



**GUYANA GREEN  
STATE DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY**

**CONCEPT DOCUMENT:  
PILLARS 5, 6 & 7**

**GUYANA  
OCTOBER, 2018**



**GOVERNMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**



**UNFPA - because everyone counts**

**GSDS CONCEPT DOCUMENT**

**Produced by the  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

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## MESSAGE

### UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE

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The concept of the Green Economy, coming from the background of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992, has gained momentum over the last twenty years, thus attracting international attention, with its sustainable development approach. Globally, countries are in pursuit of developing national strategies for sustainable development to achieve the commitments made at the UNCED, 1992. However, notwithstanding the efforts to implement strategies and international cooperation support by governments, there are still prevailing global economic and environmental development concerns that are cross-cutting many planetary boundaries.



**Ms. Alison Drayton**

As part of his quest to ensure ‘a good life for all Guyanese’, His Excellency the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, David Granger, placed Guyana’s value on the international agenda as a ‘green’ state at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (GoCRG) received support from the United Nations agencies in Guyana, to draft the Framework for the Guyana Green State Development Strategy (GSDS). The Framework has since been accepted by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The GSDS is in accordance with the GoCRG principle for an inclusive green economic and social growth; provides a roadmap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets; and outlines a long-term vision for a prosperous and equitable future (GSDS, 2017).

In the crafted GSDS, seven central pillars (or themes) are articulated. As efforts are advanced by the GoCRG to develop the Strategy of the GSDS, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has sought to provide guidance and support with respect to the fifth, sixth, and seventh pillars of the GSDS that speak to:

- Human Development and Well-being
- Governance and Institutional Foundations, and
- International Cooperation, Trade and Investment

UNFPA’s mandate and priority areas identified in its Sub-regional programme document for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2017-2021 as well as UNFPA’s commitment for support as registered in the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the Country Implementation Plan for Human Development and Well-being, place us in a position to support these GSDS pillars. UNFPA’s work with adolescent and women on Sexual & Reproductive Health and Gender issues has been reaping encouraging results.

UNFPA's own mandate coincides with the pillars of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy. Key population and development issues include the following: (1) rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth; (2) adolescent pregnancy; (3) violence experienced by boys, girls, adolescents and young people; (4) participation of youth in all spheres and at all levels of decision making; (5) universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, inclusive of adolescent access and indigenous peoples access; (6) eradication of violence against women and girls in public and private places; (7) gender equality; as well as (8) integration of population dynamics into sustainable development, with equality and respect for human rights.

As UNFPA Caribbean and the United Nations Country System continue to work with government, civil society, academia, media and all our partners, we are genuinely optimistic about the transformational results to implement the GSDS and thus contribute to "a good life for all Guyanese".

**Alison Drayton**

**UNFPA Representative & Director for the English- & Dutch-speaking Caribbean**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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An exhaustive desk review formed part of the process to develop this United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Caribbean/Guyana Concept Document, which has been developed within the context of the Strategy of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy. Among the documents considered during the desk review were the following:

- Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Global Strategy for Women’s Children’s and Adolescents Health
- CARICOM Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy
- Montevideo Consensus
- SIDS SAMOA Pathway
- CARICOM Strategic Plan
- Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS)
- Situation Analysis (SitAN) on adolescent pregnancy in Guyana
- Health Vision 2020 for Guyana



**Mr. Adler Bynoe**

This Concept Document, developed within the context of the Strategy of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy, benefited from the mobilization and engagement of several key stakeholders critical for the development and implementation of the Strategy of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy. Focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews included representatives of the following organizations:

- Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
- Red Thread
- Women Across Differences
- Diocesan Family Life Commission
- UNFPA Youth Advisory Group
- National Toshias Council
- Child Protection Agency
- Gender Affairs Bureau
- Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Social Protection
- Ministry of Education
- Women & Gender Equality Commission
- United Nations Children’s Fund
- Guyana’s National Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural



Organization (UNESCO)

- Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

Special thanks to all the organizations mentioned and to Ms Gemma Edwin and Dame Pearlette Louisy in particular for their immeasurable contribution to the development of this Concept Document. The UNFPA Guyana Liaison Office expresses profound gratitude and deep appreciation to Dr. Morella Joseph who served as the Consultant tasked with developing this Concept Document.

**Adler Bynoe**

**UNFPA Liaison Officer for the Caribbean/Guyana**

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

BIT	Board of Industrial Training
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COHSOD	Council for Human and Social Development
GoCRG	Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GSDS	Green State Development Strategy
HFLE	Health and Family Life Education
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICDP	International Conference on Population Development
ICEFD	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoIPA	Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs
MoSP	Ministry of Social Protection
MSDF	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
NTC	National Toshiacs Council
PAHO	Pan American Health Organisation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLED	Sustainable Local Economic Development
SRHS	Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
SRR	Sexual and Reproductive Rights
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNMSDF	United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

## SECTION ONE

### PILLAR ONE: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*A future that is sustainable is one built on equal rights and opportunities*  
*Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin*  
*(Late UNFPA Executive Director)*

The Government of Guyana is committed to the establishment of the Green State and Economy and achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) is therefore proposed as a national development plan that will, not only guide Guyana’s economic, socio-cultural and environmental development, but also aim to provide the basis for an inclusive green economy that should enhance human well-being and social equity. One of many definitions of the green economy was provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as ‘one that that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities’<sup>1</sup>

Over the past decade, the concept of the Green Economy has emerged as a strategic priority for many governments and intergovernmental organizations. Among the multiplicity of interpretations presented, there is consensus that its ultimate objective is to achieve sustainable development; a construct defined by Brundtland Commission (1987) as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”<sup>2</sup>. The green economy presents many opportunities and can deliver benefits to all sectors of the population; but it also faces innumerable challenges as well.

The elaboration of the GSDS to achieve sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda has been ensured through a participatory approach and UNFPA has demonstrated an interest as a partner in contributing to further elaboration of three of the seven Central Themes or Pillars (five, six and seven) within the Framework for the GSDS. They are:

**Figure 1: GSDS Pillars 5, 6 and 7**

<b>Pillar 5</b>	<b>Pillar 6</b>	<b>Pillar 7</b>
<b>Human Development and Well-Being</b>	Governance and Institutions	International Cooperation, Trade and Investment

To guarantee the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) places greater emphasis on striking

<sup>1</sup> Quote from Why Green Economy? UNEP Green Economy Report

<sup>2</sup> Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, pg. 16

the balance among the overlapping pillars of sustainable development, namely: social, economic and environmental. Hence, the fundamental principles of the GSDS comprise the values and objectives that support Vision 2030 and serve as social and environmental safeguards to ensure an integrated human approach for the transition to an inclusive green growth and better quality of life for all Guyanese.<sup>3</sup>

This Concept Document elaborates Pillars 5, 6 & 7, by indicating the key policy and strategic actions, roles and responsibilities to be undertaken to effectively implement them. It includes the mandate, a brief background, the situation analysis, the key outcomes, outputs and priority actions, implementation critical success factors and an indication of how the resources to implement priority actions for Pillar 5 and others could be mobilized.

**Figure 2: Key Sections of Concept Document**



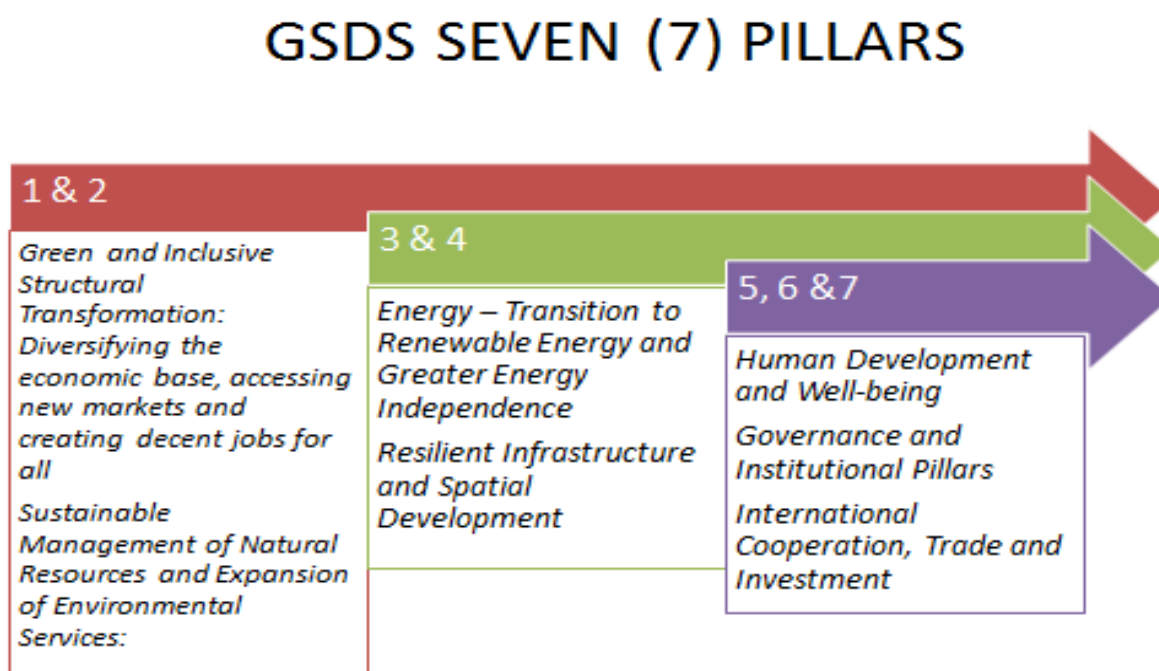
<sup>3</sup> Quoted from the Framework of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy and Financing Mechanisms (2017). Pg. 6; no.3 Principles of the Green State Economy

## 2. THE MANDATE

Guyana has undertaken a consultative process to develop a Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) to guide the country's social and economic development and the attainment of the SDGs. This was done in close collaboration with UNEP and the United Nations (UN) Country Team, and support from other key stakeholders.

The first step in drafting the GSDS was the formulation of a Framework Document that was completed and issued by the Ministry of the Presidency on 27 March, 2017. The document is entitled “**Framework of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy and Financing Mechanisms**” and serves as a guide in the creation of the GSDS. It provides a synopsis of the current economic, environmental and social setting; the targets and the strategic areas to be developed through regional multi-stakeholder consultations. The Framework also includes seven central themes developed within the context of the SDGs that the GSDS must address to support the core principles and ultimately Vision 2030. They are listed in Figure 3:

**Figure 3: GSDS Pillar Core Principles**



Each UN Agency will participate in the process. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will participate in the fifth, sixth, and seventh Central Themes or Pillars by developing a Concept Document for inclusion in the GSDS. The Concept Document will also offer guidance on UNFPA's future support to the Government of Guyana, specific to the implementation of the GSDS priority actions that are in alignment with UNFPA's mandate.

### 3. BRIEF BACKGROUND

In 2017, Guyana's population was estimated at 778,000 with 28.6% residing in urban areas. 29% of the country's population falls between the ages of 0-14 (approximately 225,000 children); 62% are in the 15-59 age range while 8.6% are 60 years old and above<sup>4</sup>. While the country is mineral rich - diamonds, gold, and most recently, oil, - Guyana has been unable to distribute its natural wealth across its population: 7.8% of the population live in multidimensional poverty, 18.8% in near multidimensional poverty and 1.8% in severe multidimensional poverty.<sup>5</sup>

Agriculture, Industry and Services make up 17.6%, 31.7% and 50.6 % respectively of Guyana's GDP.<sup>6</sup> Guyana's female population tends to have more secondary education than their male counterparts (68.1% compared to 53.2%) and longer life expectancy (68.9 compared to 64.2 years); yet women account for only 41.8% of Guyana's labour force. Guyana ranked 127<sup>th</sup> out of 188 countries in the 2015 Gender Inequality Index.

In an effort to address the issues surrounding natural resource management and development of the Guyanese people and economy, the Government of Guyana has taken steps to transition to a green state economy. With assistance from the UN Country Team, Guyana has developed a Framework for a Guyana Green State Development Strategy. The Framework consists of seven (7) Central Themes as indicated. Key to the UNFPA's mandate are the themes of Human Development and Well Being, Governance and Institutional Foundations, and International Cooperation, Trade and Investment.

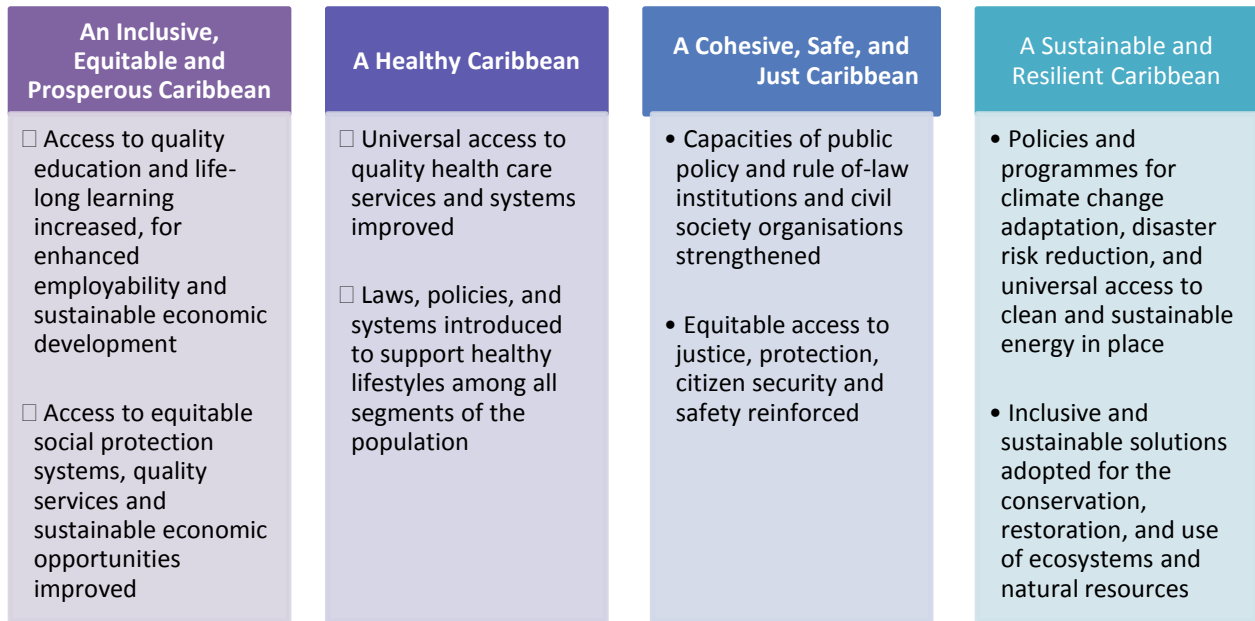
Additionally, the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Caribbean (MSDF) identified four (4) priority areas for the Caribbean and eight (8) outcome statements (Figure 4). These in collaboration with the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway have created goals and outcomes that would enable countries like Guyana to address key development issues within the context of sustainable development and aid towards the achievement of the SDG's.

