

**Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on the
Development of Gender Statistics
12-14 December 2006
United Nations, New York**

UNSD Questionnaire on National Gender Statistics Programmes and Activities *

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UNSD Questionnaire on National Gender Statistics Programmes and Activities

As input to the meeting, please complete the present questionnaire on national gender statistics programmes and activities in your country. In completing the questionnaire, please consult with your country's women machineries and/or National Statistical Office, and any other offices/agencies that are involved in the development of gender statistics, as necessary. Your responses to this questionnaire will be used to prepare a review of the current state of gender statistics programmes and activities; and identify key initiatives and strategies that have been most successful in promoting the development of gender statistics.

To allow us time to prepare the review for presentation at the meeting, we request that you submit the completed questionnaire in electronic format to Ms. Elisa Munoz-Franco (E-mail: munozfranco@un.org with a copy to genderstat@un.org) by **Friday 17, November 2006**.

Thank you in advance for your important contribution to this meeting.

PART A: BACKGROUND

1. Please provide the following background information

Name: Jacqueline Tull (Mrs.) _____

Title: Statistician

Institution, department or unit: Bureau of Statistics, Survey Department

Persons/Institutions consulted (attach a list if applicable): Women's Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Office of The President and Documentation Centre

PART B: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

2. Is there a special unit/desk/focal point responsible for gender statistics in your National Statistical Office (NSO)?

_____Yes_____x_____No

If yes,

- a. Where in the organizational structure of the NSO is the gender statistics unit/desk/focal point (i.e. Department of Social Statistics, etc.). Please attach a copy of the organizational chart of your NSO indicating the placement of the gender statistics special unit/desk/focal point.
- b. What is the functional title of the head of the gender statistics unit/desk/focal point (senior statistician, junior statistician, etc.)?

- c. Briefly describe or attach a brief description of the main tasks conducted by the gender statistics unit/desk/focal point.
- d. What is the nature of the interaction/collaboration between the gender statistics unit/desk/focal point and other departments/divisions of the NSO (eg. regularity of meeting, specific joint activities/outputs)?

If no: How is gender statistics promoted/developed within the NSO? Which section/department/division has the responsibility for gender statistics?

Gender statistics are promoted/ developed through surveys and censuses conducted by the Bureau of Statistic.

The survey section has the responsibility for gender statistics

PART C: GENDER STATISTICS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

User-producer dialogue

3. Has your NSO established a user-producer group for gender statistics?
 Yes No

If yes,

- a. How often does the group meet?
- b. Briefly describe the main activities of the technical advisory group in the past 5 years?
- c. Describe the most notable achievements, if any, of the technical advisory group in advancing the work of your NSO in gender statistics.
- d. What strategies have been most successful in fostering dialogue between users and producers of statistics?

Presentation and dissemination of gender statistics

4. Please attach a list of the main publications (posters, brochures, booklets, analytical reports, web-sites) on statistics on women, women and men and/or gender statistics published by your NSO. Include the following details for all relevant publications: title, year of publication, format (book, poster, CD-ROM, internet), and frequency of publication (one-time, quarterly, annual, bi-annual, every five years)
5. The main publications are
 1. The Population and Housing Census 2002 Internet publish every 10 year
 2. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2000 Book publish every five (5) years
 3. The Child Labour Survey 2004 Internet publish one-time
 4. Statistical Bulletin 2006 March Internet Publish quarterly

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6. Which of these publications (one or two) have been particularly effective in improving the accessibility of gender statistics in your country? What criteria have been applied to assess their effectiveness?

The census has been more effective in improving the accessibility of Gender Statistics in Guyana.

In the Education Sector both females and males have equal opportunity to education.

The drop out rate is higher in males than females.

The females are more inclined to traditional subjects instead of Science and Technology and this affects the type of employment they seek and the salaries they receive.

In the Health Sector there are equal health care facilities for both females and males.

The use of contraceptives are more prevalent among females than males.

More females are affected with HIV/AIDS than males..

In the Labour Force there is a bias in some employment, males are paid better salaries than females for the same employment.

Males hold most top positions and this prevents females from making decisions that would benefit them.

The criteria applied to assess the effectiveness is the frequent usage of the Census report which persons are more familiar with than any other report.

The wide coverage of data for the various sectors that is encompassed in the Census Report.

7. Did your NSO receive technical/financial or another type of external input to produce any of the publications identified as most effective? Yes No

If yes,

- a. Please identify the types of input (technical, financial, etc.) and sources (organization) used for each of the publications identified as most effective.

In the production of the Census Report technical assistance was provided through specialist consultants who were attached to the Bureau. These consultants were provided by the World Bank and UNDP.

The financial assistance came from the World Bank, UNDP and the Government of Guyana.

