

United Nations Transforming Education Summit: 19 September 2022

Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Statement of Commitment

The Government of Guyana is committed to implementing flexible and inclusive pathways for the development of a full range of knowledge, skills, and behaviours. Fundamental to this is the development and implementation of the renewed curriculum geared towards providing learners with sufficient exposure to, and coverage of content that would enable essential learning outcomes relative to grade levels.

Simultaneously, diagnostic assessments (Learning Recovery & Enhancement Programme- L-R-E-A-P) in numeracy and literacy across levels were developed and conducted. These instruments were used to assess the extent of the learning loss experienced during school closure. This process generated student-level data that the Government of Guyana commits to using to guide remediation intervention. This intervention will include virtual, and in-person tutoring for the most disadvantaged students (indigenous, and migrants) and will integrate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) teaching and student competency standards into the renewed curriculum.

The Government of Guyana commits to continue national renewed curriculum-aligned student support through the expansion of the distance education infrastructure and programming, as well as through material support, such as digital and paper-back textbooks and preparatory examination materials.

The Government of Guyana commits to supporting students' and teachers' health, nutrition and psychosocial well-being and will, inter alia, continue to provide screening for vision and hearing, as well as for developmental delays. The expansion of school feeding programmes; the development of a national school feeding policy; and a commitment to alleviating the economic hardship for learners and their families through the "Because We Care" conditional cash transfer; are among key interventions that are evidence of the government's commitment to the overall well-being of its learners and educators. The acceleration of training in gender-responsive approaches to support counselling for schools' counsellors, welfare officers, and their liaison officers will be the conduit for psychosocial support to children while counsellors and spaces will be identified for teachers.

In the medium term, the Government of Guyana commits to digitizing the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to support policy development. This system, using real-time, student level, data will improve management and coordination in the education sector, facilitate monitoring of the implementation of the Education Sector Plan (ESP), monitoring of performance management processes and school supervision. This keystone intervention is a transformational imperative for any modern and efficient results-based education system.

In terms of national targets and benchmarks, the Government of Guyana commits to instituting policies and programmes that will bring targets in line with the priorities and programmes that have emerged in response to and recovery if we are to be on track for the achievement of SDG4 targets. Specifically,

programmes that will impact the proportion of trained teachers with the minimum required qualifications across levels (early childhood, primary and secondary); the proportion of students achieving at least minimum proficiency level through the sector's participation in international assessments, and through the development of open-school programmes that will address out-of-school rates for youth of upper secondary school age.

The Government of Guyana acknowledges that the development of its human capital is pivotal to the transformation of the education sector and underscores that financing is needed to support this process. The Government of Guyana, therefore, commits to making adequate budgetary provisions to drive the transformation of the education sector and to fully recover from the disruptions to learning occasioned by the pandemic. The Government of Guyana underscores its commitment to increase expenditure on education as a percentage of the national budget and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 20% and 6% respectively, thereby ensuring adequate and sustainable financing for education. These measures will be in part guaranteed through the reinvestment of oil and gas revenue into social sector initiatives.

Guyana's statement of commitment is reflective of the voices of its people. We recognize that consistent community engagement, culturally appropriate intervention and communication strategies, strategic partnerships and continuous data gathering with appropriate responses are key to sustaining the transformative "world-class" education agenda crafted for the people by the people.