

Guyana and Suriname

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Epidemic violence underpinned by harmful social norms or attitudes, inequities in accessing services and youth unemployment make growing up challenging for children in Guyana and Suriname. Over one-third of the population in each of the countries are children or adolescents: with 293,915 (39.4 percent) in Guyana and 200,200 (34.7 percent) in Suriname. Both countries ranked low in the 2018 Human Development Index report 100th for Suriname and 125th for Guyana, out of 188 countries.

A qualified upper-middle income country, Guyana is struggling with a low gross national product (GDP) of \$3,847 per capita and youth unemployment of 40 per cent (*Caribbean Development Bank*) and high brain drain. In the hinterland, 80 per cent are of Amerindian descent (9.2 per cent of total population). While local elections were peacefully held in November, the passing of a no-confidence motion in late December kicked into action Article 106/7 of the Constitution which stipulates that a national election is to be held within three months. Meanwhile economic performance stabilized, with average growth of 4 per cent, supported by the commodity boom, foreign investment, value-added tax (VAT) introduction and debt relief agreement. The discovery of huge reserves of oil could be significant, with the first benefits to be seen in 2020. It is estimated that the country holds over four billion barrels of offshore oil reserves, which would put it into top-20 oil producing countries. It is critical that the country not fall into the trap of the 'resource curse' but position itself to invest in children.

A more recent upper-middle income country, Suriname has seen a reversal with economic growth going down to 0.5-1 per cent. Of the total population, 10 per cent live in the interior, mainly Maroons (approximately 80 per cent) and Indigenous (4 per cent). The economy is concentrated in the extractive industries, including gold and oil). A reliance on natural resource revenues has exposed the country to commodity price fluctuations. Because of the economic downturn, the Government is focused on reducing fiscal spending to prevent debt and instability, which has impacted social spending on children. National elections are scheduled for 2020.

Part of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) and Mercado Comun del Sur (Mercosur), both countries expanded partnerships in 2018 with the African region: aviation and oil/gas for Guyana, and possible membership of the African Union for Suriname. The United States of America retained Guyana's Tier 1 ranking for meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, mostly related to commodities. However, Suriname remained on Tier 2, since the country does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, although it is making efforts to do so.

Endorsed by the Cabinet late 2018, the Green State Development Strategy - Vision 2040 is Guyana's 20-year national Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) - an aligned development policy that reflects the guiding principles of the 'green state' (diversified, resilient, low carbon and people-centred). In Suriname, as expressed in the President's annual speech, the focus is on nine development priorities, covering infrastructure, energy, water supplies, agriculture, housing, education, health care, labour creation and economic activities.

The ongoing migrant issue is a complex humanitarian situation. Sharing a porous and sparsely populated border stretching over 789 kilometres with Venezuela, Guyana has seen an increased influx of Venezuelans or Guyanese-returnees crossing the borders to escape the economic and political turmoil in Venezuela. According to the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, the crisis has led to an influx of 54,600 people (of whom 30 per cent are children), both in border-rural and coastal-urban areas. In 2018, UNICEF addressed the needs of the most vulnerable migrants in border hinterland communities, targeting 12,000 people including 4,800 children. This caseload included host communities on a one to one basis, considering that the indigenous people already face significant strains on basic social services. As the chair of UN Emergency Task Team), UNICEF provided information management support to the national coordination mechanism led by the Civil Defence Commission and disbursed US\$435,611, partnering with line ministries and non-governmental bodies, including the Guyana Red Cross and the Catholic Church.

2018 was also marked by floods due to heavy rains in southern Suriname. With the change of the inter tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), near the equator, where the trade winds of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres come together, rainfall increased with high peaks ranging from 70 to 84 mm rainfall on some days. This led to heavy flooding including agricultural plots and surroundings, schools in Tapanahony and villages submerged along the Marowijne river (Galibi, Loka Loka, Atensa and Langa Tabiki and Gonini krikimofu). UNICEF reprogrammed funds from disaster preparedness into a WASH relief response, benefiting 2,950 flood-affected people, of whom 35 per cent were children.

On the international legislative front, Guyana is set to accede to the Hague Conventions relating to Child Protection, with the request adopted by the Cabinet. The issue of accession was raised with Suriname. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) report was completed by both countries. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) report and its Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography were completed for Guyana in 2018 and will be submitted to Geneva in 2019. In Suriname, the next Committee on the Rights of the Child report is due in 2021 and the country will report under the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Neither country has signed the third optional protocol on a communications procedure. UNICEF is supporting the preparation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report due in both countries.

While both countries are making progress, the Gender Inequality Index indicates inequality between women and men (0.441 in Suriname and 0.504 in Guyana). Gender inequality concerns include SDG 3.1 reproductive health with 155 deaths per 100,000 live births in Suriname and 229 deaths per 100,000 live births in Guyana, and SDG 3.7 adolescent birth rate, with 46 births per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years in Suriname and 90 births per 1,000 girls of the same age group in Guyana. Addressing teenage pregnancies and promoting healthy life choices have been a key focus of UNICEF's Programme.

On inequities, the Situation Analysis on Indigenous Women and Children (Guyana, 2018) indicated that indigenous populations experienced poverty at twice the rate and sometimes even five times more than non-indigenous population. Access to basic social services was very low. A comparable situation is observed in Suriname, in particular for the Maroon communities.

Key data were collected in 2018 with the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS-6) finalized

in Suriname and launched in Guyana, providing reliable information on access to social services and mapping child deprivations in rural-interior regions. Neither country has a recent measure of monetary poverty. The last official monetary poverty report in Guyana was published in the 2011-2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper based on a 2006 poverty assessment. In 2019, UNICEF will prioritize the analysis of the overlap of multiple deprivations, based on data from several studies, including financial ones by the Inter-American Development Bank.