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<sup>4</sup>UN DATA: <http://data.un.org/en/iso/gy.html>

<sup>5</sup> UNDP Country Profile: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/GUY>

<sup>6</sup> UN DATA: <http://data.un.org/en/iso/gy.html>



**Figure 4: UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean**

The *Guyana Green State Development Strategy* pillar of **Human Development & Well Being** recognizes that *healthy, well-protected young people* are more able to “fully develop their human potential, laying the groundwork for robust health into adulthood, improved productivity and income, and for greater ability to drive positive change across society.” Several issues affect the development and well-being of people in Guyana, particularly the children, adolescents and women. The key issues among these are highlighted in the Situation Analysis.

## 4. SITUATION ANALYSIS

*Human and economic development cannot occur if people are unable to plan their lives and families freely and responsibly, or if they do not have the means and information to do so.*

*(UNFPA, 2015)*

Despite some economic gains in Guyana over the last few years, which have resulted in major advances in some areas of development, significant inequalities, remain among the diverse population groups of the ten (10) geographic Regions of Guyana. An understanding of the current situation with regard to some of the key programmes relating to Pillar 5 -“Human Development and Well-being” – is necessary before a determination can be made on the priority actions required for a Green State Economy. With a focus on the Programme of Action of the ICPD, this Situational Analysis will examine briefly the relevant programmes currently being implemented, their impact on the quality of life and well-being of the beneficiaries, and some of the major challenges that need to be addressed in the transitioning period and beyond. The Programmes to be examined are:

- a) Gender-Based Violence
- b) Adolescent Pregnancy
- c) Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- d) Sexual and Reproductive Health
- e) Gender Equality
- f) Poverty Alleviation
- g) Education
- h) Empowering Indigenous Communities

### ***a) Gender-Based Violence***

Gender-Based violence (GBV) is directly influenced by social and cultural practices and deep-seated gender stereotypes and remains one of the most pervasive problems affecting individuals from all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in Guyana. GBV encompasses a large variety of crimes committed like rape, sexual harassment, incest, stalking, human trafficking, domestic abuse, and forced prostitution; all based on one's gender. While women, girls, men and boys can be victims of GBV, women and girls are disproportionately affected; particularly as it relates to domestic violence (which is directly connected to the control men try to exercise over women), sexual violence, and as a result of unequal distribution of power in society between men and women. (An indicator of gender inequality is the level of violence directed at women in the society). Men, on the other hand, can become targets of physical or verbal attacks for transgressing predominant concepts of masculinity and can become victims of violence in the family.

However, with regard to women and girls as victims of GBV and the consequences they suffer, as stated in the ***UNFPA Strategy and Framework for Action to Addressing GBV, 2008-2011:***



*The primary targets of GBV are women and adolescent girls, but not only are they at high risk of GBV; they also suffer exacerbated consequences as compared with what men endure. As a result of gender discrimination and their lower socio-economic status, women have fewer options and less resources at their disposal to avoid or escape abusive situations and to seek justice.*

The Caribbean Human Development Report on Citizen Security (2012) stated that Guyana had a higher than average incidence of Gender-Based Violence in the region – 17% compared to 11%. In 2014, Guyana recorded the third highest level of acceptance of domestic violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also UNICEF, in its Guyana Situation Analysis on Women and Children (2016), indicated that in 2014 at least one in three women in Guyana was a victim of GBV and 58% of child abuse cases (including physical and sexual assaults) were girls.

**Trafficking** in persons is inhumane and is a violation of the victims’ human rights. The Government of Guyana has recognized that trafficking in persons, including children is widespread and on the increase, especially in the mining areas. In 2014 and 2015, Guyana reported 57 and 61 victims of human trafficking respectively, of which 51 and 60 respectively were female. In both years more than 40% of cases relating to human trafficking were children; 45% and 41% respectively with 11 of 25 children (2014) and 12 out of 24 children (2015) being under the age of consent (16 years)<sup>7</sup>. In 2016, Guyana reported 98 incidences of trafficking up from prior years with 80 of these as sex trafficking and 18 labour trafficking. Victim assistance for victims of trafficking is insufficient especially for persons outside the urban areas and male victims. The number of investigations and prosecutions has increased over the years; however, the number of convictions has been about the same (Table 1). It is worth noting that U.S Department of States Trafficking in Persons 2017 Report stated that although the government of Guyana meets the minimum standards for the “elimination of trafficking” in 2017, it did not increase protection and services for victims outside the capital or provide adequate protection and shelter for child and male victims.

**Table 1: Human Trafficking - Number of Investigations, Prosecutions and Convictions**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Investigations (#)</b>	<b>Prosecutions (#)</b>	<b>Convictions (#)</b>
<b>2016</b>	19	19	2
<b>2015</b>	15	7	1
<b>2014</b>	7	4	1

<sup>7</sup>UNICEF: Guyana Situation Analysis of Women and Children, 2016

Gender-Based violence demoralizes and damages its victims. It undermines their dignity, freedom, health and security, yet it remains masked in a culture of silence. It is widely acknowledged that the perceived national acceptance of GBV, the low conviction rate and the inordinate length of prosecution of perpetrators are the main stumbling blocks and enablers of GBV.

Guyana has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Therefore, the government has a legal obligation to ensure that appropriate measures (enforcement of relevant legislation, policies, programmes and services) are in place to address GBV, particularly sexual, physical and psychological abuse of women and children, domestic violence and human trafficking; all of which continue to escalate and pose a serious challenge for Guyana. Special attention must be given to General Recommendation No.19 on Violence Against Women, which clarifies GBV as a form of discrimination and therefore covered within the scope of CEDAW. UNFPA is one of the UN's lead agencies working to address the physical and emotional consequences of gender-based violence and promote gender equality. The State should therefore partner with UNFPA and other Agencies and stakeholders to significantly reduce gender-based violence in the country.

Victims of gender-based violence can also suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and adolescent pregnancy.

### ***b) Adolescent Pregnancy***

Despite the commitments made by Guyana towards reducing Adolescent Pregnancy, the State of the World Population Report (2013) indicated that Guyana has the second highest rate of adolescent pregnancy in the Caribbean Region. More recently, the *Accelerating Progress toward the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Report of Technical Consultation (PAHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, 2017)* identified Guyana as the country with the highest adolescent fertility rate in the Caribbean for the period 2010-2015, standing at 90.1 births per 1000 girls aged 15-19. Data from the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Public Health (2013) indicated that in the period 2011 – 2013, the range of adolescent pregnancy among females below the age of 19 years was 20 – 22%. Pregnancy, especially among adolescents under 15 years of age is becoming a problem and may be much more serious than is commonly assumed.

Pregnancy-related school dropouts are also of grave concern. As reported in the National Policy for the Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers in the Formal School System (2018), the Primary Health Care Data indicate that between 2015 and 2016 there were 6937 adolescent pregnancies; most of these adolescent mothers were denied an opportunity to continue their education. As a consequence, they lost their already low opportunity of becoming gainfully employed and faced stigmatization from parents, peers and communities.

Table 2 indicates the number of reported cases of adolescent pregnancy by age for 2015 and 2016 for the ten (10) Regions in Guyana. The data combines Georgetown Region 4 East Bank, East Coast, Central and Municipality for 2015 and 2016.

**Table 2:**

**Raw Primary Health Care Data from Health Care Facilities**

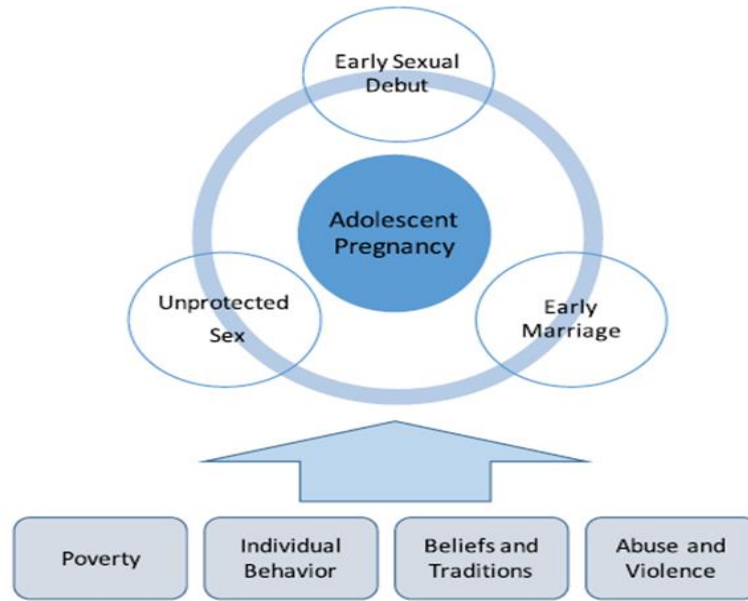
<b>Pregnancy by age &amp; Region: 2015</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Under 15 years</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>15-19</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>3712</b>
<b>Pregnancy by age &amp; Region: 2016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Under 15 years</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>15-19</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>3032</b>

*Source: 2015 & 2016 Primary Health Care Data cited from the National Policy Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers in the Formal School System (2018)*

Guyana’s adolescent pregnancy rate is hugely influenced by poverty, level of education, area of residence, belief and traditions<sup>8</sup>. In Guyana, three main interconnected factors contribute to the adolescent pregnancy rate viz. sexual debut, early marriage and unprotected sex. (See Figure 5)

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<sup>8</sup> Guyana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014

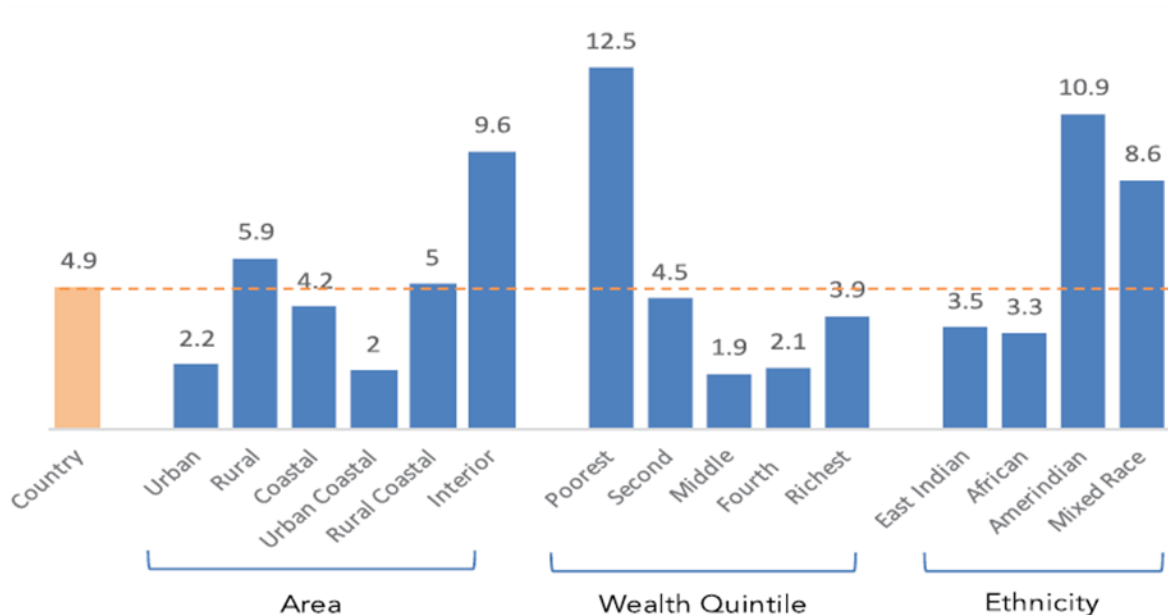


**Figure 5: Possible causes of Adolescent Pregnancy (UNICEF: Guyana Situation Analysis of Children and Women 2016)**

Guyana’s official age of consent is 16 years; yet, on average, 5% of women have had their first sexual relationship before the age of 15. The following figures highlight the vast variance in sexual relations before the age of 15: 12.5% of women in poor families, 10% of those in the interior, with 11% of those being women of Amerindian descent<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> UNICEF: Guyana Situation Analysis of Children and Women 2016



**Figure 6: Percentage of girls who had sex before the age of 15, by socio-economic characteristics, Guyana, 2014 (UNICEF: Guyana Situation Analysis of Children and Women 2016)**

Early and forced marriages are a common occurrence in Guyanese culture. The 2014 MICS survey reveals that both women and girls are victims of this practice, with most women and adolescent girls being in unions with partners who are ten years older than they are. (Table 3) Indeed, in Guyana’s interior, the prescribed “treatment” for a young person engaging in sexuality is marriage.

**Table 3: Early Marriages Guyana (Guyana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014)**

<b>Percentage of people age 15-49 years who were first married or in union before age 15</b> (a) Women (b) Men	4.4 1.0
<b>Percentage of people age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18</b> (a) Women (b) Men	26.9 6.6
<b>Percentage of young people age 15-19 years who are married or in union</b> (a) Women (b) Men	13.3 13.4
<b>Percentage of young women who are married or in union and whose spouse is 10 or more years older,</b> (a) among women age 15-19 years, (b) among women age 20-24 years	15.5 15.1

The lack of a comprehensive sexuality education programme results in many young people becoming sexually active without being fully aware of the consequences of their behaviour. Much more attention needs to be given to this issue to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy. There are serious consequences for the health of the adolescent mothers, their infants, families and society. Adolescent pregnancy reinforces the vicious cycle of poverty and ill health and has serious effects in the economic development of countries. Hence, the Government of Guyana should ensure that measures to achieve SDG 3 that aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages. Particularly, adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 years. UNFPA's Strategic Goal for 2018 – 2021 seeks (among other things) to improve the lives of adolescents, youth and women, enabled by population dynamics, as well as secure human rights and gender equality. One of the indicators of success in SDG3 is a reduction in the adolescent birth rate.

