

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT GUYANA

2023





© Mohamed Sarim

CONTENTS

04	Foreword by the Resident Coordinator	06	UN Country Team
07	Key development partners of the UN system in Guyana	10	1. Key developments in the country and regional context
16	2. Cooperation Framework Results		
	18 2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results	57	2.4 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency
	24 2.2 Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Outputs	59	2.5 Evaluations and Lessons Learned
	55 2.3 Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	60	2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization
64	3. UNCT key focus for 2024	68	Acronyms

© United Nations Guyana 2024

All rights reserved. The text of this publication may be freely quoted, reproduced or translated, in part or in full, provided that the source is acknowledged.

ORIGINAL TITLE - Annual Results Report - 2023

PRESENTED BY - Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

COVER PHOTO - © Brian Gomes

GRAPHIC DESIGN - FuzeArts | Creative Agency



FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

In 2023, the UN in Guyana remained dedicated to the Secretary-General’s call for a course correction to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and realize human rights for all. This marked the culmination of the two-year Country Implementation Plan of the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean (MSDCF).

Last year, Guyana increased its global influence by securing a seat on the UN Security Council. His Excellency, Dr Mohamed Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, consistently urged the UN to address emerging threats to global security arising from climate change and food insecurity. In so doing, Guyana played a vital role in upholding the principles of the UN Charter amidst significant geopolitical tensions and ongoing conflicts.

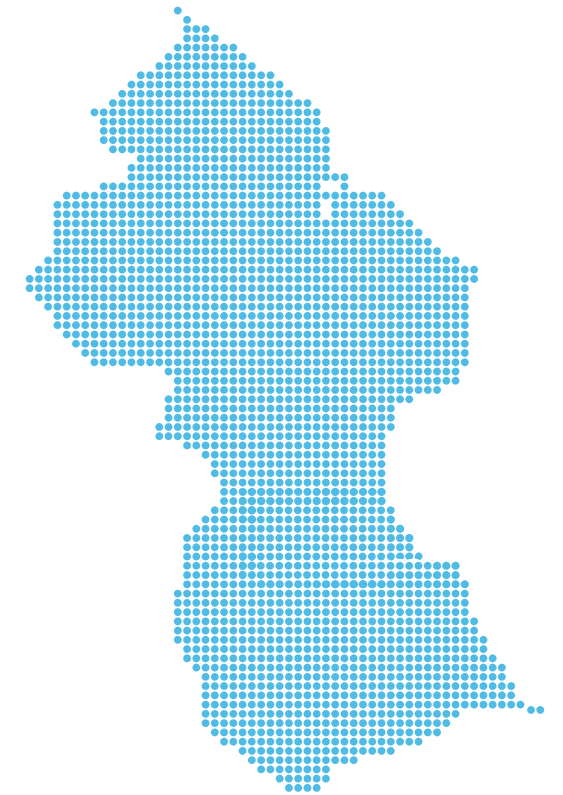
Guyana delivered its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2023. Under the theme, *One Guyana: Achieving Low-Carbon, Sustainable Development for All*, Guyana showcased substantial progress in achieving SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Also, through the VNR, Guyana urged the world’s wealthiest nations to fulfill their financing commitments while outlining national practices that have the potential for replication by other countries in their SDG acceleration plans.

In 2023, Guyana’s budgetary and planning frameworks decisively anchored national policy in the global goals. There were significant budgetary allocations for investment in key SDG enabling sectors, such as health, education, water, and human services, that will drive progress in SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Budget 2023 also increased allocations for programmes that meet the needs of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups. This budgetary and policy environment has enabled the UN System to advance its work in partnership with the government and people of Guyana on the ‘leave no one behind’ tenet of the SDGs.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and various other ministries, UN programming prioritized key areas, including social protection, food systems transformation, labor, employment, migration, and gender equality, as well as women’s empowerment. These initiatives were facilitated by strengthened partnerships with civil society organizations, academia, media, and other stakeholders. UN programmes were executed with a focus on inclusivity, ensuring considerations for gender, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrant populations, and other vulnerable groups.



**GUYANA PLAYED
A VITAL ROLE
IN UPHOLDING
THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE UN
CHARTER AMIDST
SIGNIFICANT
GEOPOLITICAL
TENSIONS
AND ONGOING
CONFLICTS.**



Our work would not have been possible without the generous financial support from Member States and donors. On behalf of the UN Country Team, I extend heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing contributions. Additionally, I wish to express gratitude to the dedicated staff of Agencies, Funds, and Programmes, whose unwavering commitment ensured the effective delivery of services to meet the needs of the people of Guyana.

I am delighted to present the 2023 report of the UN in Guyana.



Yeşim Oruç

Resident Coordinator
United Nations Guyana



UN COUNTRY TEAM

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



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

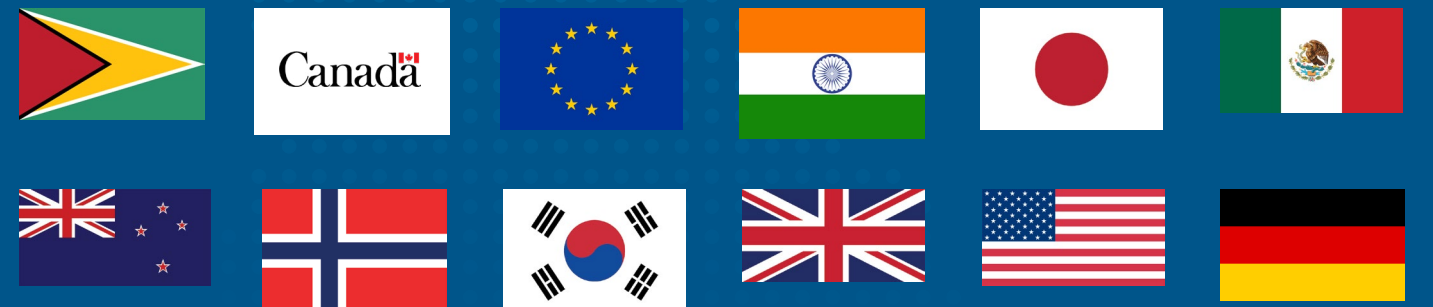
Together, these organizations are called the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), and they support Guyana's development.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN SYSTEM IN GUYANA

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Guyana thanks all UN Member States for their support of our work in 2023 and for their provision of assessed contributions, voluntary/extra-budgetary investments, and other contributions to the UN budget for all operations which are critical for the work of the United Nations worldwide.

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



The United Nations in Guyana recognizes the contributions made by Guyana's development partners to the following financing resources. These funding instruments have enabled the implementation of a variety of UN pursuits in Guyana:





The United Nations celebrates its work, partnerships, and activities with the following national authorities in Guyana in 2023:

- / Bureau of Statistics
- / Civil Defence Commission
- / Director of Public Prosecutions
- / Environmental Protection Agency
- / Guyana Energy Agency
- / Guyana Lands and Survey Commission
- / Guyana Livestock Development Authority
- / Guyana Police Force
- / Guyana Supreme Court of Judicature
- / Guyana Women Lawyers Association
- / Ministry of Agriculture
- / Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- / Ministry of Education
- / Ministry of Finance
- / Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- / Ministry of Health
- / Ministry of Home Affairs
- / Ministry of Housing and Water (Guyana Water Incorporated)
- / Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- / Ministry of Labour
- / Ministry of Legal Affairs
- / Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
- / Ministry of Natural Resources
- / Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance
- / Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce
- / National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI)
- / National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS)
- / Office of the First Lady
- / Office of the President
- / Office of the Prime Minister
- / The Bar Association of Guyana



The United Nations would like to recognize the important partnerships formed and activities conducted with the following partners in 2023:

- / Artistes in Direct Support
- / Amerindian Peoples Association
- / Blossom Inc.
- / Child Link
- / Dorcas Mending Hearts Ministry
- / Family Awareness Consciousness Togetherness (FACT)
- / Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)
- / Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities
- / Guyana Equality Forum
- / Guyana Sex Work Coalition (GSWC)
- / Guyana National Youth Council
- / Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
- / Help and Shelter
- / HIAS
- / Hope Foundation
- / Merundoi Incorporated
- / N/TIP Guyana
- / National Tshaos Council (NTC)
- / Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
- / Private Sector Commission
- / Red Thread
- / Rights of the Child Commission
- / Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination
- / St. Francis Community Developers
- / Tropical Orchards Products Company (TOPCO)
- / University of Guyana
- / United Bricklayers
- / Youth Challenge Guyana
- / Women and Gender Equality Commission

The United Nations is grateful to the following inter-governmental bodies and regional organizations for their partnership in 2023.





KEY DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE COUNTRY AND
REGIONAL CONTEXT



CHAPTER 1

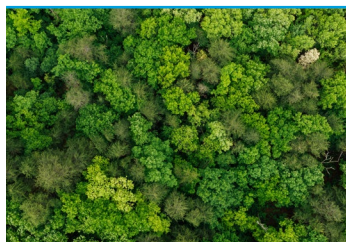
KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT



GUYANA'S 2023 NATIONAL BUDGET DEMONSTRATED A STRONG COMMITMENT TO INVESTING GROWING OIL REVENUE IN SDG-ENABLING SECTORS. Investments in education encompassed the construction of new schools, the recruitment of additional teachers, and the provision of enhanced student resources. In the healthcare sector, resources were allocated to constructing new hospitals, employing more medical professionals, and increasing patient resources.



RISING PRODUCTION CAPACITY WITHIN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR CONTINUED TO DRIVE RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GENERATE HIGHER GOVERNMENT REVENUE TO FINANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Inflation moderated from a peak in 2022 in line with developments within advanced economies. In 2023, the government sustained efforts to broaden the economic base and mitigate against Dutch disease. To this effect, strategic investments were directed to expand non-oil economic sectors such as agriculture, energy, and services.



GUYANA DEMONSTRATED ITS COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION at the United Nations General Assembly, where it voted to recognize a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a universal human right. The country has actively participated in the Conferences of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement, reinforcing its stance on environmental preservation. Moreover, discussions on utilizing indigenous and traditional knowledge systems continued to protect the environment and biodiversity while preserving indigenous culture and languages.



GUYANA DEMONSTRATED ITS NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RACIAL HARMONY through reconstitution of the Ethnic Relations Commission with the swearing-in of new commissioners in 2023.

In 2023, ongoing diplomatic efforts were held to address the Guyana-Venezuela territorial issues and promote enhanced regional cooperation. The case continued before the International Court of Justice.

CHALLENGES

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2024 will review in-depth the following SDGs.

- » **Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- » **Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- » **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

This high level global agenda reminds us of the need to focus the UN's attention on some of the remaining challenges in Guyana, such as:

The experience of poverty and food insecurity within key population groups, including children, underlining the continued need for Guyana and its development partners to focus on efforts to leverage the many social programmes and policies and to enhance the overall quality of life for everyone in the country, leaving no one behind in Guyana's diverse ethnic and cultural landscape (SDGs 1 and 2).

The increasing social and political scrutiny over resource management, underlining the need for continuous and collaborative efforts towards strengthening the accountability, effectiveness and inclusivity of institutions and decision-making processes at all levels for good governance (SDG 16).

Maintaining national momentum and focus on fundamental rights through collaborative efforts to strengthen, promote and enforce legal frameworks and policies for non-discrimination, protection and inclusion by sex, age, disability and population group for sustainable development (SDG 16).



**Guyana's
Second Voluntary
National Review of the
SDGs**, presented at the UN
High-Level Political Forum on
Sustainable Development in
July 2023, highlighted the
country's achievements in
SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.



GOAL 6: Guyana implemented targeted and progressive actions to improve the supply, reliability, and quality of water, including expanding water and sanitation infrastructure for coverage, treatment, reduction of non-revenue water, and strengthening partnerships at both national and international levels. Increased focus on aquifer studies and integrated water resource management will remain critical to sustainable water source management.



