### Country: **Guyana**

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

### Reporting period: **2017-2021**

### 20 September 2021

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The discovery of oil and gas and COVID-19 have been the biggest development change factors in Guyana during the 2017-2021 Country Programme (CP) period. An extended period of political uncertainty also influenced the implementation of the CP. Guyana's off-shore oil reserves are in excess of 9 billion barrels, from which a major boost in economic growth is expected to be derived during the present decade that can open opportunities for Guyana to transform its economy, generate jobs and secure its own funds for the country's development. The World Bank projects growth rates of 20.9, 26.0 and 23.0 percent in 2021, 2022 and-2023 (World Bank 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic has however re-focused a spotlight on the situation of the already vulnerable groups (including Amerindians, people with disabilities, unemployed or out-of-school young people [VNR 2019]). A UNDP-supported Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on households in 2020 reported 21.8 per cent of households skipping meals due to the outbreak, 80 percent of household businesses closed temporarily or reduced operating hours, and school attendance more than halved. The uncertain political climate prevailing over Guyana from the passage of a no confidence motion against the former Administration in December 2018, until the assumption of a new Government in August 2020 following a 4 four month protracted period over election results, negatively impacted the Office’s delivery and performance during the programming cycle, as detailed in this report.

Against this backdrop, the UNDP-Guyana CO has made some significant inroads to improve development outcomes in the short-term and to help prepare the country towards a potential transition to a more advanced development status.

UNDP played a key role in the UN COVID-19 response, conducting the national Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on households and leading the preparation of the United Nations Country Team's socio-economic response plan. On public health services, UNDP focused its work on people living with HIV-AIDS (PLHIV). Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were supported to enhance their capacity to better deliver HIV services (including by partnering with Government in contracts to provide such services), and for the implementation of recommendations from the National Dialogue on HIV and the Law Report. UNDP also provided direct support during the COVID-19 pandemic so that PLHIV could access their treatment and services, via the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS) and CSOs including the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD). Moreover, UNDP provided technical review of the 2021-2025 National HIV Strategic Plan.

On sustainable livelihoods, UNDP implemented a microgrant scheme aimed at enhancing food security for rural farmers and enhanced local community economic development through the distribution of grants (worth US$3.8 million) to over 150 indigenous communities around the nation, partnering with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MoIPA) now Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MOAA). There were also advances on the strategic issue of land-titling for Amerindian people, which is key for catalyzing various types of actions and investments in those territories (including those from REDD+).

UNDP carried out a multidimensional approach to environmental sustainability and resilience with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Office of Climate Change (OCC), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and Department of Environment (DOE), by (i) developing systems and tools for enhanced adaptation to climate change and for disaster management, such as the National Flood Forecasting System platform; (ii). improving capacities for management of natural resource and hazardous chemicals, including Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), (iii) helping to provide clean, renewable and affordable energy services in hinterland communities via photovoltaics and energy-efficient LED lighting, (iv) providing information and information tools to farmers about threats of climate change and disasters to enhance their resilience for food production, and (v) promoting women's leadership and empowerment in disaster risk reduction strategies.

UNDP also supported democratic governance by strengthening government and non-governmental institutions capacities to fulfil Human Rights obligations including the NAPS and PLHIV CSOs. Another significant undertaking was the ICT for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities (HPRCs) initiative to expand Internet access and e-Government services to hinterland communities, which can over time mitigate the rural digital divide substantially across the country.

*Major achievements in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment should be highlighted*

* The initiatives targeting LGBTI+ persons, including PLHIV, involve women and sexual minority groups as direct beneficiaries, and directly contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment.
* Regarding the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF), women made up 55 percent of the participants in creating the Community Development Plans, and 52 percent of the persons trained on livelihood-relevant topics. Sessions to train community management teams emphasized the importance, value and involvement of male and female managers.
* The CariSecure initiative sought to make quality gender equality statistics available and accessible to meet policy and international reporting commitments. The Women's Health and Life Experiences survey undertaken with various partners provided for the first time in Guyana national prevalence data on gender-based violence and has filled a significant and long-standing data gap.
* The Spotlight initiative, currently underway, seeks to enhance data collection systems and capacity towards decision making in addressing violence against women and girls.

