



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2025

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-ninth session
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Guyana

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Introduction

1. Guyana is pleased to present its National Report for the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), detailing progress on implementing the 140 supported recommendations received during the 35th session of the UPR Working Group of the UNHRC on January 29, 2020.
2. Guyana requests the Committee to note the following submissions:
 - Guyana's third review by the Human Rights Committee on the ICCPR during the 1097th, 4099th and 4101th sessions, March 18 to 20, 2024;
 - Guyana's Second Voluntary National Report on the SDGs, UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), July 17, 2023;
 - Sixth Cycle review before MESICIC, on February 27, 2024;¹ and 2023 Second Self-assessment on the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).
3. These provide valuable updates on the supported recommendations.
4. Guyana highlights the significant increase in its responses to Calls for Inputs from Special Rapporteurs, as well as submissions addressing Joint Communications from the OHCHR Special Procedures Branch and Precautionary Measures, over the past four years.

I. Methodology and consultation

5. The National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), established in June 2021 by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance (MPAG), coordinates Guyana's human rights treaty obligations. With 16 technical focal points across government agencies, it handles reporting, engagement, monitoring recommendations, engaging with experts and civil society, and advising Cabinet.²
6. In 2024, MPAG held three NMRF consultations for Guyana's 4th UPR review. These included sessions with NMRF members, the Constitutional Rights Commissions, and a broader consultation on November 26, 2024, with civil society, academia, and other stakeholders. The UN Resident Coordinator's Office supported the CSO consultation.
7. Guyana consulted on the following thirteen (13) noted recommendations and one supported recommendation that were considered controversial:
 - Five (5) noted recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty (100.79, 100.80, 100.81, 100.82, 100.84) and one (1) supported recommendation with regard to the death penalty (100.83) in process of implementation;
 - Two (2) regarding the abolition of corporal punishment (100.179, 100.181); and
 - Six (6) with regard to decriminalizing consensual same sex adult sexual relations and discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons (100.53, 100.55, 100.56, 100.58, 100.60, 100.61).
8. Guyana maintains a de facto moratorium on the death penalty, with no executions since 1997. The 2010 amendment to the Criminal Offences Act removed the mandatory death penalty for certain crimes, replacing it with life imprisonment and the possibility of parole after 20 years. The courts adhere to these amendments, and, despite varying public opinions, the moratorium remains intact.
9. During the joint consultation on the death penalty, no consensus was reached on this issue, similar to previous consultations and general public opinion on this issue. There has been no major shift over the last few years.
10. Public opinion on abolishing corporal punishment has not fundamentally changed. However, the Protection of Children Act (2009) protects children from abuse and violence and the Juvenile Justice Act No. 18 of 2018 and its 2022 amendments prohibit the use of corporal punishment in juvenile detention and correctional institutions. The Ministry of

Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS) and the Rights of the Child Commission (ROCC) continue to promote positive discipline and alternative forms of discipline, including through ongoing training in schools.

11. The newly sworn in Constitutional Reform Commission will soon begin nationwide consultations, during which the issue of decriminalising consensual same-sex relations will be discussed.

12. Guyana ensures non-discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons in accessing jobs, training, housing, education, health services, and other opportunities. Amendments to the Prevention of Discrimination Act (1997) will enhance protections for LGBTQ+ persons, particularly in employment. (See Chapter III, A. Cross cutting issues)

II. Key developments – advances, threats, challenges

13. Guyana has come a long way from being one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere in the 1980s and 1990s. Over 28 years of difficult times to restore and institutionalise democracy and create a pro-poor, pro-growth development model, the country has experienced rapid transformation in the last four years. The focus remains however on the maintenance of democracy, sustainable growth and improving the quality of life for all.

A. Advances

1. Economy

14. Guyana's economy has undergone significant transformation since 2020, driven by the production of oil. The production of oil has significantly altered Guyana's growth trajectory and realigned the sectoral composition of GDP. The gains from this newly developing sector serve as a springboard for long outstanding socio-economic development in alignment with the SDGs by building the diversification and resilience of the non-oil economy. The World Bank projected Guyana's oil production could fuel the non-oil GDP to reach US\$10.4B by 2030, and the overall nominal GDP to reach US\$14B by 2030.³

15. The economy achieved an unprecedented 62.3% growth in real terms in 2022; 33% in 2023 and 43.6% in 2024.⁴ Notably, the oil sector supported less than 30% of the annual budgets in this period.

16. In 2025, overall real GDP growth and growth in the non-oil economy is projected at 10.6% and 13.8% respectively.

17. Guyana's national development is guided by the revised Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, approved on August 8, 2022, in the National Assembly after extensive consultations. This strategy aligns with the country's oil-producing status and promotes sustainable development while preserving 85% of its forested land. As a global climate action leader, Guyana's LCDS 2030 emphasizes human rights and tackles local and global challenges, leveraging the country's ecosystems to drive a diversified growth path.⁵ Guyana has achieved net zero carbon emissions, with its 18 million hectares of forest storing over 19.5 gigatonnes of CO₂.

18. In December 2022, Guyana became the first country to receive TREES credits from the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) for successfully preventing forest loss and degradation through jurisdictional REDD+. Following an independent validation and ART Board approval, 33.47 million credits were issued for the 2016-2020 period, leading to a landmark agreement with Hess Corporation. The agreement will generate at least US\$750 million for Guyana over the next decade. Guyana has documented all this in detail to the OHCHR Special procedures Branch on January 7, 2025 in response to their Joint Communication of November 8, 2024.⁶

19. The LCDS 2030 allocates 15% of carbon credit sales revenues to indigenous/Amerindian villages for development activities. In 2023, US\$150 million was received, with US\$22.5 million distributed to 242 villages. Over 800 village projects were

completed in 2024. In 2024, the allocation was increased to 26.5%. These funds support the implementation of Village Sustainability Plans, developed and managed by these villages.⁷

20. Guyana was presented with the Transparency Award at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This recognition underscores Guyana's commitment to transparent climate reporting. Guyana became the first developing nation to submit its Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) to the UNFCCC.

21. Guyana became an elected non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2024-2025 term.⁸

2. Infrastructural development

22. In December 2024, the U.S. EXIM Bank approved a US\$526 million loan to Guyana for a transformative Gas-to-Energy project. This initiative will replace heavy fuel oil as the main power source, cutting energy costs by 50% and reducing annual carbon emissions by over 460,000 tonnes (the equivalent of more than one million barrels of oil)⁹ and reduce the costs of electricity to the consumer by 50%.

23. Infrastructure projects are enhancing connectivity through expanded road networks with new highways, bridges, improved port facilities, farm to market roads, community roads, improved transportation systems and expansion of the telecommunications sector. These latter investments will reduce the geographically imposed “digital divide”, provide employment, create new entrepreneurs, open easier and cheaper access to goods and services’ platforms across all 10 administrative regions.¹⁰

24. Energy investments are increasing power generation capacity, integrating renewable sources including solar and hydropower. In 2024, 30,042 households in the hinterland received solar panels under the Hinterland Household Electrification Programme, bringing electricity for the first time to these communities.

3. Inclusion, transparency and accountability

25. The Government is proud of its record of managing State affairs with greater transparency and accountability since its assumption of office on August 2, 2020.

26. Inclusion and participation have been a hallmark of government’s policies since 2020. There have been over 1000 consultations with indigenous and other communities across Guyana on policy initiatives and national issues such as LCDS 2030, electoral reform, legislative reforms,¹¹ and frequent community meetings with Ministers. The visibility and accessibility of the President and Cabinet is unprecedented.

27. The constitutional Judicial, Public, Police, and Teaching Services Commissions are all constituted, functional, and funded from the Consolidated Fund with approval of the National Assembly.

28. The Ethnic Relations Commission was reconstituted in March 2023 after its term expired in April 2021. The Public Service Appellate Tribunal was appointed in 2021 and reappointed in 2024. The Ombudsman has been annually reappointed. The Public Procurement Commission was established in 2023 and the Integrity Commission in 2022.

29. Established on June 8, 2021 under MPAG, the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) includes 17 agencies, ensuring a structured approach to reporting while strengthening Guyana’s anti-corruption framework under the UNCAC, IACAC, the Lima Commitment, and the UNGA Political Declaration on Corruption.

30. In July 2024, the NCC hosted a workshop on ‘Ethics in the Public Service’ to strengthen anti-corruption measures in line with MESICIC recommendations.¹²

31. In December 2024, Guyana won the prestigious Best Regional AML/CFT Case Award (BREMOLT) at the 59th Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) Plenary and Working Group Meetings.¹³

32. The National Stakeholders Forum (NSF) was resuscitated in 2021, fostering inclusive dialogue between government and a broad range of civil society organizations on

Government's legislative agenda as well as other matters of public interest. The NSF ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, thus promoting transparency, accountability, and stakeholder ownership in processes.¹⁴

4. Quality of Life

33. Healthcare services have expanded with six new regional hospitals, a specialised paediatric and maternal care hospital, and other new health facilities and clinics are being constructed, while existing facilities are being refurbished, receiving modern equipment and additional medical staff.

34. The introduction of Telemedicine in remote areas ensures the most vulnerable benefit from health sector advancements, while reducing costs associated with transportation and in many cases, saving lives.

35. Expanded health outreach, eye testing and eyewear subsidies, cervical cancer testing vouchers, and other initiatives are improving access to healthcare nationwide. Efforts focus on maternal and child health, chronic disease management, and preventative care, strengthening the system and advancing universal healthcare.

36. Education is evolving with expanded access. New schools are being built and they, along with the existing schools, are integrating digital tools, upgrading facilities, expanding traditional and modern learning resources, and enhancing teacher training programs to improve learning outcomes. Initiatives such as the “Because we Care” annual programme provide financial reliefs to parents, providing each child enrolled in public or private schools with GY\$50,000.00. (2025).¹⁵

37. Scholarship programmes through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), Get Ready for Opportunities to Work (GROW), the Women’s Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), introduced in 2021–2022 and free tertiary education at the University of Guyana and post-secondary institutions from January 2025 ensures free education for all. Between 2017–2019, 30,000 persons became unemployed while from 2021–2024, 50,000 persons gained employment through new initiatives.