GOAL 7: By using natural gas as a bridge from heavy fuel oil and expanding solar, wind, biomass and hydropower, Guyana will transition the grid towards clean and renewable energy at over 80 per cent by 2030. The country will also have the installed capacity to cater for a five-fold increase in energy consumption, with greenhouse gas emissions remaining approximately flat – resulting in one of the highest levels of decoupling of economic growth from fossil fuel use.



GOAL 9: Substantially expanded investments in infrastructure are underway across all major sectors, including transport –road, water and air connectivity, resulting in cost and time savings for citizens and businesses.



GOAL 11: There is strengthened emphasis on implementing sustainable urban practices and land use planning, the provision of affordable housing, regularising informal settlements and strengthening interagency collaboration. Interventions have focused on low- and middle-income earners - many of whom are female applicants. These applicants have also benefitted from subsidy programmes aimed at promoting affordable housing and home-financing options and removing taxes from several construction materials. Acceleration of the housing programme has resulted in allocating over 24,000 lots at subsidized land costs. Expanding population centres and businesses have increased solid waste pressures by almost 50 per cent, requiring the upgrade and expansion of the capacity of landfills and other facilities.



GOAL 17: At the core of the means of implementation and global partnerships for sustainable development lies the longstanding unfulfilled commitment of 0.7 percent Gross National Income (GNI). Limitations on the national capacity to raise public resources persist and have worsened post-COVID-19. The existential crisis of climate change and related shocks to the economy further constrain the pace of development. Unless the commitments of ODA are fulfilled swiftly and consistently, the means of implementation of the SDGs and the concept of global partnership are both in jeopardy.¹

1 <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Guyana%20Main%20Message.pdf>

© Brian Gomes



COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS



CHAPTER 2

UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1: Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) for the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean is the most important instrument for planning and implementing the UN development activities towards fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. This framework coordinates the UN's assistance to countries in the region, including Guyana, across four key priority areas:

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

In 2023, the UN System focused its work on supporting government programming to address various national priorities, including social protection, food systems transformation, labour, employment and migration, and gender equality and women's empowerment. UN programmes were implemented with considerations for gender, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and migrant populations, among other vulnerable groups.

Social protection was a priority for the government, with a budgetary allocation to facilitate increased spending on social assistance. The national budget also included various

labour market interventions and increased expenditure on social services. An updated Common Country Analysis that deep-dove into social protection and its implications for a range of sustainable development objectives in Guyana informed programming decisions to direct UN support to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to support the provision of social services, help improve intergovernmental coordination and digitize social protection systems.

The UN System also worked with the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, to implement programmes and establish policies that will be used to improve food security. At the **UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment**, the government outlined its commitment to address agricultural transformation to develop the national food system to promote sustainable growth and eliminate hunger.

UN Vision 2030

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

Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity	Equality, Well-being & Leaving No One Behind	Resilience to Climate Change / Shocks & Sustainable Natural Resource Management	Peace, Safety, Justice, and the rule of law
<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>More productive and competitive business ecosystems improve standards of living in the Caribbean, especially for women and youth</p>	<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Regional and national institutions are consistently gathering data to inform laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind</p>	<p>Outcome 5:</p> <p>Caribbean people and communities have enhanced adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive DRM and climate change adaptation and mitigation</p>	<p>Outcome 7:</p> <p>Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion and security</p>
<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Caribbean economies have transitioned to more diversified and sustainable models that support inclusive and resilient economic growth</p>	<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive, health, educational and care services with social protection floors in place</p>	<p>Outcome 6:</p> <p>Natural resources and ecosystems are managed more sustainably to enhance community and people resilience as well as shared prosperity</p>	<p>Outcome 8:</p> <p>People in the Caribbean and communities have an improved standard of living, in safe, fair, inclusive, and equitable societies</p>
<p>ENABLERS: Innovation - Digital Transformation - Data and Information Systems - Advocacy for development financing - Youth and civil society engagement - Regional Integration - Institutional Capacity Building - Advocacy for people at risk of being left behind</p>			
<p>GROUPS OF PEOPLE AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND: Women and girls-Migrants and Refugees - LGBTQI people - People living with disabilities - Young male in marginalized communities - People living in remote, poor, rural areas - People living with HIV - Children - Elderly - Indigenous people</p>			

In 2023, Guyana was informed by the UN Secretary-General that the country was identified among the first group of countries to receive coordinated and targeted support under the global **Early Warnings For All Initiative (EW4All)**. This support would entail international partnerships for Guyana to strengthen its capacity and capability to provide effective multi-hazard early warning services. The UN system started work with the Guyana Civil Defence Commission to prepare for the implementation of activities that will commence in 2024.

The government of Guyana also prioritized gender equality in 2023. Through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, a three-day ministerial forum on gender

empowerment and gender equality was hosted, where commitments were made by Guyana to meet and possibly exceed all SDG 5 targets on gender equality and to take national ownership and integrate the programmes supported by the UN under the **European Union – United Nations global Spotlight Initiative** to eliminate violence against women and girls. In 2023, the UN implemented the final year of the programme, delivering targeted and tailored interventions to comprehensively address gender-based violence and family violence, including laying the groundwork for gender-responsive budgeting in keeping with SDG5 targets.



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE 2020–2023

The global Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls is a United Nations initiative in partnership with the European Union and other partners. It is the world's largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

In Guyana, with a budget of US USD 5,892,584, and in partnership with state and government institutions, civil society organizations, communities, private sector, and women's movements in Guyana, the programme delivered targeted and tailored interventions focused on six mutually-reinforcing programming pillars.

Spotlight was seen as playing a critical role in fostering a coherent approach to ending Violence Against Women and Girls that was fully owned by the lead government agency, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, whose head, Hon. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, provided consistent and informed strategic and technical guidance. Consistent top-tier leadership and engagement from the EU, UN and Government on GBV were evidenced throughout the programme, playing an important facilitative role in raising visibility, compelling conversations and increasing inter-stakeholder collaboration at the highest levels.

National ownership of the programme promises to endure beyond this EU-UN flagship programme. Already, there have been new investments for women across national social protection programmes including the establishment of Hope and Justice Centres that will use the 'one-stop' model introduced through the Spotlight Initiative to offer all services that counter gender-based violence under one roof. Also, the Spotlight Initiative model influenced the approach to GBV programming in the country, with both the IDB and Global Affairs Canada building on the programme's gains.

PILLAR 1

Legal and Policy Framework

- Family Violence Bill drafted to enhance protection for domestic violence victims.
- Draft Harassment Bill completed.

Both bills will be in the National Assembly in 2024 and, once passed, will expand and strengthen the legal framework for violence prevention and response in Guyana.

PILLAR 2

Institutions

- GBV course "Resilience against and Disruption of Gender-Based Violence" developed and offered at the University of Guyana.
- An implementation plan for the roll-out of new legislation on harassment and family violence supported.
- University of Guyana's Gender Policy launched.

PILLAR 3

Prevention and Norm Change

- Boys and Girls Clubs established and Gatekeepers groups strengthened in hinterland communities to provide education on sexual and reproductive health, self-awareness, substance abuse, and toxic masculinities, among other topics related to GBV.
- The UN's Women Empowerment Principles endorsed by 13 private sector organizations.
- Foundations Programme rolled out in Regions 1, 4, 6 and 7.

PILLAR 4

Quality Services

- Mobile and remote GBV service delivery models designed to improve access to GBV-related services in areas with limited accessibility.
- Over 2300 police officers trained in GBV through the COPSQUAD 2000 Initiative.
- Over 2,000 individuals, including GBV survivors, provided with free legal support, counseling, and court support as part of the Legal Pro Bono 500 Initiative.
- National GBV app (iMatter.gy) developed as a central online portal to provide information on GBV essential services, laws, policies, resources, and a link to the national 914 GBV Hotline service.

PILLAR 5

Data

- National database for collecting, storing, and accessing GBV data to inform responsive programmes and policies established.
- GBV units in police stations across the country provided with equipment to collect and store data.

PILLAR 6

Women's Movement & Civil Society Organizations

- Civil society organizations trained, and a database of CSOs combating VAWG created.
- A Legal Literacy and Access to Justice Toolkit developed and training conducted to empower CSOs to advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment

The Spotlight Initiative in Guyana culminated with the hosting of the first national Ministerial Forum on Gender Equality and Empowerment. Hosted by the Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, the Forum highlighted Guyana's achievements supported under the Spotlight Initiative, some of which were first for the English-speaking Caribbean. The Government used the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to creating a more equitable and empowered future for women and men in Guyana.



Launch of the iMatter Gender-Based Violence app.



Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Media Launch



Equipment provided to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to support GBV data collection, analysis and use.



Handover of equipment to support Gender-Based Violence service delivery in Region 6.

“

I AM SO HAPPY THAT THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE HAS ZOOMED IN CLOSELY WITH MY COMMUNITY. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON. LGBTIQ RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS. EMPOWERING LGBTIQ PERSONS WILL HELP TO ADVANCE GUYANA'S ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES BY 2030.

- Millie Milton,
Proud to be Trans

STORY



“We need to talk to survivors” - In Guyana, a gender-based violence survivor finds purpose helping others

[read more >>](#)



1

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

2.2: Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Outputs

Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



LEAD NATIONAL PARTNERS

- Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA),
- Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB),
- Ministry of Agriculture,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Labour,
- Ministry of Legal Affairs,
- National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI),
- New Guyana Marketing Corporation,
- Office of the Prime Minister

FUNDING SOURCES

- Agency Core Funds
- European Union
- Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
- United States

EXPENDITURE
 US **\$5,650,625**
MILLION

To prioritize actions focused on fostering more resilient and sustainable economies, the UN worked with national authorities to implement bold solutions to bridge the digital divide, support efforts to enhance food security and address current and future challenges in the labour market.

16,000+
BENEFICIARIES

(individuals supported to develop and strengthen business ecosystems and foster diversified and sustainable economies)



© Office of the Prime Minister Guyana

ICT solar training

01
10

Digital Transformation

Two thousand indigenous people in hinterland communities can now access the internet and public e-services through the establishment of 34 Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) hubs, which are equipped with solar panels and advanced ICT infrastructure to facilitate internet connectivity. Eighty-six residents (68 females [79%] and 18 males) were trained to become ICT hub managers, aimed at enhancing their employability, which contributes to job creation and promotes sustainable livelihoods within their communities. To date, 102 ICT hubs are now completed and operational. This initiative supports national priorities to bridge the digital divide between hinterland and coastal regions.

Digital systems also help to enhance rice production in Guyana. Small farmers in Regions 2, 3, and 6 were trained in drone and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies to monitor rice cultivation areas and make data-driven decisions for improved crop management and efficiency.

The establishment of a drone and GIS mapping team and the development of a regulatory framework for drone use in rice production further facilitated this digital transformation. Eight drone pilots and 20 data analysts were trained, and nearly 300 farmers were engaged through Farmers' Field Schools, with women accounting for 13.3% of participants.

The judicial system also benefitted from UN support via the start of implementation of a case management system in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). This second phase of the office's e-filing system will help the Office of the DPP to better access data and contribute to timely decision-making in criminal and civil cases.



Legal and Policy Frameworks

In collaboration with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, a Draft 'Food Security and Nutrition and the Right to Adequate Food Bill' was developed and submitted to the government of Guyana for review. When finalized and implemented, Guyana will be the first English-speaking country in the Caribbean to enact food security legislation, solidifying the right to adequate food as a fundamental human right within the nation.

The UN System supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to prepare and implement its five-year (2023-2027) Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). This strategic plan will generate and produce agricultural statistics across all agricultural agencies in the country. Implementation started with an Agriculture Survey to gather essential data on agricultural production,

land usage, labour market contributions, and socio-economic conditions of farming households. During the survey exercise, staff from the Ministry's Planning Unit were trained in advanced technologies for data management, survey conduct, methodology development, SDG reporting, and data processing, positioning them to effectively manage and utilize agricultural statistics for informed decision-making in the future.

