for gender-based violence cases. Through the identification and registration of vulnerable Venezuelan migrants, UNHCR facilitated access to protection case management and humanitarian assistance, including cash-based interventions for those seeking asylum under its mandate. Additionally, UNHCR advocated for the migration of the current paper-based registration process to a digitised border management system, aiming to enhance data collection, registration, and issuance of documentation to Venezuelan migrants.



Progress on the Promise to Leave No One Behind



Advancing Disability Inclusion

In 2024, UN Guyana achieved tangible disability inclusion advancements. Youth were trained, the development of the National Commission on Disability's strategic plan was supported by UNICEF, an inclusive sports event was hosted and UN staff were trained in sign language.

Youth

The UN facilitated dialogue and engagement among young people, particularly ahead of the First Global Children and Youth Summit, generating climate recommendations, strengthening advocacy, and driving localised, sustainable development action in Guyana.

Women

UN Guyana continues to collaborate with and support CSOs in the area of women's empowerment and gender equality. This included amplified awareness during the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-Based Violence. Further, the UN's PSEA Network catalysed the strengthening of Public Service Sexual Exploitation and Abuse safeguards in collaboration with several ministries.

LGBTIQ+ Persons

The UN System (UNDP, World Bank) and SASOD Guyana produced the country's first LGBT Inclusion Index, which highlighted the impact of sexual identity on individuals' economic well-being, education, and safety and provided data for targeted interventions. Also, consultations were conducted with LGBTIQ+ individuals, CSOs, parliamentarians, and partners to support the creation of human-rights-based responses to address the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ people.

In addition to producing the Index, extensive consultations were held with LGBTIQ+ individuals, civil society organisations (CSOs), parliamentarians, and international partners. These consultations were

key to ensuring that any proposed policies or programmes are rooted in human rights principles and respond directly to the specific lived experiences and needs of LGBTIQ+ people. This participatory approach strengthens national efforts to reduce discrimination, improve access to services, and promote social inclusion for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Indigenous Peoples

A Government-UN joint mission to Region 1 provided insights into the social, economic, and developmental vulnerabilities of migrant and Indigenous communities, which informed targeted interventions and strengthened collaborative

programming to address identified needs in the region. In 2024, UNFPA entered a formal MOU with the National Toshihaos Council that is intended to strengthen engagements with Indigenous Peoples as beneficiaries.

Persons living with HIV/AIDS

The UN Joint Programme on HIV supported the Ministry of Health, CSOs and other partners in implementing various initiatives, including Guyana's first HIV Stigma Index 2.0, school health programmes, and advanced equitable access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment in communities.

■ 2.3 Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda



— Partnership

Recognising the critical role of collaboration in achieving the ambitious 2030 Agenda, the United Nations system in Guyana significantly expanded and deepened its strategic partnerships throughout 2024.

Private Sector

At the 2024 International Business Conference, the UN actively mobilised Guyana's private sector towards the 2030 Agenda, showcasing the UN Global Compact's value: global connections, SDG capacity building, and progress communication. Two companies in Guyana, Prudence B2B,

LLC and Axess Glass Inc., joined the Compact, which was a result of this engagement. FAO highlighted agro-processing investment, sparking interest in sustainable agriculture, while IOM reframed migration as a resource for business growth and inclusive economic development.

Civil Society

In 2024, the UN strategically partnered with diverse CSOs to advance SDGs across vulnerable populations. Youth CSOs fostered entrepreneurship and civic engagement, women's organisations expanded economic empowerment and GBV support, and organisations for persons with disabilities championed inclusion and enhanced access to essential services, directly contributing to SDG equity targets. CSO partnerships also strengthened targeted responses to specific SDG challenges, with HIV/AIDS organisations leading stigma reduction, Indigenous groups advancing community development and climate resilience, and LGBTIQ+ groups promoting inclusion.

