



**UNITED NATIONS  
GUYANA**



**ANNUAL COUNTRY  
RESULTS REPORT OF  
THE CO-OPERATIVE  
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
AND THE UNITED  
NATIONS**



**2019**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>03</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>06</b>

## KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Key Development Trends .....	09
Economic Overview .....	09
Political Overview .....	09
Social Overview .....	09

## RESULTS OF THE COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### PILLAR ONE: AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS GUYANA

#### OUTCOME ONE

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	<b>12</b>
• Poverty.....	12
• Gender Issues.....	12
• Education Sector Plan.....	12
• Positive Discipline.....	12
• Birth Registration.....	12
• Justice.....	12

<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	<b>13</b>
• Education Management Information System.....	13
• Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey .....	13
• Labour Force.....	13
• Child Labour.....	13
• Value for Money.....	13
• Psychology.....	13
• Media.....	13

<b>Community Effect</b> .....	<b>13</b>
• Health and Family Life Education .....	13
• Child-focused Public Expenditure .....	13

#### OUTCOME TWO

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	<b>14</b>
• Review of the National Insurance Scheme.....	14
• Decent Work.....	14
• Safety at Work.....	14

<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	<b>15</b>
• Welfare.....	15
• Child Labour.....	15
• Oil and Gas .....	15

<b>Community Effect</b> .....	<b>15</b>
• Re-integration of Teen Mothers in Schools.....	15
• Sports and Culture for Development.....	15

### PILLAR TWO: A HEALTHY GUYANA

#### OUTCOME ONE

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	<b>17</b>
• HIV.....	17
• Childhood Development.....	17
• Sexual and Reproductive Health.....	17

<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	<b>17</b>
• HIV.....	17
• Sexual and Reproductive Health /Adolescent Pregnancy.....	17
• Maternal and Child Health.....	17
• Maternal Mortality.....	18
• Non-communicable Diseases: Mental Health.....	18
• Non-communicable Diseases: Tuberculosis.....	18
• Non-communicable Diseases: Malaria.....	18
• Non-communicable Diseases: Neglected Tropical Diseases.....	18

<b>Community Effect</b> .....	<b>18</b>
• Sexual and Reproductive Health /Adolescent Pregnancy.....	19
• Non-communicable Diseases: Neglected Tropical Diseases.....	19

#### OUTCOME TWO

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	<b>19</b>
• Food Safety.....	19

<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	<b>19</b>
• Nutrition.....	19
• Agriculture.....	20

<b>Community Effect</b> .....	<b>20</b>
• Nutrition.....	20
• Food Security .....	20
• Safe Water .....	20

## PILLAR THREE: A SAFE, COHESIVE AND JUST GUYANA

### OUTCOME ONE

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	22
• Trafficking in Persons.....	22
• Corruption.....	22
• Automated System for Customs Data [ASYCUDA system] .....	22
• Customs Administrative Reform .....	22
<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	22
• Trafficking in Persons.....	22
<b>Community Effect</b> .....	23
• PLHIV.....	23
• Trafficking in Persons .....	23
• Empowering Youths .....	23
• Automated System for Customs Data [ASYCUDA system] .....	23

### OUTCOME TWO

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	23
• Violence .....	23
• Guyana Women’s Health and Life Experiences Survey.....	23
• Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) .....	24
• Juvenile Justice (JJ) .....	24
• Private International Law Conventions .....	24
• Citizen Security .....	24
• Port State Measures – Fishing .....	24
<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	25
• Domestic Violence .....	25
• Gender Based Violence (GBV) .....	25
• Information, Communication and Technology .....	25
<b>Community Effect</b> .....	25
• Child Advocacy Centres for Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse .....	25
• Access to Justice and Training (Sexual Offences Court) .....	25
• Juvenile Justice .....	25
• Joint Response to the Venezuelan Situation .....	26
• Counselling on Protection .....	26
• Social Cohesion .....	26

## PILLAR FOUR: A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT GUYANA

### OUTCOME ONE

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	28
• Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) .....	28
• Disaster Risk Management .....	28
• Schools’ Emergency Preparedness and Response .....	28
• Climate Change .....	28
• Early Warning Systems .....	29
<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	29
• Disaster Risk Management .....	29
• Early Warning Systems .....	29
• RIO-Convention .....	29
<b>Community Effect</b> .....	29
• SMART Hospitals .....	29
• Water and Sanitation .....	30
• Waste Management .....	30

### OUTCOME TWO

<b>Policies and strategies</b> .....	31
• Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 .....	31
• Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) .....	31
• Land Use .....	31
<b>Institutional Development</b> .....	31
• Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 .....	31
• Nagoya Protocol and Access .....	32
• Marine Ecosystem .....	32
<b>Community Effect</b> .....	32
• Pollution .....	32

### RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

<b>UN Common Premises</b> .....	33
---------------------------------	----

### RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE .....

### CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED .....

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ADF</b>	Amerindian Development Fund	<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>ASYCUDA</b>	Automated System for Customs Data	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>AW</b>	ASYCUDA World	<b>JJ</b>	Juvenile Justice
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge Attitude and Practice
<b>CBDRM</b>	Community Based Disaster Risk Management	<b>LCDS</b>	Low Carbon Development Strategy
<b>CBEWS</b>	Community Based Early Warning System	<b>LED</b>	Light Emitting Diode
<b>CDC</b>	Civil Defence Commission	<b>LF</b>	Lymphatic Filariasis
<b>CDEMA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>CDERA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency	<b>M &amp; E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>CDM</b>	Comprehensive Disaster Management	<b>MARAD</b>	Maritime Administration Department
<b>CFCs</b>	Chlorofluorocarbons	<b>MCC</b>	Millennium Challenge Corporation
<b>CPA</b>	Childcare and Protection Agency	<b>MDA</b>	Mass Drug Administration
<b>CRFM</b>	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>CRSAP/NAP</b>	Guyana's Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan/ National Adaptation Plan	<b>MhGAP</b>	Mental Health Gap Action Programme
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	<b>MHM</b>	Menstrual Hygiene Management
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations	<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>CSWG</b>	Continental Shelf Fisheries Working Group	<b>MoA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>CWP</b>	Country Work Plan	<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>DAF</b>	Direct Assistance Fund	<b>MoLA</b>	Ministry of Legal Affairs
<b>DANA</b>	Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis	<b>MoPH</b>	Ministry of Public Health
<b>DCU</b>	Difficult Circumstances Unit	<b>MoPS</b>	Ministry of Public Security
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>MoSP</b>	Ministry of Social Protection
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management	<b>MSC</b>	Marine Stewardship Council
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence	<b>MSDF</b>	Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>MSM</b>	Men who have sex with men
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>MSN</b>	Migrant Support Network
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessments	<b>NAMA</b>	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System	<b>NCDs</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>ESL</b>	English as a Second Language	<b>NDS</b>	National Development Strategy
<b>EW</b>	Early Warning	<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>NGSIP</b>	National Gender and Social Inclusion Policy
<b>FV</b>	Family Violence	<b>OCC</b>	Office of Climate Change
<b>GCRG</b>	Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana	<b>ODP</b>	Ozone-depleting potential
<b>GFS</b>	Guyana Fire Service	<b>OSH</b>	Occupational Safety and Health
<b>GLSC</b>	Guyana Lands and Survey Commission	<b>PAGE</b>	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
<b>GPF</b>	Guyana Police Force	<b>PAHO/WHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
<b>GPI</b>	Global Peace Index	<b>PANAFTOSA</b>	The Pan American Center for Food-and-Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health
<b>GRA</b>	Guyana Revenue Authority	<b>PD</b>	Positive Discipline
<b>GRIF</b>	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund	<b>PFM</b>	Public Financial Management
<b>GRPA</b>	Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association	<b>PLHIV</b>	People Living with HIV
<b>GSDS</b>	Green State Development Strategy	<b>PRIMES</b>	Population Registration and Identity Management EcoSystem
<b>GWI</b>	Guyana Water Inc.	<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>HCCH</b>	The Hague Children's Conventions	<b>PTCCB</b>	Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board
<b>HCFCs</b>	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons	<b>PV</b>	Photovoltaic
<b>HCWs</b>	Health Care Workers	<b>R4V</b>	Response for Venezuela
<b>HEYS</b>	Hinterland Employment Youth Services	<b>RDRMS</b>	Regional Disaster Risk Management System
<b>HFLE</b>	Health and Family Life Education	<b>S&amp;RH</b>	Sexual & Reproductive Health
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	<b>SC4D</b>	Sport and Culture for Development
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank	<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>SLED</b>	Sustainable Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Development
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
		<b>SSF</b>	Small Scale Farming
		<b>SW</b>	Social Work

•	<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
•	<b>TEFL</b>	Teaching English as a foreign language
•	<b>TIP</b>	Trafficking in Persons
•	<b>TNA</b>	Technology Needs Assessment
•	<b>UG</b>	University of Guyana
•	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
•	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
•	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
•	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
•	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
•	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
•	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
•	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
•	<b>UNHCR</b>	The United Nations Refugee Agency
•	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
•	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
•	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
•	<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
•	<b>VAWG</b>	Violence against Women and Girls
•	<b>VfM</b>	Value for Money
•	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
•	<b>WAD</b>	Women Across Differences
•	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
•	<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organization
•	<b>YAG</b>	Youth Advisory Group



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**The Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (GCRG) presented the outcomes under the four (4) thematic areas of the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) namely: (i) An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Guyana, (ii) A Healthy Guyana, (iii) A Safe, Cohesive and Just Guyana, and (iv) A Sustainable and Resilient Guyana undertaken for the reporting period 2019.**

In Pillar 1 - An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Guyana, seven focus areas were considered: (i) The Education Sector Plan, (ii) The Education Information Management System, (iii) Data Generation and Capacity, (iv) Capacity and Institutional Strengthening, (v) Reintegration of teen mothers in schools, (vi) Children and adolescents' healthy lifestyle, and (vii) Review of the National Insurance Scheme. The Ministry of Education, the focal point for this pillar, was able to record four notable achievements, which will assist the government in making informed decisions going forward. Those achievements were: (i) Round 6 of the MICS Report launched, (ii) Occupational Safety and Health Policy Launched, (iii) Labour Force Survey Reports Published Online, and (iv) Actuarial Review of the National Insurance Scheme Completed.