The 'Prevalence of Food Insecurity in Guyana' was finalized as part of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which provides estimates of food insecurity prevalence in the population. Approximately 30 individuals from national institutions were trained to analyse the data.

The UN System supported the government in assessing its food control system using the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool, which enabled an assessment of the country's performance of its controls in a structured, transparent, and evidence-based manner.

UN agencies also supported the government in updating national plans. The Avian Influenza Contingency Plan and the Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan were updated after simulation exercises were conducted as part of the national One Health Initiative.

Training on West Indian Cherry Production



© FAO Guyana/Shara Seelall



Value Chain Development

Through focused Value Chain Development projects, strides have been made in sheep production, brackish water shrimp, and West Indian Cherry cultivation. The UN System worked with government to complete comprehensive assessment reports and upgrading strategies, which are currently being finalized. Notably, the Rapid Sheep Value Chain Assessment Report for Guyana, along with its upgrading strategy, the Brackish Shrimp Rapid Value Chain Assessment and Upgrading Strategy, and the West Indian Cherry Value Chain Assessment Report and Upgrading Strategy, are poised to revolutionize these sectors.

Training sessions covering various aspects of production, food safety, and post-harvest handling were conducted to support brackish water shrimp activities. Similarly, over 170 participants (40% women) were trained in West Indian Cherry cultivation techniques. Technical interventions, including the development of a Cherry Production Manual, are poised to elevate cherry production in Guyana.

In 2023, a comprehensive report on "The seabob value chain" was prepared to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture value chains. Concurrently, a Frame survey was launched to identify by-catch and promote sustainable fishing practices. Studies were also initiated to assess the seabob export market, aiding industrial firms in adopting sustainable practices, while preparations for a domestic market study were also underway to identify marketing challenges and opportunities within the seabob and fisheries sector. These efforts underscore a proactive approach towards ensuring the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of Guyana's fisheries and aquaculture industries.



Farmers' Organizations

Five hundred smallholder farmers in Guyana were trained with skills and knowledge to increase income, food security, and safety to support a better life. This was complemented by the UN System's support to develop a National Advocacy Plan on Family Farming.

The UN System supported national authorities in empowering individuals within farming communities. Sixty farmers and agro-processors from eight (8) organizations received specialized organizational development plans to strengthen their institutions. Additionally, 11



Local production training.

farmers benefited from a local exchange of experiences, learning from successful practices in riverine and coastal communities. Moreover, five farmers learned about innovative agricultural practices during a regional exchange in Colombia and Brazil.

Growth and Sustainability of Small Businesses

Five hundred and fifty-eight rural families experienced economic empowerment by diversifying and boosting their income through collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture. This was achieved by implementing business plans focusing on endeavors such as small-scale poultry farming, cattle rearing, crop production, agro-processing, bakeries, eco-tourism initiatives, and community-managed grocery shops. A further 479 individuals accessed business support services, while 448 individuals in producer groups accessed agri-extension services. Also, 91 part-time jobs were created (31 males and 60 females), with 86 filled by indigenous people and 44 by youth.

The UN System's investments in Amerindian villages also resulted in 9,759 individuals (5,066 males and 4,693 females) benefitting from project services to support their small businesses, including product development (chocolate, bakery products) and training in small business management, including book-keeping.

Residents also benefitted from technical agriculture-related services (shade-house construction and management, poultry husbandry and management and cattle management), training on interpreting weather data and awareness-raising sessions, including peer-to-peer, on nutrition. Services also included childcare and provision of care kits. Youth, indigenous people, and women especially benefitted from these services, which led to increased local production and economic opportunities.

In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, the In-Motion programme supported 16 small businesses (81% women-owned) to enhance their business models, including their business management concepts and provisions of commercial imaging products to enhance their branding and marketing efforts.

Community Resilience

Two thousand two hundred and eighty-six households in Amerindian villages accessed assets that promoted community resilience, including community bridges; walkways and farm access roads; impoldering of farmlands and cassava banks, which improved access to planting materials; water harvesting and storage systems; renewable energy systems; storage facilities and investments in ICT including upgrades to hubs.

Data Collection

For the first time in Guyana, an Animal Identification and Traceability System (AIT) was launched. This software supports the Ministry of Agriculture in collecting, storing, and managing national farm, farmer, and animal data. Initially focusing on sheep, the AIT pilot included training for Ministry staff on data input and utilization of the deployed system. Moreover, a National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS) Strategy Plan for Guyana was crafted, outlining the roadmap for enhancing NAITS within the country.

A Web-based Fisheries Information and Monitoring System project was conducted to aid stakeholders in operational planning. It included a comprehensive review and assessment of data collection and management for marine fisheries in Guyana.

Through these efforts, Guyana has demonstrated a proactive approach towards enhancing fisheries management and decision-making processes.

Decent Work

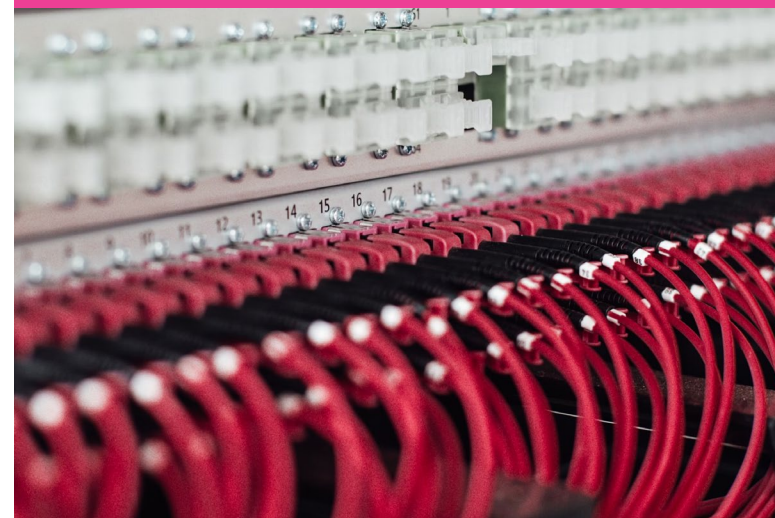
In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, policymakers, workers' representatives and employers' representatives were trained in Result-based Management as part of the formulation of Guyana's third Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). This enhanced capacity will enable national authorities to actively engage in all aspects of the DWCP, spanning planning, execution, reporting and assessment. This strengthening ensures that the programme operates cohesively and integrates effectively to tackle present and future labour market challenges.

The In Motion programme supported business owners through capacity building and one-on-one technical assistance sessions



I FOCUS ON MY BUSINESS ALL BY MYSELF...AND NEVER HAD ANYBODY HELPING ME SO FAR...MAYBE MY PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED [AS I WAS] GRANTED AN OPPORTUNITY... IT ALL WORKED FOR THE BEST AND I HAVE LEARNT SO MUCH.

- Banwatti Singh, Owner of 3 Sisters Variety Corner



Empowering Marginalized Groups

Forcibly displaced individuals gained vital knowledge on labour rights and regulations through counselling given by UN field staff and with the support of local authorities. Meanwhile, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, informative brochures were translated to ensure broader accessibility to this essential information.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

2

Equality, Well-Being, and Leaving No-One Behind



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



LEAD NATIONAL PARTNERS

- Blossom Inc
- Board of Industrial Training (Ministry of Labour)
- ChildLink Inc.
- Deeds and Commercial Registry Authority
- European Union
- Guyana Police Force
- HIAS Guyana
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance
- NAPS (Ministry of Health)
- Office of the Auditor General
- Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF)
- University of Guyana
- University of the West Indies (UWI)

FUNDING SOURCES

- Canada
- United Kingdom
- United States
- European Union
- United States
- Agency Core Funds

EXPENDITURE
US \$4,722,265
MILLION

Through collaborative efforts with the government and other national stakeholders, the UN System significantly amplified equality, well-being, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups. Central to these initiatives were evidence-based policies and laws, ensuring fair access to quality shock-and gender-responsive social protection and health services, with a targeted emphasis on the most marginalized segments of society, including youth, women, persons with disabilities and victims of gender-based violence, to ensure no one is left behind.

28,000+
BENEFICIARIES

(individuals assisted to improve their well-being and vulnerable groups were empowered)



UNHCR distribution of Food and Non-Food Items in Region 9.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response

To bolster the government's comprehensive response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), assistance was provided to operationalize the GBV One Stop Centre services delivery model in Guyana, which included the establishment of Hope and Justice Centers, as well as to operationalize a strengthened GBV Mobile and Remote Services delivery model in Guyana. Further upgrades were made to the iMatter.gy App to strengthen its functionality in bolstering the response to GBV. Additionally, investments were made in the procurement of furniture and equipment for shelters and safe spaces to support GBV survivors. Moreover, National GBV Referral Pathways for all ten (10) administrative regions of Guyana were finalized and officially launched, strengthening the country's GBV case management systems.

With the active participation of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, a comprehensive GBV information management system for GBV case management was developed to enhance the systematic recording, analysis, and reporting of GBV cases. The database serves as a crucial tool in not only documenting instances of Gender-Based Violence but also in understanding patterns and trends, thereby facilitating more effective strategies for prevention and intervention.

To enhance the response to Gender-Based Violence in

hinterland regions (1, 7, 8, and 9), mobile Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services were expanded, which helped to extend assistance given to migrants from Venezuela and local host communities. Field assessments and other related interventions were also conducted to support the envisaged operationalization of Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Regions 1 and 7 in 2024 to reinforce GBV prevention and response services in hard-to-reach communities.

One hundred and two participants, including government officials, educators, law enforcement officers, and frontline workers from the National AIDS Programme Secretariat and the Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities, were trained in GBV prevention and response. A further 54 officials from the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security were also trained to handle GBV and sexual misconduct cases.

To support the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in strengthening its capacity to robustly address GBV prevention and response programming, investments were made in recruiting and retaining the skills of individuals who were then contracted to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security. This included the Legal Pro Bono Officer, the Economic Empowerment Officer, the Spotlight Initiative Coordination Officer, and the 914 GBV Hotline Specialist.

At the regional level, Guyana was part of a regional initiative to advocate for gender-responsive budgeting

and gender analysis, involving sensitization and training for officials from government agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the University of Guyana. To this end, 35 officials (6 males and 29 females) from nine government agencies, two Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the University of Guyana were trained. The initiative also included developing a methodology to assess national budget allocation plans and a tool for tracking public expenditure.

Further, a multi-country study on the economic costs of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), also conducted in Grenada and Jamaica, was completed. Data is now available on the economic costs of VAWG for different segments of Guyana society, that is, costs to girls, adult females, government and non-government service providers and the private sector.

Social Assistance

Eight hundred and seventeen individuals benefitted from \$USD 80,742 in cash support through the UN's support to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's Women's Innovation Network (WIN) programme. The programme supported skills training for entrepreneurs in technical vocational areas, promoting upward mobility. Onsite monitoring revealed that 27% of cash recipients owned food businesses, with 25% engaged in agri businesses. Further, two staff from the Ministry were trained in beneficiary information management and cash transfer distribution planning to support this initiative.

Through partnership with HIAS Guyana, the UN supported over 6,493 forcibly displaced people, returning Guyanese and host communities with food hampers and non-food items, including solar lamps, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, baby kits, T-shirts and hygiene kits, while 556 vulnerable persons who were forcibly displaced benefitted from cash-based interventions. These interventions were conducted mainly in the arduous communities of regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9. Additionally, 4358, including 751 girls, 701 boys, 1972 women, and 964 men benefitted from essential protective services tailored to identify vulnerable forcibly displaced persons, asylum-seekers, and returning Guyanese. These services included counselling, accompaniment, translation, and case management. Referral mechanisms were also implemented to connect the vulnerable forcibly displaced population with government services, including health, education and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and UN support services delivered by implementing partners.