*Major achievements in developing capacity should be highlighted*

* Actions to improve capacities for management of natural resources across the energy, environment and extractive industry portfolio, with all key Government entities, as well as with over 660 farmers to use a new Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) tool to enhance informed decisions on climate smart farming practices.
* Strengthening capacities of CSOs working with PLHIV and LGBTI+ people, to deliver health and care services, and to implement behaviour change strategies stemming from the National Dialogue on HIV and the Law Report for reduction of stigma and discrimination.
* Trainings of counterpart agencies to effectively address ozone depleting substances (ODS) in the refrigerant, air conditioning and cooling sectors, under the Montreal protocol’s Kigali Amendment.
* Official certification courses on installation and management of solar PV systems and services for Guyana Energy Agency, Guyana Power and Light Inc. and Hinterland Electrification Company Inc. to support the introduction/scaling of sustainable energy services in hinterland and other rural regions.

*Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration undertaken and their impact on results*

* The Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) through which the ADF was executed was implemented in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.
* Participation in the UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS, building on successful National Dialogue on HIV and the Law, leading to successful application for /implementation of the Business Unusual Fund.
* Development and implementation of the Spotlight Initiative with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNWomen, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator and in partnership with the European Union.
* Women's Health and Life Experiences survey undertaken in collaboration with USAID, UNWomen, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Bureau of Statistics, Global Women’s Institute of George Washington University and the University of Guyana.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name: GUYANA** |
| **Current country programme period: 2017-2021** |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1. Universal access to quality health-care services and systems improved (MSDCF Outcome 1)*.*** | $0.03M | 1. *Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel; Baseline: 92% (2014); Target: 100% (2021)*
2. *HIV coverage: 90/90/90 (age, gender, key groups); Baseline: ART coverage (nº, %:*