Guyana is also committed to the implementation of the **UNFPA/CARICOM Integrated Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy** approved by the Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in 2014. The Strategy emphasized the need for adolescent boys and girls to have access to age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education, which may be delivered through the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) programme in primary and secondary schools. However, to uncover the true extent of the problem of adolescent pregnancy, more research is needed locally and nationally.

### ***c) Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)***

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality, which aims to equip children and young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity. (*International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education: UNESCO, 2018*)

At some stage in their lives, every young person will have to make life-changing decisions with regard to their sexual and reproductive health. However, the current situation in Guyana as it relates to adolescent pregnancy is a clear indication that most adolescents lack the knowledge required to make those decisions responsibly, leaving them open to sexual coercion and exploitation, unintended pregnancy and other harmful outcomes.

Pregnancy is one of the main causes for school dropout amongst school-age girls in Guyana, hereby depriving them of their human and constitutional right to education. In keeping with their international and legal obligations as a signatory to many International Agreements, the State must strengthen its efforts to help reduce and prevent adolescent pregnancy. To achieve this, the State must ensure that primary and secondary schools provide an environment in which to implement age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education programmes that will enhance the ability of students to practice responsible decision-making with regard to social and sexual behaviour and to protect their health, well-being and self-esteem. It must be noted that CSE is not offered as a separate subject in the school curriculum. Instead, the Ministry of Education in 2016/17 revised the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Curriculum to include elements of CSE, especially

within the two thematic areas of Sexuality and Sexual Health and Self and Interpersonal Relationship.

Currently, the HFLE curriculum is taught in schools, but no comprehensive research has been conducted nationwide to determine its impact on adolescent social and sexual behaviour and well-being. HFLE is not examinable. Therefore, many teachers place greater emphasis on the Common Entrance and CSEC subjects than on the HFLE curriculum. Many are not adequately trained or skilled to teach the curriculum or are uncomfortable disseminating information on sexuality education. These deficiencies in the delivery of the curriculum exacerbate the vulnerability of adolescents and must be addressed. Training is recommended to tackle these instructional deficiencies. Also, steps should be taken to strengthen the delivery of CSE/HFLE, not only in schools, but in community settings particularly those most in need of sexuality education (for example, young people in rural areas, married adolescent girls and adolescents mothers), ensuring that the information given is appropriate and consistent with their evolving abilities and capabilities. Guyana, along with its Latin America and Caribbean counterparts adopted the Montevideo Consensus and therefore agreed to implement measures that will ensure the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education from early childhood.

UNFPA works with governments to implement CSE that meets internationally approved standards, both in schools and through community-based training and outreach. The Government of Guyana should therefore work closely with UNFPA and other development partners to effectively develop and implement good quality CSE and/or life-skills based HFLE programmes with a major component of age appropriate CSE for in and out of school. These programmes should also be based on human rights principles in order to promote the rights and empowerment of young people and gender equality. It is noteworthy that the CARICOM HFLE Programme includes sub-programmes on Out-of-School Youth and Parenting Education and Support. UNFPA worked closely with the CARICOM Secretariat to provide support for policy and programme development. These sub-programmes can be used as conduits to address the issues of sexuality education and reproductive health with Parents and youth nationwide.

#### ***d) Sexual and Reproductive Health***

Every individual has the right to make their own decision and choices with regard to their sexual and reproductive health. As stated in the UNFPA document “*Sexual and Reproductive Health*” (November 2016), good sexual and reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system. It implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life, the capability to reproduce, and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so.

Notwithstanding, to be able to maintain their sexual and reproductive health, Guyanese need to be empowered to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and associated risks, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, many of which can cause serious complications during and after pregnancy. This is particularly the case for vulnerable groups, such as people living in poverty and in rural areas, victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), sex workers, as well as adolescent girls and women. They need to be adequately informed and have access to accurate information and the contraception method of their choice that is safe, effective and affordable. Currently, this

appears to be lacking, particularly for many young people who often face barriers to SRH information and care. Thousands of adolescent girls face unintended pregnancies every year, thereby exposing them to the related risks and consequences. There is also need for the vulnerable populations to be protected under the law and relevant national policies.

The “*Mira que te Miro*”, (Look that I look at you) which is the social monitoring initiative of the sexual and reproductive and rights commitments of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, rated Guyana in December 2017 at 54% with regard to SRH and 38% for Sexual Reproductive Health Services. In addition, The World Bank (2018) also assessed Guyana as “deficient” (0 – 40%) in the following areas: Accountability, Legal and Operational Frameworks, Specialized Services for Gender-Based Violence, Compassionate Delivery and rated as “limited” (42% - 44%) in Maternal Mortality Prevention and Comprehensive Sexuality Education. It is noteworthy that Reporting Systems and Outreach Campaigns were rated at 0%<sup>10</sup>. This means that those two years prior to the release of the Report, no recommendation in defence of sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) had been issued by the relevant Departments. The State had not launched any mass media campaign to disseminate information on SRR.

As indicated by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), there is a distinct connection between reproductive health, human rights and sustainable development. When SRH needs are not met, individuals are robbed of their rights to make critical choices about their bodies and futures; a situation which, overtime, can augment gender inequality and poverty.

Clearly there are serious gaps and deficiencies that must be addressed. The State should work closely with UNFPA and other development partners to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights remain at the centre of human development and well-being. National and local Interventions must be instituted to support and improve reproductive health throughout the life cycle. This will have implications for several sectors to include health, education and transport, which must be strengthened to provide the much needed SRH services, supplies and information. There is a need for more targeted sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and for more research into sexual violence among this vulnerable group.

Work on enhancing SRH and ensuring that all individual needs are met will help Guyana towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, which focuses on good health and well-being. It is noteworthy that gender equality and women’s empowerment are essential to achieving SRH and sustainable development.

#### ***e) Gender Equality***

The experience of countries around the world demonstrates that closing the gender gap and reducing inequality are closely associated with better socio-economic outcomes that promote widespread prosperity. Unfortunately in Guyana, recently released data by the World Bank (Country and Institutional Assessment: 2018) showed that there is a reversal of progress in these

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<sup>10</sup> The World Bank: Country and Institutional Assessment: 2018



policy priorities. Dhanraj Singh (2017) stated that this might be a contributing factor to the country's current social and economic problem<sup>11</sup>.

The issue of Gender Equality in Guyana is one that needs urgent attention, and with good reason. The 2015 Gender Inequality Index ranked Guyana 127<sup>th</sup> out of 188 countries. This ranking reflects the low percentage of women in the country's labour force – 41% - in spite of the fact that there is more female participation at the secondary school level – 68.1% compared to 53.2% male-and a longer life expectancy among females – 68.9 years to the males' 64.2 years. According to the World Bank, Guyana's rating for gender equality declined for the first time in seven years to 3.0 out of 6 (6 being the highest rating) in 2018. This may be as a result of out-dated and poor policies, which undermine the country's ability to close the gender gap, reduce inequality and achieve better social and economic outcomes to benefit all Guyanese.

Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in all spheres of life remains a national priority of the Government of Guyana. On the observance of International Women's Day, the achievements of Guyanese women are celebrated. This includes those who dedicated their lives towards advancing gender equality in Guyana; those who work the farmlands, the teachers who mould minds in classrooms, those who care for the sick and elderly, those who formulate Government policies, those who are in leadership positions, as well as the thousands who have made an enormous impact on the well-being of their families and societies. However, their potential is sometimes not realized because of discriminatory social norms.

Although women have made significant strides at every level of society, gender inequalities persist. Women are still overrepresented in the lowest sectors of the labour market, especially in the service sector; underrepresented in positions of power and in areas that require higher qualifications; the most likely to be the primary caregivers at home and victimized by domestic violence. In addition, the unemployment rate is higher among women, who also suffer lower levels of social protection and have lower salaries compared to men who work the same hours in similar positions with the same qualifications. This is a clear indication that women are being discriminated against because of their gender.

These discriminatory practices are in breach of Chapter II Articles.22 (1) and 29 (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. Article 22 (1) states that "women and men have the right to equal pay for equal work"; Article 29 (2) asserts that "women and men have equal rights and the same legal status in all spheres of political, economic and social life. All forms of discrimination against women on the basis of their sex are illegal". In addition, the Prevention of Discrimination Act and Equality within the Labour Laws, provide for the "elimination of discrimination in employment, training, recruitment and membership of professional bodies on the grounds of race, sex, pregnancy, family responsibilities and marital status, and the promotion of equal remuneration to men and women who perform work of equal value". It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Labour has the responsibility to enforce the law on discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace.

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<sup>11</sup> Dhanraj Singh: Guyana Ratings on Gender Equality and Social Cohesion Declined, World Bank Data Shows:2017

For many women and girls in Guyana, gender equality and the realization of their human rights remain elusive. For example, every year, many babies are born to mothers who are below the age of consent; many adolescent girls are forced into marriage and women are subject to gender-based violence. UNFPA has, for many years, promoted gender equality, helped to advance the rights and empowerment of women and is fully committed to mainstream gender equality concerns into development policies and programmes. (Gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women are the cornerstones of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)).

Therefore, the Government of Guyana should partner with UNFPA and other key stakeholders to examine and evaluate the impact of existing laws, social and economic policies and practices, build on programmes already in place and support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Women Development, which was costed in 2017 by the Ministry of Social Protection. The Strategic Plan targets three areas: equality and non-discrimination to overcome gaps in development, human rights recognition and warranty, and special provisions to foster equal opportunities for women. Working to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls is working to achieve SDG 5 which is critical because “all the SDGs depend on the achievement of Goal 5”<sup>12</sup>.

The Bureau of Statistics should ensure that equality dimensions are monitored through collection and reporting of data that are disaggregated by location (urban/rural), age, sex and income.

#### *f) Poverty Alleviation*

The level of poverty and associated levels of malnourishment will continue to have severe consequences on the health and development of the population and the potential for future economic growth in Guyana unless immediate local and national interventions are instituted to address these issues. The level of poverty varies widely across communities and Regions. For example, Regions 8 (Potaro Siparuni) and 1 (Barima Waini) have the highest levels in the country; 94% and 80% respectively; 75% of people in rural interior communities live in poverty with extreme poverty existing at alarming levels among 54% of them<sup>13</sup>.

According to the Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2011 – 2015, more than 36% of Guyanese or almost 4 in 10 people are living in poverty (with about 18% in extreme poverty), that is, surviving on an average income of US\$1.75 per day. In addition, 19% of Guyana or 2 in 10 people are living in extreme poverty i.e. surviving on an income of US\$1.25 per day. This means, it is extremely difficult for people who live in poverty to have sufficient income to cover the cost of basic necessities and to meet the daily nutritional intake required for proper nourishment, and healthy and productive lives.

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<sup>12</sup> UN Women: SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, 2017.

<sup>13</sup> Work, Income & Poverty: Fact Sheet. Guyana Budget & Policy Institute: Richa Sekhani, August, 2017

Almost half (47.5 percent) of all children under the age of 16 live in families that are in poverty. This is both a socio-economic and developmental catastrophe, which affect their quality of life and well-being. Further, they are the medium through which intergenerational poverty is transitioned. Poverty is also prevalent among young adults between ages 16 and 25. The Fact Sheet (Sekhani, 2017) revealed that more than 3 in 10 young adults (33.7 percent) live in poverty – the second highest among all age groups. Like child poverty, a high level of poverty among young adults undermines the country’s ability to develop a healthy and productive workforce - a fundamental criterion for economic prosperity.

Several Poverty Alleviation programmes have been initiated and are on-going, for example:

- The Difficult Circumstances Unit gives grants for small-business start-ups to heads of single-parent households;
- The Sustainable Local Economic Development (SLED) Programme provides job opportunities for persons within their communities; and
- The Board of Industrial Training (BIT) Programme provides training to thousands of young persons to make them better qualified and more marketable.

These and others, such as the Public Assistance Programme for the unemployed and the disabled, have had a positive impact in improving the quality of life of the more vulnerable, and in fostering community development. Yet, many continue to live in poverty.

Thus, the most significant factors contributing to poverty include low-paying occupations, adolescent pregnancy resulting in an increase in school dropouts and low-levels of education, unemployment and inadequate quality public services and social protection systems. Generating the required resources to effectively address these issues, especially in rural and hinterland communities remain a major challenge and should be given special attention. Every effort must be made by the State to ensure that sustainable livelihood and socio-economic programmes are implemented and business enterprises aided in their development at the national and community levels, so as to help people lift themselves and their families out of poverty. This creates opportunities that will promote the role of women in development as well as supports access of all groups to quality and relevant education. The Government of Guyana should partner with UNFPA and other agencies in the fight against poverty. UNFPA’s late Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin indicated in his Statement to observe International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 2015) that UNFPA “*remains committed to supporting the poorest and most vulnerable, empowering women and girls, facilitating the development of young people, and helping countries realize a demographic dividend. That is how we will end poverty and ensure that no one is left behind*”. Investment in education was also highlighted as an essential factor for human development and alleviating poverty.

### ***g) Education***

The right to education is entrenched in and acknowledged as a human right in several international agreements. These agreements include the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the

International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Recognizing that this right creates an opportunity to realize other human rights, it is viewed as a “multiplier right”. Guyana is a signatory to all these Agreements and has adopted the Montevideo Consensus. Therefore, the government has a legal obligation to ensure that the right of Guyanese to education is upheld and respected and that opportunities and access to education are guaranteed.

The UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Caribbean (MSDF) identified four priority areas for the region, one of which is an inclusive, equitable and prosperous society committed to increasing access to quality education and life-long learning for enhanced employability and sustainable economic development. Guyana has made significant progress at all levels of the education system. The progress made includes: implementing standards for Early Childhood Education and Development; increasing performance in core subjects at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) level; increasing the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT’s) to teacher training; accreditation of educational institutions; support for at-risk and vulnerable students; and the training of out-of-school youth to make them more marketable. Life-long learning opportunities also exist in both the formal and informal education sectors. Efforts are now being made to re-integrate adolescent mothers into the formal school system.