38. The National Housing program continues to provide affordable and sustainable living options through large-scale projects targeting low- and middle-income families. It offers subsidized land, pre-built homes, and low-interest financing, aiming to improve living standards and help individuals build collateral for self-empowerment, establishing a unique housing model in the region.¹⁶ (See paras. 134–139).

39. Access to clean water and sanitation are fundamental pillars of development. Over the last four years, Guyana has moved access to potable water nationally to 98.3%.¹⁷ (See paras. 149–153).

5. Social welfare

40. Since 2020, the introduction of new measures and expansion of social welfare initiatives ensure that no one is left behind. These address food security, income support, and skills development to empower individuals and families. These measures are designed to promote self-sufficiency and reduce poverty, contributing to a more equitable society. (See ESCR updates in Chapter III. C).

41. Old age pension and the income tax threshold doubled since 2020. Workers can claim income tax relief of GY\$10,000 monthly per child. The income tax threshold increased from GYD\$100,000 to GYD\$130,000, resulting in an additional GY\$8.5B in disposable income for workers and removal of another 22,000 people from the tax net. Tax exemptions are offered on second incomes, and the rate of income tax has been reduced from 28% and 40% to 25% and 35% respectively for different categories of income.

42. From 2025, every Guyanese mother will receive a one-off grant of GYD\$100,000 for each newborn baby born in Guyana.

43. In the final quarter of 2024, GYD\$30B was earmarked to give 300,000 Guyanese over the age of 18 a cash grant of GYD\$100,000. Implementation continues in 2025 in Phase II.

44. Guyana is building a resilient economy while maintaining its leadership in climate action and social equity. The State reaffirms its dedication to safeguarding fundamental human rights, while ensuring equal opportunities and equitable access to good and services for all.

B. Threats

1. Threat to democracy and rule of law

45. The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) assumed office on August 2, 2020, after a five-month delay, by those who wished to unlawfully remain in power after the March 2, 2020, General and Regional Elections. International Electoral Observers Missions, including the Commonwealth, OAS, EU, CARICOM, and the Carter Center, confirmed the elections were free, fair, and transparent. Supported by over 100 countries and organizations, the Guyanese people defended their democratic rights through a total ballot recount and judicial redress all the way to its apex court, the Caribbean Court of Justice.

46. A Commission of Inquiry¹⁸ report released in April 2023 concluded that: "there were, in fact, shockingly brazen attempts by [three top GECOM Secretariat officials] ... to derail and corrupt the statutorily prescribed procedure for the counting, ascertaining and tabulation of votes of the March 2nd election, as well as the true declaration of the results of that election, and that they did so for the purpose of stealing the election."¹⁹ These three former GECOM Secretariat officials and several members of the former administration were charged with multiple criminal offenses in 2020 and 2021. Their cases remain pending.

47. An expansive consultative process was implemented for a year, and the Representation of the People's (Amendment) Act (ROPA) and the National Registration (Amendment) Act (NRA) were passed in the National Assembly on December 5, 2022, by a majority vote. These amendments removed lacunas and ambiguities in these statutes to prevent a repeat of the 2020 electoral experience.

48. As Guyana approaches General and Regional Elections in 2025, great care and management by GECOM, acting in compliance with the amendments to the ROPA will be critical to protect the integrity of these elections.

2. COVID-19 pandemic

49. In October 2020, Guyana adopted a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach to managing the COVID19 pandemic, focusing on healthcare enhancements, economic household relief, and educational access. Key measures included increasing testing capacity, procuring medical equipment, supplies and vaccines, and mandating mask-wearing.²⁰

50. To address school closures and limited connectivity, the government utilized radio, TV, newspapers, specialised programmes on the Guyana Learning Chanel and online channels, and distributed learning materials to ensure continuous and inclusive education for children regardless of their location, in alignment with SDG 4.

3. Border controversy

51. Guyana faces persistent threats to its sovereignty and territorial integrity as Venezuela attempts to annex the Essequibo region.²¹ Following a December 3, 2023, referendum in Venezuela, approving the integration of Essequibo as a Venezuelan state, an "Organic Law for the Defense of Guayana Esequiba" was enacted by Venezuela on April 3, 2024, formalizing this claim. The law designated Essequibo as Venezuela's 24th state and added an eighth star to Venezuela's flag to represent the territory.²² Guyana continues its commitment to the process at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

C. Challenges

52. Guyana has experienced a significant increase in requests to address petitions under the Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures, Precautionary Measures of the IACHR, as

well as petitions, cases, hearings, and inquiries from the UN Special Procedures Branch and the CERD Committee. The high volume of requests and short response timeframes strain small developing countries like Guyana and unfairly compete with periodic treaty reporting obligations.

53. Offshore oil discoveries have rapidly transformed Guyana into a high-income nation, with oil production in 2019. However, this growth has led to challenges such as reduced access to concessional loans, higher borrowing costs, and limited access to UN funding, impacting financing for key projects and long-term sustainability.

54. Unpredictable weather patterns from climate change, including flooding, are a major risk, especially for the 90% of the population living on the coastlands. Floods in 2005 and 2021 severely impacted the population and economy, with the latter causing an agricultural crisis.²³

III. Ratification of and accession to international instruments

100.6, 100.7 – not implemented

55. Guyana is committed to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Statelessness Convention, and the 1961 Convention on Reducing Statelessness. However, as noted in the last ICCPR report, Guyana has adopted a humanitarian approach to migrants from Venezuela, providing them with free education, healthcare, and regularized stay and work permits. (See paras. 120 & 237–238).

100.11 was implemented since May 18, 1988

A. Cross cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination – vulnerable groups

100.42, 100.43, 100.46, 100.48, 100.49, 100.50, 100.54, 100. 59 – in process of implementation
100.57 – implemented

56. Guyana's Constitution prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, disabilities, religion, etc by the executive, administration, legislature, and judiciary. Citizens can approach the constitutional court if they believe that their constitutional rights have been violated (Article 149 (1) and 149(2) of the Constitution of Guyana, Cap 1:01, Laws of Guyana).²⁴

57. The Chief Justice ruled in 2024 that the Matrimonial Causes Act violated the Constitution by only offering financial support to women. Following consultations with religious groups, the Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Act 2024 was passed, granting equal alimony rights and introducing no-fault divorce to protect children's best interests, in line with gender equality principles.

58. The Summary Jurisdiction Offences (Amendment) Act (2021) decriminalised cross-dressing, adhering to a 2018 CCJ ruling in the case *McEwan et al v AG* [2018] CCJ 30 [AJ].²⁵

59. Legislative reforms in line with SDG10 are underway, including a review of the Prevention of Discrimination Act, which seeks to expand workplace protections, address sexual harassment, sexual orientation and gender identity, protect persons with disabilities, and improve complaint mechanisms.

60. The Family Violence Act (No. 14 of 2024) repealed the Domestic Violence Act of 1996, and expands the definition of family violence, improves legal safeguards, and emphasizes prevention. The Act extends protection to cohabiting and same-sex couples, ensuring non-discrimination in line with SDG 10.

61. The Guyana Police Force investigates violence against LGBTQ+ persons impartially. In 2024, the murders of two sex workers were swiftly investigated, with perpetrators arrested

and prosecuted. Investigations revealed the crimes were due to interpersonal conflicts, not targeted violence against LGBTQ+ individuals.

62. LGBTQ+ persons are afforded equal access to health and education services, social protection programmes, socio-economic resources and opportunities and are encouraged to utilise the programmes to improve their livelihoods.

63. Guyana ratified the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities on September 10, 2014, and enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act in 2010. The State continues to introduce programmes to improve the quality of lives of persons with disabilities. (See paras. 198–199 & 224–232).

2. Racial discrimination

100.44, 100.45 – in process of implementation

100.47 – implemented

64. The State does not engage in racial profiling or discrimination against any ethnic or racial group. Racial profiling is prohibited in the criminal justice system by existing laws and constitutional provisions, including Article 149 (1) and (2), which safeguard the rights of all persons regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, origin, etc.,²⁶ along with the Racial Hostility Act (Cap. 23:01), and the Representation of the People Act (Cap. 1:03).

65. From 2022–2024, the Ethnic Relations Commission launched several initiatives in different Administrative Regions to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes.²⁷

66. The Guyana Police Force, the immigration and health sectors, have replaced outdated ethnic descriptors with culturally sensitive identifiers. Relevant state entities were directed to implement this Cabinet decision by updating operational manuals and policies to ensure alignment with these principles, promoting equitable treatment across all sectors in line with SDGs 10 and 16.

3. Right to development

100.67, 100.68 – process of implementation

67. Guyana engages in a pro-poor, pro-growth model of development focused on sustainable development. (See *info. in Chapter II & Chapter III, C & D*).

68. In 2024, Guyana achieved a Sustainable Development Solutions Network score of 66.7, up from 61.9 in 2018. This improvement advanced its ranking to 97th out of 167 countries, compared to 104th out of 156 in 2018. Guyana is, on average, 67% of the way to achieving the best outcomes across the 17 (SDGs).²⁸

69. The Ministry of Finance tracks and reports on performance indicators including those related to SDG progress through the development of a national indicator Reference Tracking Tool.²⁹ Budget agencies are mandated to internalize the SDGs into their medium-term budget proposals and prioritise timelines for implementation to achieve the SDGs.³⁰

Cooperation with International Organizations

100.72 – process of implementation

70. Guyana's revised Intended Nationally Determined Contributions submitted in 2022, reflects a human rights approach in alignment with the SDGs. Its unconditional contributions enable basic work on integrated water management infrastructure, which includes the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of conservancies and canals, sea and river defences, water supply and sanitation, the introduction of new agricultural techniques and mainstreaming climate change considerations in all sectors of national development.³¹

4. Environmental issues

Human rights and the environment

100.69 – implemented

100.65 – process of implementation

71. The LCDS includes safeguards to monitor the impact of adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures, mitigating harm to vulnerable groups and providing transparency and accountability, ensuring inclusive DRR with accessible infrastructure, early warning systems, and improved climate education and emergency preparedness. (See paras. 76–85).