The UNICEF country programme prioritizes research and strengthened evidence-based information benefiting from reliable data of the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (Guyana), Out-of-School Children studies (both countries), Violence against Children Survey (Suriname), Costing of the Juvenile Justice Bill (Guyana), Assessment of Budget Expenditure, Evaluation of the Nursery Education Programme and the Situational Analysis of Teen Pregnancy, Social Norms on Violence, and the Review of the Constitution-with an emphasis on Child Rights (Guyana). One opportunity is ensuring greater uptake of the results of these studies for informed decision-making.

The situation presents a challenging scenario for the implementation of the UNICEF programme. The coverage of proven interventions is high, yet the quality of these interventions can be improved for at-scale results for children. UNICEF is monitoring the remaining pockets of deprivation and leveraging resources to achieve effective coverage while providing mitigation measures to children left behind. Key interventions covered lifelong learning (including water/sanitation), safety and justice, social policy, emergency preparedness/response, and monitoring and education as part of the measure to leave no child behind. System strengthening including legal/policy reform and strategic planning, capacity building, evidence-based action within communities and communication for development yielded several positive results for children.

Regarding lifelong learning, UNICEF was a major contributor to the development of the Guyanese Education Strategic Plan 2019-2023, which will be available in 2019). Studies concluded in 2018 are providing guidance to innovative holistic or cross-cutting responses to gaps in the education system. The Out-of-School Children Report, while noting the non-participation in-school rate at primary level at 0.7 per cent for boys and 0.9 per cent for girls, highlighted the decreasing trend in in-school participation beginning at upper primary through to secondary schooling. This has resulted in lower completion rates at secondary level, with boys at 47 percent. These are emergency signals for the country to take corrective action.

In Suriname, comparative data indicates that the proportion of children of primary-school age who are out-of-school declined between 2011 and 2015 from 8.6 per cent to 6.1 per cent. Despite some improved educational indicators, the level of participation of adolescents in lower secondary education is worrying. Teenage attendance in lower secondary education varied between 55 per cent and 60 per cent over the period 2010-2015. The rate for out-of-school children of lower secondary age was 28 per cent in 2015, an increased compared to previous years. Overall, boys were more vulnerable than girls, especially children of 14-15 years of age. Boys were highly underrepresented compared to girls in lower secondary education with a gender parity index (GPI) of 1.30), although they make an equal start in primary education (GPI of 1.01).

To improved safety and justice for children, UNICEF-assisted results included support of the Committee on the Rights of the Child complaint mechanism with the Juvenile Justice Act

(2018) promoting restorative justice, a children's court established to fast track cases of children in contact with the law, the national plan of action related to sexual violence, and the approval of policies related to alternative care and to the prevention of child labour. In Suriname, a functional child protection network brought results for children, and UNICEF supported the passing of the law against child labour during 2018.

Partnering with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the Joint Programme report showed that the percentage of household members using improved sources of drinking water was 94.2 per cent in Guyana and 93.1 per cent in Suriname. Use of improved sanitation was 87 per cent in Guyana and 82 per cent in Suriname.

In both countries, partnerships with and for adolescents and young people were strengthened through a programme on teenage pregnancy targeting 167,935 young people in Guyana and youth consultations in Suriname.

Some challenges remain. In health, the 2018 Human Development Index I report shows that 8.8 per cent of children aged under five years in Suriname and 11.3 per cent in Guyana were stunted. In Suriname, 2.8 in 100 infants were exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life (among the lowest in the world) and only 15 per cent of children were still breastfed at two years. In Guyana, 23.3 per cent of infants aged 0-5 months were exclusively breastfed. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunization levels were high at 93.4 per cent (Guyana) and 90 per cent (Suriname). In both countries, corporal punishment remained legal. The percentage of children aged 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment was 70 in Guyana and 81 in Suriname, among the highest in the region. Results are brought at scale while managing programmatic risks, including institutional or individual capacity, availability of resources and the need to ensure that the children's agenda remains a top priority.

Part 2: Major Results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

UNICEF supported both countries, in collaboration with other UN agencies, in their efforts to strengthen national frameworks to monitor progress towards the SDGs by actively contributing to various mechanisms under development by the two governments.

2018 was the second year of the implementation of UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which has four priority outcomes:

- 1 An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean;
- 2 A healthy Caribbean;
- 3 A safe, cohesive and just Caribbean, and;
- 4 A sustainable and resilient Caribbean.

The timeframe of the UNICEF country programme cycle 2017-2021 is aligned, with three priority outcomes contributing to the Country Implementation Plan (CIP-MSDF) and the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021. The three outcomes are: safety and justice for children; lifelong learning; and social inclusion and child rights monitoring.

UNICEF continued to position itself as a key leader on children's issues through the nurturing

of partnerships with governments, civil society, academic institutions, diplomatic missions and the private sector to increase the focus on rights and deepen opportunities to reach most vulnerable children and young people.

In response to the disparities and child deprivations, UNICEF continued to use the power of evidence to drive change for children, to streamline capacity building implementation partnerships to strengthen and empower government and civil society organizations to plan, manage and monitor child-centred programmes.

In 2018, UNICEF engaged in 12 evidence generation activities outlined in the Planning for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME). The evidence-base environment for children with the completion of several major studies including:

- Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC)- which gives an evidence-based implementation guide and an action plan to further strengthen work on climate, environment and energy (CEE)-related issues;
- Assessment of the National Budget Expenditure across all government sectors;
- Out-of-School Children's Study;
- Guyana Nursery Evaluation;
- Situation Analysis on Adolescent Pregnancy;
- Review of Guyana's Constitution, and;
- Costing of the Juvenile Justice Bill.

These studies were used to influence policies, laws and national plans of actions, and resulted in, among other things, the distinct inclusion of children's issues in plans on Constitutional reform, national education strategic planning with emphasis on the inclusion of the voices of youth, the inclusion of children in the Guyana's Green State Development Strategy and increased budgetary allocations for juvenile justice.

In Suriname, UNICEF partnering with the University of Suriname and the national Parliament ensured publication and wide dissemination of the Violence Against Children Study. The findings resulted in awareness initiatives on children rights nationwide including in schools, communities reaching more than 3,000 children and adolescents. Programmes on violence against children through the Parliament's website and other media will have a nationwide reach.