Nutrition

With UN support, a National School Feeding Policy and Plan of Action was drafted, which is under review before final submission to the government. This supports the government's agenda to invest in the National School Feeding Programme to ensure that school-aged children in all regions have sufficient nutritious meals to promote learning and to ease the financial burden on parents.

STORY



In Guyana, Empowering Women Helps To Feed The Future

[read more >>](#)

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

The UN System worked with the Board of Industrial Training within the Ministry of Labour to strengthen its integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender-Based Education in the Non-Formal Vocational Institutional settings of the Board of Industrial Training. This contributed to the increased exercise of reproductive rights and gender equality in technical/ vocational institutions and strengthened access to high-quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare and services.

More youth were provided with spaces to gain information and access education and services that support their health and well-being through the provision of support for establishing 10 additional Adolescent/Youth Friendly Spaces in regions 2, 3, 4, 6, and 10. These spaces will support national initiatives to address the health and well-being, inclusive of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of adolescents and youths at community levels.

As part of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the 30th anniversary of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adolescents were provided an opportunity to participate in a National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 'Essay Writing/Spoken Word/Art competition; which allowed them to share their views on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights issues in Guyana, to inform decision making and programming.

Civil society partners and government staff were trained in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for out-of-school settings, significantly enhancing their ability to deliver CSE effectively.

Health facility assessments in Guyana were conducted to evaluate the delivery of Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) services. Healthcare providers were trained in CMR services, with subsequent cascading of these training sessions across hinterland regions of Guyana in Regions 1, 7, 8, and 9, which bolstered the capacity of the healthcare system to provide CMR services.

With a focus on adolescent health in Regions 1, 2, 7, and 9, medical professionals in the Maternal and Child Health Department received specialized training in emergency obstetric care, utilizing the Advances in Labour and Risk Management (ALARM) booklet. Successful online training in the Perinatal Information System was completed for the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, with subsequent expansion to Region 2 and a private hospital. To facilitate the extension of the Perinatal Information System in Region 2, health workers at identified facilities were given tablets.



The Green Bench in schools encourage students to talk openly about mental health.



Mental Health

A Joint Programme on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Children and Adolescents was established, with a strong focus on children and youth, aiming to significantly impact mental health services and development. Training was conducted for health officials to strengthen mental health leadership, facilitating the establishment and delivery of services at the primary healthcare level. This included conducting follow-up and evaluation workshops in mhGAP for trainers, training sessions on the use of the ASSIT Tool with a mhGAP component, and specialized mhGAP training for teachers and healthcare providers, with an emphasis on stigma reduction and cognitive-behavioural interpersonal skills. A mental health and non-communicable diseases (NCD) investment case was also developed, highlighting the programme's future impact on both mental health and broader public health initiatives. A Master Plan for mental, neurological, and substance use disorders was also developed for implementation in 2024.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) were provided in collaboration with HIAS and Blossom Inc. Children and caregivers within the child protection programme also benefited from this support.

To disrupt the inter-generational cycle of poor mental health, the UN System also supported stakeholders to engage children and the public through the Let's Talk Green Benches Initiative, providing 25 benches to secondary schools to have open discussions on mental health and related issues and the 'Glow for Mental Health – Out of the Shadows Awareness Walk'.

The 'Mentorship for Adolescent Girls and Gender Responsive Counselling Programme' conducted by the Education Ministry's Migrant Education Support Unit teaches Venezuelan adolescent girls how to navigate Guyanese culture and society.



WHEN I STARTED SCHOOL HERE, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ADAPT... THE CHILDREN BULLIED ME A LOT. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND. THEY WOULD HIT ME AND CALL ME NAMES... [NOW] IF SOMEBODY COMES TO ME AND TELLS ME STUFF - LIKE BAD STUFF - I WILL TELL THEM TO STOP. I WOULD NORMALLY ASK THEM WHY THEY ARE DOING THIS TO ME, AND WHAT'S THE REASON, AND HOW WE CAN SOLVE IT.

- 17-year-old Venezuelan girl



Education

Ten thousand children, including migrant children and children in host communities, received a 'treasure box' filled with materials and ideas for learning and fun as part of a UN-supported Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiative. Also, Healthcare workers and Community Service Officers in 25 indigenous communities were trained in ECD skills-building sessions. Design of a National Multi-Sector Integrated ECD Policy with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security also commenced, supporting the holistic development of children's emotional, cognitive, motor and social skills.

Eight thousand children benefitted from a child-friendly environment created to provide psychosocial support in 10 education districts while 165 adolescents ages 12-19 (64% of participants were girls and 93% were Venezuelan children) received mentorship and gender-responsive counselling. Issues such as bullying and racism coping strategies to deal with these challenges were addressed along with other strategies for integration into their school and home communities. The UN System continues to support the Ministry of Education in implementing programmes to improve the mental and emotional well-being among migrant female adolescents, reducing stress and promoting resilience.

One thousand four hundred and thirty-five forcibly displaced individuals, including 624 girls, 565 boys, 147 women, and 99 men, benefitted from English as a Second Language (ESL) classes tailored for Warrau and Spanish-speaking people. This number includes 681 beneficiaries (both adults and children pending school enrolment) in three indigenous communities of Region 1, an initiative conducted in collaboration with Tshaos, community leaders, and UN staff. The above-mentioned total also includes 754 children who received ESL after-school classes due to a partnership with the Ministry of Education. This collaboration targeted Venezuelan and returning Guyanese children enrolled in the formal education system across regions 1, 2, 3, and 7, while 30 teachers from 20 schools were trained in ESL.

Education support went beyond classrooms, procuring items needed to facilitate sessions, including school supplies, learning materials, clothing, and generators to ensure learning continued during power outages.

The UN also provided tablets and trophies in support of a national programme - the Ministry of Education's Spanglish Bee. Migrant learners were integrated through the Migrant Art Competition, which was recognized as a platform for emotional and creative expression.

STORY



UNICEF Migrant support programme changing lives | UNICEF Guyana & Suriname

[read more >>](#)



Health

To support the strengthening of the national healthcare system, 54 health facilities received advanced cold chain equipment, a resilient cold chain was established, and vaccinations were enhanced in remote areas. Two hundred thousand individuals were reached during outreaches to improve vaccine and cold chain management. Migrants and displaced communities benefited from health services with UN assistance to translate and interpret during service provision at public institutions.

HIV Testing, Planning and Sensitisation

Seventy-nine forcibly displaced adults in Region 8 underwent anonymous and voluntary HIV testing, fostering increased awareness and access to critical health services in the community. Outreach activities were conducted in various hot spot locations, particularly in Regions 3 and 4, to facilitate linkage to HIV prevention and treatment services, effectively addressing pressing health concerns.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health's National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS) the 2009 National HIV and AIDS in the Workplace Policy was reviewed to assess the country's progress in HIV prevention, care, and treatment. This Policy serves to address and eliminate discrimination in the workplace and promote an environment of inclusivity and equality.

Additionally, 30 lecturers at the Cyril Potter College of Education in Region 4 completed human rights sensitisation sessions, which enhanced their understanding of the impact of human rights on HIV transmission and vulnerability among key and vulnerable groups.



© UNICEFGuyanaSuriname/FRobinson

Graduates of the Public Finance for Children Course with UNICEF Representatives.

Training

To support the implementation of national projects, the UN System trained staff working with government, development agencies, and civil society organizations. Thirty persons were trained in Public Finance and Value for Money for Child-Sensitive Social Protection systems. A Community of Practice was also established to strengthen existing linkages and partnerships at all levels of government and within the UN System.

With the Ministry of Finance, mid-level managers from government sectors, constitutional agencies, and Civil Society Organizations were trained on the six Value for Money analyses: 1) Cost Efficiency, 2) Cost Effectiveness, 3) Cost Utility, 4) Cost Benefit, 5) Social Returns on Investment and 6) Rank Correlation and Impact analysis. Clinics were conducted in four sectors to institutionalize this enhanced staff capacity.

Data for Analysis and Policy Development

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2019-2020) was published, and its dataset is available for subsequent analysis and policy formulation. The survey offers internationally comparable and statistically robust data on the status of children and women, serving as a fundamental baseline for monitoring and tracking 48% of child-related Sustainable Development indicators. Further, a study assessing learning loss attributable to COVID-19 was completed, and substantial support was provided for in-depth secondary analyses.

Legal and Policy Frameworks for Equality

Through the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, the UN System supported the development of Guyana's National Report on implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY

3

Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



LEAD NATIONAL PARTNERS

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Guyana Civil Defence Commission
- Guyana Environmental Protection Agency
- Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC)
- Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA)
- Guyana Water Inc (GWI)
- HIAS Guyana
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

FUNDING SOURCES

- United States
- European Union
- Italy
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Japan
- New Zealand
- China
- Guyana Redd Investment Fund-GRIF
- Global Environment Facility
- Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
- Agency Core Funds

EXPENDITURE
US \$4,490,446
MILLION

Streamlining climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction remains a key focus of the government. With support from the highest levels of the UN, the country is well placed to strengthen its capacity and capability to provide effective multi-hazard early warning services. Further, efforts are ongoing to prioritise sustainable management practices to foster long-term economic, social, and environmental development, focusing on vulnerable communities, including indigenous populations.

7000+
BENEFICIARIES

(individuals trained to support national disaster response preparedness and promote sustainable management practices)



© FAO Guyana/SharaSeelall

Exercise on seasonality mapping of hazards during the Anticipatory Action for Agriculture workshop.

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Response

The UN System works with the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) to enhance multi-hazard early warning services to strengthen the nation's resilience and preparedness against climate-related risks and disasters. Support was provided to facilitate the participation of Guyanese in sessions on Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation to augment their capacities for comprehensive risk management and risk management and financing for disaster reduction.

Thirty-one officers from various agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture were trained in Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action for Agriculture. Participants reviewed early warning systems for Guyana's main agricultural sectors, developed a crisis timeline and identified anticipatory actions that can be taken to reduce the impact of floods and drought on the livelihoods of farmers and fishers in Guyana.

To respond to climate-related challenges, training in climate-resilient practices and technologies, focusing on specific livestock, was conducted in four community clusters across Regions 3, 5, 6, and 10. In addition to enhancing the technical and institutional capacities within the Ministry of Agriculture, the aim was also to systematically mitigate the impact of flood/drought and multi-hazard risks. Further, a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) specialist supported the development of

Community-Based Multi-Hazard and Vulnerability Reports, developing Anticipatory Action plans for each community. Simultaneously, the Guyana Lands and Surveys Authority (GLDA) engineered risk-sensitive housing facilities tailored to each livestock category.

In addition to providing direct support to national authorities, the UN System also helped fisher households affected by floods. Through the Fisheries Department, fisher households affected by floods were supported with agricultural inputs and trained to resume their agricultural activities and improve their food and nutrition security through increased agricultural production. One hundred and fifty fishers (men and women) in five regions of Guyana were equipped with safety supplies, including life jackets, fuel containers, whistles and raincoats.

Enabling Gender Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER)

One hundred and twenty-five tablets were given to students with special education needs and disabilities to facilitate their completion of a course that would fuse gender inclusion with climate-smart agriculture.



© Office of the First Lady Guyana

Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Brigadier (Ret'd), the Honourable Mark Phillips signing the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action.

An agreement was established between the Office of the President and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to complete training on Agriculture and Innovation Entrepreneurship and Mainstreaming of Gender into Agriculture.

Support was given to develop a manual for the Guyana School Agriculture (GSA), which will benefit 96 women, men and young entrepreneurs, putting women and young people at the centre of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies.

Supporting National Disaster Response Preparedness

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) support was given to the Civil Defence Commission to enhance preparedness and recovery for communities critical to children during disasters.