Human rights and poverty

100.113 – implemented

72. Guyana enacted the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) Act (2021), repealing the weaker 2019 version. The new Act established Guyana's sovereign wealth fund to manage petroleum revenues, ensuring benefits for current generations, sustainable development, and savings for the future. Section 3(2) mandates that the NRF operates with good governance, transparency, accountability, and international best practices.³²

73. The NRF Act enhances transparency by simplifying withdrawal procedures from the Fund, requiring mandatory publication of petroleum revenue in the Official Gazette and National Assembly approval.³³ Withdrawals are allocated to the Consolidated Fund for public spending and emergencies.³⁴

74. The Local Content Act (2021)³⁵ fosters Guyanese participation in the oil sector, prioritizing local procurement and workforce development. By mid-2024, over 1,100 local companies were listed, with US\$743³⁶ million spent on local services and employment, supporting 6,500 jobs.³⁷

75. Since joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Guyana has published five reports to improve transparency, strengthen contract oversight, and align policies with SDGs 10 and 16.

Human rights and climate

100.62, 100.71, 100.73 – implemented

76. Guyana's LCDS 2030 focuses on protecting vulnerable groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. Community-led projects like eco-tourism, agriculture and renewable energy mitigates the effects of climate change and extractive industries and supports local economies.

77. LCDS 2030 funds sustainability plans focused on climate action in Indigenous communities, provides culturally relevant solutions, including infrastructure, agriculture, and economic projects to strengthen resilience. Over 800 such projects were completed in 2024.

78. It advances gender equality by engaging women in sustainable forest management, agriculture, and conservation, fostering income-generating projects to enhance resilience.

100.63 – process of implementation

79. The LCDS 2030 addresses the oil and gas sector's environmental and social impacts while promoting sustainable development. Key measures include Environmental Regulations and Oversight; Biodiversity Protection; Greenhouse Gas Management; Revenue Allocation for Sustainable Development, Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks.

80. The LCDS 2030 prompted the passage of the NRF Act (2021), the Local Content Act (2021), and the Petroleum Activities Act (2023).

81. Guyana's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (2020) establishes a coordinated response framework with specialized training.³⁸ Complementing this, the forthcoming

National Oil Spill Prevention and Management Bill (2025) will define State and corporate responsibilities, financial liability, and environmental damage coverage, enhancing preparedness, response, and accountability in the event of an oil spill.

100.64 – implemented

82. Guyana collaborates with CARICOM on climate resilience and shares expertise in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forestry across Latin America and the Caribbean. Partnerships with the UNDP, World Bank, and EU further support sustainable infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives.

100.66 – implemented

83. Guyana is committed to addressing the environmental impacts of its oil and gas sector by following international best practices, enforcing environmental regulations, conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and establishing spill prevention and response plans. Collaborations with the World Bank and UNDP enhance local environmental management capacities, and the country prioritizes compliance monitoring through emissions and discharge audits while integrating carbon management practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

84. Guyana has integrated respect for human rights in its engagement with carbon markets by choosing a market standard that aligns with the UNFCCC's definition of REDD+ and adheres to the Cancun Safeguards. The ART-TREES standard, which includes a rigorous audit process and ongoing monitoring, was selected for its high integrity and adherence to these safeguards.³⁹

85. Guyana continues to honour the principles of the Escazú Agreement, ensuring citizens' rights to access information, participate in environmental matters, and seek justice in environmental issues.

B. Civil and political rights

1. Legal and institutional reform

100.27 – process of implementation

86. In April 2024, a new stage of constitutional reform, began with the establishment of the Constitutional Reform Commission under Section 7(2) of the CRC Act 2022. Its mandate includes reviewing the protection of fundamental rights, Indigenous and children's rights, eliminating discrimination, and fostering better race relations, ethnic security, and equality.⁴⁰ The 21member Commission is headed by the former Chancellor of the Judiciary.

87. The Law Revision Commission Act (2022) and the re-appointment of the Law Reform Commission in 2024 establishes an ongoing institutionalised approach to law revision and reform.

2. Legislative framework

88. From 2020 to 2024, the 12th Parliament enacted 98 bills focused on modernizing the legal system and safeguarding human rights. (See Annex 2).

3. National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

100.30, 100.32 – process of implementation

89. As reported previously, the Human Rights Commission (HRC), established under Article 212N of Guyana's Constitution, requires that the chairperson, appointed by the President, selected from a list submitted by the Leader of the Opposition.

90. The HRC is the secretariat for the core administration functions of Indigenous People's Commission (IPC), the Rights of the Child Commission (ROCC) and the Women

and Gender Equality Commission (WGEC). The HRC receives annual budgetary funding increasing from GYD\$25.9M (2020), GYD\$33.7M(2023) and GYD\$32.6M(2024).⁴¹

91. As Guyana undertakes constitutional reform, the process for appointing the Commission's chairperson may come under review.

4. National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), Human rights education, trainings and awareness raising

100.28, 100.29, 100.147 – implemented

92. Established in 2021, the NMRF provides and facilitates training opportunities on various human rights treaties. (See paras. 5–6).

93. In October 2024, the first cohort of 162 individuals from diverse backgrounds⁴² and regions, including public, private institutions and civil society, successfully completed the MPAG 3-month International Human Rights Law Certificate Course.⁴³ Guyana is the only country in the CARICOM to have developed such a course, which will be held annually.

94. In observance of Anti-Corruption Day and International Human Rights Day, MPAG hosts an annual two-day Human Rights and Anti-corruption Expo,⁴⁴ bringing together national and international organizations/agencies to raise awareness about human rights and anti-corruption efforts.

5. Right to life Liberty and security of person

Conditions of detention

100.74 – implemented

95. Improvements in Guyana's criminal justice system aligns with several SDGs, particularly SDG 16. Strengthening the Criminal Justice System (SCJS) Programme has improved judicial efficiency, reducing pretrial detainees from 22.9% in 2020 to 13% in 2024⁴⁵ through legislative reforms. These include:

- Bail Act (No. 21 of 2022).⁴⁶
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2022.⁴⁷
- Criminal Law Procedure (Paper Committals) Act No. 11 of 2024.⁴⁸
- Criminal Procedure (Plea Discussion) Act No. 7 of 2024.⁴⁹
- Restorative Justice Act No. 20 of 2022.⁵⁰

96. The Supreme Court in October 2024 implemented its e-litigation system for electronic filing and management of cases in and through the various court registries, including the Family Court and Land Court, improving access to justice in alignment with SDG 16.

97. The Court of Appeal (Amendment) Act (No. 5 of 2023) increased the number of judges sitting in the Court of Appeal to at least nine. In February 2024, nine new attorneys at law were selected as magistrates. In June 2024, 10 new puisne Judges were ceremonially appointed by the President acting on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission.⁵¹

98. New Magistrate Courts have been and others are being constructed in all Administrative Regions. In 2025, GYD\$ 1.9 B will expand and upgrade the physical infrastructure of the court system.

99. Restorative Justice Centres will become operational in all regions in 2025.

100. Since 2021, the State has undertaken 39 major reconstruction and expansion projects at prison facilities to combat overcrowding and improve conditions. These new facilities are being built in accordance with international standards, ensuring they are more humane, accessible and accommodating for persons with disabilities. Since 2021 over GYD\$2 billion

has been budgeted and expended annually to improve prison infrastructure. In 2025, GYD\$6.2 B is earmarked for the Prison Service.

101. The Lusignan prison, condemned by the Working Group on Persons of African Descent in 2017 has undergone major physical infrastructural transformation, drastically improving prison conditions. Visiting Committees are appointed at each prison.

102. Each prison facility is equipped with an infirmary. Medical professionals provide full-time care to inmates in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.⁵²

103. Prison staff continuously receive training in prison management and human rights standards and best practices.⁵³

6. Administration of justice and fair trial

100.178 – implemented

104. Guyana was the first English speaking Caribbean country to establish a Sexual Offences Court in 2017. This Court continues to provide a dedicated space for the efficient and sensitive handling of cases, with additional judges and magistrates appointed in 2024.

105. Victim support is enhanced through the Survivor’s Advocate Programme, Legal Pro Bono Initiative⁵⁴, and GBV One-Stop Centres, offering shelter, legal aid, and counselling. The establishment of the Hope and Justice Centres in 2024 centralizes services for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, aligning with SDG 16.

106. In May 2022, the judiciary in collaboration with the Ministry of Health launched the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC) across Guyana, offering treatment for young people with substance-use disorders involved in minor offenses.⁵⁵ In May 2024, the Supreme Court, in partnership with UNICEF, launched the 2nd Children’s Court⁵⁶ in Region 3, and established child-friendly rooms at several courts, providing safe spaces for visitation, cases involving sexual offenses, and support for children involved in legal matters.⁵⁷

7. Right to participate in public affairs and right to vote

100.85, 100.86, 100.87 – implemented

107. GECOM is a constitutional body established by and in keeping with Articles 161, 161(A), 161(B) and 162.

108. Guyana commented in this report on the March 2020 General and Regional Elections, regrettably these recommendations were not implemented then although there were efforts to do so. (See paras. 45–48).

109. The ROPA and NRA Amendments (2022) were enacted to address issues from the 2020 elections and prevent recurrence. (See paras. 45–48). These amendments define roles and authority within GECOM, ensuring the Chairperson authority over the Chief Elections Officer and Secretariat. It enhances transparency by requiring immediate publication of results at polling stations and online. The NRA amendments also establish continuous voter registration and improve procedures for removing deceased voters from the register.⁵⁸

8. Rights related to name, identity and nationality

100.175 – process of implementation, 100.199 – implemented

110. The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act 2021 simplifies the registration process for all ages by removing penalties for late registration. It grants the Registrar’s Office clear authority and deadlines for processing, enabling previously unregistered individuals to obtain legal identity and access rights and services.⁵⁹

111. The amendments offer relief to Indigenous peoples by addressing past challenges in acquiring birth certificates due to unregistered births.