Pillar 2 - A Healthy Guyana, was being managed by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and addressed Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4 under five focus areas: (i) Health and nutrition concerns that are affecting the lives of people in Guyana, (ii) Need for a multi-sectoral approach to building 'health for all' policies approach and addressing environmental factors such as access to safe water and food safety, (iii) Strengthening the ability of the state to provide universal access to quality services and healthy nutrition and knowledge needed to prevent diseases including non-communicable diseases (NCDs), (iv) Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health (S&RH), Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and related stigma and discrimination, and (v) Promotion of sustainable agricultural production for improved health outcomes.

The Ministry of Public Health and the key line ministries and/agencies that fall under the umbrella of Pillar 2, worked collaboratively to realise the following notable achievements: (i) Translation of "Good Nutrition" Posters into four of Guyana's nine Indigenous languages, (ii) Reduction in Guyana's suicide rate, (iii) the drafting of the Traditional Birth Attendant Policy, (iv) the revision of the National Key Populations Guidelines, (v) the reduction in the tuberculosis (TB)/HIV co-infection rate to 16% in 2018, and (vi) the Adoption of Ivermectin as an adjunct to triple Mass Drug Administration (MDA).

The agency was pleased to report that Guyana has recorded a best practice in combatting TB especially among the growing prison population over the past years. In 2012, 43 new TB cases were diagnosed compared to eight new TB

cases in 2018. In 2019, only six new TB cases were detected up to the time of reporting. Notwithstanding, some achievements made, the Ministry still faces shortages of drugs.

Pillar 3 - A Safe, Cohesive and Just Guyana addressed two outcomes for the reporting period with emphasis on the SDG Targets: 1. a 5.2, 16.1. with specific focus on: (i) Poverty, (ii) Gender Issues, (iii) Peace and Justice, and (iv) Trafficking in Persons. Collaborative work was done with the key focal points, the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and the Ministry of Social Protection. Significant achievements made under this Pillar are as follows: (i) Old Age Pension has increased by 5.1 percent, (ii) Public Assistance rates have increased by 12.5 percent, (iii) The public sector minimum wage was increased by seven (7) percent, (iv) Income tax threshold increased by 8.3 percent, (v) Vehicles for use by persons with disabilities have been exempt from excise duty and VAT, (vi) Police Stations are now equipped with an Office designated to deal with persons who go to make reports on DV, (vii) Police Management Information System Launched, and (viii) 2019 -2020 Action Plan for the Prevention and Response to TIPs developed.

Notwithstanding the achievements for the first ten months of the year, the Guyana Police Force still faced several challenges and have undergone several re-assignments of Police Officers as a means of intervention to better manage the functioning of the Forces operations. One significant intervention was the installation of 10 Divisional Commanders assigned to each of the country's 10 administrative regions. This was an increase of three (3) Divisional Commanders within the jurisdiction and an initiative taken to reduce the response time of the Police, particularly in the hinterland areas which covers a wide expanse of territory.

Much has been done by the government to deal with TIPs and to bring the perpetrators to justice while helping the victims. The Police Force is now in a better position to deal with the situation due to continuous training programmes that are being offered by the Force in collaboration with its international development partners.

Pillar 4 - A Sustainable and Resilient Guyana addressed two outcomes for the review period: SDGs 13 and 15 and focussed on the following: (i) The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, (ii) Disaster Risk Management in the Health Sector, and (iii) Environmental Monitoring.

The Ministry of the Presidency Departments of Environment and Climate Change were the key focal points for this Pillar. Notable achievements were made in the areas of: (i) Environmental Monitoring, (ii) Disaster Risk Management Bill, and (iii) Implementation of the Smart Hospitals Project. The GSDS, Guyana's twenty-year national development strategy, presents an opportunity to utilise our natural resources in a sustainable manner in keeping with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The main strategy

paper having been submitted to Cabinet in October 2018, technical work continued to finalize the three volumes of documents. The strategy paper was formally adopted by Cabinet in May 2019.

With the roll-out of Guyana’s first oil at the end of 2019, or early 2020, environmental monitoring is paramount to maintaining our environmental integrity.

Each pillar presented its own challenges, however, preventative measures and initiatives were devised to mitigate the negative effects. In going forward the data gaps that present great challenges will continue to be addressed to ensure that suitable decision making is realised.





**KEY  
DEVELOPMENT  
TRENDS**



## KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana has recorded yet another year of continuous advancement even though faced with several challenges. Importantly, Guyana has completed Volumes I and II of its new national long-term development plan – the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS): Vision 2040, which outlines the country's path towards the achievement of a "Green State". Volume III, which includes the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the costing of the strategy is slated for completion before the end of the first quarter of 2020. Also noteworthy, Guyana was among the 48 countries that presented a Voluntary National Review (VNR) of its progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and has also commenced implementing the eight (8) next steps actions outlined in the VNR. Guyana is also on the cusp of commencing oil production, which is estimated to increase Gross Domestic Product to approximately 86 percent in 2020 up from 4.4 percent for 2019, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Within this context, Guyana is focused on improving its capacities to effectively manage the petroleum sector to the benefit of its people, while at the same time implementing socio-economic programmes to ensure that the economy is sufficiently diversified to withstand any possible negative effects of petroleum production.

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The projected growth for the Guyanese economy in 2019 is estimated at 4.5 percent, above the 4.1 percent recorded for 2018. Domestic developments during the year are expected to have some impact on the final growth figure for 2019, which will be published in the coming year. Economic performance is projected to be driven largely by increased activity in the construction, services, manufacturing and mining and quarrying sectors. Additionally, with the planning for the implementation of Vision 2040 commencing in 2019, it is anticipated that there will be structural changes to the economy to ensure diversification and environmental responsibility.

## POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana is slated to conduct its General and Regional elections on March 2, 2020 as a result of political developments which started in the last quarter of 2018 and continued through to 2019. Notwithstanding this development, it is anticipated that public programmes will continue to be delivered, uninterrupted, including the Joint Government/UN Country Implementation Plan. The Guyana/Venezuela territorial dispute has moved one step closer to resolution with the Co-operative Republic of Guyana officially tabling its case before the International Court of Justice with the expectation of a resolution of this foreign policy issue.

## SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Guyana's social sector remains a significant priority of Government, receiving the largest share of the 2019 Budget, towards the implementation of the many socio-economic and environmental programmes, which are geared towards the achievement of Vision 2040 as well as the SDGs. As noted in Guyana's VNR, though there has been some progress in health, education and social protection, gaps remain. For health, national focus continues to be placed on communicable and non-communicable diseases and increasing awareness and education towards behavioural changes among the population to ensure that all Guyanese adopt healthy lifestyles. This will be elaborated in the updated sector plan (for which preparation has commenced). Education outcomes are of national concern as the performance in standardised testing continues to vary and, at times, are below the pass rate threshold as well as below acceptable levels required to effectively produce a workforce that can drive catalytic change. There has been redoubled focus on the core subjects, particularly Mathematics which has recorded increases in performance though not to the desired level. As noted in Vision 2040, a critical objective for Guyana is to increase secondary matriculation, which is linked to Guyana achieving Universal Secondary Education Coverage. Also, Guyana is working to reduce the disparities between its coastal and hinterland regions across all components of the education sector, which is a key objective of the new Education Sector Plan that is slated for completion before the end of this year. In the area of social protection, determined efforts towards poverty reduction and a poverty mapping is being undertaken to ensure that Guyana's vulnerable populations are effectively identified such that programmatic interventions can be appropriately designed and efficiently implemented.

Like other neighbouring countries, Guyana has responded with humanitarian support to the Venezuelan migrants who have entered the country seeking social and economic services. The UN and Government have partnered in many areas to address the challenges faced by this vulnerable population. This has reportedly resulted in over 10,000 migrants being officially registered and receiving health, education and other social services. (There are 36, 000 Venezuelan migrants in Guyana).

**RESULTS  
OF THE COUNTRY  
IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN**



# PILLAR ONE:

---

## AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS GUYANA

With an emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, promote social and economic inclusion and equity while improving social protection and access to decent employment within a sustainable economy.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Inclusive and equitable quality education



Gender equality and empower all women and girls



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable, economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Reduce inequality within and among countries



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Outcome 1

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

## Outcome 2:

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

## OUTCOME 1

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Poverty

At the centre of national policies and programmes is the goal of poverty eradication. Although a comprehensive poverty study has not been undertaken in recent times, proxies of the state of poverty through health, education, water and sanitation indicate mixed results. Based on the 2016 State of the Environment Report it was noted that the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in Guyana fell from 28.7% to 18.6% between 1993 and 2006. It has also been noted that unemployment has risen from 12.2% in the fourth quarter of 2017 to 13.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018. Activities executed to ensure greater access to services aimed at reducing poverty included completion of three new water treatment plants and the continuation of drilling additional wells to expand water distribution and supply; completion of the Port Kaituma Hospital Complex, in the hinterland, construction of the second cell of the sanitary landfill, revision of school curricula, from Nursery to Grade 9; and implementation of a new Food Safety Act.

Capacity was built in 91 youths in Regions 1,3,5,6,10 in rural entrepreneurship and work readiness. Assistance was provided to 86 youths via grants to establish rural businesses (USD106,600). This was an effort to facilitate access to employment and the adoption of innovations and best practices for enterprise development among young women and men.

#### Gender Issues

Guyana has made significant strides in addressing gender issues particularly within the public sector. At the highest level of management within Ministries, approximately 63 percent have female Permanent Secretaries, as Guyana continues to recognise the role of women within the governance structure. At the level of the National Parliament, presently there are 21 female Parliamentarians, representing 32 percent of the 65 seats.