The UN System supported Guyana's involvement in testing and rolling out the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's (CDEMA) supply chain management system - the CDEMA Logistics System (CLS). This software for enhanced efficiency in response mechanisms, featuring training on the Incident Command System (ICS) 300, played a crucial role in developing a regional supply management system. Twenty-five Guyanese enhanced their proficiency in system usage as part of preparations for potential hazards and disasters, contributing to an improved state of national readiness.

A subsequent stock-taking exercise captured emergency stock in the CLS at two government warehouses, contributing to the modernization and digitization of logistics operations in Guyana.

Youth and Climate Action

Two hundred young individuals were trained to actively engage in climate action. During the National Advocacy and Youth Forum, 150 young people worked to formulate the Youth Declaration on Climate Change, which serves as a youth-driven roadmap for addressing the climate crisis and articulating their priorities for climate action. As a result, the government made a public commitment to youth involvement in climate action by signing an Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action..

Health Capacity Enhancement

The Ministry of Health, with support from the UN System, operationalized Guyana's commitment to reinforce pandemic preparedness and response, disease elimination, the roll-out and implementation of the country's essential health package, and the One Health approach. Two hundred delegates from multisectoral agencies participated in the final phase of Guyana's Voluntary External Evaluation (VEE) of core IHR capacities, which focused on fifteen capacities and the Expanded Programme of Immunization, which serves as a solid basis for the country's National Action Plan for Health Security.

Advocacy efforts have been supported for integrating a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health into the health sector as well as national emergency preparedness and response plans. The MISP is a set of priority activities that should be implemented in the initial phase of an emergency as a life-saving

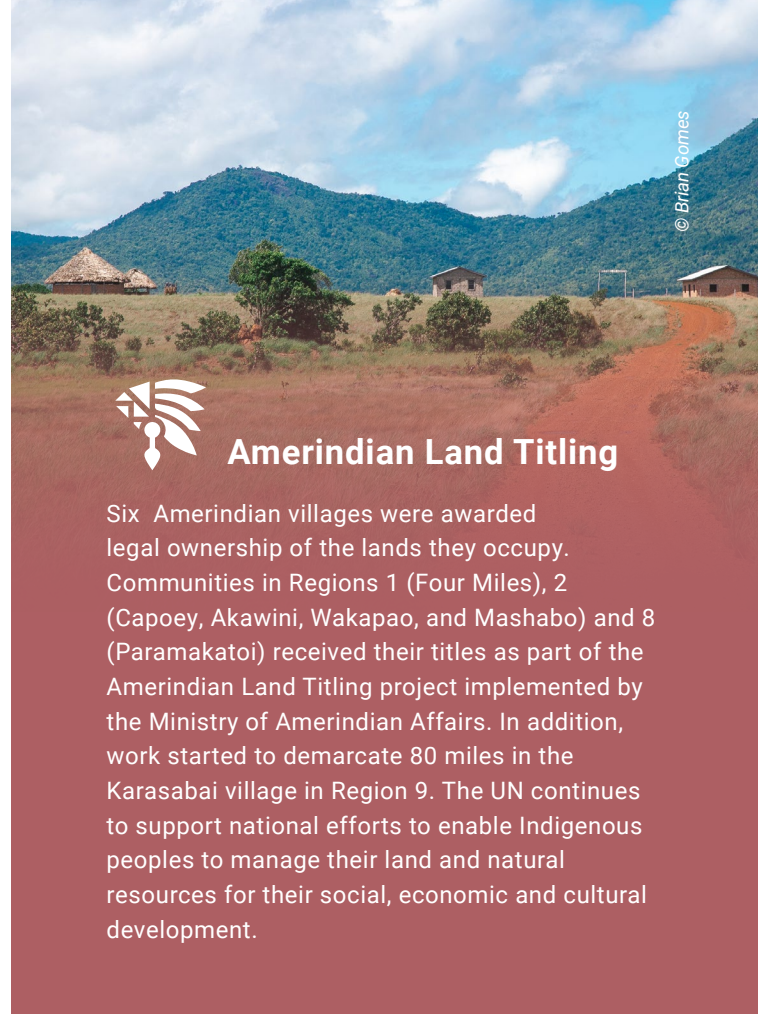
intervention. These activities are designed to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence, prevent the transmission of HIV and other STIs, prevent newborn and maternal morbidity and mortality, prevent unintended pregnancies and plan for comprehensive SRH services. Additional priority activities include Adolescent SRH, access to contraception for existing users and distribution of hygiene kits and menstrual protection supplies.

Sustainable Land Management

The UN System collaborated with national authorities to streamline sustainability within land management systems and the provision of land services to land-users and decision-makers.

Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) mapping was conducted across seven regions, with over 97% of flight execution completed, including full coverage of urban areas and 95% of rural areas. Urban data processing saw 100% completion. Additionally, support for infrastructural development saw completion and handover of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission's (GLSC) offices in Mabaruma and Black Bush Polder.

Technological upgrades encompass enhancements to GLSC's surveying capabilities, networking infrastructure, and data management. The training of GLSC staff, spanning LIDAR Mapping, technology, GIS, and more, contributes to a skilled workforce. Further achievements involve improvements to the Geodetic Network, the establishment of new Continuously Operating Reference Systems (CORS) stations, and the digital transformation of cadastral plans. Notably, completing a Draft National Level Map for Land Cover and Land Use and validating suitable Sustainable Land Management intervention options underscore the UN's commitment to advancing sustainable land practices.



Amerindian Land Titling

Six Amerindian villages were awarded legal ownership of the lands they occupy. Communities in Regions 1 (Four Miles), 2 (Capoey, Akawini, Wakapao, and Mashabo) and 8 (Paramakatoi) received their titles as part of the Amerindian Land Titling project implemented by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. In addition, work started to demarcate 80 miles in the Karasabai village in Region 9. The UN continues to support national efforts to enable Indigenous peoples to manage their land and natural resources for their social, economic and cultural development.



**WE HAVE OUR EXTENSION
AND WE GET MORE LAND,
SO WE CAN [BE] ABLE TO
HAVE BETTER ACCESS
TO THE LAND WHERE
FARMING AND MORE
LUMBERING WE CAN DO.**

- Arefa Shabeer,
Toshao, Mashabo

© Guyana Chronicle



Upgraded water supply system.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Three thousand six hundred and fifty individuals, including children and adolescents, benefitted from enhanced access to safe drinking water. Increased access to resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services both at home and in key child service institutions, was facilitated. Rainwater facilities and the construction of trestles for water tanks, optimizing water storage and distribution in vulnerable communities, were implemented.

The provision of water services in hinterland communities was also a priority of the UN System. The Guyana Water Inc (GWI) was supported in training 42 Community Service Officers (CSOs) to operate and maintain water supply systems.

In migrant settlements and host communities, 2,600 individuals benefitted from the construction of sanitation facilities to prevent open-defecation practices. This helped to safeguard the health and well-being of the migrants as well as protect the environment.

The UN System continued to support the national WASH Coordination Committee with financial contributions and technical assistance. Forty-two individuals were trained to enhance their capabilities in addressing WASH needs during disasters.

Sustainable Wildlife Management

Significant progress has been made in enhancing the regulatory framework and management of the aquaculture sector in Guyana. A draft aquaculture bill was prepared to provide support in regulating this sector, alongside proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act (2002) to encompass inland fisheries and co-management.

Further, the North Rupununi District Development Board's (NRDDB) fisheries management plan and the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan were validated, both of which serve as essential frameworks for conservation and cultural preservation. Also, validating the National Co-management Policy for Inland Fisheries and initiating a project to create a turtle management plan for the Rupununi demonstrated national commitment to sustainable resource management and conservation efforts.



Ozone Protection

The UN System continued to work with the Ministry of Agriculture's National Ozone Unit to manage national compliance strategies, develop and enforce policies, report data and facilitate project implementation, inclusive of providing training to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol's hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) control measures.



Soil Management

Guyana is a beneficiary of the Caribbean SOILCARE project, which seeks to create a conducive, enabling environment and supports countries to establish, implement, monitor, and report on progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. Soil mapping and soil sampling design for Guyana were completed in 2023, which will contribute to a soil survey to provide crucial insights into soil characteristics, informing decisions on sustainable soil management and development.

enhance solid waste management (SWM) practices. This included access to regional assessments and analyses on SWM frameworks, establishing a regional waste data hub in collaboration with the IDB, and participation in awareness-raising webinars addressing climate and gender issues. Furthermore, a regional training workshop focused on waste information systems was conducted, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among waste management professionals. Additionally, efforts to promote regional cooperation in the waste sector were advanced through Guyana's hosting of high-level meetings.



Waste Management

To support a better functioning solid waste management system in Guyana, the UN worked with the Attorney General's Chambers to review and revise the draft Solid Waste Management (SWM) Bill. The review enabled the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to address public health and environmental issues relating to solid waste collection and disposal.

As a signatory to the Cartagena Convention, Guyana engages in the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), contributing to the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC) process with the aim of achieving a binding agreement on plastic waste by 2025.

The UN also supports the development of small-scale, replicable solutions to enhance water and wastewater management, addressing challenges in non-revenue water reduction and institutional aspects. Improvement of water services in Region 10 is a focus of the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) in partnership with the UN.

Waste management officers in Guyana received comprehensive support and training initiatives to



Mainstreaming Low Emissions Technology

The uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to reduce national dependency on imported fossil fuels remains a priority of the government. The UN supported national authorities to assess eight (8) locations for the installation of smart solar systems in water treatment plants. The creation of these Smart Facilities Powered by Renewable Energy will see a reduction in national dependency on imported fossil fuels and reduce and support the country's greenhouse gas reductions.

4 STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Peace, Safety, Justice, and the Rule of Law



© Brian Gomes



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

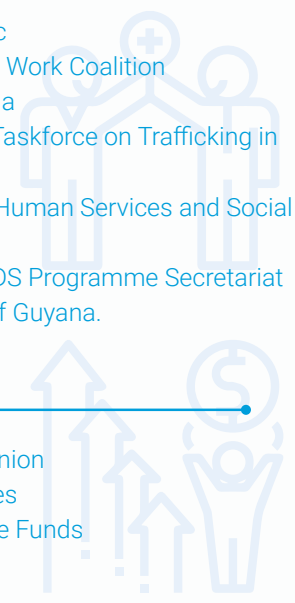


LEAD NATIONAL PARTNERS

- Blossom Inc
- Guyana Sex Work Coalition
- HIAS Guyana
- Ministerial Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- National AIDS Programme Secretariat
- University of Guyana.

FUNDING SOURCES

- European Union
- United States
- Agency Core Funds



EXPENDITURE
US \$2,503,676
MILLION

Programmes were streamlined to bolster systems and institutions to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice. This enhanced support to vulnerable communities, especially those affected by gender-based violence. In its final year of implementation, the Spotlight Initiative strengthened the capacities of academia, private sector, youth and other stakeholders to sustain national efforts to comprehensively address gender-based violence.

7,000+
BENEFICIARIES

(individuals participated in programmes to bolster systems and institutions to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice)



© Ministry of Human Services and Social Security

Training of Trainer Workshop on the Foundations Programme.



Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Eliminating Gender-Based Violence

With UN support, a first-of-its-kind post-graduate Certificate in Trauma and Grief Resilience was introduced at the University of Guyana to equip professionals in schools, communities, and interpersonal settings with the necessary skills and techniques to assist individuals navigating through trauma and grief.

In communities, 1,955 new beneficiaries, with an additional 344 women and one man, benefitted from information sessions on GBV prevention, gender equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and HIV/STI prevention. Also, 1,047 participants in regions 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8 were part of GBV prevention interventions conducted by peer educators.

Case management services were extended to 570 Forcibly Displaced Persons and host community members, with 158 persons self-identifying as GBV survivors, including six (6) children.