112. Returning Guyanese descendants can claim their identity and citizenship documents.

9. Human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery

100.88, 100.89, 100.93, 100.95 – process of implementation

100.90, 100.91, 100.92, 100.94, 100.96, 100.97 – implemented

113. Guyana’s Tier 1 ranking in the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) Annual Report for eight consecutive years underscores its commitment to combating human trafficking.

114. The Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (No. 7 of 2023), replaces the 2005 Act. It strengthens victim protections, introduces services through the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Unit, including shelter, psychosocial care, repatriation, and reintegration support. It imposes stringent penalties such as life imprisonment for offenders, immunity for victims from immigration-related offenses. Corporate accountability for trafficking crimes is also emphasized.⁶⁰

115. In 2023, the “Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Investigation and Prosecution” along with the “SOP for the Identification and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking” were revised to align with the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 2023. The updated SOPs will be fully operationalised in 2025.

116. The Ministerial Taskforce on C-TIP, resuscitated in 2021, includes representatives from various sectors and civil society who coordinate efforts to identify, rescue and reintegrate victims into society. Victims receive voluntary socio-economic support through the MHSSS.⁶¹ Child victims are referred to the Childcare and Protection Agency in accordance with Protection of Children Act, services also extend to victims’ family members.

117. This Taskforce continues to implement activities outlined in the 2021-2025 National Action Plan for Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships.

118. Between 2020 and 2024, the Counter-Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Unit’s awareness campaigns across Guyana, reached approximately 9000 individuals. These efforts focused on regions with reported cases of suspected human trafficking and addressed specific vulnerable groups.⁶²

119. The CTIP Unit also provides continuous training to key stakeholders and frontline officials.⁶³ In 2024, 629 persons were trained.⁶⁴

120. In 2024 the Guyana Police Force introduced a new module on Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling to the curriculum of the Guyana Police Force Training Academy.

121. These efforts bolstered by awareness initiatives and specialized law enforcement training, improve the identification and protection of trafficked victims.⁶⁵

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and just and favourable conditions of work

100.100, 100.102, 100.103 – implemented

100.104 – process of implementation

122. The National Minimum Wage for regular Working Hours Order, made under Section 8 of the Labour Act (Chapter 98:01) remains in place. A new Minimum Wage Order was approved in 2022.⁶⁶

123. Labour inspections are continuously conducted at work sites in all Administrative Regions. From 2020–2024 over 8000 labour inspections were conducted, strengthening the monitoring and enforcement towards the progressive realization of SDG 8.

124. Through targeted initiatives such as outreach programmes, seminars, and the newly launched labour app, the Ministry of Labour has improved its complaint-receiving mechanisms.

125. The Ministry of Labour signed three major labour agreements through collective bargaining with three of the largest unions in 2024. Public sector salaries have increased by

a compounded rate of 46% (in 6 increments) by the end of 2025, increasing disposable income for all public servants.

126. Between 2020 and 2024, 60% of those trained in the Board of Industrial Training programmes (BIT) were women, breaking barriers in traditional male dominated industries.

127. Since 2021, WIIN provided skills training, business development support, and grants to over 11,670 women, thereby advancing SDG1 and SDG5.⁶⁷ 365 women contractors received contracts under the national road development project advancing SDG 10.

128. The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Guyana (WCCIG), established in 2019, promotes women's empowerment through business ownership, advocacy for equal business opportunities, networking, and capacity building.

Unemployment rates and labour force participation

129. The part-time job programme, introduced in 2022, offered economic support, especially to single-parent households. Participants earn GY\$40,000 for 10 days of work monthly in local public offices. Over GY\$600M has been injected into communities each month resulting in permanent job opportunities for many individuals.

130. Over the past four years, over 50,000 new jobs, across all sectors of the economy were created and filled.⁶⁸

131. Over 10,000 small businesses have also been trained and commenced functioning while over 1000 small contractors have been developed across the administrative regions enhancing their competitiveness in securing contracts.

2. Right to social security

100.70, 100.109, 100.110, 100.111 – implemented

132. The LCDS 2030, the national development strategy, replaced the Green State Development Strategy which was never implemented. Guyana has implemented these recommendations.

133. Information on transformative measures that aim to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living of all people is reported herein. (*See Chapters II & III, C, etc.*)

3. Right to an adequate standard of living

Right to shelter, clean and safe housing

134. The national housing programme, referred to in Guyana's 2015 report, has been restored in 2020 and expanded exponentially. It is on track to exceed the goal of distributing 50,000 house lots by 2025.

135. Between 2021–December 2024, eighty-five (85) new and existing housing areas have been developed and over 40,000 residential lots have been allocated across all income categories.⁶⁹ Notably 46% of those allocations were acquired by women.⁷⁰ 10,212 Certificates of Title and Transports to households have been handed over, ensuring full ownership for the lands is transferred across all income categories. This is aligned with SDG 11.

136. Over 2,000 homes have also been constructed by the Central Housing and Planning Authority – 1,193 were low-income families, 493 were for moderate-income families and 330 were for young professionals.

137. The low-income mortgage ceiling has increased from GY\$15M to GY\$30 million,⁷¹ reducing the cost of borrowing from commercial banks, further incentivising homeownership. Removal of 14% Value Added Tax (VAT) on residential property sales and locally produced building materials is lowering the cost of homeownership.⁷²

138. This programme has opened new lands, developed new peri-urban communities and expanded established villages and municipalities, creating over 5000 jobs in the construction

sector and has had similar impacts on the manufacturing and retail sectors. This has also provided collateral for thousands of families and improved women's ownership of property.

139. Guyana is working assiduously to ensure that the process of regularization of squatters is completed. Since 2020, 1,559 informal settlers across six administrative regions have been regularised and received their titles.

Right to food and food security

100.105 – process of implementation

140. Several policies and measures to increase food production and improve access to nutritious food, towards zero hunger, remain in implementation.

141. Guyana has always been a primary producing agricultural country⁷³ however, now it is addressing the diversification and expansion of agriculture and agro-production in alignment with SDG 2. The food production gap has been reduced by increasing the production of key staple crops and expanding livestock projects.⁷⁴ The agriculture sector's budget has increased from GY\$13.3B to GY\$104.6 B in 2025.

142. Under the Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development (HESAD) Project (a six-year, USDGYD11.14 M project funded by IFAD and the Government of Guyana), 50% of the beneficiaries in the hinterland areas are women.⁷⁵

143. The Agriculture Innovation Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP) launched in January 2022 supports young business owners in the production of high valued vegetable crops.

144. Over 400 shade houses have been established under the Shade House and High-Value Crops Initiative⁷⁶ since 2021, generating new revenue, especially to young farmers, while contributing to food security.

145. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2024 report, undernourishment in Guyana has fallen below 2.5%, a figure well below the regional average of 6.6% and the global average of 9.1%.⁷⁷

146. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity is 25.5%, lower than the regional average of 31.3%. Additionally, there is a notable 7.5% reduction in the population that cannot afford a healthy diet since 2021.

147. The draft Food Security and Nutrition Bill, through collaboration with the FAO, will strengthen institutional capabilities to ensure food security and nutrition.

148. Guyana's leadership in the CARICOM "25 by 2025 Initiative" to reduce the agri-food import bill by 25% reflects the country's commitment to food security and agriculture, crucial for both its economy and the wider CARICOM region.

Safe drinking water and sanitation

100.108, 100.114, 100.115 – implemented

149. The proportion of Guyana's population with access to clean water has increased. (See para. 39). The hinterland and riverain communities' access to potable water supply has also drastically risen from 45% in 2021 to 91% in the same period (SDG 6).

150. More than 45,000 residents nationwide gained first-time access to clean water supply between 2020 and 2024. In the hinterland regions over 36000 residents gained first-time access to clean water supply,⁷⁸ enhancing health and livelihoods of communities, particularly women and children.

151. Government implemented three core measures to ensure access to clean water supply remains affordable for all: (i) Removal of VAT on potable water consumption billing; (ii) the restoration of a pensioner subsidy (31,000 pensioners benefit annually); and (iii) the reduction of water tariffs by 5% across all categories of customers. Clean water is provided free of charge to the hinterland and riverain communities.

152. By the end of 2024, seven new large water treatment plants were completed, providing treated water to over 140,000 residents in compliance with WHO guidelines. Government secured financing from CDB/EIB to construct five new plants, that will benefit 59,000 residents.

153. Preparations are underway to convert pit latrines to septic tanks in riverain and hinterland areas, along with other sanitation improvements, aligned to SDG 6.

4. Right to health

Mental health and suicide

100.75, 100.76, 100.78, 100.189, 100.190 – implemented

100.126 – process of implementation

154. The Suicide Prevention Act No. 19 of 2022 aligns with SDG 3 by decriminalizing suicide, repealing sections of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act and the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act. It adopts a rights-based approach to suicide prevention.⁷⁹ The Mental Health Protection and Promotion Act (Act 14 of 2022)⁸⁰ replaces the 1930 Mental Health Ordinance, focusing on promoting mental health care and treatment.

155. The Ministry of Health launched the National Mental Health Action Plan and National Suicide Prevention Plan (2024-2030) in September 2024, aiming to improve mental health care access and address suicide causes.⁸¹

100.117 – implemented

156. Guyana is accelerating the training⁸² of health professionals to meet the demands of the new infrastructure with a notable increase in training intake from 2022 to 2024.⁸³ In 2025, 3,090 persons are projected to be trained in nursing, clinical and other technical fields.

157. Introduction of hybrid training for nurses and the introduction of simulation labs in 9 of the 10 Administrative Regions facilitates nurse training, while training programmes for medical laboratory technicians and pharmacy assistants have been decentralized for the first time in 5 Administrative Regions.

Access to health services

100.118, 100.122 – implemented

100.119, 100.121 – process of implementation

158. In 2024 GY\$5B was invested to retrofit health centres, health posts and facilities nationwide, while in 2025, GY\$143.2B is budgeted for the health sector.

159. The National Telemedicine Programme, launched in December 2022, established 50 telemedicine sites across 5 interior Administrative Regions, improving healthcare delivery in Guyana's hinterland communities.⁸⁴

160. Currently there are 400 public healthcare facilities covering all administrative regions, with (215) Health posts, (133) health centres, (18) district hospitals, (9) regional hospitals, (3) specialist hospitals, (1) national referral hospital and (1) national rehabilitation centre.