### Education Sector Plan

The Ministry of Education in partnership with UNICEF successfully finalised the Education Sector Plan 2019 – 2023: VISION 2030. The five priority areas are: (a) improving governance and accountability; (b) improving performance at all levels; (c) improving efficiency of the education system; (d) reducing inequities in the education system; and (e) contributing to lifelong learning and employability.

#### Positive discipline

In an effort to further UNICEF’s continued advocacy for the elimination of all forms of corporal punishment in schools, the agency successfully completed Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) studies on positive discipline as well as a KAP on Communications for Development as an approved behaviour change strategy for all its programmes.

#### Birth Registration

On birth registration (particularly for hard-to-reach population), community action (e.g. mobile birth registration and awareness) in partnership with the Department of Citizenship has been complemented by “upstream” work for the prevention of statelessness and strong advocacy to ensure free birth registration and the improvement in the overall systems. This has led to a first draft of both protocols and suggested early draft legislation on the subject complemented by the service delivery for over 1000 persons who can now access birth certificates.

#### Justice

The decentralization of the specialized Courts has helped fast-tracking the hearing of cases, especially for children. In addition, the conviction rate has moved from 10% to 60% in two years, creating an enabling environment in accessing justice, where there is still a culture of silence.



*Opening of Children's Court, photo credit: DPI Guyana*

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Education Management Information System

The Ministry of Education is piloting the use of the Integrated Education Management Information System (EMIS) which is anticipated to address data gaps. This effort is direct response to the need for empirical data and reliable demonstration of trends, to inform programming for Guyana's 293,915 children, including the most vulnerable.

### Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

UNICEF is conducting the 6th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) to generate new evidence for planning, monitoring and, informing policies. The Government has provided US\$300,000 (cash) and about US\$ 40, 000 in-kind contribution to the conduct of this survey. The data is being collected using tablets which will miniaturize the data processing time and expedite the data analysis and report writing. The MICS data will contribute 48% of the data for Guyana's SDG monitoring and reporting.

### Labour Force

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank supported the revision of Guyana's Labour Force Survey (LFS) as well as training of officials of the Bureau of Statistics to conduct the survey.

Also, to ensure effective communication of the information collected during the survey, a bulletin designed to provide a quick and complete snapshot of the labour market for policy makers and general stakeholders was produced in March 2018. Currently, the LFS report for 2018 is available on the website of the Bureau of Statistics.

### Child Labour

UNICEF with the MoSP (Department of Labour) completed the National Plan of Action on Child Labour (Prevention and Reduction) in 2019, based on the approved work on the National Policy in 2018/2019 supported by UNICEF.

### Value for Money

The Ministry of Finance and UNICEF collaborated to host the first training on value for money (VfM) measurements and their application to programmes for over 50 M&E practitioners across line ministries, civil society organisations, bilateral/multilateral and development partners.

This is expected to maximise results at cost and builds on the capacity gains of the sampling sessions conducted in 2018. The Ministry of Finance has committed to include VfM as a module in the ongoing national M&E capacity strengthening efforts.

## Psychology

The University of Guyana (UG) with the support of UNICEF, completed all steps to launch the first Masters' Program in Clinical Psychology. Twenty-five (25) practitioners in Social Work were exposed to training on the use of anatomically correct dolls and at least 60 persons (including all Judicial Officers)- through exposure to a course (developed with UG on Forensic Psychology) were able to provide recommendations to improve practice of sexual offence matters.

## Media

The execution of the digital media training by civil society organisations in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has furthered the realisation of national and subnational 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 advocacy and messaging.

## COMMUNITY EFFECT

### Health and Family Life Education

The Ministry of Education has also received support for the continuous monitoring of the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) and Sports and Culture for Development (SC4D) programmes. The component on menstrual hygiene management of these programmes was strengthened.

The strategies to address gaps in the HFLE programme are continually being informed by the findings of UNFPA's regional assessment of the implementation of HFLE. UNFPA has increased the scope and scale of its collaboration with key stakeholders towards furthering the HFLE agenda and informing strategic joint actions, while continuing to advocate for the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in line with international standards.

### Child-focused Public Expenditure

Assessment of Child-focused Public Expenditure was carried out by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, through the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with UNICEF in order to intensify efforts in child-friendly budgeting, to close equity gaps and to ensure deliberate expenditure on children, especially the most vulnerable, across all sectors. It is expected that this assessment will pave the way for the continuous assessment, across all sectors, of budget expenditure for direct child-related expenditure.

## OUTCOME 2

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Review of the National Insurance Scheme

The 9th Actuarial Review of the National Insurance Scheme as at 31 December 2016 as well as a legal gap analysis was conducted with support provided by the ILO from January 2018 to May 2019. As a result of these activities, it was concluded that Guyana is in a position to ratify the ILO Convention No. 102 through tripartite consultation in keeping with a developed coherent and integrated national social protection system. The findings and recommendations of the Review were endorsed by the Government, through the tripartite Board of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), in July 2019.

A mapping of Guyana's social protection systems was conducted to inform systems strengthening and advocacy for public finance for children in Guyana.

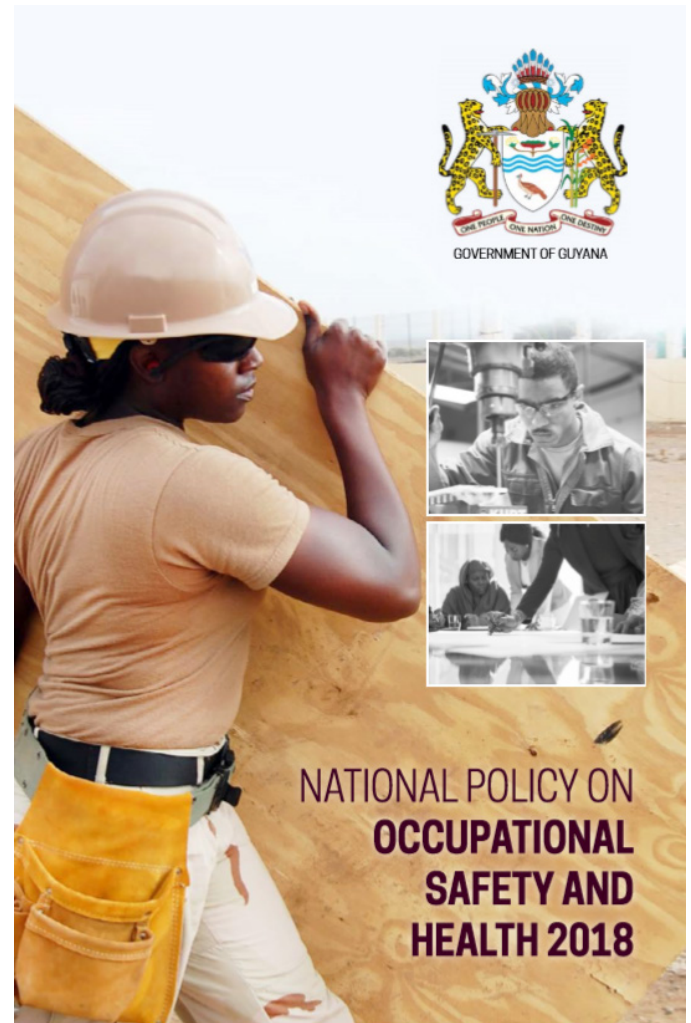
#### Decent work

In April 2019, the Government not only launched its new National Child Labour Policy, but also started key discussions with the ILO for implementation of the ILO-ECLAC Child Labour Risk Identification Model, a predictive statistical tool developed by the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour. Guyana now joins Jamaica as the only two Caribbean countries currently participating in this multi-country pilot. This has been rolled out in 10 other countries across the hemisphere. The application of the Risk Model is also one of the actions agreed on by the tripartite constituents in the 2018- 2019 implementation plan for the Guyana Decent Work Country Program 2017-2021.

#### Safety at Work

Guyana launched an updated version of its Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy in April 2019. The Policy, which is a revised version of the original adopted in 1996, aims to promote and improve the quality of life of workers by preventing social and economic losses, work-related accidents and injury to health.

The Policy proposes to eliminate hazards, reducing the number of accidents, and injuries, and militating against stresses and incidence of occupational diseases. As part of this process, the ILO has been supporting the Ministry of Social Protection in revising and updating the OSH legal framework which included a review of the OSH Act, currently underway.



OSH policy, photo credit: Government of Guayna

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Welfare

Mapping of the Social Work (SW) capacity which begun in 2019, along with a review of measures towards licensing will contribute to the process of SW welfare reform. This is important for future planning, including on specialised services for children.

### Child labour

The ILO is leading the regional initiative “Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour” of which Guyana is a member. As such, ILO has been working with the Department of Labour within the Ministry of Social Protection on a training programme for Occupational Safety and Health and Labour inspectors.

### Oil and Gas

ILO is also supporting the training of OSH Inspectors in Oil & Gas to discuss and exchange good practices in improving occupational safety and health in order to promote a preventative safety and health culture in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas. OSH regulations in the emerging oil and gas sector will need to be developed. Effective advocacy and preventive measures will strengthen compliance. Ultimately, the result will be a paradigm shift toward safer working conditions and workplaces and greater respect for workers’ lives and human rights.

## COMMUNITY EFFECT

### Re-integration of teen mothers in schools

Data was garnered on adolescent girls who became pregnant since 2017 to present in selected rural and hinterland areas. In 2017, the ministry lobbied for an unprecedented legislative policy to be drafted and passed to allow formal, technical and vocational education for adolescent mothers. Implementing the policy of reintegration of teen mothers in the education system supported by UNICEF, 225 teen mothers (3 cohorts) in 2019 directly benefitted from vocational education. (Source: MoE).

### Sports and culture for development

Using a sports and culture for development (SC4D) strategy UNICEF supported migrant and host communities in Mabaruma, Region 1, thus ensuring that children and adolescents can participate in programmes which are crucial to their overall development. Capacity building was done with members in five (5) host and migrant communities and over 200 children engaged in structured, positive activities.