Collection and compilation of gender statistics

8. Has the NSO been involved in or conducted a survey, or a component of a survey (survey module), on specific gender issues? Yes No

If yes,

Capacity-building Activities

12. In the past five years, has your NSO conducted a workshop/seminar/conference on issues related to gender statistics? _____Yes _x No

If yes,

- a. Please attach a list of the workshop(s)/seminar(s)/conference(s) on gender statistics conducted, including the following information: title, duration, topics covered, source of funding, target audience.
- b. Of the listed workshop(s)/seminar(s)/conference(s), identify one or two that have been most successful for building capacity. What aspects of the workshop(s)/seminar(s)/conference(s) made it particularly effective?

PART D: WORK-PLAN ON GENDER STATISTICS

13. Does your NSO have a specific work-plan on gender statistics?
_____Yes x_No

There are discussions presently with Caricom to initiate gender Statistics.

If yes,

- a. Please attach a copy of the current plan or describe briefly the main activities included in the plan.
 - b. What is the period covered by the current work-plan?
Start date: Propose time 1stquarter of 2007 End date:
 - c. What are the current priority areas? (i.e. poverty, labour-market, health)
The current priority areas are : Education, poverty, labour- market, health
 - d. What are the main outputs expected?
At the conclusion all information would be by gender and the roles of females and males would be much clearer.
- If no,
- e. What are the primary activities that your NSO is conducting in the area of gender statistics?
 - f. What are the main outcomes expected?
 - g. Are there plans to initiate a work-plan on gender statistics? When and for what period?

14. Are current gender statistics activities a part of the regular budget of your NSO?
_____Yes, all_____ Yes, some x No

If yes, some: Which specific activities are a part of the regular budget?

- a. Please list the external sources of funding

PART E: MAINSTREAMING GENDER STATISTICS INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

15. Does your country have in place a Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP)?

Yes No

If yes,

- a. Which Ministry is responsible for the overall coordination of the PRSP?
Office of the President is responsible for the coordination of the PRSP
- b. What specific role does the NSO play in the PRSP processes, i.e., development of the strategy, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), annual performance review?
The NSO provides data to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the PRSP.
- c. Briefly describe how, if at all, gender considerations are (being) incorporated into the following: strategy document, implementation, M&E system, etc.
There is no explicit consideration of gender in the PRSP but goal 3 of Guyana MDG report 2006 addresses the Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of women.
- d. Please attach a copy of the sections in the PRSP document that explicitly address gender issues.
Page 17 of the PRSP has issues that affect both females and males.
- e. How is the gender component of the PRSP being evaluated?
There is no gender component in the PRSP to be evaluated.
- f. To what extent are sex-disaggregated indicators being used in PRSP monitoring and evaluation? If not all indicators are disaggregated, please explain which indicators are not disaggregated by sex and why? What are the plans for making the PRSP/M&E more gender sensitive?
Some of the indicators used in the PRSP monitoring and evaluation are sex-disaggregated. Indicators from the 2002 Population and Housing Census together with indicators from Ministry of Education are disaggregated while not all information from Ministry of Health is sex disaggregated.
Previously, not all data collected by the ministry of health was sex disaggregated but presently the data is disaggregated by sex in order for comparison.

Plans are in place to produce a new PRSP report and make it more Gender Sensitive.

PART F: INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

16. Please indicate whether your NSO is/has been involved in the preparation of the listed country reports. If involved, please describe the role played by your NSO (provide sex-disaggregated statistics, write report, etc.).

Report	NSO involvement		If yes, NSO's role
	Yes	No	
Beijing Platform for Action	x		Provide sex-disaggregated statistics
CEDAW	x		Provide sex-disaggregated statistics
MDG	x		Provide sex-disaggregated statistics

PART G: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

17. In the past five years, has any of the NSO staff attended a course, of at least 4 weeks duration, related to the development of gender statistics? **Yes** x**No**

If yes,

- a. Attach a list of the courses attended, indicating the following: Title of the course, institution organizing the course, year, duration of the course, number of NSO staff that attended the course, institution funding staff attendance.

18. In the past five years, has any NSO staff attended a seminar/workshop/conference related to the development of gender statistics? **Yes** x**No**

If yes,

- a. Attach a list of the seminar(s)/workshop(s)/conference(s) attended, indicating the following: Title, year, institution organizing the seminar(s)/workshop(s)/conference(s), institution funding staff attendance.

19. In the past five years, has any NSO staff participated in a study tour/exchange visits related to the development of gender statistics (as beneficiary or host)?

_____Yes x No

If yes,

- a. Attach a list of the study tours taken/hosted by your NSO staff, indicating the following: year, destination of study tour, purpose, institution funding the study tour, and the main benefit from the tour.

20. In the past five years, has any NSO staff participated in a regional or international forum on gender statistics? **Yes** x **No**

If yes,

- a. List the regional or international forums on gender statistics in which your NSO has participated.
- b. Indicate what aspects of the regional or international forums listed above have made the forum particularly beneficial to the development of gender statistics in your country?