161. There are also six main private hospitals, mainly in the capital city.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

100.116, 100.120, 100.123, 100.125, 100.129, 100.164 – implemented

100.128, 100.131, 100.185 – process of implementation

162. Guyana aims for zero maternal deaths by 2030 under SDG 3. A CAD\$2.5M, five-year project, funded by Canada, was launched in May 2023 to enhance maternal, newborn, and child health care in four hinterland regions. Training⁸⁵ is conducted to enhance the skills of practitioners in the management of obstetric emergencies.⁸⁶

163. The establishment of five maternal waiting homes and the increase in the number of midwives have enhanced maternal care in the hinterland, leading to zero maternal deaths in two interior regions in 2023.⁸⁷

164. The Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000) declined from 138/100,000 in 2021 to 114/100,000 in 2023. 98% of mothers are delivering in a health facility with the assistance of a skilled birth attendant.

165. As of December 29, 2024, a 50% reduction in neonatal deaths was recorded when compared to 2023.⁸⁸

166. Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Surveillance is conducted at all birthing facilities. Under the Universal Health Coverage Partnership Initiative, capacity-building has been undertaken, and the electronic Perinatal Information System is being implemented. This data is used to address maternal and perinatal deaths.

167. Guyana is addressing infant and under-five mortality by decentralizing paediatric care, adopting the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, strengthening immunization, using telemedicine for remote paediatric care, starting neonatal morbidity surveillance, and decentralizing neonatal intensive care units across the country.

168. Trends in adolescent birth rates declined from the high rates of 84.2 /1000 girls 15–19 years old in 2016 to under 48/1000 girls in 2022, following targeted interventions in the most affected regions.

169. Sexual and reproductive health services are accessible in public, private, and some non-governmental facilities. Services include early detection and screening for maternal infections, partner testing to prevent complications, and enhanced prenatal and postnatal care.

170. In 2022, the Ministry of Health introduced the Adolescent Health Service Delivery Guidelines for Health Care Providers and Standards for Quality Health Care Services for Adolescents to strengthen and improve access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health programmes.

171. Guyana is one of two English-speaking Caribbean countries with progressive abortion legislation, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (Chapter 32:05).⁸⁹

172. To encourage testing for cervical cancer, Government launched a GY\$8,000 voucher programme to assist women (ages 21–65).

100.144, 100.142, 100.146 – process of implementation

173. Supported by the School Health and Nutrition and HIV Prevention Policy for all schools, the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) programme, creates a safe space for students to address topics like poverty, abuse, violence, health, teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other risks.

HIV/AIDS

174. The Health Ministry is making significant strides towards closing gaps associated with access to treatment and care for HIV/AIDS through several measures.⁹⁰ A "test and treat" policy adopted in 2021, transitioned to tenofovir, lamivudine, and dolutegravir (TLD) as the first-line treatment due to its efficacy and tolerability.⁹¹

175. By the end of 2023, Guyana achieved 94%-72%-87% in key HIV-related benchmarks.⁹² Accord to the 2024 Global Aids Monitoring (GAM) Report, about 7,000 of the 10,000 people living with HIV in Guyana already access free treatment. The government is also expanding access to PrEP for key populations and increasing social protection for those living with HIV.

5. Right to education

100.133, 100.136, 100.139, 100.145 – in process of implementation

100.134, 100.135, 100.137, 100.140, 100.141 – implemented

176. Guyana's publicly funded education system is free to all children across all regions, providing equal opportunities without discrimination.

177. Guyana has achieved universal primary education and is projected to achieve universal secondary education by 2026.

178. The Guyana "Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2021-2025 – Vision 2030"⁹³ is being implemented and sets out a vision to provide opportunities for quality education for all in alignment with SDG 4.

179. In 2023, training commenced in Education Management Information System (EMIS), a system that enables the collection, integration, processing and dissemination of data and information to support decision making, policy analysis and formulation, planning, monitoring, and management at all levels of the education system.

180. Measures are being implemented to ensure access to education through modernizing the content and form of delivery of its curricula coupled with the construction, upgrading and expansion of school infrastructure throughout the nation.

181. Over 20 secondary schools are being constructed, including with dormitories for hinterland children. These interventions created more than 8,000 additional spaces for our children to access educational facilities across the country.⁹⁴

Equitable access to education

182. A robust agenda to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality educational opportunities are provided to the Hinterland Regions.⁹⁵ This has enabled 6068 nursery, 15,160 Primary and 8,676 secondary students across the hinterland to access education.⁹⁶

183. At the end of 2020, only 22% of Guyana's schools had internet access. The Hinterland/Riverine Television, Solar, and Satellite Project, launched in November 2020 enhanced access to the Guyana Learning Channel. By 2024, over 200 communities had access to the Channel, with 95% equipped with the required connectivity infrastructure⁹⁷ improving connectivity and access to learning resources for both teachers and students.

184. Over the last four years, 312 nursery, 162 primary and 73 secondary schools received internet access for the first time. At the end of 2024, more than 68% of schools were connected.

185. To bridge the digital gap, 146 ICT hubs for communities in the hinterland have been completed under the Hinterland Connectivity Project. The hubs are equipped with solar systems and high-speed internet connections.

186. Notable progress has been made in the last four years in improving access to electricity and the internet; 35 solar mini grids and over 36,000 LED lights were installed; 30,042 households benefitted from solar panels from the Hinterland Household Electrification Programme and 3 solar farms were commissioned in three interior Administrative Regions.⁹⁸

187. In 2021, the "Because We Care" cash grant was restored and boosted to promote school enrolment and attendance. The total grant, including the uniform voucher, grew from GY\$15,000 in 2021 to GY\$55,000 in 2025, supporting approximately 205,300 children enrolled in both public and private schools.

188. Over the last four years, more than 9,000 persons enrolled in the teachers' training college, and over 4,600 have graduated thus far. Thus, 86 per cent of the teachers are trained teachers at the end of 2024.

189. In 2023, school grants for teachers to purchase additional classroom supplies were introduced at a cost of GYD\$ 898.2 million. In 2024, the sum of GY\$2.9B was provided and GY\$3B has been allocated in 2025.

190. The School Health programme for nursery students expanded in 2024 to cover 109,328 students, including 30,000 secondary students, providing screenings for dental, hearing, and vision issues, developmental assessments, vaccinations, and mental health evaluations.

191. The National School Feeding Program benefited 85,000 children in 2023, costing GYD 2.6 billion, with an increased allocation of GYD 4.9 billion in 2024 to provide juice, biscuits, breakfast and hot meals to 126,170 children.

192. The State has mandated free access to required textbooks for all students in every subject.⁹⁹

193. The Guyana Secondary Education Improvement Project (GSEIP), supported by the World Bank, seeks to expand access to professional development for secondary school mathematics teachers and improve learning conditions for students in targeted regions.

194. The Guyana Learning Channel offers engaging educational content for young learners and teachers with innovative programs aligned with the national curriculum. The Ministry of Education EdYou FM Radio Station currently has a presence in all regions.

195. The State maintains a zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse and harassment in schools, ensuring prompt investigations into bullying and violence. This will be strengthened by the Protection from Harassment Bill in 2025. Public consultations for the bill already commenced.

196. Under the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL)¹⁰⁰, a new initiative was launched to offer free online educational and skills training programs, ranging from certificate to post-graduate degrees.¹⁰¹ Over the last four years, GOAL has provided 29,758 scholarships to individuals to pursue online studies at several universities across the world. To date, over 8,000 persons graduated from GOAL programmes and GYD\$4.4 billion is allocated to offer 9,000 more scholarships in 2025.¹⁰²

197. In January 2025, the University of Guyana, along with technical and vocational institutions, became tuition-free, ensuring equal access to education for all citizens. The first phase of the University of Guyana Student Loan Write-Off Programme was launched, forgiving GYD203.7 million in loans for 346 individuals.¹⁰³

Education and Children with Disabilities

198. There is an established Special Education Needs (SEN) Unit within the Ministry of Education. Sensitization sessions on autism and special needs have increased in communities to support parents and reduce stigma. Over 2,000 teachers were trained to improve pedagogy in SEN. The Cyril Potter College of Education requires all trainee teachers undertake one SEN course and launched a dedicated SEN programme for future educators.

199. Children with special needs are being formally integrated into the regular school system.

Cross cutting health and education

100.124, 100.127, 100.130 – process of implementation (see sections on health and education)

D. Rights of specific persons of groups**1. Women***Discrimination against women*

100.156 – in process of implementation

100.171 – implemented

200. Measures have been taken to promote and strengthen the preparation and implementation of gender-sensitive budgets. The approach is incorporated into the preparation of each of the 72 budget agencies including 21 Ministries, 4 constitutional bodies and the 10 Administrative Regions of Guyana.¹⁰⁴

201. Thirteen (13) private sector companies have signed on to the Women's Empowerment Principles, which guides businesses on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.¹⁰⁵

202. The Gender Affairs Bureau (GAB) conducts campaigns on gender issues across all regions. Gender Focal Points are present in all ministries and key statutory bodies. The Bureau's annual budget has increased from GYD 18.4 million in 2020 to GYD 31.5 million. GAB also collaborates with the Ministry of Health on mental health and suicide prevention programmes. Among notable efforts are the 'Shared Responsibility Campaign' and the Trainer of Trainers Program, both designed to engage communities and build capacity in tackling gender-related issues.

203. As stated earlier, The Prevention of Discrimination Act Cap 99:08 is being amended. This statute, with the new Family Violence Act (2024), the Protection from Harassment Bill, and the amendments to the Sexual Offences Act will enhance protections.

Advancement of women

100.148, 100.154, 100.159, 100.163, 100.173, 100.165 – implemented

100.149, 100.150, 100.152 – process of implementation

Participation of women in political and public life

204. Guyana has gained global recognition for its progress on SDG 5. The 2022 Global Gender Gap report, ranked Guyana at 35th globally and it has maintained that position in 2024. It ranks 8th in Latin America and the Caribbean, 25th for women in Parliament, 34th for women in ministerial roles, and 15th for female senior officials and managers.¹⁰⁶

205. Currently, women comprise 39% (28 members) of the National Assembly, reflecting an increase from 35.5% at the start of the 12th Parliament in 2020. At the regional and local tiers of government, women hold over 33% of elected positions.