Notwithstanding these achievements, the Guyanese education system is plagued by many challenges, among them:

- Inadequate budgetary allocations at all levels of the sector;
- Disparities between hinterland and coastal students;
- Increased teacher migration to other CARICOM countries and other countries further afield;
- Persistent under-performance in English and Mathematics;
- Increased absenteeism at the primary and secondary school levels;
- Development of relevant curricula to meet the needs of the Guyanese labour market, and indeed, the needs of the green economy being proposed.

These persistent implementation challenges require more effective, pre-emptive and practical interventions at both the local and national levels. It is strongly recommended that Guyana take the necessary steps to implement the CARICOM HRD Strategy 2017, which has been endorsed by the Conference of Heads of Government. That Strategy is based on the premise that:

*The HRD System must be a powerful mechanism for equalising opportunities for all Caribbean persons, through all ages and stages, regardless of family income or home environment, recognising the rights of all individuals to access education, and providing for the fullest possible development of each learner for living morally, creatively and productively in a democratic society.*

The implementation of the Strategy’s Key Transformational Initiatives - in particular, the creation of the Caribbean New School Model for Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Education and the creation of life-long learning opportunities for the enhancement of out-of-school and remote youth and adults – would be an important first step.

Further, in order to compete in a global economy, STEM education and careers must be a national priority. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates will play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the Guyana green economy, and become a critical component to the successful implementation of the GSDS. The innovation and science literacy that will be needed to sustain the transition will depend on a solid knowledge base in STEM. It is clear that most jobs of the future Green State (GS) will require a basic understanding of mathematics and science. Therefore, interventions to increase mathematics and science grades among Guyanese students at the primary and secondary levels, and by extension, the number of STEM Graduates at tertiary level institutions are critical.

#### **h) Empowering the Indigenous Communities**

The UNDP Human Development Report (2016) speaks of a world where all human beings have the freedom to realise their full potential in life so they can attain what they value, because human development is about universalism, about leaving no one behind. However, Guyana's indigenous peoples are perhaps among the most vulnerable and the most under-served as far as access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities are concerned. High levels of poverty, low levels of education, geographical remoteness, beliefs and cultural traditions, are all areas that need to be taken into consideration when programmes to empower these communities are being planned and implemented.

Currently, Village Improvement Plans are being implemented which are meant to reflect priorities in individual communities with respect to education, health, infrastructure, social protection, livelihood, management of natural resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation and capacity building. Increasingly women are joining their male counterparts in the development of national initiatives and programmes and are becoming Tashaos for their communities, while young people are taking on leadership roles in their communities and are advocating for respect for the rights, concerns and welfare of the country's indigenous population.

However, the challenges are many. Programmes proposed cannot always be implemented because of inadequate State resources. Great emphasis should therefore be placed on Implementation Coordination by the governance structure of the relevant institutions (Pillar 6). The frequent absence of coordination in programme planning and implementation results in overlapping and duplication. The principle of prior and informed consent of the population being served is not always observed. Access to these remote communities is difficult and costly.

Serious consideration must be given to the provision of and access to quality education; creating social and economic opportunities to help improve the quality of life of indigenous people and the development of their communities. Therefore, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs should collaborate with development partners and key stakeholders to achieve its Vision: "*Over the next 20 years, all of Guyana's indigenous peoples and communities are empowered to have a better quality of life now and for future generation*". Guyana is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and is therefore duty-bound to ensure compliance with the Articles therein.

UNFPA, guided by its “Work on Indigenous Issues”, is well positioned to support indigenous issues in Guyana in the areas of SRH, gender equality, and population and development. UNFPA can extend its programming support in creating youth friendly spaces beyond Region 7 to other indigenous communities.

### ***NOTE***

The above-uncompleted tasks and persisting implementation challenges and risks call for effective, practical and pre-emptive local and national interventions. To overcome these challenges and build on the progress made, greater emphasis must be placed on the critical strategic areas and priority actions identified in the Situation Analysis and during the Focus Group Discussions and Semi-Structured Interviews conducted prior to the development of the Interim Report. (See Appendix D).

## 5. MISSION STATEMENT AND GSDS GOALS

Guyana is at a stage now when it has to make a paradigm shift to be able to achieve the goals of a Green State Development Strategy (GSDS)) and by extension the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Transitioning to a Green State will help to reposition Guyana to address the need for significant reforms in the country's economic, social and environmental sectors and governance systems.

The Mission of Human Development and Well-Being within the GSDS underscores the significance of promoting the quality of life and well-being for all people in all ten (10) Regions of Guyana as defined by CARICOM's Ideal Caribbean Person Profile with full advantages in *employment, human rights, poverty reduction, mainstreaming sustainable development, innovation, productivity and global competitiveness (CARICOM Strategic Plan 2015-2019)*. Advancing human development and well-being shall ensure that no one is left behind. Hence, the focus should be on improving the lives of people, their opportunities and abilities in an environment where they can be influenced by groups and systems, to help them develop to their full potential and live free and productive lives.

**Figure 7: Human Development and Well-Being Goals in the GSDS**

<i>Goals of Human Development and Well-Being in the GSDS</i>
<b>Policies to provide scope for continued human development where individuals' livelihood is not compromised but instead offer avenues for improvement in the quality of life</b>
<b>Meeting the needs of vulnerable groups as well as all other members of society in a sustainable manner, while allowing for inclusive participation of all in the decision-making processes that will impact their lives.</b>
<b>That equal rights and justice prevail and programmes developed to meet the needs of diverse groups in harmony with the GSDS and other local, regional and international obligations and commitments</b>
<b>That young people be able to access the basic necessities for a flourishing livelihood e.g. employment, health, education and safety that will lead to a sustainable future.</b>
<b>Recognizing that social inclusivity is needed to ensure social and economic longevity, in a safe environmentally friendly state.</b>
<b>Ensure equity and equality for all in key areas of education, health, and social justice; to bridge the huge disparities that exist among population groups and between coastal and hinterland areas.</b>
<b>Effective and efficient systems of governance and institutions to manage and coordinate implementation of the GSDS.</b>
<b>Strengthen national statistical system in data collection, production and dissemination and the calculation of the Human Development Index (HDI) and measuring of GSDS and SDGs indicators</b>

## 6. GSDS POLICY & STRATEGIC PRIORITY ACTIONS

*Human and economic development cannot occur if young people and Adolescents are denied their basic rights of access to high-quality Education and health, including reproductive health*  
(UNFPA 2015)

Having identified the achievements and gaps in the Situation Analysis, Guyana can build on these achievements and select for implementation, policies and strategic priority actions within the GSDS to successfully attain the goals of Pillar 5 (Human Development and Well-being) thereby ensuring that no one is left behind. These priority actions were clearly specified by key and relevant stakeholders, development partners and government representatives during consultations, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews. These actions identified for implementation in Table 4 are, in the main, consistent with the mandate of UNFPA or include actions that can influence relevant target groups as well as the attainment of results.

**Table 4: GSDS Policy Outcomes, Outputs and Strategic Actions**

<b>GSD POLICY OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS</b>		
OUTCOME 1: A reduction of all forms of violence against women and children, which impact their lifelong health and wellbeing and consequently achieving SDG Targets 5.2 and 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFPA Strategic Goal 2018-2021 and the CEDAW Articles 2, 5 & 16.		
	<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>
1.1	National strategic interventions to reduce and prevent violence against children (VAC) developed and implemented	<p>1.1.1 Develop National Strategy to end all forms of violence (physical, sexual, psychological or emotional and neglect) against children under eighteen (18) years old, whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, relatives, friends or strangers.</p> <p>1.1.2 Support the execution of the National Strategy on Violence against Children through the implementation and enforcement of the relevant laws or legislative reform</p> <p>1.1.3 Develop Action Plan to create safe environments for children by identifying neighbourhood “trouble spots” for violence and use appropriate interventions to address the enabling risk factors at the community and societal levels.</p> <p>1.1.4 Provisions made for responses services that will ensure children who are victims of violence to readily access effective emergency care and receive suitable psychosocial support</p>



1.2	National Action Plan and appropriate programmes to eliminate and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices against women and girls developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated	<p>1.2.1 Take actions to seriously address the increase in GBV (rape, sexual harassment, incest, stalking, human trafficking, domestic abuse, and forced prostitution) particularly against women and girls in all 10 Regions</p> <p>1.2.2 Put appropriate measures in place to address the physical and emotional consequences of GBV, increase protection and services for victims and ensure that the relevant laws are enforced</p> <p>1.2.3 National interventions required to gather data to determine impact and inform evidence-based programmes to address this human rights violation.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 2: Adolescent pregnancy significantly reduced and adolescent mothers reintegrated into the school system, supported and given a second chance and progress made to achieve SDG Target 3.7</b></p>		
2.1	A holistic approach to support girl's rights and to empower them to avoid unintended pregnancy realised.	<p>2.1.1. Develop National Strategy aimed at reducing and preventing adolescent pregnancy by adapting Regional Integrated Strategy on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy developed by UNFPA and CARICOM</p> <p>2.1.2 Policy interventions to address the underlying drivers of adolescent pregnancy such as child marriage, sexual violence and coercion and exclusion from educational opportunities and poverty.</p>
2.2	Age appropriate Comprehensive Sexuality Education delivered both in and out of school	2.2.1 Mandate the implementation of age-appropriate Comprehensive Sexuality Education to improve the skills and capacities of adolescents and out of school to make the right choices and avoid unintended pregnancy, HIV and other STIs.
2.3	Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers in the formal school system achieved	<p>2.3.1 Put measures in place to implement the National Policy for the Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers into the Formal School System already developed and launched by the Ministry of Education</p> <p>2.3.2 Develop and implement interventions that will provide psycho-social support for pregnant, parenting and at-risk girls and their families and to provide them with livelihood opportunities</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 3: Parents of children from birth to 18 years of age are adequately prepared and supported to assume their parenting roles with greater confidence and assurance.</b></p>		
3.1	National Strategic Framework for Parenting Education and Support developed and implemented	3.1.1. Adapt Regional Framework on Parenting Education and Support developed by UNFPA to develop a National Policy Framework for parents of children 0 to 18 years of age to include: building blocks for child development, what parents need to know, do and avoid, and what actions need to be taken by the State and relevant Development Partners

		3.1.2 Action taken to get National Policy Framework approved and implemented in all ten (10) Regions
<p><b>OUTCOME 4:</b> All women and adolescent girls have access to sexuality and sexual reproductive health education, information and services particularly Indigenous Peoples in the rural and hinterland areas. (A move to achieve SDG 3: Targets 3.1 &amp; 3.7. the UNFPA Strategic Goal 2018-2021 and CEDAW General Recommendation No. 24 Article 12)</p>		
4.1	Creating an enabling legal and policy environment where Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of all women and adolescent girls are realized.	<p>4.1.1 Interventions to ensure that women and adolescent girls can access HIV and SRH services without discrimination</p> <p>4.1.2 Use multi-faceted approaches to ensure that quality age appropriate adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and related commodities and products are available and accessible in all ten (10) Regions.</p> <p>4.1.3 Strengthen health systems to guarantee quality antenatal and postnatal care for adolescent girls and women</p> <p>4.1.4 Take action to advance in National Public Health Action Plan less restrictive abortion laws and policies in an effort to reduce the number of unsafe abortions and reduce maternal mortality. Also, to allow women to make informed and independent decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health.</p>
4.2	Policies to protect the sexual and reproductive rights of Indigenous Peoples developed and implemented	<p>4.2.1 Adapt intercultural reproductive health policies and norms (policies and norms developed with assistance from UNFPA in Latin America can be referenced)</p> <p>4.2.2 Promote interventions to support the Rights of Indigenous people to sexual and reproductive health, services and education</p>
4.3	National systems to record maternal deaths and unsafe abortions improved	<p>4.3.1 Improve national systems to record all maternal deaths and their causes to enhance measuring progress of achieving SDG Target 3.1</p> <p>4.3.2 Identify priority interventions to address policy and/or implementation gaps in 4.2.1</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 5:</b> Achieved gender equality and women’s empowerment as a matter of their human rights. In addition, significant progress made towards SDG 5, the UNFPA Strategic Goal 2018-2021 and CEDAW Articles 7 – 16.</p>		
5.1	Gender equality and promotion of women’s empowerment ensured.	5.1.1 Develop strategies to promote women’s rights and create more equal communities. (The implementation of the Strategic Plan on Women Development costed by the Ministry for Social Protection in 2017 is a good starting point)

		<p>5.1.2 Accelerate efforts to increase women in leadership, improve livelihood and cultivate better work-life balance in the workplace</p> <p>5.1.3 Steps taken to reduce wage inequality and promote equal pay for jobs executed under same working conditions and require equal responsibility, skill and effort.</p> <p>5.1.4 National legislation required to end discrimination and gender inequality, and achieving SDG 5 by 2030</p>
5.2	Communication Strategy to promote gender equality developed	5.2.1 Develop Communication Strategy to promote inclusion in the struggle to achieve gender equality.( Engage men and boys in diversified strategy to achieve gender equality)
<p><b>OUTCOME 6: Development of policies and programmes, to include poverty alleviation, rights, culture, traditions and needs of indigenous peoples particularly women supported</b></p>		
6.1	Livelihood and programmes to alleviate poverty and enable economic self-sufficiency developed and implemented.	<p>6.1.1 Build capacity for entrepreneurial prospects in the remote and hinterland communities particularly for Indigenous Women.</p> <p>6.1.2 Create an enabling environment for participation in culturally sensitive and sustainable mini-businesses by making micro-loans available to interested indigenous men and women.</p> <p>6.1.3 Develop Livelihood Programmes that will result in an increase of indigenous owned businesses based on cultural and natural resources and the utilization of local skills and traditional knowledge</p> <p>6.1.4 Establish traditional Knowledge Centres and Vocational Institutions in the hinterland regions to facilitate business enterprises and the preservation of traditions.</p> <p>6.1.5 Develop strategy to address the problem of land tenure rights</p> <p>6.1.6 Enhance the capacities of indigenous peoples to increase participation in national and regional political processes.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 7: A noticeable improvement in the quality of life and well-being of the vulnerable groups in Guyana particularly persons with disabilities.</b></p>		
7.1	Measures to promote the quality of life for Vulnerable groups taken	<p>7.1.1 Increase budgetary allocation for the health and support of the elderly and differently able</p> <p>7.1.2 Increase the number of community health care workers to support and provide home care for the Aged, those who are bed-ridden and persons with severe disabilities.</p>