Within the common programmatic and budgetary framework of the UN country team through the 2018/2019 Country Implementation Plan (CIP), UNICEF engaged in implementing the Business Operations Strategy on Procurement, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Supplies that resulted in efficiency gains and cost savings through economies of scale in programmes and operations.

Adopting a system strengthening approach with relevant line ministries, local universities and the Bureau of Statistics, the focus was on supporting the collection of robust data to monitor signs of change to accelerate achievement of the SDGs. A MICS was done in Suriname in 2018 and commenced implementation in Guyana. The MICS-6 will produce estimates for 150 indicators, including 30 SDG indicators (48 per cent of SDG indicators), up to district/region level.

UNICEF aligned its programme with the UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2018–2021 and continued to integrate gender results in and across programme areas. This included include

adolescents and ending child labour, girls' secondary education and skills, gender-based violence in emergencies and capacity building of staff in the use of gender programming tools.

UNICEF maintained systems whereby management was briefed regularly on budget management performance indicators through scorecards and upon its monthly meetings. The timeliness and quality of proposals and reports was strengthened through improved oversight and monitoring at all levels of quality assurance. The 2018 PRIME was implemented as planned, resulting in over 90 per cent completion. The harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) framework was applied to forge programme implementation partnerships.

The financial utilization rate was of 98 per cent of the total budget US\$3.5 million, due in part to the partnerships established with five civil society organizations and the two Governments. All 48 planned programme assurance activities were concluded. UNICEF has taken measures to ensure an appropriate evaluation governance structure, which ensured in 2018 an inclusive process to foster national partners' capacity building and participation.

Internally, UNICEF continued to undertake greening initiatives, using more efficient LED lighting and cutting down on printing, and reducing the use of plastic in the office - becoming plastic bottle-free.

Core corporate strategies that were applied during the year were fostering innovation in programming and advocacy for children - including policy dialogue and legislative reform; programming excellence for at-scale results; capacity building and service delivery; using the power of evidence to drive change, human rights-based approaches; gender-responsive programming; equity; communication for development / external communications and youth participation remained as cross-cutting strategies throughout the programme. Key results were achieved during the reporting period by strengthening national and subnational systems and capacities for the equitable provision of quality and innovative services, and empowering rights holders for enhanced demand to improve quality of services and to change social behaviour. In sum, all three outcome results are on-track.

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

In 2018, UNICEF contributed to the end of preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths. Through the early childhood development (ECD) programme, the focus was on supporting the promotion of health and development of all children especially in immunization and maternal and newborn health; enhancing the institutional framework and capacities to plan; coordinating and implementing the baby-friendly hospitals; providing technical assistance to the country coordinating mechanism in the fight against HIV, and promoting the integrated, multi-sectoral policies and programmes.

In Suriname, through the partnership with the Medical Mission, the ECD programme focused on adolescent-friendly health services scaling up, starting in hard-to-reach areas in the interior. Fifty-two healthcare workers, out of approximately 118 from 27 clinics from the Medical Mission were trained in adolescent-friendly health services in East Suriname, Middle Suriname and Upper lands Amerindians area.

Opening hours at clinics dedicated for adolescents commenced being piloted. Additionally, UNICEF jointly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and PAHO initiated support for the development of the adolescents health strategy which will result in Accelerated Action

for the Health of Adolescent (known as AA-HA!) National Strategic Plan. Feeding and essential care of the newborn booklets were distributed to all health clinics, ensuring critical information for the care of at least 10,000 newborns were transmitted to mothers and caregivers.

To improve the vaccination coverage in hard-to-reach areas in the interior, UNICEF provided three clinics with innovative solar-powered vaccination refrigerators and supported the outreach to dropouts. To ensure continuation of proper monitoring and tracking of vaccinations, 20,000 vaccination booklets were printed ensuring vaccination tracking for 20,000 infants for two years, as well as 150 vaccination manuals for healthcare workers. Support was also provided by UNICEF to ensure continuation of the yellow fever programme by ensuring stock of 20,000 yellow fever vaccination booklets. Based on the 2018 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) report, the percentage of the infants reaching immunization (SDG 3b) was 90 per cent in Suriname and 97 per cent in Guyana for the diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT) antigens, for measles was 97 per cent in Suriname and 99 per cent in Guyana.

Furthermore, UNICEF was engaged in the school health programme through training of 118 healthcare workers from 44 clinics of the Medical Mission in early detection and screening and health check-ups for children in basic education in the interior. The check-ups will be carried out in 2019. Thirty-four clinics were provided with basic medical equipment and 350 growth charts in schools were plotted.

Communication material were developed and distributed to caregivers, mothers and in communities as part of strategies to improve exclusive breastfeeding and care in Suriname. To ensure availability of essential information for mothers and caregivers, 12,000 prenatal control cards, 10,000 prenatal clinic cards and 200 counselling cards for the infant and young child feeding and essential care of the newborn were distributed to all health clinics.

Awareness and communication targeting approximately 10,000 mothers yearly, promoting exclusive breastfeeding practices and proper complementary feeding continued as part of the infant and young child feeding plus (IYCF+) strategy. Under the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) 230 healthcare workers were trained in the 20-hour maternity ward including training in two regions in the interior, two hospitals and consultation clinics for pre- and postnatal care in two districts. This resulted in compliance with the BFHI norm of 80 per cent of healthcare workers trained. Technical support by UNICEF contributed to the BFHI certification readiness process of five hospitals and two clinics in the interior.

Globally, in 2018, the Human Development Index report noted the reduction of the under-five mortality rates to 32.4 per cent per 1,000 live births in Guyana and to 20 per cent in Suriname.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

Providing equitable and inclusive early childhood services, especially for the most vulnerable girls and boys, was reflected in the approval of the second year of the early childhood development programme, aimed at strengthening of institutional capacity for planning, monitoring and disaster risk reduction across the ministries of education. Capacity building of the relevant ministries' systems and mechanisms, including service delivery in the most deprived districts/regions, was a primary area of UNICEFs' support.