206. The highest judicial positions of Chancellor and Chief Justice of the Judiciary are both held by women while the total representation of female judges within the judiciary has reached 70%, the highest in the western hemisphere.

207. Women dominate in the public service, teaching and health services at high levels.

208. Budgetary allocations to the Women and Gender Equality Commission have increased from GYD\$47.9M in 2020 to GYD\$61.7M in 2024.¹⁰⁷

Violence against women

100.151 100.153, 100.158, 100.160, 100.168, 100.169, 100.172 – implemented

100.161, 100.162, 100.167, 100.170 – process of implementation

100.180 – there is no genital mutilation and forced marriages

209. The EU funded UN implemented Spotlight Initiative (2020-2023) saw Guyana receiving a contribution of EUR4.5M over three years (approximately GYD\$1B) to invest in strategic interventions to address the root causes and holistically address gender-based violence and family violence.

210. The State continues to provide comprehensive support to victims of GBV through key initiatives such as the Survivor Advocate Programme and the three Hope and Justice Centres. These programmes offer legal support, crisis counselling, and safe shelter for survivors of violence. In 2025, the Hope and Justice Centres and mobile GBV services¹⁰⁸ will be expanded to include more remote regions.

211. The new Family Violence Act No. 14 of 2024, provides a comprehensive approach to addressing GBV. As stated earlier, this Act and provides expansive definition of family violence without discrimination to persons with non-normative SOGIES, strengthens legal protections, enhances support services, and importantly, focuses on prevention.¹⁰⁹

212. The toll-free 3-digit hotline (914) enhances efforts to address GBV through reporting of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. Reports are referred to survivor advocates or probation officers for follow up services, including crisis counselling, court support, shelter, food, job placement, and other essential resources.

213. A national GBV app (iMatter.gy) was 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.

214. The "CopSquad Initiative"¹¹⁰ has enhanced law enforcement's response to GBV by providing police officers with specialized training to ensure timely, victim-centred, and effective support for victims without discrimination.¹¹¹

215. The President's Men on Mission (MoM) programme launched in 2022 under the "One Guyana Initiative," seeks to address social issues by engaging men to be more active and foster positive change.¹¹² It promotes men's health and wellness, encourages family and community centred development, and focuses on reducing GBV.¹¹³

2. Children

100.182, 10.174, 100.177 – implemented

100.183 – process of implementation

216. Funding for the Childcare and Protection Agency (CPA), increased from GY\$461M in 2020 to GY\$1.4B in 2024.

217. The CPA intensified efforts to uncover hidden child abuse cases through awareness initiatives, including messaging in indigenous languages, expanded social media outreach, and integrating toll-free services with the nationwide 914 GBV hotline, resulting in increased reporting.¹¹⁴

218. Fourteen Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) provide safe, child-friendly space as well enhanced professional collaboration on abuse case management. Services include counselling, crisis intervention, and medical referrals. Managed by two NGOs with government support, funding for CACs rose from GY\$24M in 2019 to GY\$103M annually in 2023 and 2024.

219. The Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act (2021) aligns Guyana's intercountry adoption procedures with international standards. The amendment reflects Guyana's commitment to ensuring that adoptions serve the best interests of the child, in line with The Hague Convention.¹¹⁵

Child labour

100.184 – implemented

220. The Ministry of Labour has a decentralized approach to combat child labour, involving regional and community stakeholders. (See para. 123).

221. Between 2021–2024, over 8,000 labour inspections were carried out in all administrative regions and no case of child labour was found.

222. With UNICEF and ILO support, the National Policy on Child Labour aligns national policies with international conventions. It aims to reduce poverty, improve education access, and eliminate hazardous child labour, prioritizing the protection of vulnerable Indigenous children in hinterland areas.

223. The Ministry, with UNICEF's support, conducts school visits, community outreach, and training in both coastal and hinterland regions, including Occupational Safety and Health sessions during village council meetings. Despite challenges to access remote areas, efforts align with SDG 8.7 to eradicate child labour through community partnerships.

3. Persons with disabilities*100.193 – process of implementation*

224. Under a 2022 Presidential Initiative, over 4000 children with disabilities received a one-off GY\$100,000 cash grants. These children and adults with disabilities receive monthly stipends. A nationwide disability database was created, and in 2024, a one-off GYD \$35,000 grant was provided to individuals with permanent disabilities.

225. The Mahaica Learning Lab, established in 2023 with a GYD \$74M investment, offers free skills training for persons with disabilities, benefiting 241 participants. A Disability Support Unit was created to promote inclusion and combat discrimination.

226. A revolving fund provides interest-free loans to support businesses, with 45 beneficiaries to date. Over 5,600 assistive aids were distributed, and 900 individuals received skills training, with another 900 expected in 2025.

227. The first dedicated school for the deaf will be constructed, alongside the Regional Special Education Needs/Disability Diagnostic Centre, the only one of its kind in the Caribbean.

100.112 – process of implementation

228. Disability and rehabilitation services have been established at all regional hospitals.

100.192, 100.194, 100.195 – in the process of implementation

229. The National Commission on Disability receives an annual subvention to support its work programme; this grew from GYD 14.7 million in 2020 to GYD 96.98 million in 2024.¹¹⁶

230. In 2024, the National Commission on Disability (NCD) completed a National Household Survey on Persons with Disabilities, providing updated data across all ten regions.¹¹⁷

Accessibility and mobility

100.191 – in process of implementation

231. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the National Commission on Disability (NCD) launched the Building Accessibility Handbook 2025 which provides practical tools to help public and private sector stakeholders prioritize inclusive infrastructure.¹¹⁸

232. New buses are being acquired that will assist with the transportation needs of persons with disabilities.

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples

100.186 – process of implementation

100.187, 100.188 – implemented

233. Consultations to revise the Amerindian Act of 2006 began in 2023, engaging all 242 indigenous communities. Training was provided to 3,663 Amerindian leaders and residents to support effective village consultations. An oversight committee, including the National Tshaos Council and other stakeholders, ensures an inclusive process following FPIC principles.

234. The land claims mechanism under the said Act has expanded Amerindian communal land ownership from 6% in 1991 to 16.14% in 2023, with 106 titled villages as of October 2024, making these communities the 2nd largest landowners after the state. In the past four years, 21 new titles were granted, advancing indigenous land rights in line with SDG 10.¹¹⁹

235. Guyana's indigenous population is the fastest growing ethnic group (over 10% of national population) due to improved access to water, health and education.

236. Indigenous Members of Parliament constitute 12% of the National Assembly.

Migrants

Right to education

100.196, 100.132, 100.138, 100.143 – implemented

100.198 – process of implementation

237. Comprehensive measures to protect the rights of migrants (including Venezuelans) have been implemented, in line with SDG 10 and SDG 4. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee, resuscitated in 2021, includes government agencies and UN bodies to address migrants' needs, ensuring access to free healthcare and education, and job opportunities while promoting regularization without penalties.

238. Guyana is the only country in the region offering free education to all children, regardless of migration status. Support initiatives include school feeding programs, uniform vouchers, and cash grants. The Migrant Education Support Unit (MESU), established in 2021, facilitates school placements, ESL classes, and document translations, with over 4,000 migrant students enrolled.

The elderly

239. Significant strides have been made in supporting the elderly population benefiting approximately 76,000 pensioners. (See paras. 41 & 151).

240. New pension payment systems, including direct bank deposits and Mobile Money Guyana (MMG), have improved access for pensioners. The reintroduced water subsidy benefited 33,732 senior citizens, while home-based care services supported 6,167 elderly individuals. A new senior care home is under construction. Additionally, 561 seniors received subsidies for eye tests, and 262 for spectacles under the national eye care program.

Conclusion

241. Guyana supported 140 recommendations, of which 78 have been implemented and 60 are in the process of implementation, while 2 have not been implemented.

242. Guyana remains steadfast in its commitment to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process as a constructive platform for advancing human rights and sustainable development. Anchored by a vision of inclusive and equitable progress, Guyana has made significant strides in implementing the supported UPR recommendations through targeted and actionable legislation, policies and programs that prioritizes transformative investments in

key sectors, in alignment with the SDGs. The State is committed to strengthening partnerships with national, regional, and international stakeholders to address identified challenges and bridge gaps to achieve tangible and sustained development for all.