21. Is there a publication on gender statistics from any NSO that you have found particularly attractive or useful as a model publication? Yes No

If yes,

- a. Provide the name of the publication and the publishing country.
The name of the publication is "Demographic Statistics,1999
The publishing country is Jamaica.
- b. Describe what aspects of the publication have made it particularly attractive.
The collection of the information by gender makes the publication very attractive.

22. Are there any handbooks or manuals, by a regional or international agency, that you have found particularly useful? _____Yes No

If yes,

- a. Provide the title(s) of the handbook(s) or manual(s) and the publishing agency.
- b. Describe what aspects of the handbook(s) or manual(s) have made them particularly useful.

PART H: DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

23. Prepare a brief (5 pages or less) paper discussing one major initiative by your NSO or women's machinery/ministry conducted with external funding that is considered to have been particularly effective in promoting any of the following aspects of the development of gender statistics:

- Mainstreaming gender in the institutional arrangement of your NSO
- Promotion of dialogue between producers and users of gender statistics
- Adoption of gender sensitive concepts and methods in data collection (such as censuses, surveys)
- Production of gender statistics and dissemination of reliable gender statistics
- Presentation of statistics in formats easily accessible to a wide array of users
- Sensitization of key user groups

In discussing the initiative, please address the following questions:

- a. What was the primary objective of the initiative?
- b. What type of external development assistance did your NSO receive?
- c. What made the initiative particularly effective?
- d. What was/were the main outputs? (Please bring copies if possible)

Provide your **recommendations** for improving development assistance aimed at supporting the development of gender statistics.

- e. What areas should be prioritized?
- f. Where are the gaps?
- g. What types of initiatives are most effective?

No major initiative was taken by the Bureau or any other ministry that was effective in promoting any aspect of gender statistics. However, the Guyana Women's Leadership Institute had training programmes pertaining to gender mainstreaming funded by UNDP and CIDA.

The emphasis of the training was on understanding the concept and development of gender and building capacity for leadership roles.

At the completion of the training the definition for gender was clearly understood.

The Bureau did not receive any development assistance because there were no initiative promoting any aspect of gender statistics.

The Bureau welcomes any initiative pertaining to measurement, concepts, analysis and the understanding of gender statistics pertaining to the educational system.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Overview

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women has been an important goal of the United Nations and is a concern shared by Guyana, especially since the Beijing Conference on women in 1995. The main target of this third MDG is the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary level education by 2005 and at all levels of education by 2015. Three indicators measure this target as shown in the table below.

Table 3.1 - Target 4

TARGET	MDG INDICATORS	BASELINE	LATEST AVAILABLE
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary (P), secondary(S) and tertiary (T) education ^o	P: 0.96 (1996) S: 1.06 (1996) T: 1.22 (1996)	0.96 (2003) 1.02 (2003) 1.03 (2003)
	10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15 - 24 year olds	n/a	n/a
	11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	38% (1992)	35% (2002)
	12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	18.5% (1992)	29% (2006)

Source: Education Digest of Guyana 1995/1996 & 2002/2003; Bureau of Statistics, Census Reports

Target 4: Eliminate Gender Disparity in Education

According to indicator 9, the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education is close to equal in Guyana. However, the decline in the ratio from 1996 to 2003 for secondary and tertiary education suggests that there has been a decline in the representation of females at higher education levels. This may have implications for Indicator 10, although the gender equality represented at the primary and secondary levels can also weigh in favour of equivalent literacy levels across the genders. Data is, however, not available to verify this.

Indicators 11 and 12 go beyond education to track whether the gender balance has translated into equal opportunities in economic, social and political life for women. While the share of women earning a wage in the non-agricultural sector declined over the two census years, 1992 and 2002, there is now a stronger presence of women in key political positions.

^o Referring to enrolment at post secondary public institutions, including the University of Guyana.

Women in Economic Life

In recent years the increasing number of economically active women has contributed to a small rise in the total working population from 65% to 67%. Nevertheless, based on the Census of 2002, 66% of working aged women were classified as 'not engaged in any type of economic activity' as compared to 22% of working age males'. Although males comprised a little more than half of the total population, they accounted for 49.7% of the working age population. Of that percentage only 5% performed home duties compared with females of working age, of whom more than 50% assumed home duties. Many women at home tend to engage in home production (dress making, raising poultry etc) which makes a significant contribution to household income. Remittances also play a crucial role particularly for women in household expenditure and labour market participation and unemployment, through the financing of micro-enterprise.

The rate of unemployment, unchanged since 1991, is also greater among females (15%) than males (10%). Many economically active females are employed in occupations where wages are relatively low²². In terms of occupational classifications, women tend to be predominantly in community services, government work, commerce and manufacturing. However, it is important to note that there is an increasing number of women who fall within the "unwaged category" but are engaged in home based economic ventures such as hairdressing, catering and producing home made sweets, condiments, preserves and so on. These women's economic contribution is not always captured in surveys. Some of the activities in which they are involved have benefited from small credit schemes and training provided by various institutions.