Fostering innovation in programming and advocacy, UNICEF contributed to strengthening the countries' capacity to enhance access to ECD services. An emphasis was placed on

complementing and scaling up existing local models through advocacy, technical support to governments and other relevant partners and the leveraging of resources. In 2018, 134 teachers were trained in differentiated instruction and 900 teachers received back to school refresher training.

In Guyana, partnering with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF continued to build on both the global super-dads and the local positive discipline campaigns to reach 60 per cent of children targeted in at least three of the four development domains. In total, 98 unemployed adolescents and youths were trained in the practices of basic ECD. These adolescents are employed in ECD centres specially designed for children aged 0-5 years and living in disadvantaged areas in six administrative regions. In addition, the integration of traditional birth attendants' expertise into the formal maternal and child health system and the important partnership achieved with the First Lady of Guyana as ECD patron promoted across all sectors the importance of quality ECD services and human development.

Despite the legality of corporal punishment in all institutions except detention centres for juveniles, communication for development (C4D) strategies supported by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education accelerated the promotion of positive discipline in schools in Guyana. This resulted in 63 per cent of boys, 74 per cent of girls and 75 per cent of teachers across the total primary school population working together to demonstrate alternatives to corporal punishment.

According to the Ministry's statistics, the percentage increase in performance over the period 2016-2018 for the Grade 6 national assessments in Region 6 ranged from 26 per cent to 73 per cent across 54 schools. Three of the lowest performing schools increased in a range from 8 to 14 per cent in English. In Region 7, data showed an increased range of 11 per cent and 22 per cent in the same subjects with the small riverain schools with marked improvements of between 6-46 per cent increase in English. In Region 4, the active participation of teachers, children and parents in promoting, planning and executing positive discipline activities gained consensus for schools to work towards certifying 'bully free' schools. In Region 7, the use of a simplified data base on deviant behaviour, created by teachers and children and embraced by parents, presents disaggregated data by class, gender, behaviour and family background. Overall, there was an additional 6 per cent decrease in the bullying in the active schools.

In Suriname, 71 per cent of children aged 3-4 years were developmentally on track. Low performance on the literacy-numeracy domain remained a concern. Few services exist for early stimulation for children from birth through their first four years of life. Partnering with the Education Ministry and Medical Mission, UNICEF promoted positive learning and inclusive environment for all children and adolescents and used the power of evidence to drive change for children. As a result, access to high-quality learning and care environment for girls and boys (aged 0-8 years) and their families, including in emergencies, was strengthened. To that end, UNICEF-supported ECD interventions are programmed with an emphasis on the first 1,000 days to give children the best start in life. Even though the BFHI guidelines were revised in April 2018, while health facilities were in the middle of the process of adapting to the guidelines, this did not prove to be a major challenge. Institutions were eager to adopt and adapt to and a gap analysis showed only minimal adjustments were required to proceed with the new guidelines.

ECD interventions focused on the role of the health sector resulted in a new partnership for provision of technical support to establish a national intersectoral ECD coordination mechanism

initiated by the Ministry of Health.

UNICEF supported a gender-sensitive e-learning course for secondary school students on critical skills for handling physical and psychosocial changes during puberty.

Drop-out, repetition and overall unsatisfactory performance persist in Suriname. UNICEF continued to invest in modelling how the system best supports out-of-school children. UNICEF supported an out-of-school survey that was carried out in 2017 which highlighted the high-risk of dropping out, over-age children and children falling out of the system, especially boys. The official publication is expected in 2019. UNICEF faced few challenges accelerating programmes delivery with the Ministry of Education due to managerial changes in 2018.

Support to the education sector plan, the Education Management Information System and follow-up for interventions for quality improvement in education will be carried over to 2019. The low adjusted net enrolment rate for lower secondary of 56 per cent is an indication of disruptions in the schooling path of students. One of the major barriers to inclusion is a lack of differentiated learning in basic education.

Partnering with the Moravian Foundation, UNICEF ensured continuation of support in improving the quality of education. The Moravian Foundation is one of the largest contributors, providing education to 12 per cent of children in basic education mainly in the interior and most marginalized areas in Suriname. The innovative intervention on differentiated learning is being implemented in 65 schools (56 basic education and nine lower secondary) focussing on differentiated teaching methods and remedial support. An emphasis is also placed on the transition from school to work.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Partnering with the Ministry of Social Protection, the Cabinet of First Lady in Guyana, the Ministers on the Council on Human and Social Development and the parliaments on advocacy for child protection and legislation, UNICEF supported protection programmes through a comprehensive approach anchored at community level and based on two pillars:

- 1 Improved policies, national capacities and services to strengthen services and prevent and respond to violence and harmful practices to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation and;
- 2 Increased capacities of communities, families, boys and girls to eliminate harmful practices and to protect children from violence, including during humanitarian situations.

In Guyana, UNICEF supported the implementation of a culturally appropriate model for a local child protection system. In Suriname, the programme contributed to the further strengthening of the Government's child protection initiatives in the interior.

While the national plan of action for preventing and responding to sexual violence is in draft form in Guyana, the country's first Children's Court became operational and two policies were approved, on children without adequate parental care and the prevention and response to child labour. These policies are critical, as UNICEF can now strategically intensify its efforts to support prevention, including gate-keeping for children likely to come into care, the de-institutionalization of over 700 children in formal care and discussion on strengthening social protection policies for children.

In terms of child labour, the MICS 2006-07 had measured a total child labour prevalence of 16.4 per cent amongst children aged 5-14 years. This decreased to 13.5 per cent in the MICS 2014, suggesting a positive trend within that age group. Nevertheless, both historical measures indicate that child labour in Guyana is still significantly higher than the average Latin American and Caribbean rate of 9 per cent.