Emergency assistance, including accommodation, food, transport, and case management referrals were given to 10 GBV female survivors engaged in survival sex.

Economic empowerment efforts resulted in 64 women receiving equipment and machinery while the capacity of small business owners was expanded through the distribution of 28 six-burner stoves, 21 thirty-three-stitch sewing machines, and eight (8) cubic freezers. The beneficiaries of these initiatives were drawn from the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) programme.

In the private sector, eight (8) companies were supported to develop Gender Action Plans and human rights-based policies, while 15 WEPS signatories were assisted in implementing similar plans to address the spillover of Domestic Violence into the workplace and its effects on employees, as well as to advocate for the introduction of Paternity Leave to encourage the equitable distribution of caregiving responsibilities within families and promote a healthy work-life balance, despite lacking legal mandates.

Violence prevention and empowerment also focused on youth via the Foundations Programme, which is aimed at the prevention of GBV. One hundred and twenty women and men were trained as facilitators as part of a 12-module gender equality curriculum. In collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, three (3) train-the-trainer initiatives were held in regions 1, 4, 6, and 7. As part of its implementation, 20 young participants between the ages of 13 to 24 completed the programme in Region 4, learning about conflict resolution, fostering healthy gender relations, and preventing violence among young people, families, and communities.

Addressing GBV also involved training 15 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the implementation of a community-based family violence strategy to foster gender-equitable norms and positive masculinities. Further, a Sustainability Plan for continued CSO engagement in ending violence against women and girls in Guyana was developed with 12 members of the Civil Society National Reference Group of the Spotlight Initiative. Additionally, 17 CSOs were provided mentoring and business coaching.



Rule of Law

Support was extended to the Guyana Police Force (GPF) for GBV training of more than 2,000 officers, alongside the implementation of monitoring and accountability systems within the GPC and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to enhance their response to GBV incidents.

The Central Authority to accelerate the work on four Family Conventions on the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), including International Adoption and Child Maintenance, was established with UN support. In addition, the Domestic Violence Hearing Room was extended while plans commenced for a dedicated Children's Court.

The UN also supported a pivotal update to the Partnership for Peace Model, Manual, and Curriculum, which will be implemented in the Judiciary and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security. This court-ordered 16-session psycho-educational programme is designed for small groups of court-sanctioned perpetrators, which contains both therapeutic and educational components to support perpetrators to engage in non-violent behaviours.



SHE FELT THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN WHEN SHE CAME TO THE STATION. HOWEVER, AFTER I TOOK HER STATEMENT AND WHILE WAITING FOR THE PATROL SHE WAS IMPATIENT AND UNSETTLED. I KEPT HER INFORMED ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND ASSURED HER THAT WE WILL TREAT HER MATTER IN CONFIDENCE. SADLY SHE LEFT. BUT WE CALLED HER SEVERAL TIMES TO ENCOURAGE HER TO CONTINUE WITH THE PROCESS. IT WAS THE TRAINING THAT TAUGHT ME TO BE PATIENT WITH HER AND TO BE ENCOURAGING."

- Police Officer

STORY



Supporting students and teachers to take a proactive approach to ending gender-based violence

[read more >>](#)

Support to Vulnerable Populations

Over 1,000 children were identified for services related to child sexual abuse, birth registration, and social support. Recognizing that employment and employability skills are lacking within the communities where migrants are, the vulnerabilities and needs of the children, adolescents, and youth were identified and an appropriate programme was developed to address those needs.

GBV and child protection services were given to 102 Forcibly Displaced Persons, with 58 individuals accompanied by child protection agencies. 21 youth were engaged in dialogues on GBV in Region 2, and in Region 1, cinema forums and sensitization sessions were conducted.

Collaborating with the National AIDS Program Secretariat (NAPS), 79 Forcibly Displaced Persons and host community members benefited from on-site HIV/STI testing, while 70 individuals benefitted from the distribution of hygiene kits in remote mining areas of Region 8.

Emergency assistance, provided through partnerships and direct implementation, supported 250 individuals, including GBV survivors and children affected by abuse, neglect, and violence (98 girls, 70 boys, 57 women and 25 men). This assistance included in-kind support for immediate risk situations, such as transportation, accommodation, and meals. Blossom Inc. contributed cash assistance to families involved in the foster care programme.

Community dialogues



© UNHCR Guyana



© Ministry of Home Affairs

Participants of a counter-trafficking training programme.

Combating Trafficking in Persons

The importance of Migrant Return and Reintegration were UN-supported components of two counter-trafficking training programmes conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons. This sensitization was conducted with immigration and Embassy officials, interpreters/translators and staff of non-governmental organizations.

STORY



Journey into Existence | UNICEF Guyana & Suriname

[read more >>](#)

PROGRESS ON THE PROMISE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The UN System worked to reach population groups across Guyana, support measures to tackle discrimination and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that place people at risk of being left behind.

Advancing Disability Inclusion

UN Agencies, Funds, and Programmes continued to advance disability inclusion through existing programming and hosted activities in partnership with the Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities (GCOPD) and the National Commission on Disability.

People with disabilities are engaged in Guyana's national food system, from farmers to distributors with disabilities. The UN and GCOPD convened a multi-stakeholder dialogue on food security for persons living with disabilities to examine the situation of food (in)security in the disability community. The discussions focused on approaches to gathering more data and opportunities to advance disability inclusion through legislation, policies, programmes and other interventions identified to strengthen food security and nutrition in households with persons with disabilities sustainably and holistically.

Persons with disabilities were also included in assessments of regional development contexts and humanitarian situations. In collaboration with the government's Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee on the Influx of Venezuelan Migrants, the UN organized a joint mission to Lethem (Region 9), which assessed the situation of Indigenous peoples, migrants and persons forcibly displaced from Venezuela. The GCOPD joined this mission and identified areas that the organization could

support in advancing disability inclusion in the region, including community planning and programmes for children, women, and elderly persons with disabilities.

During National Disability Week in Guyana, the UN System supported convening a workshop for women and girls with disabilities and a leaders' conference for Organizations for Persons with Disabilities. Held during 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence, discussions covered areas on sexual exploitation and abuse, trauma-informed care, digital safety for survivors and the use of social media for gender-based violence awareness. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was also observed during National Disability Week, and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator collaborated with the GCOPD to host a session on 'SDGs and Persons with Disabilities'. Stakeholders examined the SDG indicators on disabilities, took stock of achievements and discussed measures that can be implemented to ensure persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in realizing the SDGs. This was complemented by radio and television outreaches on SDGs and persons with disabilities.

UNICEF Guyana collaborated with GCOPD to provide training for children with disabilities. A STEM Robotics Training for School Health clubs was conducted by UNICEF, which included children with disabilities in regions 3, 5, 7, and 10. This furthered the integration of children with disabilities into the wider school system while providing them with specialized, cutting-edge skills to keep them as competitive as their counterparts.

Participants at a youth consultation.



Youth

To meaningfully engage young people, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator created an informal UN Guyana Volunteers youth group with representatives from 10 youth organizations. A panel discussion on Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World was convened in observance of International Youth Day to amplify their voices. Discussions focused on the role of youth in advancing Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, green jobs and career opportunities in Guyana, and the role of innovative sustainable technologies in environmental management and conservation. Youth engaged with Guyana's Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport during this activity, which formed part of a three-day Advocacy and Youth Forum hosted by the Rights of the Child Commission and UNICEF.

Also, at a watch party hosted by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator during the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum discussions with youth centred around ways in which they could be included more in UN programming, have access to funding and have a role in national decision-making processes. On the latter, a youth representative participated in the joint mission to Lethem, Region 9, to contribute to the engagements and ensure that the voices of young people were taken into account in local planning.

Further, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator provided an opportunity for a young woman with a disability to participate in the UN Economic Commission Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC)'s Children and Youth Forum and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which were held consecutively in Santiago, Chile. During the Forum, the young woman joined a discussion with DSG Amina Mohammed to share her perspective on disability inclusion in achieving the SDGs.

A youth representative was also supported by UNFPA to participate in the Caribbean Youth Summit, where ideas, experiences, and good practices were shared to develop solutions to address GBV and cross-cutting issues.



CONSULTATIONS AND DIALOGUES ORGANISED BY UN GUYANA AND GCOPD HAVE BEEN REFRESHING EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY AS A PERSON WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, I FEEL MY VOICE HAS BEEN CONSIDERED IN MATTERS THAT AFFECT ME.

- Gabriel Gilkes, youth representative, Stronger Together and GCOPD

© UNICEF/KGeorge





Heritage celebrations at River's View.

Indigenous Peoples

The UN System in Guyana continued its engagement with the National Tshaos Council (NTC) through 2023. The NTC was officially part of the joint mission to Lethem, Region 9 and time was allocated to meet with the Village Council and residents of St. Ignatius. Other engagements saw focused discussions to advance the protection of indigenous knowledge systems, develop Village Sustainability Plans and support communities with their migration response, among other areas. The UN System also supported the participation of the NTC in the Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Peoples and Access to Justice. The UNESCO Caribbean Office convened a discussion on Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) with relevant stakeholders to discuss ways to document, preserve and use local, traditional and indigenous knowledge systems in policy processes and programmes, particularly in disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental conservation. Stakeholders developed a roadmap to advance LINKS during the session.

Regionally, Guyana participated in a virtual dialogue for UN staff in the English-speaking Caribbean region to raise awareness of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as an effective tool to guide programmatic work and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in indigenous communities. The dialogue allowed for the exchange of experiences, with a focus on Belize, Guyana, and Suriname. The UN's system-wide action plan on the rights of Indigenous peoples and the UN's call to action on building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future with Indigenous peoples were highlighted during the discussion.

The UN also participated in Heritage Month activities, which included celebrations in the River's View community. Located on the border of Region 10 on the Essequibo River, this small community celebrated with cultural presentations, traditional arts and crafts and games.

LGBTIQ+ Persons

As part of the UN Free and Equal campaign, 11 civil society organizations and media professionals hosted a dialogue to raise journalists' awareness about the human rights of LGBTIQ individuals. The initiative promoted mutual understanding and sought to create a more inclusive media landscape through ethical reporting that respects and upholds the rights of LGBTIQ persons. Also, UNDP co-hosted a dialogue with EQUAL Guyana to host an interactive discussion on the nexus between LGBTIQ+ rights and national development.

2.3. Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Partnership

Throughout 2023, the United Nations in Guyana intensified efforts to strengthen and broaden partnerships to help accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative partnerships with various stakeholders.

Private Sector

The United Nations and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) signed a Declaration of Intent to support the private sector's contribution to economic and social development in Guyana. Framed within the overarching UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, the partnership will explore SDG investment pipelines and SDG impact considerations, promote strategic business planning and use of digital technology in business development (digital services), digital finance, mentorship, and coaching.

In 2023, work started with the alignment of business operations to global business standards. Private sector companies were supported to develop and implement Gender Action Plans and human rights-based policies through the application of the UN's Women Empowerment Principles. Further, efforts to expand strategic engagements with the private sector for children saw the start of discussions with the Private Sector Commission and one of the country's leading banks, Republic Bank Guyana Limited, to advocate for UNICEF's Business for Results (B4R) programme, which would see companies piloting child-friendly/breastfeeding spaces, among other areas.

The UN also engaged the private sector in a youth empowerment initiative through UNESCO's Creative Caribbean Project, which exposed young people to music production and audio engineering training.

Civil Society

The UN System in Guyana continues mainstreaming gender, disability, youth and indigenous peoples' development in all aspects of work, guided by targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's system-wide policies and scorecard for each population group.