*> 15 yrs. Old: 4,121 (45%); 0-14 yrs. Old: 174 (42%); Target: 90%* | 1. *--.*
2. *(2019 data) 8,700 PLHIVs; 94% aware of their HIV status (first 90 achieved); 73% on sustained antiretroviral therapy; 75% virally supressed.*
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| **UNDP Contribution:**The UNDP contribution to this outcome derived from its focus on expanding the proportion of HIV coverage through support to relevant institutions, making significant contributions towards the targeted 90%. Through this work, UNDP contributed to Outcome 3 of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, ‘*Countries have strengthened institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services*.’ It also contributed to Outcome 1 of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, ‘*Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimension*.’ In terms of SDGs, it’s referred directly to SDG 3 (Health), and indirectly to SDGs 1 (Poverty) and 10 (Inequality).CP Outputs:The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (1) National and subnational institutions and organizations’ capacities strengthened for the delivery of maternal health and related services; (2) National/subnational institutions and CSOs have systems and policies in place to deliver HIV and NCD servicesProgress and Achievements:Work under this Outcome concentrated on Output 2, and specifically focused on HIV/AIDS services. Progress towards the related outcome target on HIV coverage was incremental. UNDP supported CSOs to enhance their capacity to better deliver HIV services (including HIV/STI information; Risk reduction counselling; HIV testing; STI screening; Condom and lubricant distribution; Psychosocial support; Social services; Referral for Anti Retroviral Treatment, STI, Tuberculosis; and community and palliative care). In addition, as part of promoting behaviour change UNDP also worked with CSOs in implementing recommendations emanating from the National Dialogue on HIV and the Law Report. This included the reduction of stigma and discrimination and increased access and referral of PLHIVs to relevant support services (inclusive of treatment services). Various UNDP interventions were carried out. One involved collaboration with the NAPS and the SASOD, providing nutritional support to 470 PLHIV and members of the LGBTI community. NAPS paired this support with the distribution of Antiretroviral Therapy to PLHIV to ensure that persons still had access to and were following their treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. CSOs were strengthened to partner with Government in Social Contracting for the provision of HIV services to key populations. A technical review of the draft 2021-2025 National HIV Strategic Plan was undertaken. This strategy was launched on January 5, 2021. An assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on LGBTI people, including HIV key populations, was undertaken and the results used to garner support for these vulnerable persons, given the impact of COVID-19 on their livelihoods. In addition, an updated research report on issues affecting LGBTI people, plans for national and regional dialogues and the continued strengthening of CSOs to engage in social contracting are in the pipeline. The target beneficiaries are considered as groups that are among the furthest behind as a result of the stigma and discrimination faced in access to HIV services. The work on this area is contributing to the Leave No One Behind objective of Agenda 2030.By the end of 2019, the NAPS reported that Guyana had recorded some 8,700 PLHIVs, 94% of whom were aware of their HIV status (first 90 achieved), 73% were on sustained antiretroviral therapy while 75% were virally supressed. UNDP’s work with the CSOs and governmental entities, including with continuing actions during 2020-2021 is expected to contribute to positive progress on the indicator. LimitationsThere was no work performed on Output 1, ‘National and subnational institutions and organizations’ capacities strengthened for the delivery of maternal health and related services,’ as joint actions by PAHO/WHO and Ministry of Public Health addressed this and other health areas. Furthermore, there were no interventions in relation to the provision of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) services. UNDP considered since 2019 a shift on this area towards support for Persons Living with Disabilities (PWD) as the National Commission for Disability had previously reached out for critical support for the more than 11,000 persons (1.47% of the population) with functional diversity, a population included in the vulnerable groups that are furthest behind in Guyana, but due to funding challenges this did not materialize.The enactment of the amendment of the Prevention of Discrimination Act (1997), supported by UNDP in 2018, has yet to be tabled in the National Assembly. Also because of COVID-19, funds for the Stigma Index were re-allocated to provide nutritional support to PLHIV key populations and members of the LGBTI community, interrupting the completion of the survey (funding being explored).  |
| **2. Access to equitable social protection systems and quality services and sustainable economic opportunities improved (MSDCF Outcome 2)** | $5M | 1. *Number of actionable mechanisms and policies aimed at decent-work creation and protection, the promotion of entrepreneurship, and the formalization and growth of enterprises.*