Considering the data above, it is interesting to note an emerging trend in Guyana whereby women are increasingly acceding to top executive management positions such as Directors of Banks and Corporations.

Women in Politics and Public life

It is noteworthy that Guyana was the first country in the Caribbean to elect a female president who served from 1998 to 1999. Through constitutional reform and the electoral system the number of women in Parliament has increased from 12 (18.5%) in 2000 to 20 (31%) after the 2001 elections and remained at 20 (29%) following the 2006 elections. There are now five female ministers in comparison to four in 2001-2005 and two in 1997-2001. The Deputy Speaker of the House is female and the position of Chancellor, the highest ranking in the Judiciary, was held by a woman from 2001 to 2005. One of the three Justices of Appeal is also female. At present, there are four female judges out of a total of nine. Female magistrates account for nine of the existing 17 magistrates. Although, from 1998 until 2005, the number of female Permanent Secretaries increased from twelve to five,

²² As noted in the Census Report, this percentage may be misleading since many women who reported doing "home duties" were usually involved in some small activity, or tended a kitchen garden to supplement family income.

The Census Report makes the case for further analysis to compare the types of occupations undertaken by males and females. Such analysis would reveal whether females were in lower-paying and more insecure jobs than males.

they are still largely under-represented. Males account for more than 64% of the Permanent Secretaries. A similar trend exists at the level of Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Women are highly represented in the National Commission for the Rights of the Child and the National Commission for Women but are disproportionately under-represented on Boards and commissions such as the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission. The bottom-heavy public service is composed of a much higher percentage of women (62.1%) than men (37.9%).

Ongoing Initiatives towards achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The MDG 2003 Report called for the mainstreaming of gender and a number of measures are underway towards this end, including:

- (a) Continuous engagement of the National Machinery (Women's Affairs Bureau) in a number of activities aimed at advancing the status of women through networks including public agencies, NGOs and Women Affairs Committees in each region.
- (b) The functioning of the National Commission on Women and the Inter-Ministry Committee promoting equality in gender relations, and lobbying for the mainstreaming of gender in development planning at all levels.
- (c) Commitment to the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and punishment for those who commit any violent act.
- (d) The Guyana Leadership Institute established (as a post Beijing project) the primary objective of developing the personal and public leadership potential of women to enhance and increase their participation at all levels of decision making in society.
- (e) The National Resource and Documentation Centre for Gender and Development is geared to provide information and capacity support to improve the use of gender segregation data in analysis and decision making in the Ministries.
- (f) The continued operation of the Difficult Circumstances Unit (DCU) within the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, provides assistance for women, such as seed money and similar small grants, to establish small economic ventures and micro-projects.

ation. This step in the consultation process was a key ingredient in developing consensus, transparency and credibility for future consultations.

5. **Participation and the Media**

During the lead-up to the regional consultations, the RCSs organised, with the support of the PRSS, call-in programs on local television stations. The purpose of these programs was to bolster interest and encourage larger attendance and more informed participation at regional consultations. In addition, the Resource Team members participated in programs aired on national television. After the regional consultations, the PRSS on the advice of the Steering Committee, organized a feedback program to report on the results of the consultations. The RCSs and members of the steering committee and PRSS organized television and radio programs through which regional constituents were informed of the outcome of the consultations. Through television call-in programs, members of the public interacted with the panel to learn more about the poverty reduction strategy. These programs generated a positive response from viewers and were therefore repeated in the interval before the NRC.

C. Issues Arising From Consultations

The issues and recommendations in this section arise solely from the public consultations. The Government does not necessarily agree with all of the analysis of the issues and/or recommendations made. Needless to say, the public consultations generated intense discussions and covered several areas. The discussions did not only address issues in the I-PRSP; they also offered a broader and more inclusive definitions of poverty (see Box 3.1), and raised the risks of political uncertainties, skepticism about the intent of the process and the need for tangible outcomes in the shortest period of time. By all accounts, the process was taken seriously and the quality, and volume of information that emerged demonstrate this. The results of the consultations could be broadly grouped in five sectors as follows: (i) limited economic opportunities; (ii) poor governance; (iii) unmet expectations in education; (iv) inadequate delivery of health, water and sanitation services; and (v) underdevelopment of the housing sector.

1. **Limited Economic Opportunities**

The major underlying issue within the economic sector was the need to create more jobs. Among the key constraints identified were low commodity prices, inaccessible

Box 3.1: Perceptions of Poverty in Guyana

Poverty has different faces. It has an economic face, a social face and a psychological face. It ravages the lives of people, even stripping them of their dignity. It makes people feel underprivileged and leads to feelings such as frustration, helplessness and despair. Yet, not all persons who are poor have no vision of a better life. In fact, many know what is needed to help them change the tenor of their lives. What they would like to have is a say in the policies and programs designed to reduce poverty.

