




*Guyana's National Progress on the
Implementation of the Montevideo
Consensus on Population and
Development*

November 7th 2017



Guyana's National Progress on the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

- ▶ Advances made at National level
- ❑ **Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights:**
 - No Planning Unit or Agency to continuously address the issues of population dynamics and their integration into national planning, sectoral policies
 - Ministries, Departments and Regions have been incorporating SDGs in Budget Plans- Budget 2017 and 2018.
 - In the process of formulating a Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) to guide Guyana's economic and social development. Aligned to the SDGs
 - Undertaken a three (3) year (March 2016 – March 2019) project aim at Enhancing Statistical Capacities (capturing, production & dissemination). Outcome- Development of National Strategy on Statistics.



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- ▶ *Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth*
- ▶ These include: (i) The Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training (YEST) programme; (ii) The Sustainable Livelihoods and Entrepreneurial Development (SLED) (iii) The Hinterland Employment and Youth Service (HEYS), (iv) The Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) platform for certified training for out-of-school youth.
- ▶ National Youth Policy developed in 2015 (worked commence - empowerment, education, skill development, employment and entrepreneurship, participation, & representation.
- ▶ 2014-2018 National Education Sector Plan being implemented
- ▶ Health Fairs- promote awareness(HIV, STDs, poverty,
- ▶ Family/Parenthood
- ▶ The introduction of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE)



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- ▶ *Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth cont'd*
- ▶ School Health and Nutrition and HIV Prevention Policy implemented
- ▶ The MOE School Welfare Unit- focuses reintegration of Teen Mothers in Education system, intercultural, gender sensitive issues.
- ▶ Citizens Security Strengthening Programme (CSSP) launched in 2016
- ▶ Training Programmes- Challenges (still high youth unemployment rate)
- ▶ Initiatives to become self-employed



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► Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges

- The National Commission for the Elderly - aim of supporting the continued involvement of senior citizens in the economic and community life of the country
- Establishment of Minimum Standards for Elderly Residential Facilities, visiting Committee for Elderly Residential Facilities human rights are upheld.
- National Policy on Ageing is expected to be completed by June 2018
- Elderly Welfare Section within the Probation and Social Services Department will be established in March 2018




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► Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges cont'd

➤ Best Practices:

- the distribution of breakfast some central post offices
- capital, expansion of the programme
- National school outreach program
- 2015 Old age pension has increased by 45 percent
- Difficult Circumstances Unit (DCU) (Food supplies, medication
- removal of the requirements for them to pay for drivers' licenses and the travel tax, reduction in utility bill (water)



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► Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services

- Reviewed practices and attitudes of staff at Sexual and Reproductive Health facilities in Guyana
- Findings- discriminatory practices
- An Anti - stigma and Discrimination Policy document
- Extensive sensitization training of all categories of health workers was carried out across the country targeting all sites that provide Sexual and Reproductive Health service providers
- Draft Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (**sexual Orientation and sexual Rights**. Once Implemented, the SRH Policy will cater for adolescents, the elderly, men, FSW and MSM as each priority population to increase access and reduce barriers. Focus -availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality.



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- ▶ *Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services cont'd*

- ▶ *Challenges*

- ▶ Current laws as it relates to the LGBT community do not facilitate the progressive realisation of the full rights afforded to the community
- ▶ The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community is seeking the removal of certain laws from the body of laws of Guyana that hinder the enjoyment of their basic human rights.
- ▶ Need for legislative reform of the laws of Guyana.
- ▶ The Government to consider having a referendum



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- ▶ *Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services cont'd*
- ▶ *Best Practices:*
 - *Adolescent Health Unit has been established*
 - *The Ministry of Public Health to establish a Men's Health unit*
 - *National Aids program secretariat*



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► Gender equality

- The Gender Affairs Bureau has been established in 2015
- Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Policy Unit established 2015
- National Gender and Social Inclusion Policy is process of being formulated promote gender mainstreaming in public policies, programmes and plans.
- Protocols for Medical Practitioners, Prosecutors and Police Officers



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- **Best Practices:**
- Extensive government-led campaigns and advocacy work done by non-governmental organizations.
- Establishment of Domestic Violence shelter
- Training and capacity building for government agencies, NGOs
- Sensitization and awareness sessions on Gender based violence in schools.