Development Partners Group

In 2024, the UN Resident Coordinator chaired the Development Partners Group (DPG), convening three strategic meetings. Discussions spanned critical areas for Guyana's sustainable development: aligning the national budget with SDGs; prioritising the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, focusing on economic resilience, climate and biodiversity action; and addressing COP16 and COP29 outcomes alongside international support for SDG16 and Guyana's 2025 election preparations. The DPG served as a vital platform for the UN and partners to coordinate efforts and align international support with Guyana's national and global development priorities.

— Joint Resource Mobilisation

A Joint SDG Fund project (Just Energy Transition Seed Funding Track) was approved in 2024. It is strategically aligned with both Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the UN's Climate Promise and will catalyse a just energy transition within Guyana's transportation/mobility sector. This project is poised to directly accelerate the implementation of key priorities outlined in Guyana's LCDS, specifically paving the way for "affordable and competitive transportation options, including electric and lower-carbon public and private transportation." By directly supporting Government plans to deliver cheaper, greener electricity and more affordable electric vehicles (EVs) through fiscal incentives, the project will establish critical enabling conditions for a large-scale shift to electric mobility.



■ 2.4 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency

In 2024, there was enhanced collaboration and coherence among UN entities, which resulted in more relevant, efficient, and impactful support for Guyana's sustainable development priorities owing to the work of inter-agency coordination groups.



Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Group

The UN's network for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) conducted refresher training in May 2024, with nearly 100 staff joining the session led by UN WOMEN. In addition, some 93 UN Guyana staff participated in the annual PSEA survey, joining some 65,000 UN staff worldwide in completing this exercise, which reinforces the UN's zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse. Further, UNFPA hired a dedicated consultant to support national Government authorities in their efforts to eliminate SEA in Guyana.



Joint Team on HIV/AIDS

The UN Joint Team on AIDS partnered with community-led organisations, Government partners, and civil society organisations to deliver HIV prevention and support programming. The team helped to develop the first community-led HIV Stigma Index in Guyana, which is used to guide advocacy efforts for the rights of people living with HIV.



Human Rights Focal Points Group

The group led the UN System's inter-agency work on gender equality, disability inclusion, youth and human rights. They led the development of the UN Country Team's written submission ahead of Guyana's upcoming 4th UPR Cycle.



Operations Management Team (OMT)

In 2024, the Guyana OMT agreed on an annual UN House Budget for 2025 of US\$233,038. This represents a 17.3 percent decrease since 2021. In 2024, the OMT completed works on a caregiving space at UN House, which contains a partitioned space for breastfeeding mothers and desks for parents supervising children after school hours.



Programme Management Team (PMT)

The PMT led the analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring of the Country Implementation Plan (CIP). This was enabled through the agencies' completion of UN Info updates.



United Nations Communications Group (UNCG)

Through strategic communications and advocacy, the UNCG showcased the results of the UN System's and Guyana's SDG support to diverse stakeholders – Government, the private sector, civil society, and the public. These initiatives amplified awareness, demonstrated impact, and strengthened partnerships for national SDG achievement.

■ 2.5 Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The recommendations of the final evaluation of the previous Caribbean Cooperation Framework (the MSDF 2017-2021) and the associated management response of the UN Country Team continued to guide our work in 2024.

Establishing a common SDG-based results framework and Result- based management

We adopted common Cooperation Framework outputs and indicators, a UN SDG led initiative to enhance UN effectiveness and SDG measurement. These standardised metrics, implemented across the Caribbean, facilitated regional monitoring and evaluation and improved accountability. It helped to align our work in Guyana with both national priorities and the global 2030 Agenda, fostering regional collaboration and maximising efficient UN resource use for greater impact.