To complement the slew of actions needed on the Venezuelan outflow, UNICEF led efforts on a policy on migration and birth registration (measure of preventing statelessness). The enabling environment for children was strengthened through the approval of the Juvenile Justice Act (2018). The legislation raises the age of criminal responsibility for 10 to 14 years, encourages the use of diversionary options and detention as a last resort, abolishes all status offences; prohibits the use of corporal punishment and advances the right of legal aid for children.

On safety and justice, at local level and partnering with the Ministry of Social Protection (Child Protection Agency), UNICEF has developed 'one-stop services' for reporting and response to sexual violence in Guyana. The services are in child advocacy centres and were decentralized to three out of 10 administrative regions and will target over 900 of the estimated children who are survivors of sexual abuse. The centres are functional in five regions, responding to over 3,000 reported cases of violence per year in the country. Further, to address equity challenges among underserved and hinterland communities and to reduce the incidences of violence, early pregnancies, school dropout and other risky behaviour, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Public Health for the strengthening of youth-friendly health services in Regions 8 and 9. These included the operationalizing of adolescent mothers clinics, establishment of community youth empowerment programmes in two sub-regions of Region 9 and general services for adolescents in Region 8 and 9. The services reached 326 boys and 282 girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years.

Linking education and protection, UNICEF provided for the training of over 10 teachers and 20 adolescents to implement the Secondary School Health Programme. This provides appropriate services for young people that are directly linked to the schools, communities and faith-based organizations. Additionally, strengthening of allied professionals as part of the social welfare strengthening resulted in the training of 15 (out of a planned 30) social workers who will be able to specialize in juvenile justice services, under the agreement with the Judiciary and the University of Guyana to develop a training programme for all court officers attached to the Sexual Offences Court. UNICEF continued to provide support towards the development of a master's degree in clinical psychology, to cater for the very limited presence of resident psychologists. With the Ministry of Social Protection, UNICEF organized nine sessions with youth coming from diverse backgrounds and communities in nine Regions.

Guyana continued efforts in using creative ways to increase knowledge and awareness on child rights issues. Sessions were organized in using creative ways for children to express their feelings in communities and schools in several districts reaching more than 1,000 children.

In Suriname, the Violence against Children Study highlighted that the lack of parenting skills is one of the main reasons for use of violence as a method to discipline children. In response, UNICEF provided support for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing with a pilot trajectory for strengthening parenting skills in 37 families. The Positive Parenting Programme is expected to result in positive behavioural change to improve parenting skills. A family policy plan was developed with the pillars of parenting, support and guidance of parents to develop strong families, with a child-friendly environment in the community. A total of 140 social workers and

key persons were trained to support and guide vulnerable families, and 108 children received prevention and response services during this pilot. At the local level, Suriname responded to violence against children through three centres (Meldpunt) with 12 trained staff, supported by UNICEF and based on key recommendations of the assessment report completed in 2017.

UNICEF supported the Attorney Generals' office to strengthen the capacity of judicial staff (40) in the pre-detention centre Opa Doelie in child-friendly approaches and child rights integration in their work. In addition, UNICEF supported transforming and improving the interrogation room with child-friendly equipment. Two children aged under five years benefited from this; telling their stories to solve cases using toys and other child-friendly material. Staff working in detention centres for children and children will receive training and counselling sessions to deal with aggression and other psychological issues.

In response to the overwhelming and convincing evidence of violence and abuse against children from violence against children research, UNICEF supported key initiatives of the Government on awareness and training on child rights focusing on violence, abuse and neglect. Through UNICEF advocacy in programming for children - including evidence generation, policy dialogue and legislative reform approach, the law related to the prevention and response to child labour was approved.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Partnering with the Government and Medical Mission to scale up successful WASH models in interior of Suriname, UNICEF provided access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services to 1,350 community members (300 households) in Sipaliwini district. A total of 208 rainwater harvesting tanks were installed in eight villages during the April 2018 flooding. In addition, 10,000 water purification tablets, 3,000 collapsible jugs and 3,000 water field testing kits were supplied to serve 2,700 community members. Four (pre)-primary schools and one secondary school gained access to rainwater harvesting tanks which provide 750 students with clean drinking water. WASH hygiene promotion awareness interventions in 11 villages reached 3,000 flood affected community members (600 households). The accountability mechanisms that seek to instil responsibility and to improve the quality of relationships between the different stakeholders in service delivery were established to ensure the continuity of services after the emergency intervention.

WASH in schools' interventions were conducted in five locations through Medical Mission ensuring safe hygiene practices in four (pre)-primary schools and one secondary school and reaching 750 children through peer-to-peer WASH hygiene promotion awareness interventions. These were undertaken by 47 trained 'WASH change' pupils to ensure sustainability.

Contributing to support girls surviving and learning in secondary schools included WASH efforts to provide information on hygiene practices, including menstrual health and basic sanitation at school to 120 adolescent girls in five pilot's schools. Operational EAGLE research initiated in 2018 on keeping boys and girls in school will complement MICS data collection aimed at improving programming and advocacy.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

The MICS-6 is a major opportunity for UNICEF and the two Governments to understand the disparities between populations and to define sectoral and programmatic policies to address

these inequities to narrow gaps and give an equitable chance in life to all children in Guyana and Suriname.

The implementation of the MICS-6 (finalized in Suriname and underway in Guyana) will contribute to 48 per cent of the data provided by household surveys for the SDGs, including a variety of questions designed to achieve a deeper understanding of the situation of children in urban and rural areas. In Suriname, the comprehensive MICS-6 fieldwork was successfully completed. UNICEF's advocacy and strengthened partnership resulted in more than 50 per cent government-funding in an economically challenging period. Two innovations were used in the process: the data were collected using tablets giving real-time analysis and was combined by water-testing at household level.

In Guyana, the MICS uptake was combined with strengthening the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) skills and function in partner organizations. With support from the UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office, training was conducted in sampling techniques for over 50 M&E practitioners. Based on the agreement, this training was included in the terms of reference of the MICS sampling expert. This builds on the capacity gains of the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (IPDET) programme that was supported by UNICEF in 2017 for the same cohort of M&E practitioners.