*Baseline: 1**Target: 9* | 1. *2 as of 2020 (one being the ADF).*
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| **UNDP Contribution:**UNDP’s contribution to this outcome through its support to actionable mechanisms and policies aimed at decent work creation and the promotion of entrepreneurship, particularly through the Amerindian Development Fund, have resulted in significant achievements on improved access to sustainable economic opportunities.Work under this pillar of the Country Programme has contributed to Outcome 1 of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, ‘Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded’, as well as to Outcome 1 of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, ‘*Eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimension*.’ With regards to SDGs, it was linked directly to SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).CP Outputs:The indicative outputs identified in the CP for this outcome were: (1) National and subnational institutions, private-sector and civil society capacities strengthened to deliver effective entrepreneur programmes to women, youth and Amerindians and develop related policies; (2) Business enterprises, especially in remote and hinterland regions, with increased access to clean, renewable and affordable energy; and (3) National Data Collection Agency is able to generate timely comprehensive data on employment and market.Progress and Achievements:The CO collaborated with the MOIPA now the MOAA for the execution of the ADF, an actionable mechanism aimed at decent work creation and protection, the promotion of entrepreneurship, and the formalization and growth of enterprises with funding provided by the Norwegian Government under the GRIF. The fund provided nine schemes to expand and diversify the productive base based on the use of sustainable production technologies in Amerindian communities surpassing the target of eight. In order to facilitate sustainability, further technical support and monitoring are required, and for that purpose the CO has been seeking additional resources to maintain support to this target group for entrepreneurship and business management. Other interventions were aimed at processes that bring the provision of decentralized, sustainable energy to hinterland areas. (Output 1). The ADF implemented a low-carbon development approach and allowed 154 communities to receive USD25,000 each for community development plans (CDPs) for ventures such as village shops, transportation, forest-based artisanal crafts, furniture manufacturing, poultry, fisheries, cattle, crops and hospitality. As a consequence, by 2020 some 56,100 Amerindian persons (half of them women) had newly accessed financial services. Also working with Amerindian communities, progress was made on land-titling mechanisms, resulting in 20 new recognized land-titles. The security of tenure from titles to their lands can enable the communities to invest in resources and activities for their livelihoods without fear of encroachment or to opt-in to the future REDD+ carbon financing mechanism. In addition, young innovators were challenged to design solutions for improvements in education, employment and civic engagements in partnership with UNICEF. Two winning teams represented Guyana in the Global competition in December 2020, one with an app/web page to assist young entrepreneurs to access training resources and funding opportunities; the other with a web page for youths to create a career path, generate a plan and connect with a mentor. (Output 2) UNDP’s work resulted in two service providers making available renewable and affordable energy services in hinterland communities in 2020: the Bartica municipality installing nearly 300 low-energy LED lamps for steet lighting in Bartica, and the 3 Miles Secondary School installing a solar photovoltaic energy system to serve teachers and students. In addition, to enable more service providers to come onboard, 25 technical staff of 6 agencies received training in two North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners courses (Solar PV Associate and Solar PV System Inspector), to be better equipped for the installation and management of solar PV systems and services in hinterland and other regions. These agencies were (i) Guyana Energy Agency, (ii) Guyana Power and Light Inc., (iii) Hinterland Electrification Company Inc., (iv) the Government Technical Institute, (v) the Board of Industrial Training, and (vi) Council for Technical Vocational Education and Training.(Output 3) The Bureau of Statistics (BoS), the National Data Collection Agency received assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Labour Organization to strengthen their capacity to generate and publish these statistics. While this was not attributable to UNDP, the output will be instrumental to the work with sectoral market analyses to facilitate export of Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) products, which remains to be achieved. LimitationsAmong the limitations on the effectiveness of actions for this Outcome was one related to renewable and affordable energy services, namely the mainstreaming of energy efficiency measures within three targeted municipalities, Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Bartica. Energy audits should have been conducted to help guide energy options to lower energy consumption for these townships. Pandemic related restrictions and transitioning of a new government hindered its implementation, but it is planned in the near future. Under the Partnership for Action on a Green Economy (PAGE), UNDP made initial steps towards supporting the Ministry of Finance in the development of an online platform to measure progress in the implementation of the SDGs and National Development Plans, which in turn will further enhance the capacity of the National Data Collection Agency to generate timely comprehensive data on employment and market. Further work is currently on hold pending discussions with the Government. Progress on land-titling did not advance as expected, due to internal project implementation challenges, COVID-19 constraints (specially affecting Amerindian communities), and difficulties with the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission's (GLSC) on realistic demarcation costs (until September 2020). Expectations on Government-led schemes focusing on women, youth and Amerindian groups that promote and support development of export-quality products to address the significant gaps between current capacity and the requirements for export-quality products did not materialize, as a consequence of lack of funding. This is an important issue and will be revisited in the short term. In addition, more work is needed on sectoral market analyses on the exports of products of SMEs, to support economic diversification and livelihood opportunities. |