Civil Society and the Private Sector

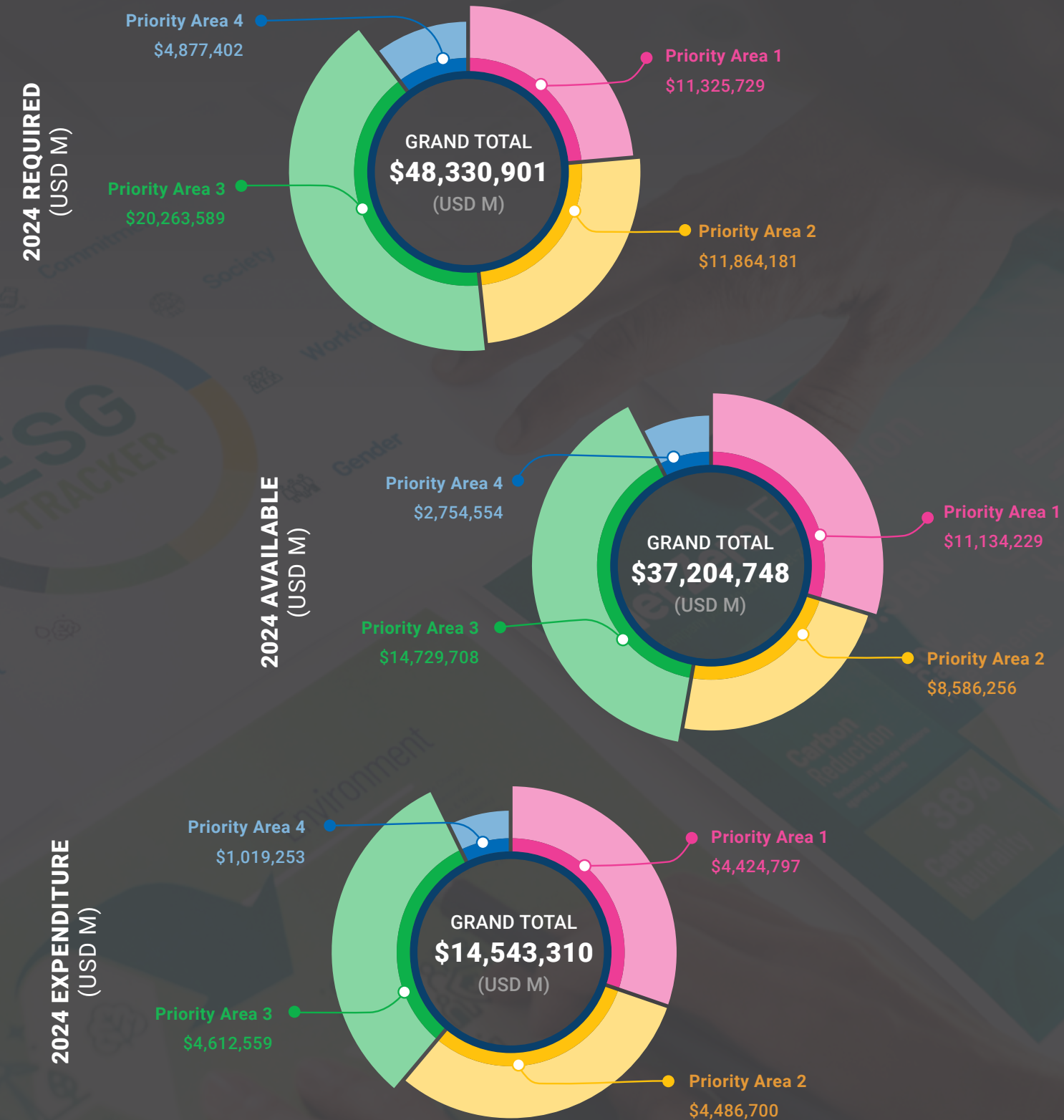
The UN worked with civil society organisations to support our work in the areas of gender-based violence prevention and response, health systems strengthening, and humanitarian assistance, among others. Also, private sector engagements helped businesses understand their role in supporting national SDGs progress. A UN awareness session, hosted with the Local Business Development Centre, empowered businesses to apply SDG principles within their specific industries.

Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination and Joint Implementation

The annual Joint National Steering Committee meeting with the Government of Guyana helped UN agencies to determine where greater effort should be placed to strengthen inter-agency coordination and joint implementation. The Government emphasised the continued value of the UN's system-wide cooperation, requesting joint expertise for national capacity building and coordinated data support for SDG monitoring. In response, agencies worked with national entities to provide training across justice, social services, and economic sectors for critical challenges.