The UN Country Team partnered with civil society in Guyana primarily through two streams, as implementing partners and as advocacy partners. This included working with the Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities; youth organizations, including the Guyana National Youth Council, the President's Youth Advisory Council and the Guyana Youth and Environment Network (GYEN); civil society organizations active in the women's movement and the National Tshaos Council to host dialogues, conduct trainings and assessments and mark UN observances. Partnerships addressed issues including education, youth and women empowerment and environmental protection.

Development Partners Group

The UN Resident Coordinator chaired the Development Partners Group (DPG) which included UN agencies and international and bilateral partners. Members exchanged information on key development themes and discussed how their work supported national priorities. Notably, in 2023, a sector group within the DPG focused on agriculture and food systems. The group deep-dove into the Ministry of Agriculture's budget for 2023 and the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) 25% by 2025 regional food security initiative, and reviewed development partner activities across the various dimensions of food systems and food security.

The private sector and the UN partner to advance the SDGs in Guyana.



© Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Joint Resource Mobilisation

Joint SDG Fund

The government of Guyana, through its National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation, is strategically poised to bolster rural livelihoods, diversify the economy, and advance the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)'s regional food security agenda via the implementation of the 'Twenty-Five by 2025 Initiative'. In alignment with this national endeavour, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) extended their support through the Joint SDG Fund to facilitate the government's mission to expand social protection in Guyana.

As part of this initiative, farm input supplies were provided to smallholder farmers, who were trained on new and cost-effective feed and fertilizer alternatives to boost production and productivity. Also, a one-time cash grant was given to participants of the Ministry of Human Service and Social Security's Women Innovation and Investment Programme (WIIN) to generate economic opportunities that enhance community livelihoods and resilience.



THE TRAINING PROVIDED WAS EXCELLENT..... I LEARNED A LOT AND RECEIVED MY CERTIFICATE. I WAS ABLE TO USE THE 4 R'S (RIGHT SOURCE, RIGHT RATE, RIGHT TIME, AND RIGHT PLACE) IN MY FARM AND SHARE THESE TECHNIQUES WITH MY FARMING GROUP.

- Jaikumarie Persaud, a Livestock and Cash Crop Farmer,

STORY



Empowering Small-Scale Farmers, Farming Collectives, and Vulnerable Women through the Enhancement of National Social Protection Systems

[read more >>](#)



Yesim Oruç, UN Resident Coordinator and Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister of Finance with responsibility for Finance during the Joint Steering Committee of the UN Multi Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF).

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

Repositioning of the UN System to Deliver as One

In 2023, the UN System in Guyana completed the first joint Country Implementation Plan (CIP) of the current Cooperation Framework (2022-2026). 21 UN Agencies, Funds, and Programmes worked together in a coordinated and coherent manner to implement some US\$15,336,379 in projects. Joint programming and where relevant joined-up programme approaches were developed to: 1) promote food systems transformation to bolster rural livelihoods and diversify economies, and advance CARICOM's regional food security agenda (to reduce the food import bill by 25% by the year 2025; 2) advance gender equality through implementation of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls; 3) scale up coverage/responsiveness of social protection systems; 4) improve health outcomes; 5) enhance systems to ensure decent work for people; 6) support transformations in the education system; 7) support data and digitalisation as a means to promote economic transformation and diversification and 8) cultivate peaceful societies by working closely with national authorities to reduce crime, notably by combating trafficking in persons, among others. Policy advice to the government focused on jobs and social protection in line with the UN Secretary-General's Global Accelerator initiative. As a result of this work, the UN conducted a common country analysis update focusing on social protection.

Efficiency Agenda

The UN Country Team increasingly used common services under the Operations Management Team, including pest control and telephone services, which improved operational efficiency.

In 2023, 10 Agencies, Funds and Programmes continued to implement the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to facilitate active collaboration across agencies and reduce transaction costs. During the year one additional service – fire equipment maintenance – was added to the previous five common services - cleaning, hygiene, garbage collection, security and pest control. After completion of the 2023 BOS review the estimated cost avoidance over 2021-2026 is expected to be US\$532,895.

Communicating and Advocating Together

Efforts to communicate and advocate together were strengthened by revising the joint communications and advocacy strategy 2022-2026 and implementing the 2023 joint communications and advocacy work plan. The UN Communications Group (UNCG) developed joint campaigns and accompanying messages to support the UN System's joint programming.

All communication and advocacy initiatives were conducted within the framework of the Human Rights @75 global campaign, with most activities carried out in collaboration with government, civil society, and other stakeholders. The 2023 communications and advocacy work plan emphasized engaging with youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and addressing issues related to gender, peace, climate action, and human rights.

To observe International Youth Day a joint panel discussion on 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards A Sustainable World' was organized as part of UNICEF's national three-day Youth Forum. To promote and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, activities were organized with the Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities (GCOPD) including a round table discussion on food security and persons with disabilities and a workshop on SDGs and persons with disabilities. Media outreach was also conducted by the Resident Coordinator on a television programme hosted by the GCOPD. To support the national agenda to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples, the UN Country Team joined the government in celebrating Amerindian Heritage Month.

To amplify the national commitment to gender equality, through the Spotlight Initiative, a series of activities were held with partners during the 16 days of activism, including supporting the government to host the first national ministerial forum on gender equality and collaborating with the GCOPD to host a workshop on gender-based violence and women with disabilities. The UN's peace agenda was highlighted on International Peace Day during a school outreach where the UN Resident Coordinator led an interactive discussion with students and staff on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Environmental awareness was fostered through collaborative efforts with partners such as the EMC Foundation, which facilitated public sensitization activities on various environmental themes. A photographic exhibition showcasing Guyana's cultural diversity and ecosystems was inaugurated at UN House as part of these initiatives. Additionally, emphasis was placed on climate education through public information campaigns, with multiple agencies collaborating with youth partners to host sensitization sessions.

Key UN observances were also celebrated through joint communications and advocacy. On UN Day media relations were maintained through an engagement with media editors. A message from the UN Resident Coordinator was published in print and electronic news outlets, while further public sensitisation was conducted on radio and television programmes. Human Rights Day was observed with the government at its national Human Rights exhibition. The UN booth facilitated discussions with the public on the Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Resident Coordinator featured on a panel focused on "Safeguarding Human Rights amidst Threats to Peace and Security".

The UN Communications Group also contributed to advocacy around other UN observances, including International Women's Day, World Environment Day, World Health Day, International Day of the Girl Child, International Migrants Day and International Volunteers Day, and amplified messaging from global campaigns.



Students of Marian Academy at the annual observance of International Peace Day.

© UN Guyana photo/Colette Hytmiah-Singh

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The UN Country Team continued to refer to the final evaluation of the previous Caribbean Cooperation Framework (the MSDF 2017-2021), its recommendations, and the associated management response.

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

In lock-step with other RCOs in the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean, the Guyana UNCT adopted a common set of Cooperation Framework Outputs and Output Indicators. This measure responds directly to a global initiative by the UN Sustainable Development Group, aimed at directly aligning all UN development support to specific sustainable development goals and using common metrics to assess progress. In addition to the existing four 'Priority Areas' and eight 'Outcomes' of the Cooperation Framework, UNCTs across the Caribbean, including Guyana, are now guided by a specific (and commonly shared) set of 21 operational 'Outputs'.

"Strengthening Inter-Agency Coordination" and "Joint Implementation"

In 2023, the UN Resident Coordinator for Guyana and the Representative for the UN WOMEN Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean continued to convene the Multi-Agency Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Multi-Country Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework. They focussed on (a) standing up key governance mechanisms for the MSDCF; (b) adoption of common standards for implementation of the Cooperation Framework across different UNCTs, and (c) identification of substantive policy areas for transboundary issues. Key deliverables presented to the RSC in 2023 included the Sector Wide-Approach to Gender Equality scorecard, which was applied at both the sub-regional/Caribbean level and at the country/UNCT-specific level. In addition, the RSC reviewed the results of the UN Configuration Exercise.

In May, following the RSC's work, the UN in Guyana joined Guyana's Minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, in hosting the Annual Coordination Meeting for the Multi-Country Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework. Attended by nearly 80 participants from across the sub-region, including both senior UN Agency representatives and officials from UN member states, the event provided (i) an update on the results of UN development activities during the first year of the MSDCF; (ii) a summary of how the configuration and delivery models of the UN in the Caribbean are changing and (iii) space for state signatories to the MSDCF to identify key priorities for development assistance. For Guyana, the Minister acknowledged the UN's partnership with national authorities to advance on the Global Goals. Regionally, he encouraged greater attention be provided to implement SDG 17 – Partners for the Goals and Financing for Development. He noted that the UN System needs to help Caribbean countries better demonstrate how vulnerability (to trade and climate-related shocks) must be retained as a basis for allocating concessional financing.

"Civil Society and the Private Sector"

Civil society continued to support UN programming to reach targeted vulnerable communities to provide services in the areas of education, counselling, youth and women empowerment, skills training, humanitarian assistance, peer guidance, reintegration programmes, environmental protection, among others.

In 2023, the UN signed a Declaration of Intent to collaborate with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) to support the private sector's contribution to economic and social development in Guyana. The UN also hosted its first Private Sector SDG Partnership Forum in partnership with the Local Business Development Center, which provided businesses with a deeper understanding of the SDGs and how they can be applied to specific businesses and industries.

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

During the period 2022-2023, under the Multi-Sector Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF), the overall execution rate achieved was 64%. Within this period, priority area 1 ‘Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience’ registered a delivery rate of 87%, achieved by an expenditure totaling US\$12,276,891 from an available budget of US\$14,155,396. Priority area 2 ‘Equality, Well Being and Leaving No One Behind’ showed a noticeable gap between allocated budget and actual spending, indicating the need for enhanced oversight or increased efforts to optimize fund utilization. Despite facing budget constraints, the focus on priority area 3 ‘Resilience to Climate Change/Shocks & Sustainable Natural Resource Management’ was maintained, achieving an execution rate of 61% with expenditures amounting to US\$15,611,420 from an available budget of US\$25,466,855.

Further in-depth analysis is essential to describe the determinants underlying budget execution disparities, particularly in segments exhibiting underutilization thus ensuring that such occurrences do not connote incapability or inaction. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the different initiatives in the priority sectors are crucial for achieving optimal resource allocation and efficient outcomes aligned with the cooperation framework’s overarching goals and objectives.