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| **3. Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, restoration and use of ecosystems and natural resources (MSDCF Outcome 3)** | $4.7M | *a. Extent to which competent national and subnational authorities are implementing integrated natural resource management guidelines* *Scale:* *1 = rarely* *2 = partially**3 = largely**Baseline: 1**Target: 3* | *a.2 as of 2020/21* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**The UNDP contribution identified in the CP was to improve functional capacity of key natural resources and disaster risk management institutions through the development of systems and tools. The results under this Outcome of the CP have contributed to Outcome 5 of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, ‘*Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change*.’ It also contributed to Outcome 2 of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, ‘*Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development*.’ In terms of the SDGs, it was linked to SDGs 12 (Responsbible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).CP OutputsThe indicative outputs identified in the CP for this outcome were: (1) Effective legal, policy and institutional frameworks in place for conservation and sustainable use of, and access to, natural resources; (2) Capacity of Ministry of Natural Resources strengthened to monitor and enforce regulations in the oil and gas sector; and (3) Management capacities of EPA and relevant natural resource agencies over chemicals, wastes and contaminants improved.Progress and AchievementsProgress is mainly attributed to the development or strengthening of legislative/institutional frameworks for natural resource management, systems and tools for enhanced adaptation to climate change and for disaster management and capacitation of national counterparts on them. Locally, communities and farmers' groups received the support of MOA technical staff to enhance their resilience to the threats of climate change and disasters, increasing food security at the community level. Work was also undertaken on pollutant management with technical staff within the refrigerant and energy sectors, contributing to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and advancing climate change mitigation efforts.(Output 1) In 2020, the MOA incorporated a National Flood Forecasting system developed by UNDP in partnership with UNOSAT. This platform facilitates the prediction of weather systems which may cause flooding allowing for effective and timely decisions on mitigation measures by national authorities. This increased the output indicator related to the development of legislative/institutional frameworks for natural resource management to 10 (2020), amply surpassing the initial target of 5 for the CP period, and providing a significantly stronger base for natural resource management in the country. Other key frameworks included (I) support to the Community Based Early Warning Systems, with the CDC; (ii) the revision of Guyana’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) with the OCC; (iii) supporting the DOE to continue mainstreaming the 3 Rio Conventions, including by training teachers and civil service institutions and piloting sessions on analytical skills and methodologies at line ministries; and (iv) a new Gender Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Agriculture Sector, collaboratively developed with FAO.To advance the framework for early warning systems, agricultural extension officers in Regions 7 & 8 received training on the PICSA methodology for increased uptake of climate information at the farmers' level. Also through PICSA, 661 farmers (M:F, 348:313) were capacitated on access and uptake of climate information to reduce their vulnerability to the impact of disasters on their natural resources and food security. This helps them to make more informed decisions to address floods and droughts and their associated impacts within the agriculture sector.With regards to village level resilience and food security, 19 microgrants were issued in 2020 for Regions 5, 6 & 9. A Kobo tool for remote grantee monitoring was developed and was used by most grantees for reporting. (Output 2) In 2020-2021 the CO provided technical support to the MNR to develop a revised Local Content Policy and drafting of Local Content Regulations for the oil and gas sector. Additionally the CO is providing further support to the MNR on development of its 2022-2026 costed strategic plan to enable the effective management of natural resources including oil and gas, minerals and forests. (Output 3) Institutional mechanisms addressing management of chemicals, waste and contaminants were supported via capacity building initiatives for staff at the relevant national institutions through the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal protocol, on topics related to ozone depleting substances (ODS) in the refrigerant, air conditioning and cooling sector, like the use of alternative substances for refrigeration and reporting/licensing requirements. Related to gender inclusive job creation schemes, a new course on Refrigerant Management was tailored for the Faculty of Technology, University of Guyana (UG) for electrical and mechanical engineering graduates and industry professionals who wish to gain qualifications on current refrigerants and environmental impacts. Three professional technical institutions (Government Technical Institute, Sophia Training Centre and Essequibo Training Institute) receive support to enhance their refrigeration and air conditioning training. In addition, Guyana participated in a regional exchange of experiences on institutional arrangements, initiatives, data collection and