At the same time, in Suriname, UNICEF supported capacity strengthening of workers to provide decentralized support to parents and children with disabilities and specific needs. This reached more than 100 children along with 40 care workers, 30 parents and 30 teachers. The programme included awareness activities on disabilities. In addition, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs a nationwide Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities awareness campaign including mapping and registration of children with disabilities is being carried out.

The impetus provided through Generation Unlimited (Gen-U) will allow Guyana and Suriname to solidify country led investments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and new opportunities for learning, including for those children living in interior populations, and to move-to-scale on the results achieved during the first two years of the cycle.

Cross cutting priorities

Gender equality

The completion of the 2018 MICS-6 is generating updated gender-disaggregated data about children and women countrywide, setting a baseline against which to assess future progress against the annual work plan. UNICEF continued in 2018 to promote gender equality through advocacy, policy and programmes. The gender equality reflection was taken into account during the 2018 annual exercises. Mitigating measures were taken to render interventions gender-responsive by providing disaggregated data on gender participation during the planning, budgeting and monitoring of the results. UNICEF systematically included the gender dimension in 100 per cent of studies, research and evaluative exercises to ensure that the evidence and results are gender-differentiated.

For example, in emergency, UNICEF supported survivors of gender-based sexual violence by providing medical consultations and psychosocial support. Ending gender-based violence was promoted at 100 per cent of schools supported by UNICEF. In providing technical assistance to

the Country Coordinating Mechanism, the focus has been on strengthening availability of gender-responsive evidence for the prevention of HIV especially in the teenage group, to stop the juvenilizing and the feminizing of HIV in both countries. UNICEF sought to sustain achievements of this cross-cutting intervention, by documenting the experience of MICS to draw lessons for application in future gender-oriented programming.

In Guyana to accelerate the agenda for adolescents, through support to the Ministry of Public Health, the Situation Analysis on Teen Pregnancy was finalized. In follow up, a costing of the action plan priorities is in the pipeline. Linking with the Education Ministry, the Ministry of Public Health adopted the Reintegration Policy for Adolescent Mothers into the formal school system, which is a significant breakthrough. This policy paves the way for over 1,200 adolescent mothers to complete formal school and options for vocation and technical learning. The critical part will be ensuring the implementation.

Based on the findings of the 2016 Situation Analysis of Children and Women and to reduce the causes of child abuse, the Ministry of Social Protection in Guyana and UNICEF embarked on a study on social norms relating to physical, emotional and sexual violence against children. Partnering with the Ministries of Education, Health, Social Protection and Public Securities, UNICEF worked at the grassroots level with the non-governmental organization Women Across Differences to prevent first and second pregnancies in Region 9. Over 30 persons from four sub-regions in Region 9 were trained to provide information, communication and education in their villages towards reducing adolescent pregnancies.

Humanitarian response

The increased influx into Guyana of Venezuelans or Guyanese-returnees is a complex humanitarian situation, as highlighted in Part 1 of this Report. According to the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, the crisis led to an influx of 54,600 people (of whom 30 per cent were children), both in border-rural and coastal-urban areas. UNICEF addressed the needs of the most vulnerable migrants in border hinterland communities, targeting 12,000 people including 4,800 children, and host communities on a one to one basis. As the chair of UN Emergency Task Team, UNICEF provided information management support to the national coordination mechanism led by the Civil Defence Commission and disbursed US\$435,611, partnering with line ministries and non-governmental bodies, including the Guyana Red Cross and the Catholic Church.

Key beneficiaries included 103 migrants with 148 host community members reached through a nutrition field assessment, from a total assessed population of 4,500 (including 1,800 children). UNICEF provided 45 food hampers and essential WASH-shelter items for 180 families which were prepositioned in the sub-national emergency operation centres with distribution undertaken to meet the needs of 110 persons. Safe household water treatment and storage were supported in 12 indigenous communities covering 8,300 people. UNICEF upgraded sanitation, ventilation and providing school furniture for 311 primary and secondary pupils in a border community school. Mobile birth registration teams covered 15 communities with 8,490 people in one border Region, ensuring access to documentation for 25 children. Extra locally-recruited social workers and child protection officers were deployed to hinterland regions to boost service capacity covering 8,700 people, including migrants of whom 3,480 were children. The UNICEF Rapid Response Roster and Level-2 corporate emergency standard operating procedures were activated in Guyana.

As highlighted in Part 1 of this Report, 2018 was also marked by floods due to heavy rains in southern Suriname. UNICEF reprogrammed funds from disaster preparedness into a WASH relief response, benefiting 2,950 flood-affected people, with 35 per cent of them children.

Human rights-based approach to programmes

One of the key Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child was for Suriname to develop a National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children. UNICEF provided support to Government to develop a plan covering 2018-2021, with the process including workshops and interviews with key line ministries, NGO's, children and youth ensuring that the key recommendations of the UN Committee are considered and ensuring broad government ownership. UNICEF engaged with the Rights of the Child Commission in Guyana, an independent body that reports to the Parliament under the Constitution. Follow-up on the Committee recommendations were included in sectoral plans. Further, through strong advocacy and partnering with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the Ministerial Cabinet approved the next steps for Guyana to sign to Hague Conventions related to Child Protection, Adoption, Abduction and Maintenance. Advocacy for similar actions on the Hague Conventions was undertaken in Suriname.

Communication for development and external communication

UNICEF's focus continued to be on building capacity of communities by empowering them to promote and adopt positive social norms and less-harmful behaviours, including demand for essential social services.

Through direct financial and technical support, both Guyana and Suriname began initial work on developing a communication for development strategy, aiming to change practices and attitudes which contribute to the high levels of violence (including violent discipline) against women, children and youth. UNICEF developed and operationalized an internal C4D strategy for 2018-2021 strategy.