Notes

- ¹ The Annual Progress Reports to the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) submitted on February 20, 2023 and Feb 16, 2024.
- ² The NMRF strengthens inclusivity, institutional capacity, and knowledge sharing while ensuring a sustainable reporting framework.
- ³ <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/691761607528494981/pdf/A-Pivotal-Moment-for-Guyana-Realizing-the-Opportunities-Systematic-Country-Diagnostic.pdf>.
- ⁴ Budget Speeches 2022-2025 available at mof.gov.gy.
- ⁵ The LCDS 2030 sets out a fair, inclusive and sustainable approach to development. It outlines transitions to cleaner, cheaper energy, the creation of jobs in the low carbon sector, delivery of modern standards of urban planning and rural land use planning, and importantly, support for indigenous peoples and hinterland communities.
- ⁶ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TmSearch/RelCom?code=OTH%20128/2024>.
- ⁷ Indigenous villages benefit from government-funded development projects, such as road construction, water supply systems, and the building of schools and health centers.
- ⁸ During the State's term, Guyana is defending and upholding the UN principles of multilateralism, peace, and sustainable development.
- ⁹ <https://www.exim.gov/news/export-import-bank-united-states-board-directors-approves-more-526-million-for-guyanese-energy>.
- ¹⁰ These initiatives are facilitating trade, boosting economic activity, and improving access especially for those in remote areas.
- ¹¹ Such as the LCDS 2030, electoral reform, legislative reforms.
- ¹² The workshop, attended by Permanent Secretaries, Regional Executive Officers, Constitutional Oversight Bodies, and the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, was held under the theme "Promoting Integrity and Effectiveness in Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing Corruption," focused on managing conflicts of interest, and effective strategies for detecting and combating corruption.
- ¹³ Illustrates Guyana's commitment to combat corruption and financial impropriety by public officials, regardless of status, and proper management of the financial systems and resources for the benefit of citizens.
- ¹⁴ There are ministerial consultations with the private sector, religious bodies, unions, etc. on a sectoral basis.
- ¹⁵ This programme was regrettably abandoned by the former government from 2016 to 2020.
- ¹⁶ Urban planning efforts ensure that new communities are sustainable and have essential amenities, including water, electricity, schools, healthcare centres, and recreational spaces.
- ¹⁷ The drilling of 22 wells in coastal and urban communities benefitting over 180,000 residents, installing transmission and distribution networks for 106 coastal and urban communities benefitting over 150,000 residents.
- ¹⁸ In September 2022, a Commission of Inquiry (CoI), comprising three senior judges, were appointed and sworn in by the president. It was mandated to "inquire into and report on attempts, and by whom, to undermine and frustrate the legally prescribed process for the counting, ascertaining and tabulation of votes in the General and Regional Elections of 2nd March, 2020 and on attempts to prevent a true declaration of the results of that election."
- ¹⁹ Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the General & Regional Elections of Guyana on 2 March 2020, April 2023.
- ²⁰ By January 2023, Guyana had administered 958,365 vaccine doses, achieving a fully vaccinated rate of 68% among adults and a first-dose coverage of 82.1%. Over 700,000 tests were conducted, and 73,000 infected persons were successfully treated. Regional hospitals were equipped to treat patients, and a \$5 billion COVID19 relief grant provided GYD\$25,000 per household.
- ²¹ Guyana is committed to resolving the border controversy through peaceful means in accordance with the rule of law at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and promotes dialogue and peace through the Joint Declaration of Argyle signed by both countries on December 14, 2023.
- ²² <https://apnews.com/article/guyana-venezuela-essequibo-dispute-maduro-law-a72e94ed5417f99d090e1062c68017d7>.
- ²³ UN Guyana Annual Report 2021.
- ²⁴ Article 149 (1) of the Constitution of Guyana, Cap 1:01, Laws of Guyana specifically proscribes "any

- person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority*” from discriminating against persons, whereas Article 149 (2) expressly proscribes discrimination based on “race, place of origin.”
- ²⁵ <https://ccj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-CCJ-7-AJ-1.pdf>.
- ²⁶ Article 149 (1) of the Constitution of Guyana, Cap 1:01, Laws of Guyana specifically proscribes “*any person acting by virtue of any written law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any public authority*” from discriminating against persons, whereas Article 149 (2) expressly proscribes discrimination on the basis of “race, place of origin.”
- ²⁷ These including School Educational Programmes, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training, a Nationwide Campaign to Counter Hate Speech, and Regional Outreach and Stakeholder Engagements, including with Parliamentarians.
- ²⁸ Sustainable Development Report 2024.
- ²⁹ Programme Performance Statements (PPS) are required by law under the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act 2003 and are essential to results based budgeting. Mid-Year review of Budget performance and laid in the National Assembly as provided for in statute monitors progress made on performance indicators including those related to the SDGs.
- ³⁰ In February 2023, the Poverty Analysis Unit of the Bureau of Statistics received trained in computing the Multidimensional Poverty Index. The training focused on factors such as school attendance, educational achievement, access to healthcare, unemployment, food insecurity and housing.
- ³¹ GUYANA’S REVISED INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS – 2022.
- ³² To strengthen governance, three key oversight bodies were appointed in 2022: NRF Board of Directors; Public Accountability and Oversight Committee and Investment Committee - no member of these entities can be a parliamentarian or an active politician.
- ³³ Extraordinary Gazettes – 14th October, 2024 - GOVERNMENT NOTICE – Natural Resource Fund: Notification of Receipts-
https://officialgazette.gov.gy/images/gazette2024/oct/Extra_14OCTOBER2024GovNoti.pdf.
- ³⁴ National Resource Fund Annual Report 2023.
- ³⁵ Extraordinary Gazettes - 31st December, 2021 - Act No. 18 of 2021 – Local Content Act 2021, <https://officialgazette.gov.gy/>.
- ³⁶ Budget Speech 2025.
- ³⁷ <https://dpi.gov.gy/6500-guyanese-now-employed-in-oil-and-gas-sector/>.
- ³⁸ The National Oil Spill Plan (2020) defines the roles of key agencies, including the Civil Defence Commission, the Guyana Energy Agency, and the Maritime Administration Department Authority (MARAD).
- ³⁹ Government of Guyana response to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights- JAL GUY 1/2024 January 7th 2025.
- ⁴⁰ Extraordinary Gazettes - 15th November, 2022 - Act No. 16 of 2022 - The Constitution Reform Commission Act 2022.
- ⁴¹ These allocations are separate from the allocations to each of the individual rights commissions. These budgetary allocations are strictly for the administration of the Human Rights Commission. Even in the absence of a Chairperson, the Chairpersons of all the other rights commissions (who in fact constitute the rest of the Human Rights Commission) continue to implement their constitutional mandates.
- ⁴² 67% of graduates from the Human Rights Law Certificate course were women, reflecting growing female participation in education and governance.
- ⁴³ The course provided comprehensive knowledge on key international human rights instruments and procedures, along with an in-depth understanding of the foundational principles of Guyana’s human rights framework. The programme was facilitated by International Human Rights experts from OHCHR and Guyanese experts.
- ⁴⁴ The expo highlights existing frameworks, challenges, solutions, and best practices for promoting and protecting human rights. Guyana again is the only country in the region to host such an activity.
- ⁴⁵ The Guyana Police Force Report 2024.
- ⁴⁶ Bail Act (No. 21 of 2022) Ensures defendants’ rights to bail, presumption of innocence, and reduced confinement from 72 to 24 hours, easing prison overcrowding.
- ⁴⁷ Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2022 introduces alternative sentencing for minor cannabis possession.
- ⁴⁸ Criminal Law Procedure (Paper Committals) Act No. 11 of 2024 abolishes preliminary inquiries, replacing them with written evidence reviews to reduce case backlogs and expedite justice.
- ⁴⁹ Criminal Procedure (Plea Discussion) Act No. 7 of 2024. Establishes plea agreements for summary and indictable offences, decreasing time on remand and addressing court case backlogs.
- ⁵⁰ The Restorative Justice Act of 2022 paves the way for the introduction of Restorative Justice into Guyana’s criminal justice system, which contributes to the larger objective of reducing the prison

population by increasing the use of alternative sentencing. The Act is aimed at setting up a system of restorative justice that brings together community residents, victims, offenders, and their personal representatives, in a permissive, safe, and carefully managed environment. Its enactment also contributes to promoting a range of sentences and other means of dealing with offenders outside of the traditional sentencing processes.

- ⁵¹ The ongoing recruitment of judicial officers will strengthen the human resource capacity of the judiciary, enhance efficiency and reduce delays.
- ⁵² Matters that cannot be treated onsite are referred to public hospitals and health centres.
- ⁵³ The Guyana Prison Service “The Key” Monthly Bulletin Issue 34- June 2024.
- ⁵⁴ The Legal Pro Bono 500 Initiative is a collaborative effort between Guyana’s Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and the Bar Association of Guyana, aimed at providing free legal services to victims of gender-based violence (GBV). Launched in December 2021, this initiative seeks to enhance access to justice for survivors who may otherwise be unable to afford legal representation.
- ⁵⁵ The JDTC aims to reduce substance abuse, adolescent crime, and recidivism through therapy and judicial supervision, in line with international best practices.
- ⁵⁶ The Child Care and Protection Agency (CPA) supports the court’s services to vulnerable families and ensures the safety and protection of children.
- ⁵⁷ <https://supremecourt.gy/commissioning-wales-children%E2%80%99s-court-and-child-friendly-room>.
- ⁵⁸ These reforms align with the constitution and international standards, and strengthen the integrity of elections.
- ⁵⁹ The Amendment empowers a Toshao (leader of the village) to make a statutory declaration, facilitating the more efficient issuance of birth certificates by the General Register Office (GRO).
- ⁶⁰ The Expanded Legal Framework includes:
- Part II: Defines criminal offenses, extends extraterritorial jurisdiction, and ensures restitution for victims.
 - Part III: Assigns responsibility for child trafficking victims to the Childcare and Protection Agency, with witness protection provisions.
 - Part IV: Implements paper committals to expedite legal proceedings while protecting victims from direct confrontation with offenders.
 - Part V: Mandates awareness campaigns targeting sex tourism, forced labour, and exploitation in high-risk industries such as airlines, hotels, and taxis.
- ⁶¹ See Annex 1, Table 1 (Psychosocial Support Services provided to Alleged Trafficking Victims 2020-2023).
- ⁶² Focus is on- Commuters and individuals near high-risk locations such as bars and nightclubs; Students and teachers through educational initiatives; Migrants with culturally tailored materials, including promotion of the Spanish hotline for reporting trafficking; commercial sex workers, providing information on risks and safe reporting; and Public transport operators, as well as hotel, bar, and guest house owners and operators.
- ⁶³ This includes Immigration Officers, Forestry Officers, Police, Customs Officers, and Medical Practitioners. LGBTQ Advocates, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) Mines and Environmental Officers, Child Care and Protection Officers, Labour Inspectors and Officers, Guyana Police Force, Community Policing Groups, NGOs, Embassy Officials, Diplomats and Foreign Services Officers.
- ⁶⁴ The areas of training include:
- New Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act No.7 of 2023;
 - Defining and Understanding Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling;
 - Victim Identification and Referrals;
 - Trauma – Informed care for VoTs;
 - Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating and Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons;
 - Ethical Consideration for TIP Investigations;
 - Role and function of the C-TIP Unit, Ministry of Human Services and Social Security;
 - The role and function of the Ministerial Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons.
- ⁶⁵ See Annex 1, Table 2 (Trafficking in Persons Statistics 2020-2024).
- ⁶⁶ <https://officialgazette.gov.gy/index.php/publications/1831-extraordinary-gazettes-24th-june-2022-order-no-20-of-2022-the-labour-national-minimum-wage-order-2022>.
- ⁶⁷ In 2023, 216 women received start-up business grants, while from January to November 2024, 2,329 women completed COURSERA courses and 200 accessed in-person training (Total: 2,529).
- ⁶⁸ Unemployment rates, which had increased significantly in 2021 during the pandemic, started trending down towards the end of 2021. The unemployment rate declined from 15.6% in 2020 to 14.5% in 2021, driven mostly by declines in the unemployment rate of men, which dropped to 12% in 2021 compared to 18.4% for women. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates further decline