PA1 - Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience							
	Total Required (USD)	Available (USD)	To be mobilized (USD)	2022 Expenditure (USD)	2023 Expenditure (USD)	TOTAL Expenditure (USD)	Execution Rate (expenditure as a % of available)
Outcome 1 - Productive and competitive business ecosystem	\$10,073,821	\$9,663,821	\$434,300	\$4,413,105	\$3,941,904	\$8,355,009	86.5
Outcome 2 - Diverse, sustainable, inclusive economy	\$4,831,575	\$4,491,575	\$340,000	\$2,213,161	\$1,708,721	\$3,921,882	87.3
PA1 - Shared Prosperity & Economic Resilience	\$14,905,396	\$14,155,396	\$ 774,300	\$6,626,266	\$5,650,625	\$12,276,891	44.5
PA2 - Equality, wellbeing, and leaving no-one behind							
	Total Required (USD)	Available (USD)	To be mobilized (USD)	2022 Expenditure (USD)	2023 Expenditure (USD)	TOTAL Expenditure (USD)	Execution Rate (expenditure as a % of available)
Outcome 3 - Data and Laws to Promote Equality	\$3,925,732	\$3,559,118	\$366,613	\$816,180	\$589,094	\$1,405,274	39.5
Outcome 4 - Social Protection, Health, Education Services	\$20,090,730	\$18,411,547	\$1,691,618	\$6,529,741	\$4,133,171	\$10,662,912	57.9
PA2 - Equality, wellbeing, and leaving no-one behind	\$24,016,461	\$21,970,665	\$2,058,231	\$7,345,921	\$4,722,265	\$12,068,186	30.6
PA3 - Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management							
	Total Required (USD)	Available (USD)	To be mobilized (USD)	2022 Expenditure (USD)	2023 Expenditure (USD)	TOTAL Expenditure (USD)	Execution Rate (expenditure as a % of available)
Outcome 5 - Disaster Risk Management	\$5,374,307	\$4,744,124	\$631,416	\$1,063,014	\$1,742,994	\$2,806,009	59.1
Outcome 6 - Natural Resource Management	\$20,722,731	\$20,722,731	\$ -	\$10,057,960	\$2,747,452	\$12,805,412	61.8
PA3 - Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management	\$26,097,038	\$25,466,855	\$631,416	\$11,120,974	\$4,490,446	\$15,611,420	42.6
PA4 - Peace, Safety, Justice & Rule of Law							
	Total Required (USD)	Available (USD)	To be mobilized (USD)	2022 Expenditure (USD)	2023 Expenditure (USD)	TOTAL Expenditure (USD)	Execution Rate (expenditure as a % of available)
Outcome 7 - Laws, Policies & Systems for Peace, Security, Justice etc.	\$6,500,451	\$5,573,393	\$927,058	\$1,474,951	\$2,500,676	\$3,975,627	71.3
Outcome 8 - Social change for safer, fairer, more inclusive communities	\$1,446,666	\$1,094,666	\$352,000	\$25,000	\$3,000	\$28,000	2.6
PA4 - Peace, Safety, Justice & Rule of Law	\$7,947,117	\$6,668,059	\$1,279,058	\$1,499,951	\$2,503,676	\$4,003,627	18.9
Priority Areas	TOTAL						
	Total Required (USD)	Available (USD)	To be mobilized (USD)	2022 Expenditure (USD)	2023 Expenditure (USD)	TOTAL Expenditure (USD)	Execution Rate (expenditure as a % of available)
PA1 - Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience	\$14,905,396	\$14,155,396	\$774,300	\$6,626,266	\$5,650,625	\$12,276,891	86.7
PA2 - Equality, well-being, and leaving no-one behind	\$24,016,461	\$21,970,665	\$2,058,231	\$7,345,921	\$4,722,265	\$12,068,186	54.9
PA3 - Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management	\$26,097,038	\$25,466,855	\$631,416	\$11,120,974	\$4,490,446	\$15,611,420	61.3
PA4 - Peace, Safety, Justice & Rule of Law	\$7,947,117	\$6,668,059	\$1,279,058	\$1,499,951	\$2,503,676	\$4,003,627	60.0
Total	\$72,966,013	\$68,260,975	\$4,743,006	\$26,593,112	\$17,367,012	\$43,960,124	64.4

\$15,611,420
\$12,276,891
\$12,068,186
\$4,003,627

UN MSDCF 2022-2023 TOTAL FUNDS EXECUTED (USD)

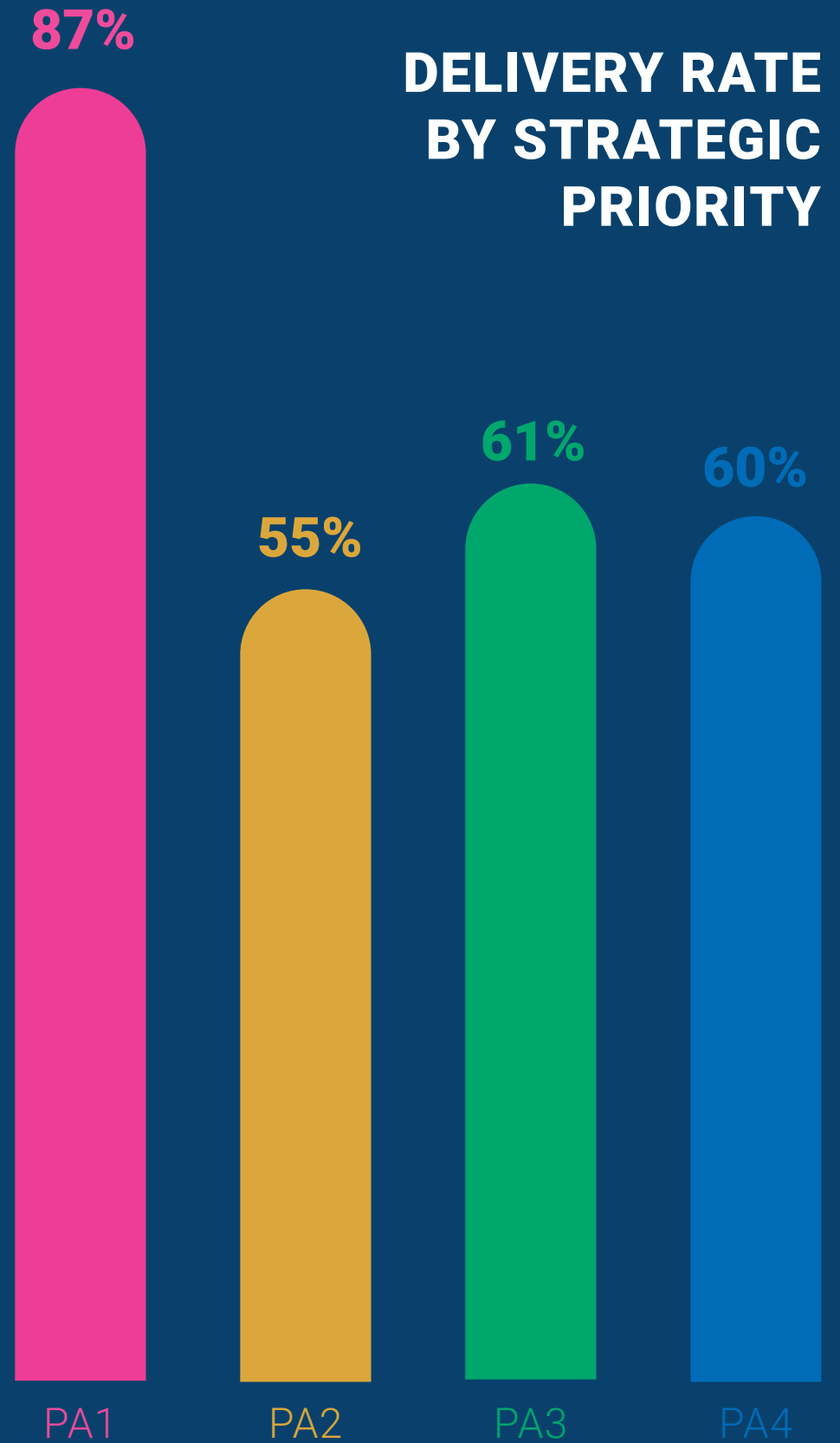
PA1 - Shared Prosperity & Economic Resilience
\$12,276,891

PA2 - Equality, wellbeing, and leaving no-one behind
\$12,068,186

PA3 - Climate Resilience and Natural
Resource Management
\$15,611,420

PA4 - Peace, Safety, Justice & Rule of Law
\$4,003,627

DELIVERY RATE BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY





UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2024



CHAPTER 3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2024

KEY RESULTS

In 2024 the UN System will work under a new County Implementation Plan (2024-2025) and will align UN activities, with direct linkages to the Six SDG Transitions, with existing government programme budget lines. The key thematic areas of focus in 2024 will be:



Nutrition (SDG Transition: 'Food Systems')

Agencies will work together on costing a healthy, nutritious and affordable diet, and support government in rolling out a new School Feeding Policy. Work will also be done to further connect schools with local food producers and pilot nutrition education in selected regions.



Digital (SDG Transition: 'Digital Connectivity')

Digitalisation, as distinct from data, could serve as an important enabler for Guyana's development in years to come. To date, the UN's engagement in this field has been uneven and is limited to the work of only two agencies. The UN Country Team will be intentional about putting together a joined-up offer on digitalization.



Social Protection (SDG Transition: 'Jobs and Social Protection')

Given the 'leave no one behind' mandate and the inherent risks of rising inequality in Guyana resulting from the oil and gas boom, jobs and social protection continue to represent a key policy area for national stakeholders. It is also an area where the UN has important programmatic offers. Agencies will continue to provide to the government a coherent offer on social protection, jobs and decent work.



Gender-based violence (GBV)

The UN will sustain Spotlight Initiative gains through new partnerships for strengthening prevention and response services. This will involve bolstering GBV One Stop Centers and Mobile and Remote services, operationalizing Women and Girls' Safe Spaces, and implementing behavior change initiatives. Collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative CSNRG will further provide GBV advisory support across the UN.



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

To support Agencies, Funds and Programmes to fully implement their programmes, the UN will engage the government to re-convene and streamline the four Results Groups. The UN will also continue to support Guyana's efforts to streamline the SDGs in its policies, including its preparation and participation in global summits such as the Summit of the Future. The UN system configuration, represented by various resident and non-resident entities, Agencies, Funds and Programmes, including regional commissions, remains adequate for the tasks outlined above.

UNCT RESOURCE MOBILISATION STRATEGY

Rapid economic transformation entails changes in the way that the UN operates in Guyana. Concessional finance for development, and funding for the UN development system in Guyana is becoming scarcer. The UN Country Team will continue to demonstrate solidarity with national authorities in demonstrating the continued development needs of Guyana, in particular with respect to climate finance. The UNCT will finalise the Joint Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships strategy, with a view to engaging Guyana's burgeoning private sector in the achievement of key SDG targets.



ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	EU	European Union	HESAD	Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development Project	NAPS	National AIDS Programme Secretariat
AIT	Animal Identification Traceability	EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls	HFLE	Health and Family Life Education	NAREI	National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute
ALT	Amerindian Land Titling	EW4All	Early Warnings for All	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	NDA	National Designated Authority
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	ICT	Information, Communication, Technology	NTC	National Toshias Council
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	FDP	Forcibly Displaced Persons	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	PADF	Pan American Development Foundation
CAC	Child Advocacy Centre	GBV	Gender-Based Violence	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture	PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	GCOPD	Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities	ILO	International Labour Organization	PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
CDC	Civil Defence Commission	GIS	Geographic Information System	IOM	International Organization for Migration	PF4C	Public Finance for Children
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	GLDA	Guyana Livestock Development Authority	KP	Key Populations	PM+	Problem Management Plus
CIP	Country Implementation Plan	GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission	LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
CLS	CDEMA Logistics System	GNI	Gross National Income	LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality	PrEP	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
CORS	Continuously Operating Reference Systems	GNYC	Guyana National Youth Council	LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging	R4V	Refugee and Migrant Working Group (RMWG) for the Venezuelan situation
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	GPF	Guyana Police Force	LoAs	Letters of Agreements	RSC	Regional Steering Committee
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	GRDB	Guyana Rice Development Board	mhGAP-IG	Mental Health Gap Action Programme-Intervention Guide	RMWG	Refugee and Migrant Working Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	GRPA	Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association	MHSSS	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
CSNRG	Civil Society National Reference Group	GSA	Guyana School of Agriculture	MoA	Ministry of Agriculture	SI	Spotlight Initiative
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	GSWC	Guyana Sex Work Coalition	MoE	Ministry of Education	SLDM	Sustainable Land Development and Management
ECD	Early Childhood Development	GWMO	Guyana Women Miners Organization	MoH	Ministry of Health	SPARS	Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	GYEN	Guyana Youth and Environment Network	MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
EnGenDER	Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience	HCCH	Hague Conference on Private International Law	MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency			NAIT	National Animal Identification and Traceability System	SWM	Solid Waste Management

TIP	Trafficking in Persons	UNHCR	The United Nations Refugee Agency
TOPCO	Tropical Orchards Products Company	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UG	University of Guyana	UNLIREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
UN	United Nations	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNCT	United Nations Country Team	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	US	United States of America
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	VEE	Voluntary External Evaluation
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	VNR	Voluntary National Review
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	WFP	World Food Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	WIIN	Women Innovation Investment and Networking