Teenage mothers at a graduation ceremony, Photo credit: DPI Guyana



# PILLAR TWO:

---

## A HEALTHY GUYANA

Improve health and wellbeing by addressing the ability of the state to provide services, increasing access to healthy nutrition, a healthy environment and knowledge as preventive measures. Sustainable health financing and direct action to addresses NCDs, SRH and HIV/AIDS and related stigma is also necessary for better health outcomes.



**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all stages



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**  
Gender equality and empower all women and girls



**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**  
Water and sanitation for all



**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**  
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**  
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Outcome 1

Improved universal access to quality health care services and systems

## Outcome 2:

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

Table 6 Performance Indicators for HIV

INDICATOR	ACTUAL					TARGET
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, and key population	113	169	161	155	142	139

## OUTCOME 1

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### HIV

The revision of the National Key Population Guidelines of the 90/90/90 policy under the international “Treat all Policy” was done by several organisations and members of the key populations congregated in March 2019 at the National AIDS Programme Secretariat.

#### Childhood Development

The Situational Analysis of Adolescent health was completed with UN partners noting the achievements and challenges of adolescent health in attaining the targets of SDG 2030.

#### Sexual and Reproductive Health

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy was launched which would guide the 2016-2030 Women, Children and Adolescent health Strategy implementation in country.

#### Sexual and Reproductive Health/Adolescent pregnancy

UNICEF continued to support the initiatives to prevent and reduce adolescent pregnancy, including supplies, monitoring, peer education training, retraining of health workers, training of students and teachers in menstrual hygiene management (MHM), HIV, gender based violence, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), etc. to implement secondary school health clubs programmes.

A total of 60 peer educators and 40 health providers benefited from training and are now equipped with skills to reach the adolescent population.

#### Maternal and child health

The Ministry of Public Health has executed several activities all aimed at improving Guyana’s performance in the area of maternal and child health and these have included the conduct of traditional birth attendant consultation with communities in Region 1 and 9.

This has helped in the shaping of the policy on Traditional Birth Attendants, which is in draft. The Ministry has also hosted several training programmes focussing on (i) “Zero Maternal Deaths by Haemorrhaging” in Regions 7, 8 and 10; (ii) Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission; (iii) Effective Vaccine Management for Regional Supervisors; and (iv) Assessment and Management of Sexual Violence Cases for health workers.

There has also been training on Family Planning Certification, which was done in collaboration with other stakeholders (JHPIEGO and CLAP). Importantly, the Ministry focused on data collection in this area and this is ongoing for relevant matters. Select data points are included below for relevant matters. Select data points are included below.

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### HIV

61 persons including police officers and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in three (3) capacity building sessions on HIV stigma and discrimination. There was also a capacity building session with the Guyana Sex Work Coalition, which served to impart knowledge on the use of the data collection tools and provided an overview of the Key Population’s Programme. The Guyana Sex Work Coalition is one of two grantees selected to implement the GCRG’s Social Contracting project.

356 men who have sex with men (MSM) were reached with HIV prevention programme-defined package of services as well as 35 transgenders and HIV testing administered to 320 sex workers. Below is a summary of HIV related data.

**Table 1 Performance Indicators for Maternal and Child health**

INDICATOR	ACTUAL					TARGET
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Jun19
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	112	101	133	123	120	179
Percentage of births delivered by adolescent females	24	24	24	23	20	22
Percentage of children immunized by 12 months (DPT)	96	96	97	98	98	22

### Maternal mortality

Post-Partum Haemorrhage was reduced from 41% in 2018 to 14% this year. With the technical support of PAHO/WHO, more than 200 medical staff throughout the country were trained to strengthen their capacity to address maternal haemorrhage and detect maternal near miss.

### Non-communicable Diseases: Mental Health

The Ministry of Public Health hosted trainings for Community Health Workers, Psychiatric Patient Care Assistants, Laboratory Technicians, X-ray Technicians, Pharmacy, and Dental Assistants. These health care providers after completing their training were deployed across the country, thus allowing the Ministry to provide more accessible and equitable health care.

The Mental Health Unit in collaborating with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) trained 400 health personnel in the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), which aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological, and substance use disorders. This training enables healthcare workers who are at the first point of contact with patients, especially at the primary health care level to identify and offer help, in a timely manner, to individuals and families. In addition, training was delivered to 24 nurses in psychological trauma, which will prepare them to render psychological support to persons affected by disasters such as flooding since Guyana is prone to experience this.

### Non-communicable Diseases: Tuberculosis

There is a downward trend in case notification of children and adolescents with TB and thus detected childhood TB cases have been reduced to eight (8) in 2018 compared with

26 cases in 2012. The TB/HIV co-infection rate was reduced to 16% in 2018 owing to ART coverage in co-infected TB/HIV patients. Cases increased to >88% in 2018 compared to 66% in 2014. 5 Gene X-pert machines are in the process of being rolled out across the country.

Guyana has recorded a best practice in combatting TB. There has been excellent TB control among Guyana's prison population over the past years. In 2012, as much as 43 new TB cases were diagnosed compared to eight (8) new TB cases detected in 2018, from all the prisons. In 2019, to date, only six (6) new TB cases were detected in the prisons.

### Non-communicable Diseases: Malaria

Completion of the malaria programme review in March 2019 provided insight and guidance for the planning and implementation of activities with potential to yield high impact.

The vulnerable, at risk populations continue to be the itinerant workers (miners and loggers) in interior locations; it is however important to note that the migrant population, especially from Venezuela, continue to contribute significantly to the imported cases diagnosed especially in Regions 1 and 7. This development continues to pose an administrative threat to the regional malaria programme.

### Non-communicable Diseases: Neglected Tropical Diseases

The Ministry of Public Health has completed a Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), commonly known as Filaria remapping exercise to control, eliminate this disease. Guyana has recorded another best practice in the Mass Drug Administration Programme to fight Filaria.

The country now moved to adopt the new WHO recommended regimen according to height and added the medication Ivermectin for the treatment of Filaria. The reach of pill distribution has extended to Region 1 (targeting Moruca), Region 2 with the exception of Bethany and Dredge Creek, Region 7 (targeting Bartica) and Region 6 with the exception of Orealla and Sipuruta.

Guyana has introduced this new regimen with the aim of eliminating LF in the next two years instead of the initially planned five years.

Positive results have been noted, especially in Region 4 where the level of endemicity has been reduced from 34% to 5% according to the 2018 remapping exercise. Regions 8 and 9 have less than 1% level of endemicity. Health promotion and education is also ongoing with the MDA campaign.

## COMMUNITY EFFECT

### Sexual and Reproductive Health/Adolescent pregnancy

Partnering with Women Across Differences (WAD), UNICEF supported the front line initiative for reducing adolescent pregnancy in Region 9. Over 1500 children have increased their knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health issues and life skills to reduce their vulnerability. This support was provided at health facilities, in secondary schools, and at the community level on the methods which they can employ to assist adolescents in making life long decisions. The programme has reached over 500 children primarily from the dormitory schools and health centers.

The community based Early Childhood Development (ECD) programming in local and migrant communities in three administrative regions; the national roll out of adolescent men and boys clinics; pregnant adolescent girls and teen mothers programme; and the general adolescent clinics for boys and girls contributed to an increased number of fathers, boys, and men in the communities supporting mothers from pregnancy to nutrition. They also provided nurturing care and engaged their children (even if they do not live in the same home) in meaningful activities.

Through the availability of UMBRAF resources, interventions were developed in Guyana in response to high levels of stigma, violence and abuse, as well as barriers to access basic services, being reported by Venezuelan migrants and refugees involved in sex work in Guyana. As part of the interventions, sex workers identified to be at risk in the capital city of Georgetown were offered free SRH services as well as support for emergency referrals to access other support services (inclusive of additional counselling support, possible housing support, and alternative livelihood opportunities).

### Non-communicable Diseases: Neglected Tropical Diseases

The Ministry of Public Health has completed a Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), commonly known as Filaria remapping exercise to control, eliminate this disease. Guyana has recorded another best practice in the Mass Drug Administration Programme to fight Filaria. The country now moved to adopt the new WHO recommended regimen according to height and added the medication Ivermectin for the treatment of Filaria.

The reach of pill distribution has extended to Region 1 (targeting Moruca), Region 2 with the exception of Bethany and Dredge Creek, Region 7 (targeting Bartica) and Region 6 with the exception of Orealla and Sipuruta. Guyana has introduced this new regimen with the aim of eliminating LF in the next two years instead of the initially planned five years.

## OUTCOME 2

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Food safety

The country benefited from the revision of the Risk Based Food Inspection draft manual for the Americas with the participation of 45 key stakeholders from various agencies. The final manual was completed by PAHO's Unit in the Pan American Center for Food-and-Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health (PANAFTOSA). The country adopted the International and Regional food safety standards and guidelines at national, regional and community levels.

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Nutrition

Nutrition education and counselling for patients at 21 health facilities in Regions 3 and 4 was conducted. The topics covered in these sessions included nutrition in pregnancy, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, anaemia, chronic non-communicable diseases management (theory and practice), among others.

Importantly, key to improving the effectiveness and planning of nutrition programmes across the country, anthropometric and nutritional data has been collected for children in primary schools in Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 to determine their nutritional status. All data have been collected and data entry is currently ongoing. This will be followed by analysis and is expected to generate data to inform all national nutrition programmes.

Over 150 Health Care Workers (HCWs) across the country were trained in different areas surrounding nutrition. Among the 150 plus HCWs, 70 HCWs from Regions 4 and 7 were trained on "Nutritional Anaemia, Sprinkles and Food Based Dietary Guidelines" and a further 40 HCWs from Region 4 were trained on the "Nutrition throughout the Life Cycle".

<sup>1</sup> The objectives of this training were to understand some basic concepts of anaemia and iron deficiency, including causes, risk factors, consequences, signs & symptoms and detection/screening; to recognize (iron deficiency) anaemia as a public health problem in Guyana, especially among pregnant women and young children; to explain measures of anaemia prevention and control: dietary modification, supplementation and home fortification with Sprinkles; to adequately counsel and demonstrate the use of the Micronutrient Powder Sprinkles for pregnant women and young children; to identify communication strategies to foster behaviour change in individuals, families and communities; to create awareness of the revised Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) for Guyana; to promote the use of the FBDGs in health and nutrition education and counselling at the clinic and community levels for the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms and of chronic non-communicable diseases.

