GUYANA PAHO/WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGY 2023-2027



INTRODUCTION

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System and serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), the lead health agency of the United Nations (UN).

The PAHO/WHO Country Office in Guyana was established in 1967 and has been providing technical cooperation to Guyana in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) for Guyana covering the period 2023 to 2027 provides the medium-term vision that will guide the implementation of PAHO's technical cooperation at the national level. The development of the CCS was based on a consultative and participatory process with strong commitment and support from the MOH.

The CCS is aligned with several national, regional and international frameworks including the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2021-2030 (LCDS 2030); Health Vision 2030: A National Strategic Plan for Health for Guyana (2021-2030); United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022-2026; WHO 13th General Programme of Work (GWP); Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018-2030 (SHAA2030) and PAHO Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

PARTNERSHIP ENVIRONMENT

PAHO/WHO collaborates actively with a range of humanitarian and development partners, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), and other regional and multilateral operational partners to conduct its technical cooperation.

The UN agencies which have a presence in Guyana include: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), UN Women, UNAIDS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and World Food Programme (WFP).

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Guyana is located on the north-eastern coast of South America; it borders Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the south, and Suriname to the east. It is the only English-speaking country in South America and is considered part of the Caribbean Region given its historical and cultural ties to the other English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Guyana covers an area of approximately 215,000 km2. It is considered as one of the 'greenest' countries in the world which has an estimated forest area of 184,153 km2 of forest area, covering about 86 % of the country's total land area. Guyana obtained its independence from Great Britain in 1966 and has since been a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

Communicable diseases have declined over the last decade. The strong immunization programme has led to the elimination of polio and measles. Maternal mortality has fluctuated over the last decade. A review of internationally comparable MMR shows a decline of 24% from 148 in 2010 to 112 in 2020. Guyana is working assiduously to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

Guyana's Human Development Index (HDI), increased from 0.509 to 0.714, a change of 40.3% between 1990 and 2021 respectively. Life expectancy at birth was increased to 70years in 2023 compared to 67years in 2013.

KEY CHALLENGES

Some challenges in the health sector in Guyana are:

- The growing prevalence of NCDs and premature mortality, especially cardiovascular diseases
- The high incidence of suicide and suicide attempts
- The need to accelerate strategies and interventions to address mental, neurological and substance use disorders and self-harm
- The growing concerns of the social and environmental determinants of health and the need to address these through an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach
- Mainstreaming of the cross-cutting issues such as violence especially gender-based violence
- The ongoing challenges with recruitment and retention of specialist healthcare workers especially nurses
- The need to accelerate universal health coverage and access, especially for the population residing in rural areas

For more information visit the link: https://www.paho.org/guyana

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & DELIVERABLES



01 Strengthening health systems to achieve universal health coverage and access

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Strengthen strategies for improving leadership and governance to ensure the sustainability of the health financing system, Human Resources for Health, quality of care, and the supply chain management system with a public health legal framework and policies.
- Support the implementation of a renewed healthcare delivery model based on the principles of Primary Health Care, including the implementation of Integrated Service Delivery Networks for improved access and coverage.
- Strengthen strategic information management and evidence-based decision-making based on improved health information systems, research, and the roll out of the digital health for all strategy.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved access to comprehensive and quality health services
- Enhanced capacities for health workforce
- Increased access to health technologies
- Strengthened stewardship and governance

02 Reducing morbidity and mortality of NCDs and mental health through a holistic approach

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Improve surveillance, prevention, management, and control of NCDs, including their risk factors utilising an intersectoral and multidisciplinary approach
- Strengthen strategies, institutional capacities and equitable access to address mental health, substance use disorders and self-harm behaviours through integration at all levels of care.
- Improve the capacity for prevention and response in the areas of violence, and unintentional injuries, including road safety, disabilities, and rehabilitation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increase access to services for NCDs and mental health conditions
- Reduced Risk factors for NCDs
- Reduced Malnutrition
- Strengthened health promotion and intersectoral action

03 Strengthening surveillance and response to prevent, control and eliminate communicable diseases

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Improve prevention, management, and elimination of HIV/AIDS, STIs, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other vector-borne diseases.
- Strengthen strategies to eliminate neglected tropical diseases, prevent and manage zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and food and water-borne diseases by utilising the One Health approach.
- Strengthen integrated disease surveillance and outbreak investigation, including public health and clinical laboratory capacity, and improve response strategies for emerging and remerging diseases.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced response capacity for communicable diseases
- Reduced risk factors for communicable diseases
- Accelerated Elimination of communicable diseases

04 Improving health and well-being across the life course

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Support the implementation of comprehensive people-centred strategies to improve health and well-being for individuals across the life course.
- Strengthen strategies and capacities to promote a gender-responsive, culturally appropriate and equitable health system in accordance with human rights principles.
- Promote healthy lifestyles by strengthening multisectoral strategies for health promotion and health education.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved health throughout the life course
- Improved quality care for older people
- Strengthened health promotion and intersectoral action

05 Strengthening health emergencies, disaster risk management and response including IHR

STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES

- Establish a programme on multi-hazard disasters and emergencies while strengthening the IHR core capacities, legislation and regulations.
- Develop and implement strategies for the mitigation, response and adaptation to health emergencies including chemical and radiological emergencies, climate change and environmental health threats, risks and events.
- Strengthen response strategies for displaced population and situations of vulnerabilities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced capacities for health emergencies preparedness and risk reduction
- Epidemic and pandemic prevention and control
- Improved health emergencies detection and response

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