

# Facts Sheet 1

ENG

## 1. Sexual exploitation sexual violence on youth: national data (2 target groups 0-18 years old and 18-25 years old)

This data does not reflect the actual situation within Guyana, however sexual exploitation and sexual violence in Guyana have increased since 2017. But pervasive as this situation has been reported to be, there is very little data or hard evidence available and this has to some extent restricted the response to this situation.

The paucity of evidence can be attributed to the cultural and other social factors which inhibit persons to be forthcoming in situations of this nature.

Due to the inability of the services in the hinterland locations, there is serious doubt about the accuracy of the incidence of child sexual exploitation and sexual violence in those areas.

Furthermore, it is not inappropriate to recognize that cultural norms and practices indigenous to the Amerindian/hinterland inhabitants cannot be realistically incorporated into an accurate picture of the scope of child sexual exploitation/violence on a national level

1. According to GEPAN survey, 841 cases of abuse/exploitation occurred in 2017 of which 722 of the victims were under age girls between 0 -18.

2. January to May 2018 481 cases were registered. By September the cases increased to 604.

## 2. Background and profile of youth main affected

In Guyana, physical, psychological and emotional well being of children/youth are significantly impacted by all forms of violence. Some forms of violence committed against children and youths are socially accepted or condoned. Culture and norms play a large role, influencing the behaviour of youths.

The Analysis of the Situation of Children and Women (1993) have all suggested that in Guyana, families who are unable to provide the most basic requirements for sustaining themselves, have caused children to drop out of school, to live on the streets, to engage in paid employment, gambling, begging and in the worst case, to resort to prostitution. While it is widely stated that poverty is a major factor in the occurrence of sexual exploitation of children, it has also been suggested that scheming and ruthless adults have been guilty of sexual exploitation of their own as well as other children.

Singled headed female house hold who leave their homes at night to work for e.g security jobs,providing for their children,sees this as survival mechanism to provide basic needs.

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### Youth main affected

1. Youths from poor and vulnerable communities
2. Abandon and neglected children and youths

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### 3. At the roots of sexual exploitation and sexual violence

Epidemic violence such as social, physical and emotional underpinned by harmful social norms or attitudes contributes to the challenges children and adolescent face in Guyana.

Understanding what drives violence against children and youths is key as well as what can be done to address it. Social norms shared perceptions about others, violence at home such as incest, violence in school in the form of corporal punishment, bullying, violence against children and youths with disabilities or differing sexual orientations, violence in all settings are of these manifestations.

Other contributing factors are poverty, frustration, lack of knowledge, neglect, drugs/alcohol, abuse, lack of finance, poor parenting guidance and peer pressure.

A recent development in urban Guyana has been the growing practice of teenagers joyriding mini buses and as a consequence are lured in to sexual exploitation and prostitution by those who manage this popular mode of transportation.

### 4. Main public services operating at the national level and location

In Guyana the Public Services operating at the national level is the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

**Location - 1 Water Street, Georgetown**

**Working out of the Ministry there are the**

1. Child Care protection Agency
2. Trafficking in person department
3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
4. Ministry of Health
5. Ministry of Education

### 5. Main organization operating at the national level and location

1. Women Across Differences
2. Guyana Women Miner Association
3. IOM - International Organization of Migration
4. Help & Shelter

### 6. Relevant approaches / Methods / Best Practices

(about raising awareness - sensibilization and prevention! not accompaniment)

- Development of manual on positive life cycle approaches to sexuality, gender equity, norms /attitudes and behaviour, GBV violences and self
- Capacity building / Awareness sessions, campaign
- Developed specific programmes and activities.
- Engagement for in school and out of school youths
- Documentaries