Regionally, Guyana continued its participation in the Multi-Agency Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the current Multi-Country Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework. In 2024, the RSC's work focused on initial preparations for a new UN/Government development cooperation framework for the Caribbean, to start in January 2027.

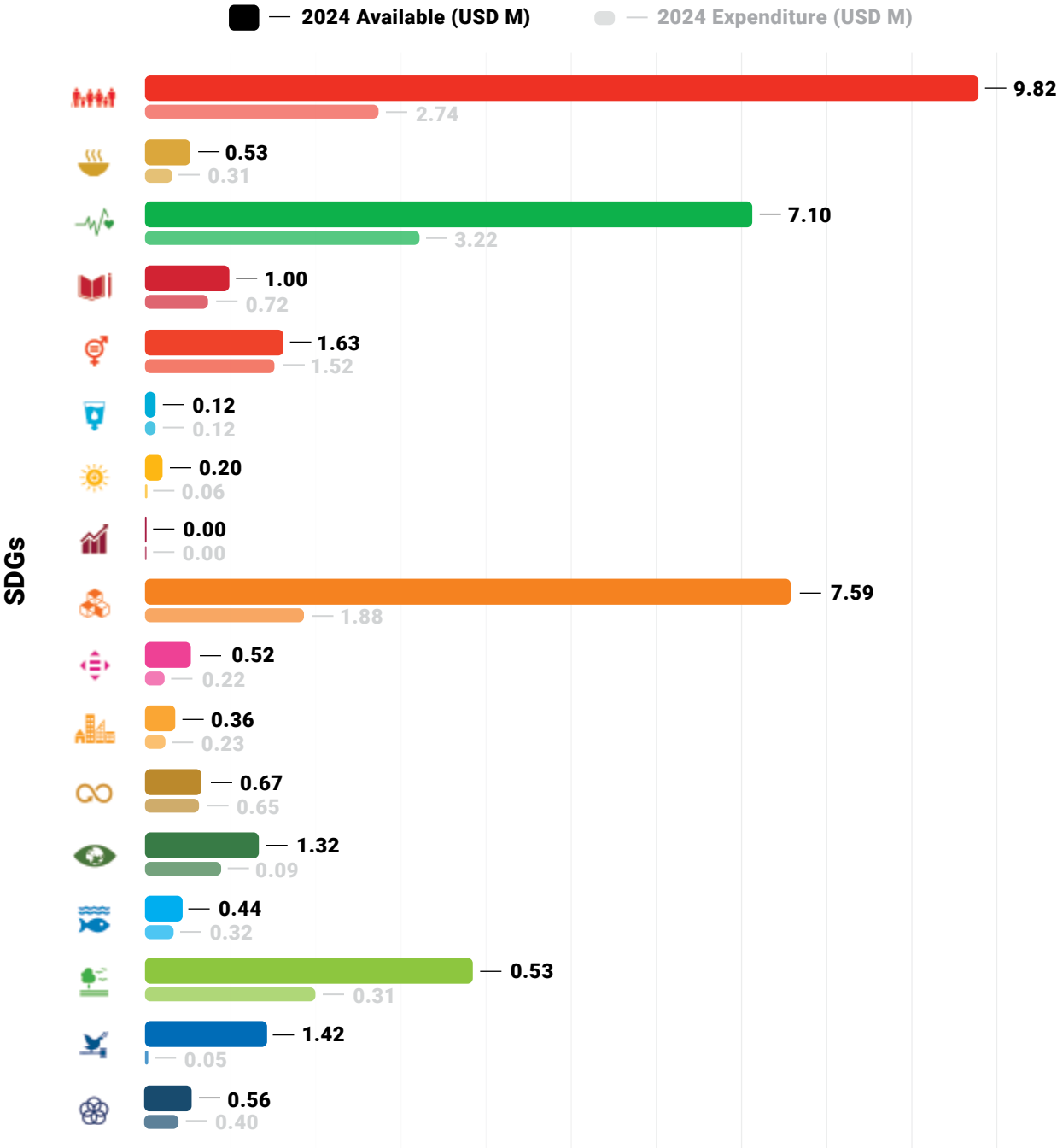
2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