Poverty's economic face

- Joblessness
- Underemployment
- Lack of finances to satisfy the family's basic needs
- Inability to access loans for self-employment or job creation through lack of collateral
- Child labour

Poverty's social face

- High levels of illiteracy
- Ignorant and/or violent behaviour
- High levels of teenage pregnancy and single parenthood
- High level of substance abuse (drugs and alcohol)
- Large number of idle men and women

Poverty's psychological face

- Low self-esteem
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of motivation to access vital information
- Feeling of hopelessness
- Dependency

But what is poverty?

Poverty is

- Only eating a piece of cake and having a soft drink on Christmas Day.
- Parents standing in fine to collect used clothing and food hand-outs.
- Fathers/husbands leaving families for long periods while working out of the community.
- People buying substandard, expired goods because they are cheap.
- Being unable to send children to school
- Overcrowding in small dilapidated structures
- Frequent illness because of poor diet
- Sin, punishment, suffering, hardship.

markets, narrowness of the economic base, limited access to credit, and the use of labour from other communities to do contract work. The focus was therefore on the following areas: (i) low levels of manufacturing and value-added; (ii) constraints to agricultural production and productivity; (iii) underdevelopment of eco-tourism; and (iv) inequity of the tax system.

a) Low levels of manufacturing and value-added

Notwithstanding the abundant resources and opportunities for growth in the manufacturing sector, the general consensus was that there is an absence or inadequacy of processing facilities attributed to the difficult business and political environment and the high cost of capital. This contributes to high levels of waste and spoilage of agricultural produce and low levels of job creation.

" In addition, there is an absence of legal/regulatory framework to support cottage industries and small businesses, many of which lack access to credit in inaccessible markets, both local and foreign, for Guyanese products accrue from poor standards of product quality and packaging, dumping of foreign products, and inability of exporters to maintain and increase their share of foreign markets. As a result, there is no job security and, often, producers of inputs, especially farmers are paid uneconomic prices.

Unreliable power supply, the high cost of energy, and the absence of a deep-water harbour contribute to the high cost of production and the uncompetitiveness of Guyanese products in regional and international markets.

b) Constraints to agricultural production and productivity

The key issues discussed in the agriculture sector related to delays in granting of land titles, poor quality of extension services, high cost and misuse of pesticides, poor maintenance of drainage and irrigation systems, poor farm-to-market roads and high cost of capital equipment.

Long delays in granting land titles were responsible for difficulties in using land as collateral for loans. In addition, absentee landlords occupy large tracts of land while small farmers find it difficult to acquire and/or expand on their current land holding.

Farmers are in need of expert advice and support if they are to achieve higher yields and adopt appropriate agricultural practices. The number of extension officers in the system is inadequate and, in many instances, officers pay irregular visits to farms. In part, this is due to unavailability of transportation and accommodation. As a result, there is lower production and productivity, improper management practices for both crops and livestock and late identification of Pest and disease outbreaks. In particular, termites pose a major problem for farmers, especially those in the hinterland areas. This leads to loss of income and increased poverty.

The poor state of the D&I systems contributes to severe flooding throughout the agriculture belt, resulting in destruction of many farms and livestock. These problems arise from poor management, low levels of maintenance, and sea defence breaches.

The absence of demarcation between crop and livestock pastures is found to be a key impediment to the coexistence of crop and livestock farmers. The destruction of rice and vegetable fields by roaming herds of cattle leads to loss of income by farmers.

The lack of equipment and machinery, for both farmers and loggers, is identified as another constraint to private sector development. Many farmers and loggers, especially in Amerindian areas, have no collateral and cannot access loans. Some borrow at high interest rates to purchase equipment and machinery, but due to their small acreages and/or lack of concessions, may be unable to service their loans, often leading them to bankruptcy or loss of property.

The state of farm-to-market roads was described as inadequate. In several instances, there was poor maintenance of roads and bridges. Although several of these roads may have been repaired recently, due to substandard construction work, overloading of vehicles and poor supervision of road use, these roads are impassable in the rainy season. Further, it is costly to transport produce from the hinterland areas to Georgetown or to external markets, and in many areas, access is simply non-existent. As a result, many farmers lose substantial income in the process, especially during the rainy season.

c) Underdevelopment of eco-tourism

Eco-tourism holds great potential for job creation and economic expansion in Guyana. However, the consensus from the consultation is that the sub-sector (i) is largely unorganized; (ii) faces limited international marketing; (iii) faces high cost of local travel; and (iv) is beset by an absence of skills within the industry.

d) Inequity in the tax system

Taxation policy was described as unfair. In particular, (i) a large portion of taxes from big business goes uncollected; (ii) property owners scarcely pay taxes; and (iii) tax rates are too high.