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- ▶ **International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants**
 - Guyana has an open and liberal immigration policy
 - Guyana strong regional and bilateral Co-operation and agreements through its membership in the OAS, UNASUR, MERCOSUR and CARICOM
- ▶ **Best Practices**
 - ▶ Legal migrant workers and members of their family are treated equally they are entitled to free health care and education (primary-Secondary) for their children.
 - ▶ Any migrant that enters the country illegally their human rights is upheld.



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- ▶ **Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights**
- ▶ The National Toshias Council (NTC) Conference- Outcome 2013-2017
- ▶ Building relationships with various agencies
- ▶ • Signed a memorandum of understanding with Conservation International to provide institutional support
- ▶ • Develop rules and procedures for the National Toshias Council Executive-transition and succession
- ▶ • Create an environment for the National Toshias Council to develop a work plan
- ▶ • Development of a plan to establish a Secretariat.
- ▶ • Training provided in capacity building for NTC Executive, data collection from communities, frame work developed to address indigenous issues



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► Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights

- Established a department of community development and governance within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
- The Social Welfare and Health Department
- The Hinterland Scholarship
- Sensitization workshop on Sexual Offences Act, the Domestic Violence Act, the Labour Act and Labour related issues, Combating Trafficking in Persons Act.
- The Indigenous Language Revival Project started in 2013
- Hinterland Employment and Youth Service HEYS Program.



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- *Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights cont'd*

- *Challenges*

- Significant gap in the education and poverty levels of indigenous peoples'
- Guyana's indigenous communities present distinct characteristics due to its geographic isolation, poor infrastructure and high proportion of ethnic Amerindians.



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► *Afro-descendants: rights and combating racial discrimination*

- Guyana does not have legislation specifically targeting combatting racial discrimination against afro-Guyanese
- Article 149 of the Constitution -general discrimination laws that apply to all races that seek to eradicate all forms of ethnic violence and discrimination
- Ethnic Relations Commission -constitutional body is not functional
- GOG pledged its commitment to support the Programme of Action for Implementation of the Decade for People of African Descent
- Process of implementing public policies and considering a proposal to create a Secretariat which will act to support the work of the various Afro-descendent groups as a guide to carry forward affirmative action, policies, plans and programmes at the sectorial level to foster development among Afro-descendants



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➤ *Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability*

- Improved access to potable water (Hinterland Regions)
- Numerous Water Supply Rehabilitation Programme commenced
- Ensuring access for all is adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgraded slums.
- In 2013 focus on promoting community development planning and implementing a hinterland housing improvement programme
- The now Hinterland Sustainable Housing programme is aimed to improve livability of low income families in select communities of the hinterland through better access to housing, potable water, sanitation and the promotion of women's empowerment
- National Housing Profile for Guyana developed 2017



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► Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability cont'd

- Water supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Improvement Programme (WSSIIP). One of the components intends to improve access of sanitation services for low income house-holds by assisting in the replacement of their pit latrine with a septic tank (with toilet) system.
- Solid waste disposal programme expected commence 2018
- National Regional Development Consultative Committee (NRDCC) 2017
- Challenges
- Development continue in addressing gaps that still exist
- Despite progress over the past decade in access to safe sources of water and sanitation, water and sewage services in Georgetown and other coastal areas still face constant institutional, financial and operational challenges.



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- Preparation process
- **Challenges faced in preparing national report**
 - Lack of timely submission of information from state agencies
 - Lack of disaggregated data
- **Strengths:**
 - Formed a National Steering Committee with relevant state agencies involved in planning process
- **Completion of Report**
 - National Validation Forum will convene between Nov 21-24th
 - Report is 85% completed
 - Final submission Nov 30th



➔ THE END