		<p>7.1.3 Provide more homes/shelters for abused women, men, girls, LGBT persons and victims of trafficking, with the relevant support systems and trained and qualified personnel.</p> <p>7.1.4 Develop national strategies and programmes to preserve the rights and self-worth of women and girls by eliminating damaging practices such as early and forced marriages, trafficking, sexual harassment, child prostitution and incest.</p> <p>7.1.5 Develop interventions and Protocols to guide the assimilation of Deportees and Migrants into communities throughout Guyana and to address the challenging social, health and economic issues emanating as a result of the integration process.</p>
7.2	Mechanisms and interventions to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities realized.	<p>7.2.1 Continue interventions to promote equality for persons with disabilities to preserve their dignity and self-reliance and consider their needs without discrimination</p> <p>7.2.2 Promote mechanisms to reinforce the capabilities of persons with disabilities to integrate socially, culturally and economically and ensure the fulfilment of their rights and aspirations. <b>(Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)</b></p> <p>7.2.3 Implement monitoring and evaluation systems to determine status and progress in the social, cultural and economic integration of persons with disabilities.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 8: A significant number of young people in all ten (10) Regions of Guyana have acquired the knowledge, understanding and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to achieve academically, become employable and contribute to national and regional development and to exercise healthy behaviour (SDG 8).</b></p>		
8.1	Opportunities in Capacity-building for Youth enhanced	<p>8.1.1 Increase and support National Youth Entrepreneurship programmes</p> <p>8.1.2 Create educational opportunities for youth in key sectors (oil &amp; gas, engineering, sciences, medicine, economics, entrepreneurship) through scholarship and sponsorship</p> <p>8.1.3 Increase budgetary allocation for programmes that will enable young people to participate in the Cultural and Art Industries</p> <p>8.1.4 Strategic action to address the technical, structural and legislative provisions and protection for intellectual property rights for local artists</p>

		<p>8.1.5 Provide and sustain sports facilities in all communities so that young people’s skills and abilities can be harnessed.</p> <p>8.1.6 Provide training and support (financial/social) for at-risk youth for skills building and training for employment eligibility.</p>
8.2	Key youth related National Policies finalised and implemented	8.2.1 Finalise and Implement key policies that address the critical needs of young people in particular: National Youth Policy, National Sports Policy, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Policy, Reintegration of Adolescent Mothers in School Policy;
<p><b>OUTCOME 9: Improvements made to an increased number of educational institutions in coastal and hinterland Regions and the resources needed to improve teaching and learning in all schools provided.</b></p>		
9.1	Physical infrastructure of educational facilities improved	9.1.1 Undertake infrastructural programmes to enhance and improve the physical structure and environment of educational institutions regionally
9.2	The resources required for the effective functioning of educational institutions provided	<p>9.2.1 Provision made for the human, material and financial resources required by educational institutions to improve management, administration and the teaching and learning environments and learning spaces (trained and qualified personnel (all levels), equipment, teaching aids, technology and library facilities).</p> <p>9.2.2 Interventions undertaken to address staff turnover and the migration of teachers to other CARICOM Member States and beyond.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 10: There is congruency between the Curriculum and educational opportunities for lifelong learning for all (SDG4) and World of Work and success in life</b></p>		
10.1	Relevance of Secondary and post-secondary curriculum content to the world of work and the GSDS Programme of Work ensured.	<p>10.1.1 Curriculum review to ensure relevance to the green economy and the world of work. (CARICOM HRD Strategy 2030 should be used to inform the review process)</p> <p>10.1.2 A Sample Labour Market Survey was conducted in 2017. Take steps to ensure that that a nationwide survey is done to provide evidence-based data to inform the curriculum review process</p>
10.2	ICT integrated in the school curriculum	<p>10.2.1 Make provision to achieve the long-declared goal of integrating ICT in the school curriculum</p> <p>10.2.2 Increase budgetary allocation to facilitate the implementation process: the purchase of ICT equipment and internet service in schools regionally (Special effort to include schools in rural and hinterland areas</p>

10.3	Teachers and Curriculum Officers trained to adapt Curriculum to teach students with special needs	10.3.1 Facilitate the adaptation of the school Curriculum and the training of teachers to meet the needs of children in Special Schools and those with learning disabilities.  10.3.2 Increase budgetary allocation for the acquisition of appropriate resource materials and equipment.
10.4	Number of students with Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) Certificates increased	10.4.1 Pursue interventions to promote and increase intake in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions and to increase the number of young people with CVQ Certificates.  10.4.2 Identify sectoral priority areas from the GSDS and include “Green” growth related subject in TVET offerings
10.5	Programmes to enhance lifelong learning in coastal and hinterland areas developed and implemented.	10.5.1 Availability of Lifelong learning and educational opportunities for members of the workforce, adults, second chance learners and those who decide to continue their education after the traditional school age provision.
<p><b>OUTCOME 11: The learning achievements for all levels of education and for all sub-groups throughout the country especially in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and English and lifelong learning increased by a significant number.</b></p>		
11.1	Education Sector Plan (ESP) on increasing the learning achievements at all levels of education and for all sub-groups continued	11.1.1 The ESP beyond 2018 continues to focus on increasing the learning achievements at all levels of education and for all sub-groups Nationwide.  11.1.2 National interventions undertaken to reduce the differences in learning outcomes between sub-groups in both coastal and hinterland schools.  11.1.3 Teaching strategies undertaken to improve learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy especially at the primary school level and English, Mathematics, Science and Technology at the secondary and post-secondary levels.
11.2	Achieved meaningful improvements in Human Resource Development (HRD) as a result of STEM	11.2.1 Build HRD systems to Increase the number of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) graduates in the tertiary education sector in order to enhance workforce global competitiveness, productivity and innovation.
<p><b>OUTCOME 12: There is a reduction in outbreak of communicable diseases and an increase in trained personnel to implement programmes to mitigate the impact.</b></p>		
12.1	Programmes in Environmental Health and Epidemiology to reduce communicable diseases strengthened	12.1.1 Take steps to enhance National capacity to reduce outbreaks of communicable diseases and to promote education and surveillance ;  12.1.2 Strategic actions to be taken to address high Staff turn-over and migration of skills

		12.1.3 Provisions made for Health Promotion initiatives and public promotional campaigns that target mass populations on the adverse effects on Chronic Non- Communicable Diseases and the appropriate lifestyle / behavioural changes that should be practiced and maintained by all.
OUTCOME 13: Improvements made to the physical infrastructure of all health facilities and essential resources required for quality service provided.		
13.1	Physical infrastructure of health facilities improved	13.1.1 Put measures in place to Improve the physical infrastructure of health care facilities (health centres, hospitals) regionally
13.2	The essential resources required in health facilities provided	13.2.1 Provision made for the human, material and financial resources required by health facilities to improve management, administration and the quality of services provided: trained and qualified personnel (all levels), equipment, medicines & drugs, funding.  13.2.2 Provide screening, referral and early intervention services to detect and treat learning, hearing, vision and other disabilities
OUTCOME 14: Guyana has the capacity to effectively generate, disseminate, communicate and utilize data to develop evidence-based policies and programmes and to determine their impact on human development and well-being.		
14.1	Strategies to Strengthen national capacity to generate, disseminate, communicate, and effectively utilize data developed	14.1.1 Strategy to decentralize the work of the Bureau of Statistics by establishing Sub-Offices Regionally  14.1.2 Develop strategy to strengthen national statistical systems (all units/agencies/Ministry that contribute to the collection, production and dissemination of statistics/data)  14.1.3 Implement national and local interventions for capacity building/empowerment to include Refresher courses and the use of new technology and methodological techniques  14.1.4 Provide better data to inform policies and programmes, to ensure policy coherence between social inclusion and environmental sustainability, and to better understand their impact on human development and well-being.

## **7. PILLAR 5 IMPLEMENTATION: CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS**

Like many developed and developing countries transitioning to a green economy, Guyana will also encounter risks during that process. Some risks can be mitigated and others may have to be accepted or transferred to a third party to address. Hence, as a precautionary measure, the State and implementing partners should develop a Risk Mitigation Plan for every project to include risk management strategies and approaches on how each potential risk can be mitigated in order to reduce threats to policy or programme objectives, and alternative/contingency plans in the event the risk mitigation strategies are not successful.

Notwithstanding, the threat of risks during the implementation process can be considerably reduced if particular attention is given to the critical factors necessary for the successful delivery of projects and priority actions. Some of these critical factors are listed in Figure 8.

**Figure 8: Critical Factors for Successful Implementation**

<b>CRITICAL FACTORS</b>	
a) Effective and efficient governance, administrative and institutional structures to implement, monitor, evaluate and coordinate all GSDS policy and programme activities locally and nationally	b) National HRD Plan in which staff are trained, appraised and upgraded on a consistent basis, to aid in enhancing quality of the workforce and reduce high staff turnover due to migration of skills
c) Citizen engagement in policy formulation and implementation especially in remote Indigenous communities	d) A harmonised, multi-stakeholder mechanism inclusive of development partners, private sector and NGOs to advise and assist in implementing the GSDS.
e) Adequate budgetary allocations and resources to State and Non-State implementing Departments and Agencies	f) Adequate resources to facilitate the high cost of transportation and access to remote hinterland areas
g) Effective policies to reduce inequalities, discrimination and persistent injustices and deprivation, particularly with respect to remote and hinterland areas.	h) A quota system to promote youth mainstreaming in the governance of the development priorities as stipulated in the GSDS, in political and decision-making processes, and to review public policy
i) Adequate investment of resources to close gender gap and change social norms and practices that perpetuate gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls.	j) Availability of innovative data collection mechanisms to generate relevant disaggregated data that can inform policy formulation and programme planning and development as well as determine impact on human development and well-being.



## 8. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Within the context of the transition to a Green State, the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, and the evolving financing landscape, Guyana needs to develop a comprehensive and integrated resource mobilization strategy to ensure that funding is available to operationalize the GSDS and to achieve the outcomes of the seven (7) Pillars included in the Strategy. In order to achieve this, the State needs to engage the public and private sector partners to support the delivery and implementation of the GSDS programmes, taking into consideration the priorities and targets outlined in the SDGs and the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The changing environment and the competition for scarce resources, both nationally and internationally, require that the State becomes more strategic and visible in its approach to its work and actively engage with donors in the process of prioritizing programmes for funding<sup>14</sup>. The Central Executive should therefore mandate the Ministry of Finance to continue to explore incentives, mechanisms and funding opportunities by developing a roadmap that will achieve the following:

**Figure 9: Funding Roadmap**

FUNDING ROADMAP	
a)	Identifying the strategic priority actions from each sector that will require funding
b)	Innovative strategies to secure existing funding and attract additional sources
c)	Develop capacity and create the necessary conditions to maintain the traditional donor base and expand the non-traditional one
d)	Cultivate new and strategic partnerships locally and nationally to increase cash and in-kind contributions (human, logistics, infrastructural, managerial resources) particularly from the private sector and civil society that benefit from programme results and impact
e)	Develop strategies to promote public-private partnerships to increase programme financing
f)	Adapt and create an “Incentive System” to attract financial support from diverse donors. The system should include frameworks and modalities to accurately track allocation of resources and expenditures; transparency and accountability, quality programme content with specific roles and responsibilities and impact, assessment and reporting of results, robust fund management practices
g)	Remove impediments by creating an enabling environment to attract donor funding.

In keeping with **Figure 9**, resource mobilization efforts for Pillar 5 should centre on providing funding to achieve the outcomes of the GSDS. This in the main is in harmony with UNFPA’s

<sup>14</sup> Official Development Aid (ODA) received by Guyana has been decreasing in recent years compared to funding received in the 1990’s

Strategic Plan and the vision of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) with regard to universal access to reproductive health information, education and services (a vision that has not been realised).

Funding will also be required to cover costs associated with the work of institutions to provide good governance with its related support activities (Pillar 6). Transparent and accountable governance structures have proven to be good incentives in securing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as they provide shareholders with additional security investing in overseas territories. Coordinated efforts with Private corporations to enable them to assist in meeting the outcomes outlined should be a key focus. These PPPs allow for the companies to increase their corporate responsibility branding; a key area of interest for international enterprises, while contributing to the development of the Guyanese people.

Achieving the outcomes particularly those under Pillar 5 facilitated through Good Governance (Pillar 6) would better enable the preceding pillar outcomes to be achieved. Higher quality education, access to health services, reductions in violence can allow for the people to fully engage in Green technologies and initiatives providing a rounded capable workforce for current and future Private enterprises.

Currently, Guyana's banking institutions are well capitalized, having held by November 2016 160% of required reserves. This, in conjunction with the fact that local enterprises account for 46% of loan portfolios, create opportunities to provide incentivised loan interest for companies whose loans request proposals include financing for GSDS outcomes.

“In the post-2015 era of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNFPA mandate and mission are more relevant than ever – and critical to the success of an integrated and universal sustainable development agenda.” (UNFPA 2015) The GSDS outcomes are also critical to the success of the Agenda and address inter alia: equity, inclusive education, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, children, youth and adolescents, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups, gender equality, and statistical data. Notwithstanding, what is most important is that potential funding partners clearly understand Guyana's GSDS priorities, what its funding needs are and what the Government's contribution and allocation will be to support each sector. These critical actions should be speedily accomplished.

## 9. CONCLUSION

Human development and well-being for everyone in Guyana is not a fantasy; it is an attainable goal. The State has achieved tremendous successes in the past decade and needs to build on these achievements. In many instances, there is no need to “reinvent the wheel”.

The transition to a Green State and Economy is not an easy journey as indicated by many international actors involved in that process in both developed and developing countries. The challenges as indicated are many. Notwithstanding, the relevant Actors and Institutions within the governance architecture can explore new possibilities to overcome them. As UNDP (2016) indicated in the Human Development Report: “*We can attain what once seemed unattainable, for what seem to be challenges today can be overcome tomorrow. Realizing our hopes is within our reach*”.

Achieving the GSDS Goals is realistic. Establishing effective and efficient governance and institutional structures to manage and coordinate the implementation of GSDS Policies with coherence are achievable. Transitioning to a Green State and Economy is achievable. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals that are critical to the attainment of human development and well-being for all Guyanese are also achievable.