reporting, etc. on Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) phase-down strategies. These new options are expected to make male and female participants more marketable for employment in the refrigeration sector.LimitationsThere were delays on identification of actions related to oil/gas regulations, as well as lack of funding, which hindered progress. Only in December 2020, after the MNR assessed and communicated its needs on this area and funding was mobilised, was it possible to start providing support on local content policy and associated legislative framework. Some advances on institutional mechanisms addressing management of chemicals, wastes and contaminants were pushed back due to setbacks in the signing of Project Documents and Letters of Agreement as a consequence of the uncertain political climate prevailing since the end of 2018 earlier described. For example, it affected interventions on strengthening the regulatory framework and institutional capacity for the management of small-scale gold mining and promotion of greater adoption of environmentally responsible mining techniques, as well as for recovery equipment to address Ozone Depleting Substances.  |
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| **4. Equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety reinforced (MSDCF Outcome 4)** | $7.37M | *a. Percentage reduction in number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000**Baseline: 0**Target: (under analysis)**b. Percentage reduction in the number of women and men reporting experiences of physical and sexual violence**Baseline: 0* *Target: (under analysis)**c. Level of public confidence in delivery of basic services* *Baseline: 0**Target: 2*  | *a.data not yet available**b. data not yet available**c. 2 as of 2020 [[1]](#footnote-1)* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**The contribution of UNDP to this outcome has centered on strengthening the capacity of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) with relevant systems and tools to aid their decision making for crime and violence reduction and prevention, as well as provision of internet access and e-Government services in the hinterland.Work in this area has contributed to Outcome 2 of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, ‘Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance’, as well as to Outcome 2 of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, ‘*Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development*.’ With regards to the SDGs, it was linked to SDGs 5 (Gender), 16 (Inclusiveness, Justice) and 17 (Partnerships for Sustainable Development); indirectly, also to SDG 10 (Inequality).CP OutputsThe indicative outputs identified in the CP for this outcome were: (1) Government and non-government institutions working on constitutional reform, fulfilment of human rights and local administration enabled for improved transparency, participation and effectiveness; (2) Policy for promoting social cohesion formulated and implemented; and (3) Citizens have increased access to Government services through ICT at the national and subnational levels.Progress and AchievementsAmong the systems/tools for the GPF, UNDP supported the development and piloting of a Police Record Management Information system. UNDP is also developing tools and protocols to support the Police, Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and CSOs in the collection and analysis of administrative data on violence against women and girls. When fully operational, these mechanisms should yield critical data for development of actions towards improved citizen security and protection. Another significant undertaking is the expansion of internet access and e-Government services to hinterland communities, which can mitigate the rural digital divide substantially across the country. With regards to the indicator on level of public confidence in the delivery of basic services, preliminary testimonials from the residents of new communities accessing ICT and government services on line for the first time indicated satisfaction. More structured feedback mechanisms are planned to be implemented as additional communities receive access and more services are made available on line. *(Output 1)* As noted above, UNDP contributed to improving capacity for data collection for enhancing citizen security through piloting a new Police Records Management Information System in 8 police stations across Guyana. The CariSecure initiative and the Women's Health and Life Experiences survey (undertaken with USAID, UNWomen, the Bureau of Statistics and the Inter-American Development Bank, George Washington University and the University of Guyana) collected and analysed data on the prevalence of gender-based violence in Guyana and has filled a significant and long-standing data gap. The Spotlight intervention is presently supporting agencies involved in ending violence against women and girls with stronger data collection tools and protocols being developed by UNDP. Institutions strengthened to fulfil human rights obligations included (i) LGBTI+ CSOs on lesbian visibility awareness support and impact of COVID-19 on physical & emotional abuse of LGBTI persons; (ii) the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guyana, in hosting a National Dialogue on Domestic Violence; and (iii) the CDC, equipped with a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Households led by UNDP to strengthen the national policy response to COVID-19. In addition, the Executive and Judiciary branches now have a Justice Sector Needs Assessment containing relevant recommendations on justice and security services to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence. In addition, UNDP supported some work related to constitutional and electoral reform before the change in Administration. It involved supporting the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to develop a needs assessment in 2017 and a survey by the UG on the views of urban citizens in relation to constitutional reform to develop Constitutional Reform (CR) educational materials. As noted below, the process stalled but there have been renewed expressions of interest from the Government, Parliamentary Opposition, Donors, Civil Society and Private Sector in advancing Constitutional Reform.