



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

Review : 2013-2018



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:**
 - Ministries, Departments and Regional organs have been incorporating SDGs in Budget Plans
 - In the process of formulating a Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) to guide Guyana's economic and social development this will provide a roadmap to achieving the SDGs. 7 central themes identified and consultations are ongoing:



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- **Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights:**
- Established a Poverty Unit at the Bureau of Statistics in 2017 with the first major activity targeted being the mount of a new Living Conditions Survey in October, 2018
 - The challenges of data availability, quality
 - Undertaken a three (3) year (March 2016 – March 2019) project aim at Enhancing Statistical Capacities (focuses on capturing, production & dissemination data
 - Outcome will be the Development of National Strategy on Statistics.



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- **Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth**
- Challenges (high youth unemployment rate)
- BOS quarterly survey sample 2017 (21.6 percent), young women - 28 percent
- Initiatives have commenced to assist young persons- self-employed
- 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), (2000 benefitted (iv) The Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) platform for certified training for out-of-school youth. MOSP provides small grants to youths to start small business.
- National Youth Policy developed in 2015 (worked commence - empowerment, education, skill development, employment and entrepreneurship, participation, & representation.
- Health Fairs- promote awareness(HIV, STDs awareness, suicide prevention, drug abuse
- Family/Parenthood (parent support programmes for teens, family education workshops, domestic violence seminars.
- The introduction of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) address poverty, neglect, health wellbeing, teen pregnancy, forms of abuse, violence.



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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 – promotes health and nutrition programmes throughout schools
- ▶ A comprehensive reintegration policy for pregnant and parenting adolescent girls was recently completed
- ▶ Citizens Security Strengthening Programme (CSSP) launched in 2016- Activities for creating economic inclusion for at-risk youth (ages 15-30), including: vocational, job-readiness, job seeking and job placement, entrepreneurship, and mentoring training
- ▶ The Juvenile Justice Bill laid and passed in the National Assembly in April 2018.



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➤ **Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges**

- The National Commission for the Elderly
- 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 in 2018
- Elderly Welfare Section within the Probation and Social Services Department will be established in 2018 further advance the rights of the elderly.



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➤ Ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges cont'd

➤ Best Practices:

➤ The distribution of breakfast some central post offices

➤ National school outreach program

- Old age pension has increased by 56 %- ease the financial burden persons in **(2013-2018)**

-Difficult Circumstance Unit

-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
- Staff pledging to support the access of all persons to SRH services regardless of sexual orientation, class or creed.
- Draft Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (**sexual Orientation and sexual Rights.**



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

- ▶ **Challenges**

- ▶ Current laws as it relates to the LGBTI community do not facilitate the progressive realisation of the full rights afforded to the community
- ▶ LGBTI 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.



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

- ▶ The MOH through the Maternal and Child Department have structured programs in place that focus on detecting high risk pregnancies, and improving the quality of antenatal care.
- ▶ Range of (OB/GYN) services including high risk clinic, VIA screening and treatment, and other OB/GYN consultations. Rehabilitation of the obstetric unit at regional Hospitals and the provision of essential obstetric and newborn care equipment at the largest hospital in Guyana has commenced.
- ▶ Guyana's teen pregnancy rate continues to be high with a 40% occurrence being recorded in rural areas compared to 10% in urban areas
- ▶ Educate the public on family planning and contraception specifically through the Regional Health Departments of all indigenous regions as result of high rate of teenage pregnancy, high risk pregnancy and maternity complications, these interventions have commenced at the level of schools, village councils and community-based organisations.



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- **Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services cont'd**
- **39 Adolescent Health Unit has been established offers comprehensive SRH education**
- Ministry of Health in 2017 launched its Health's Adolescent and Men-Friendly Health Programme in several hinterland regions
- **The Ministry of Public Health establish a Men's Health unit-**
- MOPH consultations develop an Adolescent Health Strategy (mental health, sexual and reproductive health, oral health, substance abuse treatment and prevention services.
- **National Aids program secretariat – continues to provide information, counselling care and treatment to all individuals living with HIV/ Aids and Sexual Transmitted infections including Adolescents.**
- One Hundred and ninety (190) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission sites have been established all 10 Administrative Regions



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► Gender equality

- National Gender and Social Inclusion Policy is completed the aim is to :
- Mainstream gender issues into all sectors in order to eliminate all negative economic, social and cultural practices that impede equality and equity.
- Develop, maintain and provide gender sensitive information and gender disaggregated data for use in planning and project implementation at all levels and in all sectors.
- 31.9% of seats in the National Assembly are held by women
- Women occupy key ministerial positions in, Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, Social Protection, Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, Public Infrastructure, Public Telecommunications and the Public Service.
- 52 per cent of the Permanent Secretaries are women



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➤ **Best Practices:**

- Extensive government-led campaigns and advocacy work done by non-governmental organizations.
- Review of the national plan of action for the implementation of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Acts is complete
- Established Domestic Violence shelters throughout Guyana
- Training and capacity building for government agencies staff, NGOs
- Sensitization and awareness sessions on Gender based violence in schools, prisons and at the community level.
- Established a court for sexual offences cases . Offers a rights-based approach, victims will not be re-victimized.
- Model guidelines for sexual offence cases developed, taking into account international best practices for the management of such cases.



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- ▶ **International migration and protection of the human rights of all migrants**
- Guyana has an open and liberal immigration policy constitution makes provision for this in that countries that are part of the Commonwealth do not require a visa to enter Guyana
- ▶ **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**

- Established a department of community development and governance within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs
- The Social Welfare and Health Department
- Hinterland Scholarship, Dormitories have been constructed for students to reside while they attended school in the capital.
- 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 was expanded in 2015 to include additional indigenous languages aiming to preserve the indigenous language and also the rich heritage across Guyana.



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

- ▶ **Challenges**

- ▶ Although almost 30% of National budget is allocated to indigenous programmes there still remains a significant gap in the education and poverty levels of indigenous peoples'
- ▶ UNICEF study conducted Indigenous Peoples experience poverty at twice the rate and sometimes even five times more than the non-indigenous population.
- ▶ The study also noted that the access to good quality education, health and other social services by the Indigenous peoples continues to be crippled by the lack of access to infrastructure and modern life facilities to the same extent of their counterparts residing on Guyana's coastlands.



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► **Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability**

- Improved access to potable water (Indigenous Regions)
- Numerous Water Supply Rehabilitation Programme commenced
- Ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgraded slums.
- The Hinterland Sustainable Housing programme is aimed to improve livability of low income families in select communities in indigenous regions through better access to housing, potable water, sanitation
- National Housing Profile for Guyana was developed in February 2017



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- ▶ **Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability cont'd**
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ 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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► *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 where any person can seek redress if they are of the perception that they have been discriminated against.
- GOG pledged its commitment to support the Programme of Action for Implementation of the Decade for People of African Descent. This has been reflected work programmes of several gov't Ministries.
- Country coordinating mechanism has been established.
- 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.
- The International Decade for People of African Descent 2018. The aim of the summit was to audit where Afro Decendents are as people, rationalize where they ought to be and to set goals for 2024.



➔ THE END