- in the unemployment rate in 2022, falling to 12.4%, (11% for men and 14.4% for women). The labour force participation of men increased from 60.6% in 2020 to 64.9% in 2021, potentially due to more men looking for jobs offsetting job losses within households during the pandemic. In 2022, the ILO estimates the labour force participation of women and men was 39.6% and 61.3% respectively.
- ⁶⁹ In 2024, 10,791 house lots were allocated, surpassing the annual target and representing 27% of total distributions.
- ⁷⁰ <https://dpi.gov.gy/govt-to-surpass-distribution-of-50000-house-lots-in-2025/>.
- ⁷¹ Budget Speech 2025.
- ⁷² Since 2020, 1,559 informal settlers across six administrative regions have been regularised. The regularisation of squatters and issuing instruments of ownership where possible, ensures the security of tenure of these households. The single-window approval system, launched in June 2024, assists individuals to submit planning applications through a digital platform and track their application's progress until approval is granted.
- ⁷³ 90 per cent ownership in agriculture remains Guyanese with small, medium and large farms.
- ⁷⁴ The fisheries sector is also growing with shrimp farms and cage culture farming. Research investments are focused on growing imported commodities like broccoli, cauliflower, onions, and coffee.
- ⁷⁵ Some projects include investments in cattle rearing, poultry production crops production, climate smart agriculture (shade houses), Apiculture, Agro-Processing, Sewing Centers, Bakeries/Snackettes and Eco Tourism.
- ⁷⁶ Women represent 40% of those involved in this shade house project.
- ⁷⁷ The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024- FAO.
- ⁷⁸ See Annex 1, Table 3 (Showing the Number of Wells drilled and beneficiaries in Hinterland Regions [Administrative Regions 1, 7, 8, & 9] 2020-2024).
- ⁷⁹ The Suicide Prevention Act of 2022 emphasizes screening, safety planning, means reduction, and direct treatment, while also enhancing healthcare workers' clinical skills, including in cognitive behaviour therapy for suicide prevention.
- ⁸⁰ Extraordinary Gazettes - 13th September, 2022 - Act No. 14 of 2022 – Mental Health Protection and Promotion Act 2022; <https://officialgazette.gov.gy/>.
- ⁸¹ Services are integrated at all care levels, with health professionals trained in suicide intervention, substance abuse, and psychological first aid. Regional hospitals have psychiatric clinics, and TelePsychiatry, in partnership with GPHC, provides essential care to hinterland patients.
- ⁸² In advancing efforts to accelerate the elimination of communicable diseases, PAHO/WHO continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Health, providing technical support to the human resource capacity.
- ⁸³ See Annex 1. Table 4 (Showing specific categories of health care workers trained).
- ⁸⁴ The Telemedicine programme allows real-time remote diagnosis and treatment, enabling doctors in remote areas to consult with specialists in Georgetown and improving access to quality care for indigenous populations without the need for travel.
- ⁸⁵ <https://www.paho.org/en/news/27-6-2024-guyana-implementing-obstetric-emergency-training-achieve-zero-maternal-death-goals#:~:text=always%20be%20sustained.-,Dr.,morbidity%20and%20achieve%20the%20SDGs>.
- ⁸⁶ As part of the State's ongoing collaboration in capacity building with PAHO/WHO Guyana Country Office and the American Center for Perinatology (CLAP), with support from Global Affairs Canada Project.
- ⁸⁷ The Maternal Waiting homes support expectant mothers from remote villages, while community health workers promote institutional deliveries. Telemedicine further improves access to specialist care, offering diagnostic tools and routine consultations for women in hard-to-reach areas.
- ⁸⁸ <https://dpi.gov.gy/50-per-cent-decrease-in-neonatal-deaths-in-2024-gphc/>.
- ⁸⁹ Certified institutions and certified medical practitioners provide termination services, following training and certification by the Guyana Medical Council.
- ⁹⁰ Integrating HIV services across all regions, including hinterland areas, and training healthcare workers in collaboration with organizations like Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). Regular monitoring and evaluation ensure treatment quality, and a referral system directs complex cases to specialized facilities, improving care accessibility and outcomes.
- ⁹¹ See Annex 1, Table 5 (95 – 95 – 95 – UNAIDS Indicator [Percentage] for control by 2030).
- ⁹² National Aids Programme 2023 Annual report.
- ⁹³ Five strategic goals have been outlined - improving governance and accountability; improving performance at all levels; improving the efficiency of the education system; reducing inequities in education; contributing to lifelong learning and employability.
- ⁹⁴ Budget Speech 2024.
- ⁹⁵ There are 55 nursery, 131 primary and 14 secondary schools in Amerindian Villages across Guyana.

- ⁹⁶ The Ministry's Hinterland Scholarship Program provides full scholarships to high-performing students upon completion of the National Grade Six Assessments, benefiting 630 students in 2024.
- ⁹⁷ Budget Speech 2025.
- ⁹⁸ Budget Speech 2025.
- ⁹⁹ In 2023, a total of 619,060 textbooks were procured for the primary and secondary levels at a cost of GYD 3.3 billion, and 502,072 more textbooks were purchased in 2024 at a cost of GYD3 billion, this initiative remains ongoing.
- ¹⁰⁰ GOAL currently partners with 16 local, regional and international educational institutions to offer over 180 diverse online educational programmes to meet the challenges and demands of transformation and expansion of various sectors in Guyana including oil and gas, engineering, construction and information security. GOAL is also now providing opportunities for persons who were not able to complete secondary education through the "Get Ready for Opportunities to Work" (GROW) programme. GROW was launched countrywide on May 18, 2022, with applications open to anyone 18 years or above. Depending on the achievements in their secondary level of equivalent, applicants can apply for the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), level 5 diploma; or the US High School equivalent General Education Development (GED) Diploma.
- ¹⁰¹ This initiative enhances the country's human resource capacity, preparing a qualified workforce for the evolving job market.
- ¹⁰² Budget Speech 2024 and 2025.
- ¹⁰³ This process is ongoing. Scholarships are also available for tertiary students, covering housing, utilities, and internet.
- ¹⁰⁴ The process involves analysis of actual expenditure on women and girls in comparison to expenditure on men and boys considering their different needs and priorities.
- ¹⁰⁵ In 2023, these Private Sector companies successfully completed Gender Gap Analyses and Gender Action Plans with specific initiatives that support Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs).
- ¹⁰⁶ Women hold key decision-making portfolios which include the Director of Budget, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of Public Prosecutions, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registrar of Deeds, Registrar of the Land Registry, Registrar of the Commercial Court, Chief Magistrate and Principal Magistrate:
- More than half of the people benefitting from public sector scholarships (some 57 per cent) are women;
 - 69 per cent of the people accessing public sector training are women;
 - In the healthcare system, 60 per cent of Guyana's doctors are women, while 98 per cent of nurses are women;
 - In the judicial system, 70 per cent of those who administer justice are women;
 - 22 per cent of Guyana's law enforcement officers are women;
 - In the government's new shade house agriculture venture, women participation accounted for about 40 percent;
 - Government will be training 500 women in heavy-duty machine operations. More women are set to receive skills in the health, agriculture and business sectors;
 - Beyond the newer efforts, 72.6 per cent of the students participating in the government's new Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarship programme are women;
 - 70 per cent of the students at the University of Guyana (UG) are women, with those students having an extremely low withdrawal rate (only 0.4 percent);
 - 85% of the Ministry of Housing home improvement subsidy went to women and;
 - 65% of Core Homes have been allocated to women;
 - In 2024, 46% of house lots were allocated to women only.
- ¹⁰⁷ Guyana Budget Estimates, Current and Capital Revenue Expenditure 2020 & 2024.
- ¹⁰⁸ In June 2024, a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Mobile Remote Unit was launched in interior Administrative Region One to support GBV survivors, including vulnerable migrants. The unit offers intervention services, medical assistance, counseling, legal advocacy, shelter, and community education to prevent GBV and promote gender equality.
- ¹⁰⁹ https://officialgazette.gov.gy/images/gazette2024/aug/Extra_16AUGUST2024Act14of2024.pdf.
- ¹¹⁰ COPSQUAD initiative is a collaboration between Guyana's Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Guyana Police Force.
- ¹¹¹ As of December 2023, approximately 2282 police officers have been trained, surpassing the initial target of 2000. The initiative has led to more professional handling of domestic violence cases.
- ¹¹² As part of this effort, 58 homes were built for persons with disabilities, indigent single parents, GBV victims, and the elderly across nine administrative regions. Youth empowerment and mentorship programs, primarily targeting boys, have benefited approximately 165 vulnerable youth. In 2024, 130 children aged 6-16 years participated in the annual MoM Youth Camp, which focused on empowerment and personal development.

- ¹¹³ Over 1,000 incarcerated men received health awareness, motivational guidance, and counselling through the mission.
- ¹¹⁴ National campaigns such as Every Child Safe, Supporting Families to Prevent Child Abuse, and Child Protection Week have played key roles in raising awareness.
- ¹¹⁵ The Central Authority, established on November 26, 2024, oversees and regulates intercountry adoptions.
- ¹¹⁶ Guyana Estimates of the public sector current and capital revenue and expenditure, 2020 & 2024 Volume 1.
- ¹¹⁷ The survey's finalization is underway and will be presented in 2025. The NCD continues collaborating with government agencies and civil society to enhance support for persons with disabilities.
- ¹¹⁸ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2024/12/06/news/guyana/handbook-launched-on-making-buildings-more-accessible-to-disabled/>.
- ¹¹⁹ <https://dpi.gov.gy/21-land-titles-distributed-to-amerindian-villages-in-four-years/>.
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