*(Output 2)* UNDP supported the creation of a national social cohesion strategy in 2017 (under a previous Government), but it has not been implemented since (see below). The CO remains involved in dialogue with the Government and other relevant national stakeholders on Governance regarding social cohesion initiatives (eg. the Speaker of the National Assembly engaged UNDP in 2020 on pursuing social cohesion initiatives). *(Output 3)* The implementation of the ICT for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities (HPRCs) initiative, intending to make available at least 200 community telecentres/hubs with e-Services to more than 580,000 persons living in Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities of Guyana has a potentially transformative character and should contribute to the bridging of the existing development gap between coastal and hinterland Guyana. UNDP has worked closely with the Ministry of Public Telecommunications and now the OPM to expand infrastructure and connectivity to new areas. It has progressed well, surpassing the target indicators both for newly served communities and the number of persons using e-Services. The rollout of the initiative will provide useful data to inform on gender inequalities, and in parallel the initiative needs to incorporate gender factors to empower women as users of ICT as well as for their consideration as a distinct stakeholder group.LimitationsUNDP’s support to the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) did not materialize, in part from differences of some GECOM members about the approach of the Resident Coordinator. Progress on constitutional reform was also impeded, despite earlier work by UNDP, due to funding constraints and uncertainties in key stakeholders’ commitment. Support to sub-national Governments in planning, budgeting and monitoring systems and SDGs localization was also adversely affected by the uncertain political climate, as many of the sub-national officers involved would be appointed based on election results. Despite the overall positive progress on the ICT for HPRCs initiative, there were delays in 2020 that limited the desired flow of results. These included the uncertain political climate until the elections results of August 2020 and COVID 19 containment measures (shared with other projects in the portfolio), as well as low implementation capacity in the Project Management Unit (PMU) and slow response time from National Partners required to provide technical inputs. New impetus from the OPM is expected to propel the process forward in 2021.Work did not advance sufficiently to properly assess changes on levels of public confidence in the delivery of public services. This measurement hinges on the decentralisation of services through ICT as well as assistance being provided to the subnational government and administrations to have functioning planning, budgeting and monitoring systems in place. It may be considered that promising expressions from the OPM towards the implementation of these actions could lead to engagement of regional and local Administrations to extend implementation of such tools and services. Funding could not be secured for the implementation of a national social cohesion strategy, affecting UNDP's pursuit of institutional strengthening and capacity building for effective governance in the area of social cohesion. This is a particularly timely issue, given the extended period of heightened political tension (since the vote of no-confidence in 2018) in which the country has lived – including racially-incited violent episodes in September 2020. The Government has indicated its willingness to launch a process of national conversation and dialogue on peaceful coexistence, and UNDP will seek to offer support.  |
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| Summary of evaluation findings (e.g. from outcome and project evaluations, UNDAF reviews, and other assessments)*Based on the evaluations and/or assessments undertaken please provide a brief summary of the overall findings on the CP for the 5-year period in terms of performance effectiveness and efficiency and key achievements and lessons learned. Maximum 500 words.*Key Achievements:Capacity development and engagement of CSOs working with Persons Living with HIVS (PLHIV) in services and treatment delivery; and technical review of the 2021-2025 National HIV Strategic Plan (data, experience, partner participation): These (and other results) set the stage for a much more comprehensive and supportive involvement of PLHIV in Guyanese society. Various results with Amerindian communities in the hinterlands underline an integrated development approach that can facililate the move towards eradication of extreme poverty within those communities in the foreseeable future: * Microgrant scheme aimed at enhancing food security for rural farmers and enhanced local community economic development (over 150 indigenous communities)
* Advances on land-titling (still preliminary, but sets a path for increased investment and leveraging the value of the titled lands)
* Initial phase of ICT community hubs (for more effective connection of hinterlands with the rest of the country and the world)
* Initial deployment of decentralized, renewable, accessible energy photovoltaic services.