External communication was based on UNICEF's corporate Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy. This strategy is built around three concepts: children's voice, reach and engagement. In 2018, UNICEF communication efforts in both countries were focused on violence against children, positive discipline to address violent discipline, bullying, child labour, a protective environment in emergency, out-of-school children and adolescents, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, and MICS. A separate external strategy on moving from a punitive to a restorative justice for children model was used in Guyana. This targeted 50 media practitioners and partners to support child-sensitive reporting on children in contact with the law and to provide impetus for the use of a media code of conduct for children. To support this effort, user-friendly versions of the law were developed to allow for greater understanding and awareness by the public and media on the importance of the juvenile justice legislation.

Adolescent participation

In Suriname, youth engagement and participation on issues affecting their generation, including violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, bullying, misuse of social media, limited educational opportunities, peer pressure, teenage pregnancy and suicide were the focus of UNICEF communication and advocacy agenda related to the second decade of life.

Leading up to the World Children's Day on 20 November, both countries organized activities supported by UNICEF, highlighting the role of children and adolescents in achieving the SDGs. In Guyana, activities included digital communication and press initiatives, 'take over' activities involving children, advocacy competitions by children and teenagers, and an exhibition 'For every child, dreams'. In Suriname, as part of the World Children's Day campaign, 100 adolescents were trained in debating and presentation skills and techniques. The skills acquired were put to the test during a national televised adolescent debate called 'KRUTU'. To celebrate World Children's Day, the trained adolescents were given the opportunity to present their issues in the National Assembly 'take-over' and go into discussions with ministers and parliamentarians. Key issues brought forward were climate change, LGBTI rights, bullying and violence and concerns about education. The session was nationally broadcast.

Additionally, on youth participation, UNICEF supported youth empowerment and participation through nine sessions working with Suriname's Ministry of Justice and Police around the Young People's Agenda/Generation Unlimited. Around 1,200 adolescents from different districts and marginalized communities were engaged in a participatory process to discuss their thoughts about their future, employment and skills. UNICEF will continue to engage youth and adolescents to improve their contribution and voice in the country's youth policy decisions and interventions.

Partnerships and innovation

UNICEF explored partnerships with private sector organizations, while adhering to due diligence principles, in view of unlocking their resources and expertise to amplify programme results. This included engagement with extractive agencies.

Such efforts are critical to ensure that UNICEF assistance produces results that may be sustained by the presence of competent actors following the expiry of partnership agreements. UNICEF strengthened the capacity of the BBS to design and carry-out a national-scale household survey, throughout implementation and preparation of the MICS survey using tablets.

In relation to innovation, UNICEF provided information management surge capacity to the Civil Defence Commission and ensured a child-focus lens in response, through MapAction-UK. A consolidated bi-weekly inter-sectoral reporting mechanism is functional and reliable data being provided to inform decisions by the coordination body with the Civil Defence Commission, and enabling them to prepare and disseminate digital map-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation information. In addition, GIS mapping was used to plan for the budgeting and decentralization of birth registration centres in three Regions in Guyana.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Several lessons were learned and challenges were encountered in 2018. The year demonstrated that the theories of change which were conceptualized in 2017 are truly 'living documents' and although there is a need to adhere to the planned agenda, there are opportunistic moments for driving children's rights and gaining traction for issues at the highest levels. For Guyana, this was demonstrated through UNICEF's engagement on the reform of and the elaboration of several recommendations on how children's rights can be deeply entrenched in the highest law of the land- the Constitution.

Additionally, while discussions related to child labour from a protection lens had not been the traditional focus of UNICEF's work, with strong partnerships and based on the need to ensure that the full range of violence and exploitation issues are revised in the enabling environment, in both Guyana and Suriname, UNICEF influenced both legislative and policy reform.

More realistic planning, capacity building in interpreting data and preparing adequate responses, and institutional strengthening, especially for succession planning, will become priorities in 2019 and beyond.

The investment in cross-cutting strategies proved successful to foster programme coherence, communication and advocacy directed towards rights holders and duty bearers. The strong presence, including in the field, of UNICEF and the readiness of partners to provide technical and other support also proved effective in the identification of an integrated multi-sectoral package of interventions to address overlapped deprivations and geographic disparities while promoting convergence across sectors and improved approaches to programme monitoring (Level 3 monitoring). The community involvement and having them on board is key for the success of on-the-ground interventions.

In child protection, it was evidence that for interventions to be successful, all key ministries, must be on board and participate actively, due to its cross cutting nature. The commitment from the highest level of policy makers down to community members is needed to fight violence against children. Changing beliefs and behaviours regarding the use of violence needs a careful approach and takes time. Ensuring sufficient quantity and quality of implementing partner's staff is an additional lesson learned, as was keeping stakeholders informed at all stages of a programme being a key element to success and creating ownership.

With MICS (real-time data collection), the efficiency gains allow the media to be timely and extensively informed during all critical milestones. This proved to be essential in getting a desirable response of households and interest in the survey results. In Suriname, the reform of the Government's monitoring team (Planning Bureau) on the coordination of the MSDF/CIP slightly slowed down the process. At the same time, the minimal number of Results Group meetings called by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs impacted on coordination and joint efforts for achieving common goals.

In the social policy front, the need for reform in social protection system, emergencies and engagement with the extractive industries became evident. UNICEF will continue to advance efforts for partnering with relevant actors – public and private sector. UNICEF is part of a multi-country support initiative led by the UNICEF Regional Office's Private Fundraising and Partnerships team to assist in mapping the best entry points for a win-win situation.

UNICEF in Guyana and Suriname managed to use its resources in a cost-effective way, nevertheless, more strategic partnerships and leveraging funding opportunities are needed to support the effective realization of results for children considering the findings from research and the momentum created by new laws, such as the Juvenile Justice Act, 2018.

Lessons learned

Major lessons learned throughout the year and programmes centred on the following.