In the areas of “Infant and young child feeding: An integrated approach”, 50 HCWs were exposed to this training while Community Health Workers were exposed to the Basic Nutrition Component as part the Health Sciences Education Programme curriculum.

### Agriculture

In the area of Veterinary Public Health, the Ministry has undertaken audits and certification of fishery products establishments, poultry slaughter plants and beef plants, training of fishers, beef and poultry processors in food hygiene and zoonoses; GMPs, SSOPs and HACCP, food hygiene at the various food processing plants

Training has also been delivered to staff on ISO Standards, HACCP systems, Verification-audits, and Sampling Plan (Methodology).



## COMMUNITY EFFECT

### Nutrition

In keeping with the national goal of bridging the divide between the hinterland and coast, the Ministry translated its “Good Nutrition” posters into four of Guyana’s nine Indigenous languages. These posters depicted the Caribbean’s six food groups and were distributed in indigenous communities.

The Ministry has also conducted anaemia education and awareness activities in schools and communities. This included the provision of basic anaemia education to members of the public and children; coupled with a demonstration of iron rich foods and the use of “Sprinkles” – an iron supplement for children and pregnant women which is distributed by MOPH. Other awareness activities included the promotion of Guyana’s Food- Based Dietary Guidelines at various weekly outreaches, the annual Health Expo, workplaces, schools, among others.

### Food security

The country supported and implemented programmes for the improvement of food & nutrition security and to ensure healthy lifestyles by using the Small Scale Farming (SSF) Model Piloted in Belladrum Village in two schools: Belladrum Primary School and El Parabel Nursery School. Analysis of SSF in Guyana has been developed and a health assessment of students in these two schools was done. Nutritional learning was incorporated into the school garden systems via establishment of shade house and supplying garden tools (both ongoing).

### Safe water

There has been assessment on water supply in various health facilities to conduct appropriate Infection Prevention Measures in order to improve and avoid Antimicrobial Resistance. In addition, there was continuous health promotion to enable the proper conduct of handwashing mainly targeting schoolchildren and those who access the services of health facilities.

The Environmental Health Department also conducted regular inspections to communities to ensure that their sanitation and hygiene were in keeping with the national requirement.



*Demonstrating the use of Sprinkles with mothers at Lethem Health Centre, Photo credit: Ministry of Health*

# PILLAR THREE:

---

## A SAFE, COHESIVE AND JUST GUYANA

Improve health and wellbeing by addressing the ability of the state to provide services, increasing access to healthy nutrition, a healthy environment and knowledge as preventive measures. Sustainable health financing and direct action to addresses NCDs, SRH and HIV/AIDS and related stigma is also necessary for better health outcomes.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Inclusive and equitable quality education



Gender equality and empower all women and girls



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Outcome 1

Strengthened capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organisations

## Outcome 2:

Reinforced equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety

## OUTCOME 1

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Trafficking in Persons

Government developed the 2019-2020 Action Plan for the Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in an effort to bring Guyana closer into compliance with minimum standards for the elimination of TIP. This has shown an increase in the number of alleged victims from 59 in 2015 to 243 in 2018. The Ministry of Social Protection has been partnering with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to implement the 'Strengthening Guyana's Capacity to Combat TIPs' Project funded by the United States Department of State. Project activities include review of the Anti-TIP Legislation, development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the national response to combating TIP; and providing direct financial support to victims.

#### Corruption

Guyana has remained steadfast in its fight against corruption and as a result of interventions made by Guyana, its ranking in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index was placed at 93 out of 180 countries in 2018, a gain of 29 spots since 2015. Several Acts were implemented by the government as part of its mandate to fulfil some of the commitments to combatting corruption such the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Act 2015. This has allowed Guyana to be removed from the European Commissions' Money Laundering Blacklist in November 2017. These pieces of legislation have assisted Guyana in tackling corruption, increasing access to justice and encouraging a safer investment climate which is reflected in the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) indicators for Guyana where political rights, civil liberties, and freedom of information have been deemed as being above average.

#### Automated System for Customs Data [ASYCUDA system]

The Government of Guyana has embarked on the implementation of ASYCUDA World (AW). The AW programme is an integrated customs management system which was developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to aid with the modernization of manifests, customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit,

suspense procedures, among others. With this application, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) aims to take Guyana to a higher level in trade facilitation by the standardization of procedures along with the implementation of international norms and best practices. The system has been implemented in over 90 countries, territories and regions.

With the implementation of the ASYCUDA World, the GRA will also strengthen Customs' operations efficiency for control and improve transparency through full audit trails, reform the customs clearing procedures, among other mechanisms. Government will be provided with accurate and timely statistics on foreign trade and revenue. Additionally, AW will promote faster clearance time as well as lower transaction costs. All stakeholders (internal and external), importers and exporters will be able to utilize this software according to the nature of their work provided that they are granted the necessary user access.

#### Customs Administrative Reform

UNCTAD has provided various capacity building training sessions and policy support which have resulted in a restructuring of Customs to ensure a more modern administration. Customs Administration is more responsive and effective in facilitating legitimate trade. New operational structures include a Central Processing Unit with Declaration Processing, Valuations and Trade Policy and Research sections.

Robust training in Change Management, technical and functional configuration of the system, manifest and declaration processing, Post Clearance Audit and Risk management have been provided to Customs Officers whilst Customs Brokers have been fully trained in the use of the new system. In total, more than 700 persons (including more than 400 females) have thus far been trained in the use of the system. There has been a reduction in trade transaction costs due to reduced demurrage/storage fees and faster clearance times.

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Trafficking in Persons

An Inception Workshop was held on December 13, 2018 to discuss the existing Anti-TIP Legislation and related laws. The workshop was facilitated by a national consultant and provided a platform for all partners to propose and discuss recommendations to improve the existing legislation based on working experiences and international best practices. This workshop was complemented by a succession of focus groups discussions across stakeholders. A Validation Workshop was held in June 2019 to review the proposed draft Anti-TIP Bill. The new draft Anti-TIP Legislation remains under review and is expected to be presented to Parliament.

## COMMUNITY EFFECT

### PLHIV

Nutrition assessment and counselling have been provided to People Living with HIV (PLHIV) who are considered to be high risk particularly all pregnant women, exposed and infected infants and children as well as malnourished adults. This was conducted at selected Care and Treatment Sites in Region 4 by Nutrition Officers.

### Trafficking in persons

Through the Direct Assistance Fund (DAF), victims and survivors are able to access DAF to a maximum of GY\$250,000. The Counter-Trafficking in Persons Unit and other departments within the Ministry of Social Protection, inclusive of the Difficult Circumstances Unit (DCU), also continue to provide DAF to identified alleged victims and survivors.

### Victims of Trafficking

A total of 60 women from four (4) regions participated in focus group discussions and shared their experience and difficulties being Venezuelan woman or Returning Guyanese. Discussions with women highlighted the importance of investing in social cohesion between both Venezuelans, returning Guyanese and host communities; service provider training; legal awareness sessions; livelihood support, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

### Empowering youths

The proportion of total government spending on essential services has increased from 29% in 2015 to 34% in 2018. This has allowed for the expansion of livelihood programmes, which include the Hinterland Employment Youth Services Project (HEYS), Sustainable Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Development (SLED) Programme and the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF - completed with GRIF and UNDP in 2018), particularly for school drop-outs and low academic achievers. Programmes like these focused on promoting entrepreneurship and skills training. A total of 1,317 persons benefitted from the SLED intervention. Additionally, the School-Feeding Programme was expanded across the country at the primary level with over 80,000 students benefitting in 2018, compared with approximately 62,800 in 2015.

Additionally, over the past three years, G\$1.6 billion was spent on HEYS, which saw about 4,000 youths trained mainly in Mathematics, English Language, Agriculture, Ecotourism, and Business and Budget Planning, across 215 hinterland communities. The participants were given small grants to support their financial capability to undertake small business ventures. Of the total amount, in 2018, 1,965 youths were trained, 638 males and 1,327 females.

## Automated System for Customs Data [ASYCUDA system]

As of the June 30, 2019, the system was fully rolled out at all Customs Offices in Georgetown in addition to the Berbice region and partly at Anna Regina. The only outstanding stations countrywide for roll out of the system are the Lethem and Morawhanna Offices.

This is solely due to inadequate bandwidth at the said locations. Approximately 98% of all Customs trade processing is now managed within the AW system. The GRA recorded an overall positive Customs revenue growth rate of 7% for the period September 14, 2018 (commencement of AW live pilot) to October 15, 2019 - an increase of GYD\$6,426,386,679.64 over the last comparative period.

The average customs processing times as at November 2019 stands at 24 hours. This is a significant improvement from the September 2018 figure of five days when declaration processing first commenced on the system. The AW system now provides accurate and timely international trade statistics to Central Government and its various agencies.



## OUTCOME 2

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Violence

In addressing the issue of violence against women, Guyana is happy to be one of eight Caribbean countries that will receive €4,500,000 from the European Union, for a global initiative on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) with a focus on Family Violence (FV). The project was formulated through multi-stakeholder consultations in the target areas of Regions 1, 4, 6 and 7, where community investments will be made and piloted.

#### Guyana Women's Health and Life Experiences Survey

UNDP, UN Women, USAID and IDB, in collaboration with the Global Women's Institute of George Washington University and the University of Guyana supported the execution of the Guyana Women's Health Survey by the Bureau of Statistics. The report, launched in November 2019, examines the nature and prevalence of violence against women and girls in Guyana (particularly intimate partner violence). This survey report analyses multiple dimensions of violence including women's lifetime and recent experiences, intimate partner and non-partner violence, sexual and non-sexual abuse and economic coercion. The report uses sociocultural factors (e.g. education, income, age of first union, alcohol and recreational drug use) to develop an understanding of



the factors, impacts, and coping strategies associated with violence against women and girls.

### Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

In March 2019, an interagency rapid gender-based violence (GBV) assessment supported by the GBV Working Group of the Regional Interagency Coordination Platform in Panama for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela was conducted in Guyana. The objective was to understand the GBV risks and vulnerabilities faced by Venezuelan and returning Guyanese women and girls, root causes, gaps in GBV service provision, and factors limiting access to available services. The recommendations of the interagency rapid GBV assessment are being implemented.

### Juvenile Justice (JJ)

Following the approval of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2018 and the commissioning of the Children's Court (2018), both supported by UNICEF, in partnership with the MoPS and the judiciary, a framework for draft Regulations under the Bill was articulated in 2019, along with key protocols for diversionary options. UNICEF in partnership with the MoPS also supported the formation of the JJ Department with all costs now being absorbed by the Ministry and over 30 children have accessed the children's court to date.

### Private International Law Conventions

With the support of UNICEF, Guyana became the first country in the Americas to sign all four of the Hague Children's Conventions (HCCH) related to Protection of Children, Family Maintenance, International Adoption, and International Abduction. These will provide the critical legal framework for strengthening of current and emerging issues particularly on justice for children. To complement these efforts UNICEF has also supported the MoLA in the drafting of new legislation in line with international best practice.

### Citizen security

As Guyana continues to decentralise the provision of government services, a reform of the functionality of the Guyana Police Force was undertaken, and this has resulted in Divisional Commanders being assigned to each of the ten Administrative Regions. This is expected to increase coverage of security services, particularly for the vast hinterland regions. Other initiatives implemented include the launch of the Police Records Management Information System at two (2) police stations namely, Albertain and Fort Wellington. It is intended that the system will be rolled out to the 73 other police stations and 36 police outposts. Follow-up activities include the training of police officers to enter the relevant data. This initiative is expected to greatly aid the national crime fighting efforts by ensuring accurate and timely crime data.

Overall, the Guyana Police Force has reported a decrease in serious crimes. However, there has been an increase in petty crimes as at October 2019. Statistical analysis from the GPF has shown that in December 2017, Guyana recorded a 10 percent decrease in serious crimes when compared to 2016. Additionally, Guyana's global ranking on the Global Peace Index (GPI) also improved from 92, in 2015, to 82, in 2018, evidenced by a 26.8 percent reduction in intentional homicide per 100,000 population.

### Port State Measures - fishing

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Continental Shelf Fisheries Working Group (CSWG) convened a meeting during August 2019 in Guyana, to review the status and management of Atlantic Seabob Fisheries of Guyana and Suriname. Both fisheries are certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which means that they are officially recognized across the globe as sustainably managed. The MSC certification is associated with certain standards of best fisheries management practices and places the countries in a strong position to maintain and expand trade with lucrative markets.



Guyana Revenue Authority staff being trained to use PRIMES,  
Photo credit: UNHCR Guyana

## **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Domestic Violence**

Police Officers have been trained to address domestic violence (DV) and Police Stations are now equipped with an Office designated for persons making DV reports. As part of the multi-sectoral approach to addressing DV, the Ministry of Social Protection is also involved in caring for victims and sometimes temporarily removing children from abusive homes until the matter is resolved.

On the part of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Courts have instituted a policy that requires the abused person to pay a court cost of \$30,000 or more if they request that the courts drop a case against their abuser.

### **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

A series of workshops was co-organized by UNHCR, UNFPA, and the Ministry of Social Protection on Safe Identification and Referral Pathways for GBV Survivors in Georgetown, Mabaruma, and Port Kaituma. The workshops targeted individuals and organizations directly or indirectly involved with identification, referral, response and case management of SGBV survivors and included several senior officials from various Ministries, in addition to NGOs such as the Guyana Red Cross, UNHCR's partner - the Migrant Support Network (MSN) and the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA).

Following the recent mapping of SGBV services in Georgetown, UNHCR and UNFPA are supporting the Ministry of Social Protection in developing the referral pathways to enhance coordination among service providers.

Based on this mapping and on the identification of entry points for disclosure, a draft referral pathway was designed and will be presented for review and endorsement by the members of the GBV Working Group. To inform SGBV interventions in the different regions, UNHCR, the Ministry of Social Protection, its implementing partners, UNFPA and IOM conducted a services mapping in Bartica, Charity, Lethem, and Port Kaituma. The results of the services mapping will be used to develop a referral pathway in each area and will inform capacity building of existing service providers and advocacy efforts for more resources.

### **Information, Communication and Technology**

Community-based ICT hubs have been established, since 2016, at over 170 locations, and another 200 are planned for the period 2019 to 2022, in hinterland, poor and remote communities across Guyana, allowing for increased access to ICT services. Further, the authorities have sought to stimulate activity in the sector by providing training and engaging the general public, including youth, in tech events such as 'Hackathons', 'Basic Literacy in Coding', 'Code

Camps' and 'Code Sprints'. A key achievement for the sector was the roll out of the 'Guyanese Girls Code' programme, aiming to promote female participation in this high-tech industry.

## **COMMUNITY EFFECT**

### **Child advocacy centres for reporting of child sexual abuse**

At the end of December 2019, the Child Care and Protection Agency (CPA) with support from UNICEF has strengthened case management system for reporting of child sexual abuse, based on the support provided for the review of cases to ensure greater efficiency (e.g. reduction of time for reporting and follow-up) for its own case management and oversight. This complements the existing partnerships with civil society particularly for the decentralisation of child advocacy centres (one-stop centres for the reporting of child sexual abuse) for both migrant communities (particularly in Regions 1, 2, 7) and in using existing mechanisms (such as the Sexual Offences Court) to ensure greater trust and confidence in the system. There are over 150 reports of child sexual abuse cases. As of October 2019 the CPA reported over 3,000 cases of violence (including neglect).

### **Access to Justice and Training (Sexual Offences Court)**

In partnership with the Judiciary of Guyana and the British High Commission, UNICEF supported the scale-up of access to justice services for survivors of sexual abuse (including child sexual abuse). There are three (3) sexual offences courts now operational to fast-track cases through a safe space for children/women/men and this is linked to court support (Child Advocacy Centres) services. This has resulted in at least 50% of all cases in the criminal assizes being tried and an increase in conviction rates from 10% to 60% over the past two years. This sends a significant message for "breaking the silence" on abuse and on issues of complicity. Further, there was specialised training for members of the judiciary and allied professionals (<60) in partnership with the University of Guyana in "Forensic Psychology & Sexual Offences" which resulted in, among other things, provision of recommendations for the improvement of practice of sexual offence matters and greater buy-in by the MoPH for the use of revised protocols for the management of sexual offences cases.

### **Juvenile Justice**

Following the costing and budgeting of the Juvenile Justice Act, UNICEF invested seed funding to establish the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2019 and support its work for the first six months of 2019.

## Joint Response to the Venezuelan Situation

Guyana has been hosting a growing number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela since 2018, including members of indigenous ethnic groups such as members of the Warao tribe. The situation in Venezuela has also led to thousands of Guyanese who had been living in Venezuela for many years to return to Guyana. It is expected that the outflows of Venezuelans and the return of Guyanese will continue throughout 2020 with the total population in need of protection and assistance in the country reaching over 31,000 people.

The Government of Guyana has been welcoming Venezuelans and, with the support of UN agencies working jointly on the Response for Venezuela (R4V), agencies in close collaboration with the Government and NGOs have during the year expanded its response in support of the Government to address the increasing needs among Venezuelans refugees and migrants as well as host communities.

UNHCR has throughout the year worked closely with the Government of Guyana, in particular the Department of Citizenship and the Immigration Department, in providing technical support to produce standard operating procedures related to the Special Admission Procedures for Venezuelan nationals, regularization of stay as well as extension of stay permits, a data sharing agreement, dataset and design of related documents associated with the impending deployment of biometric registration.

This was substantiated by hands-on training of immigration officers in understanding and familiarizing themselves with the PRIMES data system, including interview techniques and roleplays. As of mid-October 2019, based on a provisional approval by the Government in advance of the signing of a data-sharing agreement, Guyana became the first country in the Americas to implement government-led biometric registration of Venezuelans through the usage of UNHCR's Population Registration and Identity Management EcoSystem (PRIMES) database. UNHCR provides continuous support in the Government led identification and registration of individuals under its mandate

By mid-December, almost 2,000 individuals in region 1 had been biometrically registered into PRIMES and documented with an individual Registration Certificate, which incorporates a Government Stay permit renewable after three (3) months.

This is the first Government identification issued to Venezuelans and serves also as documentation and extension for their stay permit and facilitate access to government services. The Registration Certificate to Venezuelans also includes a provision against forced return. Initial data collected by Immigration in region 1 indicates that half of the registered population are children below the age

of 18, with the majority being female. Relevant healthcare and education information are also being recorded, as part of the efforts in mainstreaming health and educational services for the population.

## Counselling on Protection

UNHCR provided through its implementing partner the Migrant Support Network (MSN), counselling on registration, regularization of stay and access to services for Venezuelans and counselling on verification and naturalization for returning Guyanese. A total of 7,919 persons of concern to UNHCR received counselling since January 2019. At least 7,490 of these individuals were Venezuelan nationals, while 429 were Guyanese nationals or their descendants were Guyanese, who were returning from Venezuela. UNHCR's partner also accompanied more than 5,500 individuals in accessing government services, providing support in different manners ranging from interpretation services to guidance on navigating official requirements to access services and obtain documentation.

## Social Cohesion

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to address learning needs of Venezuelans, Returning Guyanese and Warao-speaking children in Region 1 to overcome the challenge of the language barrier which hinders children from being successful in school, UNHCR and the Ministry of Education rolled-out ESL after-school classes in five communities in Region 1. This initiative, which is based on a needs assessment conducted jointly by UNHCR and the MoE, started its second phase in August with the training of 10 teachers from Region 1 and two teachers from Georgetown in teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) skills and teaching techniques for multilingual classrooms. Prior to this there were no local teachers in Guyana with specific skills to teach English as a foreign language.