## SECTION TWO

### **PILLAR 6: GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL PILLARS**

*States as well as institutions must be judged not by their statements, but by measurable implementation of their commitments and achievement of goals  
(Najam and Halle, 2010)*

## **10. INTRODUCTION**

One of the most important characteristics of a well-functioning State is that the principles of good governance are respected and firmly entrenched in the legal system of that country. Good governance requires legal frameworks that are fair and that are impartially enforced; especially those relating to human rights. It also requires that institutions develop processes that will provide service to all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe, with full **protection** of human rights, particularly those of the disadvantaged, poor and indigenous.

It is not enough to have shrewd policy makers or well-functioning institutions. The basic principles of good governance need to be incorporated in the daily practices of management and administration as well as social norms at large. This action will greatly assist Guyana to transition to a green state and economy; one that combines the goals and objectives of economic growth and human development, the quality of life and well-being of its citizens and cultural and environmental concerns in a manner that will preserve and sustain existing resources for both the current and future generations.

## **11. WHAT IS GOVERNANCE?**

To date, despite efforts by scholars, agencies and organizations to provide a concise definition to the term “governance” or “good governance”, there is no consensus over a particular definition of this constantly evolving concept. This is a clear indication of the fast pace in which societies are currently developing.

Governance has often been described as the process by which decisions are made and are implemented. It is also considered as the process by which public institutions conduct and manage public affairs, public resources and ensure the protection of human rights. Accomplishing these processes must be carried out essentially in an environment that is free from corruption and abuse, and with due respect to the rule of law. It deals with “managing, steering and guiding action in the realm of public affairs, especially in relation to public policy decision making” Baker (2009). This Concept Document will speak to these definitions.

Governance research indicates that the influence and participation of non-governmental stakeholders in governance at both the national and local levels is increasing. Thus, expanding structures of governance beyond those of the Nation-State and government institutions to include NGOs and civil society organisations and community groups can be considered a success factor

in the governance of the GSDS. The role of Development Partners, each with its specific mandate and areas of interest relating to the GSDS, is also critical to that process. For example, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has an interest in Pillars 5, 6 and 7, of the Framework of the GSDS and has assumed responsibility for developing this Concept Document.

## **12. GOOD GOVERNANCE**

One of the many definitions given was by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which stated that good governance is "... among other things participatory, transparent and accountable. It is also effective and equitable. And it promotes the rule of law." The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated that the term:

*"...encompasses the role of public authorities in establishing the environment in which economic operators function and in determining the distribution of benefits as well as the relationship between the ruler and the ruled."*

Good governance in a Green State (GS) can help to ensure that the rights of all citizens are respected, that there are equal opportunities for all, that all ethnic groups are included in local, national and regional development, and that none is discriminated against.

Notwithstanding, in transitioning to a green state and economy which will require a change in paradigm, there is need for government bodies, all sectors and relevant institutions associated with the process of implementation to agree on the fundamental elements that characterize good governance. Understanding the characteristics of good governance will also help these institutions to evaluate how successful they have been in their pursuit of a GS. A review of the literature revealed that there was consensus on the key elements of an institutional framework that ensures good governance. This is outlined in Figure 10 below:

## ELEMENTS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

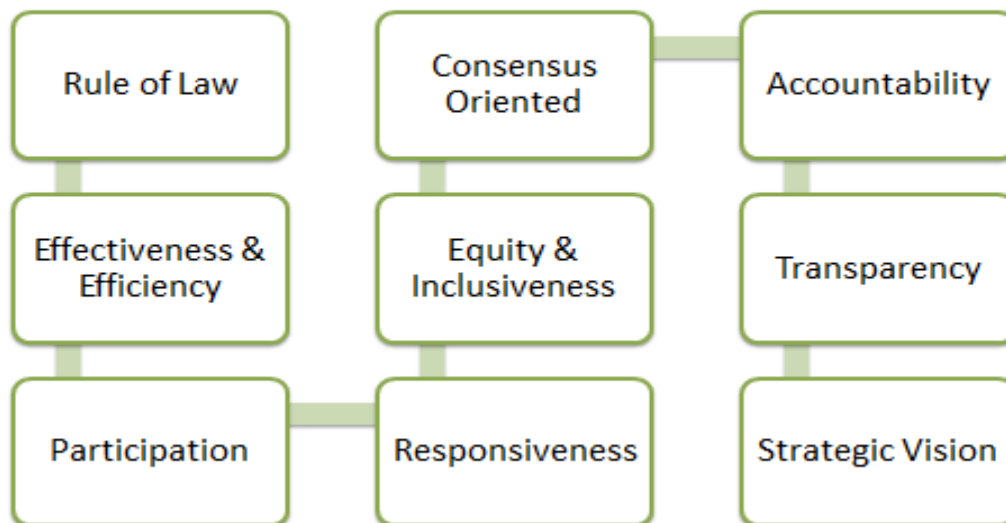


Figure 10 Elements of Good Governance

### 13. GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE GSDS

A country's well-being depends to a great extent on ensuring that its people feel a sense of belonging and that they are not excluded from the mainstream of society. Conversely, inefficiencies and ineptitudes that exist in governance and the absence of adequate support mechanisms and resources can severely impede the realization of this critical Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) goal. Guyana will therefore have to ensure, that in its quest to promote human development and well-being in the GS, that all groups are afforded opportunities to improve and sustain their quality of life and well-being in a safe and enabling environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable (the poor, women, children, disadvantaged youth, persons with disabilities, deportees, the elderly and indigenous people) in all its ten (10) Regions.

Good governance is also vital to guaranteeing social inclusion, respect for human rights and promotion of equal opportunities for all. Guyana has identified two (2) strategic areas in its Green State Development Strategy. These include;

- i) Transparency, good governance and the rule of law
- ii) Knowledge management, information & communications.

The development of strategic area (i) which is aligned to the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan for Social Cohesion hopes to ensure citizen safety and security, inclusive institutions and participatory governance, and harmonious ethnic and racial relations<sup>15</sup>. In order to achieve the goal of transparency and rule of law several priority areas have been identified in the GSDS. Key among

<sup>15</sup> Government of Guyana 2017-2021 Strategic Plan for Social Cohesion: Outcomes 2, 4 & 5

these are the strengthening, rationalizing, and modernising of current laws and institutional frameworks, and improving levels of transparency by increasing the share of publicly available data. In so doing programmes implemented to accomplish pillars 1 – 5 of the Green State Development Strategy can accomplish the expected target outcomes. With below average scores for the rule of law and high level of corruption, Guyana needs to strengthen transparency and reform its legislative process and procedures.<sup>16</sup>

The second strategic area hopes to address knowledge management, information and communication. Access to Information & Communication Technologies (ICT's), will improve e-participation, e-administration and e-services thus reducing digital exclusion and enhancing the delivery of government services. Unfortunately, Guyana's slow bureaucratic process along with the slow adaptation to technology has resulted in the lack of necessary legislation and tardy implementation of ICT programmes that could accelerate the sustainable development agenda.

Notwithstanding, transitioning to a green state and economy is a huge undertaking; one that many developed and developing countries are grappling with. As a member of a Regional and International Community, Guyana should not undertake this challenging journey on its own. Forming new partnerships and strengthening the ones that currently exist will be critical to the process. This will result in the implementation of many projects funded by international donor agencies and development partners especially in the post transition period. During that time, many reforms need to be undertaken to realign and build the capacity of institutional frameworks to ensure good governance.

## **14. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS**

Good governance in the GSDS calls for institutions that are effective, efficient and accountable, with firmly established rules and regulations that sustain and promote human development, *protect human rights, respect the rule of law, and ensure that people are free to participate in decisions that affect their lives*. Institutions must also ensure that the decisions taken and executed are done in a transparent manner and that they observe rules and procedures. Hence, those who will be affected by the application of these decisions should be informed through appropriate media.

Participation in decision-making is often considered as the foundation of good governance. Institutions should therefore encourage it particularly at the grassroots level, among minorities and the indigenous population as long as the capacities to participate constructively exist. Participation may be done directly with the institutions or through their legal representatives, intermediate civil

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<sup>16</sup> Millennium Challenge Account Guyana Scorecard 2016

society groups or organisations in an informed and organized manner. The leadership of these institutions must therefore ensure that they adopt a system that includes the features in Figure 11.

## Features of Institutional Framework



Figure 11 Features of an Institutional Framework

Improving institutions and their ability to enable the right frameworks is critical so that all actors can deliver on their shared responsibility and ensure better coordination and policy/programme implementation.

Whereas the participation of development partners and key stakeholder groups in general, and of civil society organisations, local governments, non-governmental organisations and community groups in particular, will continuously grow in the decision-making process, nonetheless, broad participatory governance cannot replace the role of the central government in its role as regulator. Thus, the government of Guyana should continue to play a pivotal role in protecting vulnerable groups in society (particularly those impacted by abuse, violence, drugs and discrimination), ensuring the development of laws and policies to implement the GSDS and creating a legitimate and inclusive governance framework to support the implementation of the GSDS.

### 15. THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

As indicated, there are several different groups in Guyana, each with its viewpoints and areas of interest. Hence, a good system of governance will require mediation of the diverse interests in the country to arrive at a consensus on what is in the best interest of each community and how this goal can be accomplished. This process will also require an extensive and long-term perspective



or strategic vision with respect to what constitutes sustainable human development, rights and responsibilities, as well as how these can be achieved. The success of this process is contingent on institutions having an appreciation and understanding of the historical and socio-cultural contexts of Guyana and the communities therein.

The successful implementation of the GSDS is also contingent on the structure of good governance. In the case of Guyana with ten (10) geographic Regions, great emphasis should be placed on a decentralized form of governance to be able to positively impact the lives of its citizens, especially minorities and those in the most remote underserved and hinterland communities. Local governments and Democratic Councils in each Region can then play a critical role in ensuring that an *inclusive model of governance* is developed and sustained, and that the National GSDS policies and strategic actions and programmes are integrated in their management plans.

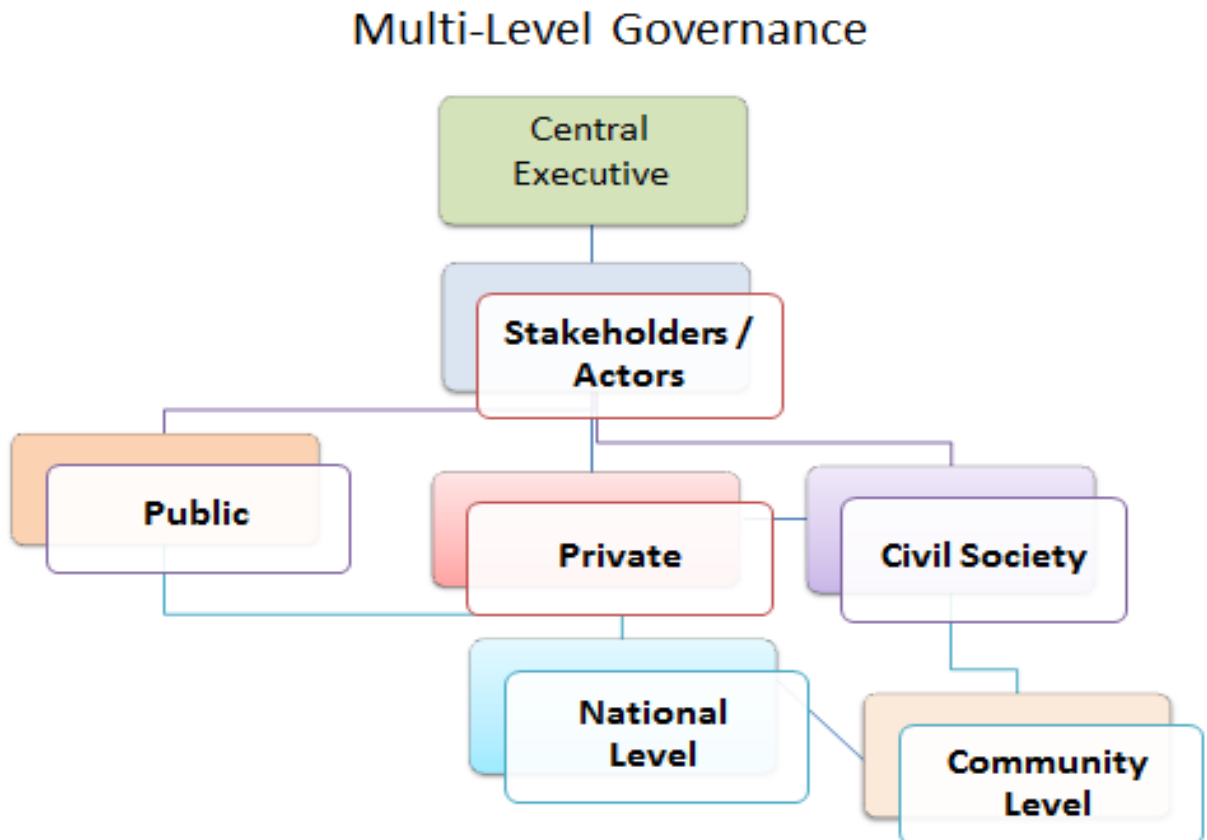
Successful implementation will depend heavily on the commitment of these local and regional bodies. Properly structured and resourced, they can become critical actors with the capacity to execute sector policy decisions and strategic actions modified to specific geographic locations and circumstances. Thus, steps should be taken to strengthen their management capabilities and increase their budgetary allocations and resources. In addition, partnerships can be formed with relevant civil society, non-state organisations, community and indigenous groups to participate in the implementation of sector-specific programmes based on areas of interest. This citizen engagement can also be a significant contributing factor to the success of implementing the GSDS especially in communities that are difficult to access. However, from the onset, all participating groups and entities must be acquainted with the laws, regulations and standards that have to be complied with throughout the implementation process.

## 16. IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION

Transitioning to a green state and economy will require that each sector places great emphasis on the implementation of its policies and programmes and the coordination of the processes involved. Achieving this goal will require a few significant changes to the existing governance and institutional structures to include:

- a) An effective system of monitoring and evaluation for every programme or policy action being implemented. This will:
  - Assess and determine the impact of policies and programmes
  - Prioritise the critical issues to be addressed by the State
  - Produce relevant data to develop evidence-based policies and inform structural adjustment programmes that may be necessary in the long term for each sector;
  - Address the major challenge of data collection, production and dissemination.
- b) Well-designed indicators and outcomes that will benefit the policy and data-collection
- c) A coordinating implementation mechanism to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in policy and programme delivery.