2. Poor Governance

Five main issues were identified as indicative of poor governance. These are the: (i) poor performance of the RDCs and NDCs; (ii) insecurity and inadequate access to justice; (iii) corruption and lack of accountability; (iv) discrimination; and (v) insufficient attention to decentralisation.

a) Poor performance of Regional Democratic Councils and Neighborhood Democratic Councils

The poor performance of RDCs and NDCs raised considerable concern. Several factors contribute to this state of affairs including (i) lack of consultation; (ii) poor communication; (iii) long delays in responding to problems; and (iv) unfulfilled expectations. Participants also mentioned the insensitivity of NDC officials to the plight of their communities; irregular and insufficient visits of Government officials to rural communities; and the long delay in and/or absence of local government elections. Further, concerns were expressed about inadequate supervision of programs; the non-involvement of the community in planning; poor leadership; slow intervention of Central Government in dealing with NDC issues; and interference by various political parties in community development projects.

b) Insecurity and adequate lack of access to justice

Personal and property security was also identified as an issue of concern. Institutional and political bureaucracy influences recourse to the law. It is affected by the recruitment policy and retention rate of police ranks; the absence of police outposts or stations in many communities; non-enforcement of existing laws to deal effectively with child abuse and domestic violence as well as limited support mechanisms to address these; slow justice administration, especially for the poor; and interference in the administration of justice.

There is frustration at the high level of crime and the inability of the security forces to deal adequately with criminals. There is a feeling that the legal system, with a backlog of cases, is biased against the poor, women, and children, who often cannot afford the high legal costs.

c) Corruption and Lack of accountability

Participants identified corruption and the lack of accountability as problems. Manifestations of these were identified as irregular practices at the level of RDCs and NDCs, and improper awards of contracts; lack of transparency and accountability by public officials; inequitable distribution of house lots; and overspending and poor implementation of capital works.

d) Discrimination

There is a perception that the various political parties that control RDCs and NDCs practice **discrimination** along racial and political lines. These practices are with respect to land acquisition; jobs and **economic development** projects; and access to credit; there is also a perception of neglect of certain communities **based on** political affiliations.

e) Insufficient attention to decentralization

Participants also expressed concerns about the degree of central control and administration **of programs and** businesses in Georgetown, leading to discontent about undue centralization. Among the **services which are centralized** are (i) issuance of birth and death certificates; (ii) issuance of passports; (iii) issuance of **land and leg (ni) processing** and clearance of goods from customs; and (v) courier and other shipping services.

3. Unmet expectations in education

The public consultations on education were insightful and generated heated discussion. **Poor conditions of service** was cited frequently and were attributed to low wages, lack of accommodation for teachers **especially in the hinterland** and some coastal communities, and absence of non-pecuniary incentives to retain trained **teachers. In addition,** teachers perform menial jobs such as cleaning of sanitary facilities and classrooms. As **a result, there is** high migration of trained teachers to the Caribbean and Africa. Also due to poor conditions of service, **many schools** are without social workers and counselors. There is therefore high a drop-out rate, especially at the **primary and secondary** schools levels, drug abuse among students, teenage pregnancy, suicide among youth, and **incur discipline.**

Overcrowding of schools was also seen as significant and results mainly from the lack of schools **in several communities.** This also forces children to travel long distances to schools. The lack of other teaching **facilities, sufficient** as Science and Information Technology (IT) laboratories, contributes to low performance by students, **particularly** in rural communities. In other cases, there is little or no access to secondary education and outreach **programs** are limited in scope.

In addition, many families find it difficult to meet the cost of transportation, examination fees, **other educational** requirements, and provision of meals for their children. For example, the high cost of examinations, **textbooks and** other educational materials contributes to the high drop-out rates experienced in many communities. **Many students** end up providing assistance to their families outside of the classrooms. As a consequence, illiteracy rates **seem** high, especially in rural and hinterland communities.

Furthermore, many schools lack libraries while textbooks, school supplies, science equipment, and **sports equipment** are in perpetual shortage. Only a minority of schools has access to computers, and many students **leave the** school system without ever knowing how to turn on a computer. Despite sacrifices made by parents and **students, the** education system does not train students for jobs nor does it provide adequate alternatives for students who **are less** academically inclined.

4. Inadequate delivery of health, water and sanitation services

The consensus was that the poor working habits of health care personnel affect the quality of health care delivery. Reference was made to discrimination at hospitals, the hostile behaviour of some Medex, absence of medical personnel at health centers, especially during the night, and poor physical facilities. In addition, the lack of basic equipment and medical supplies in the health centers, poor sanitation at health facilities and a low level of maintenance of health installations result in many communities being under-served. Specifically, inadequate supplies of drugs, discrimination in the distribution of medical supplies, poor storage of medical supplies, and marketing and/or prescription of expired drugs at Government facilities contribute to the seeking of alternative sources of care. The combination of these factors often leads patients to travel long distances to seek medical care or pay exorbitant fees

to private practitioners who, in several cases, lack appropriate expertise.

Poor conditions of service also result in the migration and consequent shortages of medical personnel. This poses tremendous risks to patients and undermines Government investments in the health sector. Further, there are periodic outbreaks of infectious and other diseases, malnutrition, high levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS, high levels of teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, especially among the youth, and unhealthy lifestyles.