As a result, from mid-October to mid-December 2019, 527 Venezuelan and Returning Guyanese children took part in the ESL after-school classes. The Ministry of Education and the Government of Guyana are a model for other countries in the Caribbean by allowing all Venezuelan children to access education irrespective of their status in Guyana. In addition to this initiative, UNHCR has established community-based ESL classes in five (5) communities for children who are not enrolled in school and are in need of ESL classes. In total, 329 children not enrolled in school are enrolled in the community-based ESL classes, which are facilitated by volunteers from their own community. While the ESL programme aims at addressing the need for language training in English, the long-term goal is to support the MoE with the integration of Venezuelan children into the Guyanese education system and thereby support social cohesion among children from host communities and Spanish and Waroe speaking children.

# PILLAR FOUR:

## A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT GUYANA

Support coherent efforts to strengthen the resilience of the Caribbean and its peoples by mitigating the effects of climate change, disasters and environmental degradation.



**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**  
Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**  
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



**13 CLIMATE ACTION**  
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**  
Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development



**15 LIFE ON LAND**  
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**  
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



## Outcome 1

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

## Outcome 2:

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

## OUTCOME 1

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Guyana has made strides to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries through: i) the development of a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill (draft); ii) Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) training (52 persons from five Administrative Regions were trained); iii) Regional Disaster Risk Management Systems (RDRMS) in nine Administrative Regions including multi-hazard preparedness and response plans; iv) Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in 38 communities across Guyana including a CBDRM plan; and v) Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Country Work Programme (CWP) 2015-2018 and 2019-2024 and five municipality Disaster Risk Management plans. Representatives from 23 stakeholder agencies were sensitised and engaged in the CDM identification of indicators for their sectors. This was a first time achievement in terms of sector engagement in the CWP development.

#### Disaster Risk Management

A Health Disaster Coordination Committee was established to oversee emergency. The Ministry of Public Health completed the Disaster Risk Management Bill, the National Health Disaster Plan - Health-Multi Hazard Emergency Management Plan, with yearly simulation exercises, draft of the Contingency and Conservation Plans for Regional Hospitals, and draft plans for Chemicals and Radiation Emergencies. Importantly, the Health Emergency Operation Centre has also been completed.

#### Schools' emergency preparedness and response

The Ministry of Education, recognizing limitations in its schools' emergency preparedness and response capacity and adaptation to Climate Change, received support from UNICEF to develop and roll out a comprehensive strategy framework for reducing natural hazards risks in schools. Referencing the Caribbean Model for Safe Schools, as useful in solidifying and systematizing programming for safe schools in Guyana, the

MoE has developed a framework consistent with local national realities referred to as the Guyana Safe Schools Initiative. In Guyana, the realities of climate change have begun to show some negative impact on children's attendance and active participation and, by extension, their performance in schools. With temperatures due to rise by up to two (2) degrees centigrade by 2030, classroom environments are likely to become less conducive for quality education.

During 2019, the Venezuelan migration influx crisis added extra strain on school absorption especially in the border host communities with pupils school populations increasing beyond design capacities, further highlighting the need for facility upgrades. Partnering with the University of Guyana (Faculty of Technology), an assessment of the buildings and sites of six (6) schools in Region 1 (Barima - Waini) was undertaken to produce a revised design and use locally available sustainable construction materials and techniques. The environmental-friendly design will allow absorbing the migrant children (total school population 1,810, including 97 migrants) and improving the learning environment (by doubling the current capacity from 1,132 to 2,280 pupils). Operationalising the environmental-friendly design will increase learning spaces in line with the Ministry of Education's Safe Schools initiative.

#### Climate change

Guyana has been consistently promoting diversification as the means to achieving a sustainable growth trajectory and a resilient economy and hopes to accelerate these efforts upon the implementation of the GSDS. This is especially vital to the future of Guyana in light of the impending production of oil, expected to commence in 2020. Vision 2040, which follows a number of national development strategies - 2000 National Development Strategy (NDS); the 2002 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP); and the 2009 Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), clearly articulates the relationship between green and inclusive economic diversification and economic competitiveness. This means incorporating sustainable practices in key sectors such as agriculture, mining and forestry such that growth is decoupled from environmental degradation.

Diversification will be geared to support non-traditional and value-added industries and services, and small business development to be able to compete on international markets. Guyana has prepared Technology Action Plans and Project Idea Notes for prioritised technologies for: i) climate change mitigation within the forests and energy sectors and ii) climate change adaptation in the coastal zone and low-lying communities and for the water and agriculture sectors through a technology needs assessment (TNA).

The TNA supports national sustainable development, builds national capacity, and facilitates implementation of prioritised climate technologies. Some implemented initiatives include the reforestation of mined out areas

utilising fast growing species such as the Acacia; the deployment of efficient recovery systems in small and medium-scale gold mining; solar farms to service urban centres and supply the national grid; freshwater harvesting; and ground and surface water mapping and modelling.

### Early Warning Systems

The Office of Climate Change (OCC) partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to review and revise Guyana's Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan/ National Adaptation Plan (CRSAP/NAP). Under this partnership, the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) on the Greening of Towns in Guyana was also approved by the Office of Climate Change. In an effort to enhance access to clean renewable energy and increase the uptake of energy efficient technologies, the OCC and UNDP installed 297 Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lights in Bartica and a 21.5kw solar photovoltaic (PV) system was installed at the Three Miles Secondary School dormitory and teachers' quarters in the same municipality. In an effort to assess the progress of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Environmental Protection Agency partnered with UNDP to complete Guyana's 6th National Report (6NR) to the CBD.



## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Disaster Risk Management

The Ministry has also conducted capacity building for health personnel by hosting Emergency Management Services training for approximately 400 health officers. These officers were trained in the areas of EMT, Mass Casualty Management, Incident Command System, Hospital Safety Index and Emergency Response. The Ministry will continue its capacity building programme and will include Psychological First Aid in order to render assistance to patients who have been adversely affected by natural disasters. There will also be simulation exercises and the Ministry will move to update the Vulnerability Assessment for the Health Sector, while promoting health DRM awareness and completing the Health Climate Change Action Plan.

### Early Warning Systems

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Hydromet Division and UNDP collaborated to improve capacity in national flood early warning (EW) forecasts. A related Hydrological Desk Study is guiding the on-going design of the EW system. Additionally, 46 village trainers and 59 Agricultural Extension Officers in Regions 5, 6, & 9 were trained on the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture tool for increased uptake of climate information at the farmers level. UNDP

supported the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) to enhance Community Based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS). This resulted in the development of a Step-by-Step Practitioner's Guide and Facilitators Manual and associated training of CDC officers. To enhance village level resilience and food security in Regions 5, 6 & 9, UNDP issued 19 microgrants totalling approximately USD 101,351.

### RIO-Convention

There were national and sub-national awareness workshops on the Rio- Convention and learning-by-doing workshops for data sharing and reporting, team building and strengthening inter-agency cooperation, analytical and methodologies workshops for enhancing reporting on the Rio Convention and updating on the National Capacity and Self-Assessment workshops to transfer skills in preparing this report. It should be noted that over 2000 persons have participated to date.

The learning-by-doing-workshops also focused on building the capacity of staff of key environmental organisations to carry out their mandates and other responsibilities by focusing on the use of data strengthening access and sharing, as well as shared understanding and interpretation of environmental information across diverse stakeholders, information and knowledge to better integrate and apply global environmental indicators and objectives into national policy and planning frameworks. Focus was also placed on promoting awareness and agreement on the various comparative advantages of different stakeholder organisations to promote global environmental value, making stakeholders more influential in decision making. Target groups included indigenous communities, government staff at all levels, parliamentarians, the private sector, academia, journalists, youth and civil society organisations.



## COMMUNITY EFFECT

### SMART Hospitals

According to the Pan American Health Organisation's (PAHO) Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2021, 77% (13,566 / 17,618) of the hospitals in the Region are located in areas of risk and require urgent remedial measures to protect personnel and patients' lives during and after a disaster. Hospitals follow building codes from decades ago, which are focused on seismic resistance, without considering climate change. The Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with UKAID and PAHO in 2016 embarked on the Smart Hospitals Project, Guyana. Eighty-nine facilities were assessed; only three (3.3%) facilities were

classified as “B” which means, “Intervention measures are needed in the short-term. The hospital’s current safety levels are such that patients, hospital staff, and its ability to function during and after a disaster are potentially at risk.” These facilities include the Materials Management Unit, Enmore Polyclinic, and No. 53 Village Health Centre. The majority of the facilities (86 or 96.6%) were classified as “C”, which means, “Urgent intervention measures are needed, and the hospital’s current safety levels are inadequate to protect the lives of patients and hospital staff during and after a disaster.” No facility obtained the minimum score required to be classified as a green facility. As a result, five (5) Health Facilities were selected for design and retrofitting: Mabaruma Regional Hospital, Region 1; Leonora Comprehensive Diagnostic and Treatment centre, Region 3; Lethem Regional Hospital, Region 9; Diamond Diagnostic Centre, Region 4; and Paramakatoi Health Centre, Region 8 as seen on the map below. As part of the project, the following trainings were offered to relevant officers: 1. HSI and Green Checklist Assessment training – 27 persons; 2. Conservation training – 25 persons; 3. Contingency Training – 25 persons; 4. Market Engagement Training – 57 persons, and 5. Ancillary Staff Training – 42 persons.

### Water and Sanitation

The Migrant WASH Improvement Programme implemented by Guyana Water Inc. (GWI) with UNICEF aims at building host community WASH capacity on the hinterland border area between Guyana and Venezuela in order to promote social cohesion and reduce the risk of xenophobia.

The water supply and storage, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions target six (6) host communities in the Barima-Waini Region, with a total of 4,540 people, 1,106 of whom are migrants (442 are children). The success and sustainability of the WASH interventions will be dependent on medium/long-term plans for the host communities as increasing movements of migrants can limit the effectiveness of the interventions.