Programme scaling-up

For all interventions and to address issues relating to equity and gender, there is a need to accelerate initial investments to move to scale. This includes the use of both cross-sectoral programmes and continuing to invest in cross-cutting strategies, support for additional funding and influencing the national budget for children's rights

PRIME and evaluation

The research that informs and influences the policy discourse, debate and advocacy on child rights, well-being and development was helpful in 2018 to identify key activities that strengthen the capacity for evidence generation and use within UNICEF and among partner organizations. The partnerships, the networks and strategic alliances established through the office management helped to improve the generation and use of knowledge and child's evidence by the countries' decision-makers. The key constraints on the PRIME 2018 was the matching between the evaluation design and the resources to support the action plans to address the bottlenecks, as well as the timeline to optimize use of evaluations recommendations in the same year.

Social policy

In 2018, in Suriname, UNICEF committed to and worked on equity for children, focused on overcoming multiple deprivations faced by children. To improve knowledge about children, it is necessary to have a method for the measurement of multidimensional poverty. Work on this was initiated, and the result will provide baseline measures for the establishment of the national social policy programme and for analysing progress towards SDG 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere, especially for the most deprived children in Guyana and Suriname.

Digital technologies

The 2018 annual work plan communication activities showed that digital technologies can play a key role in adolescent knowledge improvement. However, evidence needs to be generated on the children's online experiences, examining both opportunities and risks of digital use. In the context of Guyana and Suriname, through UNICEF's external relations and communication activities organized with adolescent participation it was learned that digital technologies can improve literacy, promote positive behaviour change, support curriculum development and training of teachers, and sharing of knowledge. However, for effectiveness, the digital technologies approach needs to be supported by policy development as well as a comprehensive youth and adolescent communication and outreach campaign.

Humanitarian response in a development context

The April 2018 flood response in Sipaliwini region enabled UNICEF to innovate in the humanitarian WASH response by integrating the WASH-education-health partnership with the full participation of local populations. The focus was on: (1) targeting of the most poor and vulnerable children; (2) engagement of families; (3) use of community-based platforms to provide services, and (4) definition of standards. This convergent approach through a single implementing partner (Medical Mission) provided good value for money.

Data and evidence generation

The 2018 studies undertaken, including on the drivers of violence affecting children, demonstrated a need to ensure that advocacy is better-informed, while at the same time underscoring the need for more investments in the sector.

A need was identified to set up intersectoral plans and models on strengthening parenting of

adolescents (including peer-to-peer approaches) and the financing of these plans in the short, medium and long term.

The use of bottom-up participatory approaches to planning and monitoring was practiced. Although time consuming, this strategy created space for good conceptualization and ownership, respect for process - highly valued by the MoE - and active engagement by mixed adult, child and adolescent groups. This was evident in the positive discipline strategy where development of user-friendly monitoring tools with and for all beneficiaries, including parents and children, proved to be the accelerators in the process. Additionally, children's creative conflict resolution activities were identified as a measure of sustainability.

Partnerships

The partnerships with private sector organizations, while adhering to due diligence principles, enabled UNICEF to open new advocacy opportunities for the financing of the extension of basic social services by companies in favour of children. This included engagement with extractive industries and mobile network operators to set-up an SMS-based platform to allow for real-time monitoring (U-Report). However, the formalization of this collaboration through partnership documents based on the Child Rights and Business Principles and performance financing for children are key to the success of this mode of collaboration in the long term, in a changing economic context.

Gender equality

UNICEF systematically included the gender dimension in studies, research and evaluative exercises to ensure evidence and results were gender-differentiated. Regarding capacity of implementing partners, the levels of disaggregation of data are very low. To ensure partner's interventions are more gender-responsive, it is important for UNICEF to provide technical assistance to identify gender considerations and developing a gender-responsive implementation strategies or plans. These should promote women's engagement and empowerment, enhance gender equality, and incorporate activities and processes to address relevant gender issues in work programmes at the country-level.

Constraints

The remaining constraints can be addressed as follows.

High turnover of human resources

The availability of staff in line ministries has proven to be an issue, affecting the implementation rate. For instance, constraints in the education sector in Suriname with a high turnover at the strategic level have slowed down some commitments, and interventions have been carried over to 2019. UNICEF will continue to advocate for the finalization of the education sector plan (through approval of the new Education Act), which ensures expansion of compulsory education from 4-16 years from 7-12 years. UNICEF will also support the Ministry of Youth/Sports in the development of their strategic plan for the coming years, ensuring clarity on their role and responsibilities.

National budgets

The 2018 allocations for some specific plans in Suriname proved to be a bottleneck for ensuring continuation of essential basic health care and support to mothers and for the continuation of programmes critical for the health of infants. This resulted in UNICEF having to provide additional support. This impacted on the planned long-term policy intervention with the

Government in the health sector. UNICEF will continue to advocate for the allocation of sufficient funding for ensuring basic health care for mothers and young children.

Hard-to-reach populations and equity

Logistics by road, boat and air in the interior proved challenging, especially the changing river tide. These aspects need to be taken into consideration when planning programmes and meeting the equity agenda. Clear communication on why some specific villages were selected or given priority for support is key to avoid any misunderstanding. In Suriname, the traditional authorities were engaged early in the process, which contributed to a successful implementation and ownership by the local community of the intervention promoting “no child left behind” and reaching them, despite challenges.

The Marowijne WASH programme demonstrated enormous potential for scaling up, particularly through C4D for hygiene and safe drinking water. Children were very interested in the water quality testing technique used in the intervention and can be change agents not only in their own households for good hand washing/hygiene and sanitation practices, but also in the nearby schools and villages.

Looking forward

In 2019, UNICEF will focus on a hybrid approach looking at:

- 1 Building on proven interventions with high coverage that improve quality and programming excellence for at-scale results for child and adolescents - with a leitmotiv that ‘what gets measured, gets done’, and;
- 2 Innovating in having a C4D behavioural objective addressing violence across the outcomes/outputs. The aim will be to align with the global Strategic Plan using process-oriented indicators and investing in looking a one or two behavioural indicators that could inform the organisation as a whole. Strategic and technical support from the UNICEF Regional Office and headquarters will be important in this process.

END/