With respect to the water sector, the three key issues identified were poor maintenance of water facilities; the poor quality of treated water; and insufficient access to potable water. The poor maintenance of water facilities results from poor contract work, low budgetary allocations, and inefficiencies in the operation of GUYWA. The poor quality of water is the result of low maintenance of drainage facilities, flooding, frequent damage to water mains, blocked drains, faulty pumps and lack of chemicals to treat raw water. In addition, many communities lack access to potable water and, in cases where there is access, supply is infrequent because of insufficient water pressure.

With respect to sanitation, the issues identified were inadequate dumpsites; absence of a national policy on garbage disposal; an insanitary environment; and poor maintenance of drains. Underlying these issues was recognition that latrines and burial sites are sometimes too close to rivers, there is little or no desilting of clogged drains, and defogging exercises do not take place on a regular basis.

5. Underdevelopment of the housing sector

With respect to housing, the key issues discussed included inadequate infrastructure. The absence of telephone lines in many housing schemes due to slow expansion of the development program of the local telephone company was raised. In cases where telephone lines are present, those living in poverty were discriminated against. Several communities have poor access roads and lack electricity and water.

Many claims were made about discriminatory practices in houselot distribution. The lack of transparency in the distribution system and the application of different standards to different people in the acquisition of housing lots warrant attention. In particular, housing lots are too expensive, making it difficult for the poor to own their own homes. In addition, existing lot sizes are too small making it difficult for the poor to undertake kitchen gardens to supplement their incomes. There is also a lack of recreational facilities for children in developing housing schemes. In several instances, provision is not made for the prompt development of social infrastructure in these schemes.

The consultations provided a number of recommendations to address many of the issues above. These recommendations appear in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Recommendations Identified During Consultations

Economic Opportun 5	<p>Manufacturing and Value-added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop export and industrial processing zones ■ Restructure local industries to attract foreign capital ■ Provide technical assistance to local industries to improve management, quality standards, and packaging ■ Develop a deep-water harbour ■ Develop legislation to support development of more cottage industries and small businesses <p>Agricultural Production and Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accelerate processing of land titles ■ Improve extension services, providing adequate transportation for extension workers ■ Rehabilitate and maintain farm-to-market roads ■ Establish and enforce road use standards, especially in agricultural and mining areas ■ Review the D&I systems before allocation of additional resources ■ Develop policy on demarcation of crop/livestock farming ■ Grant incentives for equipment and machinery depots throughout the country for agriculture and logging. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase Government involvement in promotion of tourism ■ Create a stable political and business-friendly environment ■ Conduct sustained training of personnel within the sector <p>Tax Reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broaden the tax base ■ Reduce tax rates ■ Ensure equity in the tax system
	<p>Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase community involvement in the management of community affairs ■ Reform local government administration, re-establish village councils, and grant autonomy to communities to manage their affairs ■ Establish village and/or community project monitoring units ■ Ensure an open and transparent flow of information at the community level ■ Reform the procurement system and involve communities in contract awards ■ Hold local government elections at which leaders are directly chosen from their communities on a non-partisan basis <p>Judicial Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reform the Guyana Police Force ■ Reform the legal and judicial systems ■ Enforce laws dealing with child labour, child abuse and domestic violence ■ Strengthen community policing <p>Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hold local government elections ■ Reform the procurement system ■ Enforce asset declaration by elected officials ■ Publish criteria for the distribution of house lots ■ Reduce the price of house lots ■ Involve communities in the monitoring of community projects ■ Develop mechanisms to withhold payment of to contractors for inferior works <p>Discrimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue, deepen and broaden dialogue between the two main political parties ■ Continue public awareness and educational programs on national unity by civil society and political parties ■ Pass and enforce legislation to deal with discriminatory practices, including discrimination against the disabled <p>Decentralization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decentralise essential services such as the issuance of birth and death certificates ■ Decentralise the passports and land titles ■ Decentralise customs clearance, courier and other shipping services to the regions

Good Governance

Table 3.2: Recommendations Identified During Consultations (cont'd)