Nonetheless, by targeting both host communities and migrants, this initiative will improve social cohesion while providing water sourcing and sanitation options that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

### Waste management

The Ministry of Communities is closer to the establishment of sanitary landfill sites in the towns of Bartica, Cuyuni-Mazaruni, Linden, Upper Demerara-Berbice and Mahdia, Potaro-Siparuni. The Ministry carried out Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) on the sites under its Capital Projects for 2019.

The landfill designs will include topographic surveys of the sites, access to the site, site security, waste disposal and fill management, leachate management, landfill gas management, operations and maintenance manuals, environmental audits, and environmental monitoring and management systems. The objective is to reduce the impact on the environment to safeguard human health.



Renel Santiago shows off the sanitation system that was installed around Khan's Hill by UNICEF in collaboration with GWI.

Sanitation system at Khan's Hill, Credit: UNICEF Guyana

## OUTCOME 2

### POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

#### Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040

The Department of Environment in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) having submitted the Vision 2040 document to Cabinet in October 2018, the strategy was approved by His Excellency President David Granger in May 2019. The two Volumes present a culmination of the process which commenced in 2017 and included extensive consultations across Guyana. The Strategy is the overarching planning document for all sectors and it has been mapped to the 17 SDGs. Currently, work is being done to complete Volume III, which will present the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Strategy as well as the cost estimates for the policy recommendations as agencies are engaged in planning for the implementation of the Strategy.

#### Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)

The government, through its Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) Vision and being a signatory of the Montreal Protocol, has committed to phasing down the use of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 80% by the year 2045. Guyana has already ceased the use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) greatly, reducing the impact on the ozone. It is estimated that through these programmes Guyana has avoided the direct emission of 230 ozone-depleting potential (ODP) tonnes of CFCs and HCFCs; equivalent to 678,750,000 metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>; with significantly higher emissions reduction anticipated for the HFC Phase-down.

Following the phasing out of CFCs for the less harmful HFCs, signatories to the Montreal Protocol then chose to move to the next step, which for Guyana is the reduction of HFCs. This particular refrigerant is currently used in our refrigeration and air conditioning systems as these were the replacement for CFCs. The phase-down of HFCs will provide an opportunity to revisit national policies in order to encourage the infiltration of cleaner, greener and longer-term refrigeration and air conditioning technologies that are ozone and climate-friendly as well as energy-efficient. These can include the introduction of fiscal incentives for importers as well as the implementation of minimum energy performance standards for cooling equipment. The Hydroment Office sets a quota for the importation of HFC refrigerants and the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) is then given that quota and is responsible for regulating import licenses.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the National Montreal Protocol phase-out programme, will continue to work to ensure that individuals within the servicing sector are provided with the opportunity to access appropriate skills and information. The transition to greener technologies

has already begun in some sectors. Natural refrigerants, which are the preferred longer-term technology, have significantly penetrated our national market. From 2016 to 2018, approximately 30-40% of new domestic refrigerators imported into Guyana were R-600a-based.

#### Land use

It is also recognized that land degradation and deforestation are not only negatively affecting soil and water resources (quantity and quality), biodiversity and ecosystem services but also directly impacting on livelihoods, food security and risks of conflict and natural disasters.

The Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) is aimed at Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in support of this national project on Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management in Guyana. The project supports the development of a harmonized national land policy and legislative framework and strengthened capacity of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), and partner Ministries and agencies along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through: the design and development of an integrated and robust spatial data infrastructure and open-data geospatial information system to support improved land administration, enhanced governance of tenure, as well as improved technical support services and mechanisms to encourage adoption of sustainable and climate-smart land use systems and management practices. The information and services will strengthen the application and enforcement of regulations, land use planning, incentive measures, knowledge sharing as well as assessment and monitoring in line with the SDGs.



### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040

Three (3) capacity building workshops supported by PAGE were held, which promoted the policy priorities of the GSDS on the following themes: economic modelling, green fiscal policies and green economy communications (for media personnel) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.

UNEP conducted two (2) technical workshops – 5 training days with a total of 60 participants – to build capacity on environmental data and statistics for improving practices



on the environmental dimensions of SDGs reporting with country partner, the Department of Environment (Ministry of the Presidency).

**Nagoya Protocol and access**

Guyana was represented at two international fora in September 2019 - the global capacity building workshop on monitoring and utilisation of genetic resources, the Nagoya protocol to the convention on biological diversity. The event provided an opportunity to raise awareness, build capacity and share practical experiences regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. This was to overcome the practical challenges of implementation as parties attempt to build and improve their national access and benefit-sharing systems.

**Marine Ecosystem**

Guyana’s floral diversity is estimated to include over some 8,000 species (inclusive of ferns, mosses inter alia) with approximately 6,500 of those species identified, and 50% endemic. There are approximately 1,815 known species of fishes, amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals. Fish are very diverse, with 352 species of freshwater bony fishes and 501 species of marine fishes (EPA Guyana, 2010; CBD, 2018). The Guyana Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) along with the United States Coast Guard conducted a capacity building workshop on Port Safety Management.

The first such training exercise in Guyana – a three-day seminar – included port facility security officers and representatives of the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) and the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA).

Acode was derived after several meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which thought it was a smart thing to do following the events of 9/11 and all areas and sectors were affected. The IMO saw it fit to bring the code to all port facilities around the world to mitigate maritime threats. These port facilities are signatories to the IMO. The collaboration between MARAD and the United States Coast Guard began back in 2014.

**COMMUNITY EFFECT**

**Pollution**

Guyana also signed on to the UN Clean Seas Campaign as well the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance – both of which aim to reduce the pollution of the oceans caused by plastic.

Although Guyana is not acutely affected by Air Pollution, the government since 2000 had put into place Regulations prescribing a regime of protection against Air Pollution. The Environmental Agency has the responsibility for effectuating the Regulations. In 2019 the World Environment Day was also celebrated as the EPA’s 23rd anniversary. Small actions were suggested to beat air pollution. These included making homes and buildings energy efficient; using public transport or car sharing, cycling or walking; composting organic food items; and saving energy: turn off lights and electronics when not in use.



# RESULTS OF COMMON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

## UN COMMON PREMISES

Following the 2018 budgetary allocation of G\$199.8 million to provide a common house for UN agencies operating in Guyana, the UN System commenced its move into UN House in May 2019.



---

# RESULTS OF COMMUNICATING AS ONE

In 2019 communications and advocacy of the UNCT in support of the Government's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation was conducted in several ways:

### Joint Observances:

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, World Day against Trafficking in Persons, World Food Day, World AIDS Day. At these exhibitions information about the SDGs and the UN's partnership with the Government to achieve same were highlighted in an effort to continue the awareness raising on the SDGs since many in society are unaware of this global agenda.

### Panel discussion:

The UN Country Team participated in a panel discussion under the theme 'Leaving No One Behind'. This session, which was recorded and aired on UN Day, provided updates on the progress of SDGs achievement in Guyana and the ongoing work of agencies, funds and programmes.

### Media outreach:

The 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 You Tube pages were populated throughout the year with global and local content about various campaigns, observances, and activities hosted by agencies.

### Speeches and presentations:

The 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. Also, 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.

# CONSTRAINTS AND LESSON LEARNED

While there have been advancements towards achieving the outcomes of Pillar 1, it must be noted that there have been some challenges. Particularly, it has been observed that there is need for improved communication with all schools on the components of the reintegration policy for teen mothers. Additionally, there is need for greater efficiency in responses to requests for information on adolescent pregnancies. Financial constraints are also being experienced due to the high cost of physically accessing rural and hinterland areas to capture data on and to meet with adolescent mothers. In some instances, key implementing partners are unavailable to conduct programme monitoring even after giving prior commitment.

Inclusive education and training of teachers for its provision remain severely limited, particularly for children with sensory, cognitive, and/or mental impairments, which leads to the majority of children with disabilities staying at home, resulting in isolation, stigmatization, and compromised access to employment opportunities and social services. The reality is that children with disabilities have difficulties in accessing not only schools, but also health services, employment, and even social and recreational opportunities. The country's infrastructures are not accessible for children and adults with motor impairments, and even in the country's capital, sidewalks, buildings and roads are not completely accessible.

As a result of these observations, the need to engage education officials at the regional level or in clusters besides briefing Regional Education Officers on Policy, has been acknowledged. Additionally, for the ILO, benefiting from the synergistic advantages of virtual participation in inter-UN agency interactions, has offered some clarity on how to best increase collaboration; especially with other agencies to optimise the use of scarce resources.

In July 2019 when presenting the VNR, Guyana's delegation noted that there was inadequate data to sufficiently assess progress towards achieving the SDGs and thus addressing the data gaps across sectors is a key step for Guyana.

Some of the challenges faced in Pillar 3 included lack of awareness of Guyanese laws and absence of legal advice, aid and representation; xenophobia, stigma, discrimination from host community and service providers; language barriers; limited or non-existent livelihood opportunities leading to labour exploitation or survival sex; human trafficking in the mining areas; regular violence at the hands of clients and Guyanese sex workers, who see them as "competition"; insecure housing; lack of childcare during the day and at night and bullying of Venezuelan children in school.

Mercury pollution from mining is of major concern, particularly in the interior hinterland areas where gold and bauxite mining, among others, are prominent. Guyana intends to restrict the use of mercury in the mining sector in the near future, and regulations for the agriculture sector are being carefully considered, focusing particularly on the issues of competitiveness and the implications of alternatives on cost of production.

While there is a National Land Use Plan (2011), the absence of a comprehensive National Land Use Policy and Planning System is one of the main reasons for land-use conflicts. Notwithstanding the mentioned achievements and improvements in the overall performance, there are some challenges affecting the delivery of food safety services related to infrastructure and space for the conduct of testing; timely procurement of laboratory supplies; timely maintenance and calibration of equipment and instruments; and inadequacies surrounding water and electricity needed for the conduct of various services.



UNITED  
NATIONS  
GUYANA



 [GUYANA.UN.ORG](http://GUYANA.UN.ORG)

 [@UNITEDNATIONSGUYANA](https://www.facebook.com/UNITEDNATIONSGUYANA)

 [@UNGUYANA](https://twitter.com/UNGUYANA)