- d) A multi-level governance structure to strengthen the relationship and collaboration among the stakeholders directly involved in the implementation and coordination processes at the national and local levels. Not only will this approach include continuous major governmental consultations, but town hall meetings and focus group meetings as well with representatives from the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organisations and community groups. **See Figure below**



*Figure 12: Multi-Level Governance*

- e) A strategy to **mainstream gender in governance so that** women empowerment in particular in Guyana will increase and significantly impact their participation in the key sectors of the economy, education, health, employment, politics and their voice in the policies that affect their lives. This process shall address gender disparity, which is still prevalent in CARICOM Member States including Guyana, by alleviating the plight of women who suffer from widespread social, legal, political and economic discrimination and suppression. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) was an agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality. One of the significant goals set out by the Conference was adequate representation of women in all decision-making bodies. The strategy to mainstream gender in governance shall present an opportunity to achieve that goal.

- f) A system of accountability is a critical element of implementation; one that is often discounted across sectors. The related institution needs to ensure that a strong reporting mechanism exists that should be an integral component of the accountability system.
- g) A multi-stakeholder mechanism (inclusive of civil society) is urgently needed to assist in initiating and co-ordinating planning for the economic, financial, social, cultural and physical development of Guyana (as laid out in the GSDS). Such a mechanism is also needed for monitoring the implementation of the plans and programmes, particularly for collecting, compiling, analysing and monitoring social and economic performance data to determine progress, while advising on policy formulation. It is noteworthy that various governments across the Caribbean, including Guyana, previously agreed at the Follow-up Consultation to the Regional Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean (held March 27-28, 2017, in Montego Bay, Jamaica), to explore the possibility of adopting the Planning Institute of Jamaica model to meet such priority actions. The Planning Institute of Jamaica is committed to leading the process of policy formulation on economic and social issues and external co-operation.
- h) Establish a quota system to promote youth mainstreaming in the governance of the development priorities in Guyana as stipulated in the GSDS. This shall ensure youth engagement and participation in the decision-making process at the different levels of policies, goals and targets particularly on issues that impact their well-being. The process shall facilitate greater youth empowerment and capacity building and presents opportunities for participation in formal, institutional political processes.

The late Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, highlighted at the Conference on Family Planning in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in October 2013 the need for investment in the capabilities of adolescents and youth for a greater return in the sustainable development of nations. This position was supported at the World Conference on Youth in Sri Lanka by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Youth Council (UNFPA was also present). The quota system shall present opportunities for such an investment in Guyanese youth to engage in governance and participate in political and decision-making processes.

- i) Structuring the decision-making process to incorporate all citizens (the youth, poor and the most vulnerable) especially when decisions are taken on issues that will impact their quality of life and well-being. The process will therefore be not only a top-down approach but a bottom-up as well.

## **17. MOVING FORWARD**

The key to envisioning a GS is to determine the most realistic steps to get there. Pillar 6 outlines reasonable extensions/expansions of what existing systems of governance and institutions are already doing and should continue to do that would collectively improve Guyana's ability to

successfully implement the GSDS. This collective approach encompasses the range of institutions, systems, processes, and decisions that impact the quality of life and well-being of individuals and will require the commitment of all the actors charged with the responsibility for achieving the agreed policy and development goals and objectives. The approach should be accompanied by a combination of mechanisms and systems to manage, coordinate, finance, monitor and evaluate the GSDS policies and programmes implemented. Hence, improving institutions and strengthening their capacities to enable the right structural approaches are critical so that all actors can deliver on their shared responsibility and ensure better coordination and policy implementation.

A multi-stakeholder mechanism (inclusive of civil society) is critical for the further development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the progress of implementation of the GSDS. Several Caribbean governments across the Caribbean, including Guyana, represented at the UNFPA Follow-up Consultation to the Regional Meeting on Population and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean (held March 27-28, 2017, in Montego Bay, Jamaica), to explore the possibility of adopting the **Planning Institute of Jamaica model** to meet such a requirement.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **PILLAR 7: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

*“To successfully transition to a Green State necessitates addressing significant challenges facing developing countries that lack sufficient financial, technical and human capital sufficient to structurally transform their economies along a new green trajectory. International cooperation to provide capacity building, technology transfer and financial assistance will play a central role in filling these gaps.”*

*(UNCTAD 2011)*

## **18. INTRODUCTION**

As stated in the CARICOM Regional Strategy 2015/19, for many years, the Caribbean Community has steadfastly embraced the global development agenda and the transformation associated with it. This agenda has facilitated the repositioning of the Region as a “*Community of resilient Member States with a sustainable development agenda articulated in the CARICOM Strategic Plan*”. Following the MDGs, the Post -2015 Development Agenda also focused on the 2030 Agenda or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); a Framework that places great emphasis on human development and well-being (which Member States of the Community have embraced).

Guyana is one of the Founding Members of the CARICOM, and therefore has an obligation to ensure the attainment of the SDGs for the well-being of its people. Guyana has also been seen as having a central role to play in fostering cooperation and development in the region. This would require investment from other countries in the region and beyond. One of the objectives of the GSDS is to create an enabling environment for such investment to occur, since it is considered well placed to expand both trade and investment because of its abundant natural resources<sup>17</sup>.

## **19. PILLAR 5 AND THE 2030 AGENDA**

The 2030 Agenda focuses on several critical areas already articulated as development programmes under Pillar 5 in the Guyana Green State Development Strategy (GSDS), for urgent consideration. These include:

- a) End poverty in all its forms in the ten (10) Regions
- b) Inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all
- c) Ensure healthy lives and well-being for people of all ages
- d) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

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<sup>17</sup> Section 4.7 of the Framework for Guyana Green State Development Strategy

- e) Ensure training of youth and adults for productive employment to support economic growth and prosperity
- f) Sexual and reproductive rights and education
- g) Make human settlements everywhere inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Achieving this mandate will indeed be challenging. In order to prepare for this undertaking, the approach used will have to be extensively consultative, collaborative and engaging. The success of achieving the main goals of the GSDS, particularly Pillar 5, is contingent to a great extent on Guyana's relationship with the regional and international communities as well as through South-South Triangulation Cooperation. This should help the State to increase the diversity in opportunities for development assistance as well as overcome current challenges that may hinder the attainment of internationally agreed goals such as the SDGs. UNDP can play a supporting role in that regard. The transition to the Green State and Economy is the first step towards Guyana achieving the 2030 Agenda. If successful, it will result in a life-changing experience for most, if not all Guyanese, especially those in rural and hinterland areas.

International Development Partners such as UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, PAHO, UNDP, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth of Learning, CIDA, USAID, World Bank and the EU have an interest in and mandates specific to the major areas of Guyana's development including Education, Health, Social Protection, Energy, Environment, Youth Development, Gender Equality or Indigenous People. Achieving meaningful improvements in these sectors is critical to promoting human development and well-being, enhancing the quality of the workforce (which is a critical determinant to economic and prosperity), global competitiveness and innovation.

These Development Partners, many of which already have a working relationship with Guyana, should continue to work closely with the State to provide support in the areas of policy and strategy development, building an HRD system that is globally competitive, capacity building and resource mobilization.

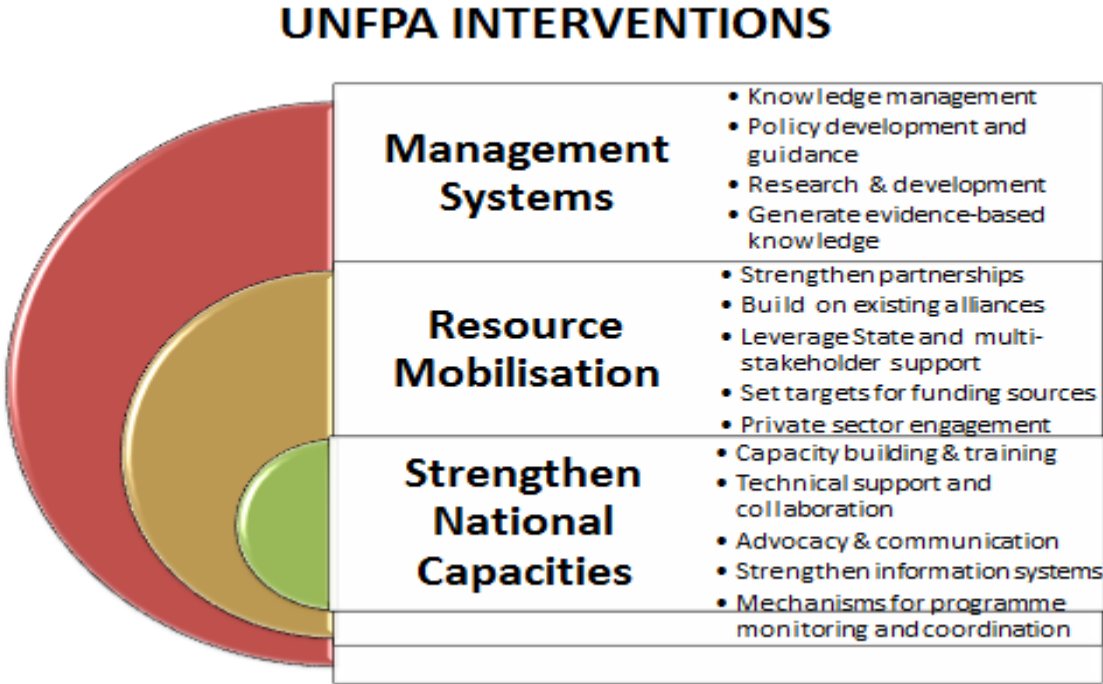
## **20. THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

Development Partners also have an obligation, based on their global mandate to assist developing countries and SIDS. However, they have many challenges to contend with inclusive of the following: de-risking, blacklisting, Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FATCA), reclassification resulting in ineligibility for concessional financing, and restrictions on foreign direct investment. Considering the foregoing as well as the persistent global economic recession and the uncertainty of the international economic environment, Guyana should not rely principally on International Grants or Aid to support the implementation of the GSDS. Instead, the Government of Guyana should maximize all efforts to generate support from the public and private sector organisations, civil society and other partners such as UNFPA, UNICEF, PAHO and UNESCO, operating within the State.

Private sector investment is critical to the successful implementation of the GSDS particularly Pillar 5 (Human Development and Well-Being) and should be promoted. It is noteworthy, that many of the Strategic Actions proposed for this Pillar (sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescent pregnancy, gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, out-of-school youth and vulnerable groups), are priority areas identified in UNFPA’s mandate. As indicated in the UNFPA Regional Interventions Action Plan for Latin America and the -Caribbean 2018-2021, United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the Country Implementation Plan for Human Development and Well-being, the Agency is committed to providing support in the implementation of the Strategic Actions of the GSDS that are directly tied to its mandate. Hence, UNFPA shall assume responsibility for assisting in the implementation of Strategic Actions related to its mandate. However, certain initiatives and programmes may require collaboration with UN partner agencies or those outside of the UN development system in order to achieve greater harmonization of efforts and best results.

In that regard, UNFPA may seek to undertake the following interventions in Figure 13 to assist in the implementation of the GSDS

**Figure 13: UNFPA Interventions**

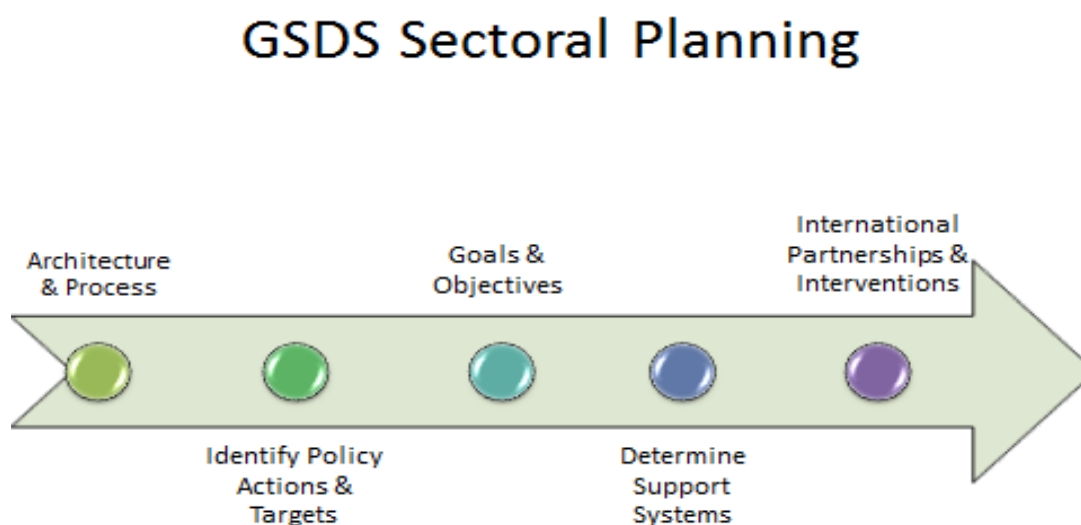


## 21. ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The urgency for progress towards a more sustainable development in the area of human development and well-being requires prompt action. This leaves Guyana with no alternative other than a practical search for ways to go forward that will include the international community. In many instances, initiatives to promote and sustain human development and well-being are already being developed within State and Non-State Organisations, Civil Society, the business community, as well as several Development Partner Agencies. Interventions to scale up these initiatives could become valuable. Nonetheless, the approach should also explore linkages that may exist between GSDS policies and national initiatives and determine whether this will result in knowledge acquisition and behaviour change.

As indicated, the International Community has a critical role to play in ensuring the successful implementation of the GSDS since it is designed to meet Guyana's International obligations and commitments. The approach should consider the inclusion of a harmonized system that will incorporate international cooperation and collaboration to help achieve the GSDS, in particular, the human development and well-being goals. A simple model, which can be modified or adapted by any sector within the GSDS, is identified in **Figure 14**.