Multidimensional approach to environmental sustainability and resilience with the MNR, OCC, MOA, CDC and DOE. The process initiated will allow for further involvement in policy, planning and implementation on natural resource management, including for the strategic aspect of oil/gas regulations (with MNR). The new National Flood Forecasting System platform provides a new and important Climate Change adaptation resource.The national Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on households, setting the basis for the preparation of an integrated UNCT COVID-19 response.Major Lessons Learnt:Following the uncertain political climate from December 2018 culminating in a change of Administration in August 2020, UNDP has gained awareness that during the transition period programme implementation will be slowed - implementation was already slower than expected due to the political uncertainty and the previous government's caretaker status in 2019. The situation continued during the protracted March - August electoral period in 2020. Startup of new projects was bound to be particularly impacted. The CO has exercised patience and understanding that delivery would be further slowed during the transition and settling in time. It has also allowed to cultivate relationships towards the upcoming programming cyle and Country Programme Document (CPD) formulation. There is also the need to gain the trust and await the support of the new Government for new programme lines and objectives. The new Administration had already requested the restructuring of key initiatives such as the ICT Access for Hinterland, Poor and Remote communities. Others were also being reviewed during 2021, including in the Energy, Environment & Extractive Industry areas. Gaining the full support of the Government and engaging its participation in the new CP will be key to its success, particularly as funding and implementation modalities may well change during the new period as a consequence of increased GDP and its higher-middle income development status. The implementation of the present CP also has made clear to the CO the importance of policy support for addressing systemic issues that can compromise the sustainability of initiatives, particularly in hinterland and other remote target areas. Also, for most interventions, building institutional capacities in Government entities should be part of the exit strategy for realizing and maintaining expected outcomes. At the same time, the effects of the pandemic nationally and internationally are still present. The CO will be aligned with the new UNDP Strategic Plan (2022-2025). This means that while being responsive to new priorities from the Administration, it should keep with offering the four integrated areas of governance, social protection, green economy and digital disruption as well as expertise available through its Global Policy Network. Such responsiveness builds collaboration, enhances our position as a partner of choice and informs key priorities for the development of the new 2022-2026 CPD.These developments will underscore UNDP's theory of change of institutional strengthening and capacity building for contributing to outcomes set in the Multicountry Caribbean Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) on* ‘Economic Resilience and Shared Prosperity’, towards a more productive business ecosystem that improves people’s standard of living;
* ‘Safety, Justice and Rule of Law’, towards a reduction in crime (including specifically gender-based violence) through better and more timely access to justice services, translating into an improved environment for security and social inclusion;
* ‘Natural Resources Management and Resilience to Climate Change’, towards improving the resilience of the country’s natural resources and ecosystems, as well as the resilience and prosperity of the people that depend on them; and
* ‘Equality and Well-Being’, towards better access to universal, shock-responsive and quality health care for the people of Guyana.
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III. Country Programme Resources

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($)** | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Governance and Poverty Reduction | 1M | 11M | 12M | 70 |
| Energy, Environment and Extractive Industry | 0.5M | 4.5M | 5M | 30 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 1.5M | 15.5M | 17M | 100 |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)**  |
| 1. United Nations Development Programme, Country Programme Document, 2017-2021
2. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2017
3. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2018
4. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2019
5. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2020
6. International Monetary Fund, April 2021
7. World Bank, Guyana Systematic Country Diagnostic, 2020
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9. Guyana First Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019.
10. Guyana Country Profile, SDG Report 2021
11. Evaluation reports (mid-term, final): LCDS Amerindian Development Fund - Village Economy Development under GRIF (ADF Phase II)
12. Evaluation report: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Mining
13. 2020 COVID-19 Socio Economic Impact Assessment Report
14. National dialogue on HIV and the Law Report
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1. The scale used was Baseline = 0 = nonexistent; 1= very little; 2 = little; 3 = moderate; 4 = largely; 5 = very largely [↑](#footnote-ref-1)