Housing Health, Water & Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve conditions of service for teachers, including higher wages, provision of non-pecuniary incentives such as house lots and duty free vehicles ■ Recruit social workers and provide similar conditions of service to assist in reducing dropout rates ■ Reintroduce religious studies, code of conduct for teachers and students, dress code ■ Construct and/or extend existing schools to address overcrowding ■ Develop a comprehensive program of school maintenance ■ Review and enforce school placement policy to ensure that children do not travel long distances ■ Provide dormitories for Amerindian students living away from home ■ Develop a policy for providing targeted subsidies to children from poor families to cover transportation, examination fees, and other costs related to education ■ Re-establish school feeding program to include the provision of hot lunches for students ■ Develop a national certification program of technical and vocational education, including skills training and basic education for school dropouts and out-of-school youth ■ Develop a national register of skilled and semi-skilled persons by community and region for use by contractors and other types of employers ■ Supply required textbooks, laboratory equipment, and other essential learning materials to students ■ Apply a cost recovery fee for textbooks issued to students, with students paying the full economic cost for mutilated or lost books ■ Provide vouchers for textbooks to children from poor families
	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improve training and conditions of service of medical personnel, including non-pecuniary incentives ■ Develop a comprehensive maintenance program of physical facilities ■ Increase the allocation for drugs and medical supplies ■ Improve the distribution and storage of medical supplies, especially in rural and hinterland communities ■ Expand public education and sensitisation programs on preventable diseases ■ Recruit and retain social workers to provide counseling ■ Enforce the law on expired drugs and drug abuse <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Drill wells in communities that lack access to potable water ■ Develop a national rehabilitation and maintenance plan ■ Increase the budgetary allocation to procure chemicals, pumps and other essential parts necessary to improve water infrastructure ■ Expand public awareness programs on home treatment of potable water and water conservation <p>Sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a national policy on garbage disposal ■ Recruit and retain environmental officers ■ Enforce laws on environmental safety ■ Encourage communities to take the leadership role in improving their sanitary conditions ■ Increase resources to maintain drains, institute regular defogging and minimise other environmental hazards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop physical infrastructure such as telephones, water, access roads, electricity and recreational facilities in new housing areas ■ Include the provision of schools, post offices, police outposts/stations and other essential services in housing development planning ■ Increase size and reduce price of house lots ■ Regularise squatter settlements

D. Regional Consultations and Prioritisation

The issues and solutions that emerged from the community and target group consultations are beyond Guyana's financial and human resource capacities. Therefore, priorities have to be set. However, to build credibility and institutionalize the process of consultation, Government chose to further consult the public to agree on regional issues and priorities, using community and target group summary reports. Specifically, the Regional consultations were designed to review the community and target group consultations by regions and prioritise issues and recommendations. Regional consultations were conducted in all the regions.

Table 3.3 provides a summary of priority solutions proposed by the regions.

E. Integrating Recommendations from Public Consultation Into The PRSP

The I-PRSP was revised to include the analyses from the public consultations. Based on the priorities identified, sectoral allocations were also revised. The consultations further revealed several issues that are administrative and/or personal in nature and which provided important lessons to the Government (see Box 3.2); Although the resolution of these issues may not require financial resources, resolving them will boost confidence in public administration and involve communities in the monitoring of their programs. Arising from the issues raised and solutions proposed, and the fact that many of these solutions do not require substantial resources, detailed work programs are being developed with Une ministries, RDCs, and local government bodies. In addition, mechanisms are being developed for communities to become involved in the implementation of their programs, pending legislative reforms in local government administration.

Most of the recommendations made concerned programmatic changes. Small business and cottage industries received proposals for more support in terms

of regulations and credit availability. Information and communications technology was added to the agenda. More attention to agricultural extension services and machinery to support agriculture was suggested, as well as assistance to local industries to attract more foreign capital. In education, a change in the emphasis to provide more teachers and support to parents was also high in the list. More medical facilities and personnel in under-served areas and more attention to HIV/AIDS were also recommended, as were reform in housing to make land lots more easily available and more affordable. In addition, the special intervention strategies (Chapter 4) were changed to reflect development plans initiated in the regions during the consultations.

Table 3.3: Priorities Arising from the Regional Consultations

Goal	Priorities
Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a stable macroeconomic framework • Create business-friendly environment • Support small businesses, cottage industries and eco-tourism • Explore and exploit natural resources • Develop IT-related exports • Rehabilitate and maintain farm-to-market roads and drainage and irrigation schemes • Construct deep-water harbour • Expand rural electrification • Broaden the tax base • Reduce tax rates • Ensure equity in the tax system
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform local government administration • Strengthen, deepen and broaden the dialogue between the two main political parties • Improve public accountability • Reform justice administration • Strengthen regulations and enforce laws on discriminatory practices • Promote and enhance fundamental human rights
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce high levels of illiteracy including adult illiteracy • Reduce school drop-out rates • Improve physical facilities and reduce overcrowding • Introduce curricula reforms • Reduce high transportation and other education-related costs • Train and retain qualified teachers, social workers and ancillary personnel • Improve access to quality education • Provide targeted support to the poor
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to quality health services • Increase drugs and medical supplies and improve storage facilities for drugs and medical supplies • Train, recruit and retain qualified health personnel • Reduce the incidence and prevalence of malnutrition • Increase public education in basic health practices
Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to potable water • Rehabilitate and maintain water infrastructure • Improve quality of water and management of water resources • Maintain drains and more regular defogging • Improve solid waste management
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce bureaucratic inertia in the distribution of house lots • Set national standards and improve transparency in the allocation of land • Develop infrastructure in housing schemes • Regulate squatter settlements • Provide affordable housing finance