UN Info Data Portal: [Guyana](#) | [UNCT Overview](#) | [UNSDG Data Portal](#)

Funding by Sustainable Development Goals

In 2024, implementation contributed to advancements in several SDGs. Clean Water and Sanitation achieved perfect 100% expenditure, while Responsible Consumption (97%), Gender Equality (93.3%), Life Below Water (72.7%), Quality Education (72%), and Partnerships for the Goals (71.4%) all demonstrated strong utilization of available funds. Significant investments have been actively made in critical sectors such as Good Health and Well-being, with \$3.22 million expended, and No Poverty, with \$2.74 million expended, underscoring dedicated efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.



CHAPTER 3

UNCT key focus for 2025

In 2024, a new Country Implementation Plan (2024-2025) was finalised and accepted by the Government to continue Guyana's implementation of the Caribbean Cooperation Framework. The new CIP concentrated work on food systems transformation, social protection and jobs, digital transformation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in line with the six transitions to accelerate SDGs. We worked with the Government and other stakeholders to strengthen agri-food

systems, support national digital inclusion initiatives, enhance policy frameworks to support social protection initiatives, and enhance environmental resilience through disaster preparedness and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

In 2025, key priorities will include:



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Climate Action

(SDG Transition: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution)

Through the implementation of the Joint SDG Fund's Energy Transition (JET) Seed Funding Initiative, we will support Guyana's transition to clean energy. The initiative will support national efforts to expand renewable energy capacity and promote sustainable mobility. We also intend to support the Government in its hosting of the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit (July 2025) to advance conservation solutions and will continue engaging the Office of the President to potentially support ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0 implementation.



Gender Based Violence

The UN System will support the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security with the full operationalisation of Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in Guyana, adapted from the global WGSS model. These spaces will continue to provide GBV survivors with safe access to information, services, referrals, and livelihood skills-building, empowering women and girls, including migrants and Indigenous populations, and promoting psychosocial well-being.



Social Protection

(SDG Transition: 'Jobs and Social Protection')

We will continue to support the strengthening of Guyana's social protection systems, focusing on mechanisms for complaints, feedback, information, and reporting, specifically for protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment. Working with the Ministry of Human Services, we will support leveraging technology for enhanced information management, monitoring, evaluation, and impact analysis. These efforts aim to create more effective and responsive social protection services, ultimately improving social well-being for all Guyanese. Also, the expected launch of ILO's third Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) in Guyana will help us address labour-related priorities.



Strengthening Democratic Processes

As Guyana prepares to host elections in 2025, the UN, led by the UNDP, will support the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to strengthen its capacity and that of core stakeholders to conduct core activities in an impartial, transparent, and sustainable manner to carry out scheduled electoral processes within the electoral cycle.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

In the context of the changing funding landscape for international development funding for the UN system in Guyana, we will continue to explore additional funding options, including from Inter-Agency Thematic/Trust Funds of the UN Development System. Further, efforts will be made to scale up engagement with the private sector and CSOs. UNCT resource mobilisation initiatives will be guided by an assessment of Guyana's development finance landscape and a planned update of the existing Joint Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Strategy.

Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ALT	Amerindian Land Titling
BFHI	Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDC	Civil Defence Commission
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CHCs	Community Health Committees
CIP	Country Implementation Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
EVs	Electronic Vehicles
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDP	Forcibly Displaced Persons
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCOPD	Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLDA	Guyana Livestock Development Authority
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GPF	Guyana Police Force
GRPA	Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
GWCMC	Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission

HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	Information, Communication, Technology
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MHSSS	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NAPS	National AIDS Program Secretariat
NAREI	National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute
PADF	Pan American Development Foundation
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PANCAP	The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEN	Special Education Needs
SRDC	South Rupununi District Council
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UG	University of Guyana
UN	United Nations

UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
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
US	United States of America
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme



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