**Figure 14: GSDS Sectoral Planning**



To operationalize the Plan in support of the transition to the GS will itself require good governance and innovative institutional design and international support and investment. After extensive research on how this can be achieved, a set of interventions is proposed on the role that the international partners can play in the implementation of the GSDS, with the hope that eventual modification and approval will ensue after



consultations. It is equally important during that process to specify the key conditions we believe any successful new architecture will need to meet.

**Figure 15: International Interventions**



Therefore, to strengthen international cooperation, collaboration and investment in the process of implementing the GSDS and transitioning to a GS, Institutions should create an enabling environment consistent with GSDS policies and goals to stimulate public and private investments. The quality of the workforce is also critical to the process. Hence, interventions to significantly enhance workforce productivity, global competitiveness and innovation should be undertaken. This will result in consequential improvements in Human Resource Development (HRD).

It is noteworthy, that one of the key enablers for spurring technological advancements and innovation is an increase in the number of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) graduates from the tertiary education sector. The international community can continue to assist by investing in capacity building by way of scholarships and fellowships, internships, technical assistance and cooperation, research and development initiatives among others. The CARICOM HRD Strategy 2030 asserts that *building globally competitive HRD systems are a critical determinant of economic growth and prosperity within the*

Region”. Hence, cognizance of certain key education for sustainable development principles as articulated in SDG 4’: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

## 22. HEMISPHERIC AND REGIONAL COOPERATION, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

On the issue of Trade, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) should be the platform for rationalising inter-regional trade. The CSME is an expanded market that offers “*more and better opportunities to produce and sell goods and services and to attract investment; greater economies of scale; increased competitiveness; full employment and improved standards of living for the people of the Caribbean Community*”<sup>18</sup>. The CSME provides the foundation for growth and development and is central to CARICOM’s economic integration. This pillar, one of which CARICOM depends on to achieve its objectives, has impacted the lives of citizens and commerce in the region.

As a member of the Community, Guyana should accelerate its efforts to explore possibilities for generating, advancing and strengthening both domestic and inter-regional investment opportunities. Earlier attempts at trade distribution and investment in the form of the allocation of industries across the region failed. The implementation of the GSDS presents an opportunity to re-visit this investment.

CARICOM and Central American countries also share some similarities and complementarities that favour their trade relationship. Their location, specialized products and services combined, may result in a trade complementarity that each trading country could benefit from. Several CARICOM member states have signed trade agreements with individual Central American countries despite transportation challenges. Guyana (and Barbados) ratified the Trade Agreement between CARICOM and Costa Rica in 2008 and should seek to identify all avenues to secure markets and strengthen trade relations with that country. In addition, Guyana should endeavour to find other markets (small or medium) in this Region for both the procurement of goods and services as well as for the expansion of sales.

The diplomatic agenda between CARICOM and the Central American Integration System (SICA) has been very active since 1992 and cooperation between them has been incredible. Their Programme of Work includes *diverse areas of cooperation such as: Human Development, Health, Housing, Poverty Eradication, Environment and Disaster Mitigation, Foreign Policy Coordination, Foreign Trade and Investment, Crime and Security, the Fight against Corruption, Air Transportation and Tourism, and Cultural Exchange*<sup>19</sup>. These issues are critical to the implementation of the GSDS and the transitioning to a GS.

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<sup>18</sup>The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME): **Overview-** <https://caricom.org/work/areas/overview/caricom-single-market-and-economy>

<sup>19</sup> Quoted from Joint Declaration issued on the occasion of the second CARICOM-SICA Summit of Heads of State and Government, 12 May 2007, Belize City, Belize

The Organisation of American States (OAS) AND CARICOM have met on several occasions to strengthen cooperation between them. During these discussions, the Secretaries-General approved a series of recommendations relating to enhancing and deepening cooperation in the following areas: “*human resource development, gender issues, training of persons with disabilities, trade capacity-building, multidimensional security, drug demand reduction, sustainable development, with particular regard to the environment, climate change, natural disasters, energy, tourism development, democracy and governance, electoral assistance and electoral reform*”<sup>20</sup>. These areas are tied to the pillars of sustainable development and the GSDS. Measures should be put in place to explore avenues particularly through diplomat means to take advantage of this platform.

Guyana is also a member of the Association of Caribbean States (ASC) (with its 25 Members and three Associated Members) which intends to strengthen regional co-operation, sustainable development and concerted actions in its five distinct priority areas of interest namely Trade Development and External Economic Relations; Sustainable Tourism; Transport; Disaster Risk Reduction; and Budget and Administration. There is also a Council of National Representatives of the Special Fund with responsibility for providing oversight with regard to resource mobilisation efforts and project development. There are common interests and goals among ASC members and these can be further explored by Guyana. The Greater Caribbean Zone of Co-operation within the ACS is a good place to start. It is noteworthy that the OAS and the ACS met in 2014 to expand cooperation between the two regional blocs particularly in the areas of education, culture, security and tourism.

By way of the GSDS to successfully transition to a GS, a special institutional mechanism should be in place to help Guyana take full advantage of this enhanced economic space and regional cooperation that the ASC has created through bilateral approaches, and identifying niche markets for trade, development and investment. Building climate change targets into the use of fossil fuels, which is a relatively new area for Guyana, could attract both trade opportunities and investment. Guyana is also promoting its tourism product and can use the Belize (another ACS Member) model as a good example to sustain this sector and create strategic partnerships in niche markets regionally and internationally. It is worth noting that tourism services are the main export item in most of the CARICOM economies and are in demand predominantly by countries of the European Union and the United States. It is important to keep at the forefront of this endeavour the creation of a tourism product that is inclusive and maintains a balance between the society, environment and the economy.

Guyana has the potential to become the “bread basket of the Commonwealth Caribbean”; a dream that has been elusive for many decades. With its vast arable lands and water sources the State

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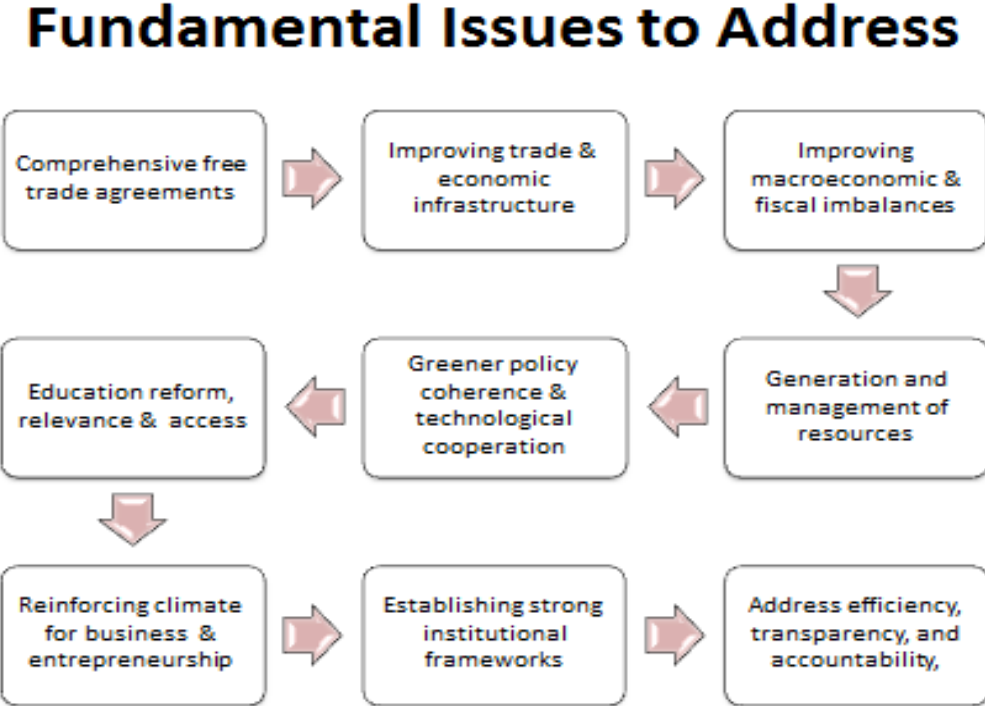
<sup>20</sup> *OAS and CARICOM salute stronger bonds of cooperation between them*  
March 2, 2007

should accelerate the Ministry of Agriculture three-fold thrust to modernize the Agricultural Sector and to include new and modern use of technologies, cultural diversification and environmental adaptation (due to climate change) in the process. The end result: as a GS, Guyana should be able to feed its entire population, ensure food security and export markets particularly in non-GMO foods. As agriculture is moved inland, it shall create economic opportunities for the indigenous people as well.

**23. FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGES**

To successfully transition to a Green State necessitates addressing the significant challenges facing the country enough to structurally change its economy along a novel green trajectory. In addition, to take full advantage of wide-ranging trade agreements and other mechanisms of trade promotion and investment and bilateral trading relationships, Guyana needs to address several fundamental issues that may impede its regional and international competitiveness and capacity to develop and sustain a strong output green growth. The most critical issues and challenges to be addressed are identified in Figure 16.

**Figure 16: Fundamental Issues**



## 24. FINAL WORD

Deliberate policies and improved institutions are needed to create an enabling environment at the domestic level that, coupled to greater openness to green markets can promote increased investments and the transfer of skills and technologies needed to build green supply capacities to build domestic and export markets.

Even though that Guyana has made great strides in Regional and International Cooperation, Trade and Investment, there are also elements that inhibit the commercial and investment dynamism between countries and regions. Guyana should be cognizant of that fact and ensure that measures are in place to overcome them. Guyana is therefore urged to be more pro-active towards improving investment prospects and develop appropriate production structures capable of generating economic activities that will contribute to human development and the well-being of all Guyanese. It is worth noting that governmental or inter-governmental actors will not have all the answers to the problems that may be encountered during the implementation of the GSDS and in the transition period. Non-State actors, civil society, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based organisations and other social organisations must be part of the process.

Since green growth is primarily people-centred, Guyana should be looking towards making greater efforts at bringing people together for social, cultural, educational, sporting activities at various levels and demographics. When people get to know and interact with each other at these levels, cooperation becomes more natural, less forced or engineered.

Transitioning to a GS will present a great opportunity for Guyana to strengthen its democratic values, defend human rights, individual freedom and institutional efficiency, transparency and accountability, together with a practical agenda for sustainable development and tangible progress for shared prosperity throughout its ten Regions.

## APPENDIX A

### SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP MEETING AND INTERVIEWS

#### TRANSITIONING TO GREEN GROWTH ECONOMY: UNFPA'S THREE PILLARS

1. What is your understanding of a green economy that is people-centred?
2. What should be the goal for Human Development and Well-Being in the context of the GSDS?
3. Can you identify relevant programme areas, which currently exist, in your Ministry/Organisation?
4. How impactful/successful are they? Give reasons for the success.
5. Can you identify best practices? If yes, please list them.
6. What are the challenges (if any) for implementation?
7. What measures are in place to address these challenges? If none, what could have been done to overcome them?
8. Can you identify specific programme areas that can be realistically addressed under Human Development and Well-Being?
9. What support systems must be in place for the successful implementation of these programmes?
10. What is your understanding of "Governance and Institutional Foundations" in the context of the people-centred GSDS?
11. How can this thematic area effect positive change in the implementation of the GSDS? List the requirements.
12. How is this theme related to Human Development and Well-Being?
13. What measures must be put in place to ensure the successful implementation and monitoring of all three thematic areas?
14. What challenges do you anticipate during the implementation process and how can these be overcome?
15. What institutional foundations are needed to effectively facilitate and enable conditions for strengthening investment in and management of green growth processes?
16. What is the role of culture within the context of the green economy?
17. Why is good governance essential for the green state development process? Identify the elements of good governance?
18. How can international trade and investment be integrated in the GSDS as enablers of poverty alleviation and sustainable development?
19. What role should the following institutions and groups play to facilitate the implementation process?
  - Government Ministries
  - State and Non-State Agencies & Institutions
  - Development Partners
20. What concerns do you have?

## APPENDIX B

### Key Programme Areas Identified for the GSDS

#### Key Programme Areas

- 
- Children: ECD Licensing; Early Years National Programme; Protection from Neglect and Abuse
  - Children with Disabilities: Early Screening; Education and Health
  - Adolescent Pregnancy: Prevention and Reintegration in School System
  - Gender Equality
  - Prevention of Violence against Women and Children
  - Out-of-School Youth Programmes
  - Curriculum Reform : Relevance to the World of Work
  - The Elderly: Social Care Involvement and Community Intervention
  - Indigenous Population: Empowerment; Environmental Issues; Social Services
  - The Destitute and Homeless: Social Services; Community Engagement
  - HFLE & Comprehensive Sexuality Education
  - Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Rights and Education
  - Parents - Mental Health Issues: Substance Abuse, Alcohol, Poverty
  - Parenting Education and Support
  - Resource Mobilisation: Human, Financial and Material
- 

***Source: Development Partners and MoSP Interviews, 2018***

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Key Factors influencing Programme of Work**

#### **Key Factors**

- 
- Public Policies and support Strategies for implementation
  - System for Public Policy review
  - Legislative reform
  - Oversight System: Monitoring & Evaluation
  - Availability of relevant data for programme planning
  - The socioeconomic status of the household
  - Juvenile Justice programme: care for Children
  - Availability of Children Friendly Spaces
  - Sexual regulation & Education
  - Rate of illiteracy
  - Community Awareness and Engagement
  - Early Years Programme – Right Start
  - Evaluation of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Programmes
  - Mental health and reproductive health services
  - Quality of Work Force
  - Training and capacity building
  - Regional and International Cooperation
  - International Funding

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***Source: Focus Group Discussions and Interviews, 2018***



## **APPENDIX D**

<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AREAS FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION</b>	
<b>.1.</b>	Reducing the incidence of Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls
<b>2.</b>	Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy
<b>3.</b>	Access to age-appropriate quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>4.</b>	Universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health, Services and Information
<b>5.</b>	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
<b>6.</b>	Poverty Alleviation
<b>7.</b>	Inclusive and Quality Education; Early Years Programme & STEM
<b>8.</b>	Protection and Well-Being of Children, Adolescents and Youth
<b>9.</b>	Well-Being of the Indigenous People and all other vulnerable groups
<b>10.</b>	Good governance and institutional structure and support
<b>11.</b>	Health Services and Infrastructure
<b>12.</b>	Data Collection, Management and Dissemination

**Source: Focus Group Discussions and Interviews, 2018**