

INSIGHT INTO GUYANA'S RURAL COMMUNITIES



GUYANA EMPOWERED PEOPLES ACTION NETWORK

Raising awareness in human rights

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- The Region 2 Regional Democratic Council
- The Riverstown/Anandale Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC)
- A Paradise/Evergreen NDC Councillor
- The Region 2 Social Protection Office operating under the Ministry of Social Protection
- The Anna Regina Sexual Offences Police Department

Special thanks to the Regional Chairman for Region 2, Mr. Devanand Ramdatt.

For public use and consultation.

ACRONYMS

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| GEpan | Guyana Empowered Peoples Action Network |
| NDC | Neighbourhood Democratic Council |
| RDC | Regional Democratic Council |
| UN | United Nations |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |
| WOW | Women of Worth |

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FOREWORD

Guyana's development is hinged on a multitude of factors affecting its development, one of which remains the inadequacy of readily available and easily accessible information of situations in our rural communities.

Despite the remarkable job accomplished by UN agencies in providing general information on the country's level of development, using whatever data and statistics they could source from State institutions, these reports do not always reflect realities on the ground. We also find that local organisations do not practice a culture of documenting and disseminating information on the work they conduct.

The Guyana Empowered Peoples Action Network (GEPAN) believes that public awareness and conscience are vital in promoting development and empowering populations, and it is for this reason that all actions undertaken by the organisation are documented for future reference by all stakeholders.

Women in developing countries are among the first to feel the brunt of poverty as they are forced to find solutions on a daily basis to counter the difficulties endured by their households. The same can be said of Essequibian women who are not exempt from the struggles of ensuring the daily subsistence of their families, especially single mothers who are more often than not the sole breadwinners of the household.

Struggles of the Essequibian Woman offers a glimpse into the life of women living in impoverished communities, and the problems obstructing rural development, which are intrinsic to the wider macroeconomic context of a developing Guyana, subsequently requiring a holistic approach in which the Government must play a key role.

We hope that the valuable information captured in **Insight into Guyana's Rural Communities** will encourage actors who can impact positive change, to turn their attention and resources toward the people who inhabit these regions and contribute massively to Guyana's development.

This report is an inspiring encounter with the Essequibian woman who exemplifies strength, creativity, resourcefulness and dignity in her daily combat to feed her family.

It is the first of a series of reports which could not have been made possible without the active participation of regional and municipal authorities, local businesses and

concerned residents. On behalf of our team at GEPAN, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have cooperated throughout the initiative.

We look forward to your continued support in helping to strengthen cooperation for the development of vulnerable segments of Guyanese.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Correia De Sá', is shown on a light gray background.

Anna Correia De Sá

**President
GEPAN**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Insight into Guyana's Rural Communities - Struggles of the Essequibian Woman is the first report of its kind, delivering the findings of a field investigation and survey conducted in two villages: Red Village Phase 2 and Westbury, both located on the Essequibo Coast, Region 2, Guyana.

The report is based on field work, surveys and interviews conducted by the Guyana Empowered Peoples Action Network (GEPAN), in partnership with Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDC). It captures daily challenges characterising the lives of women and children in rural communities.

Participants are predominantly adult women whose Interviews are accompanied by an assessment of the outlets available for families and women to access social and economic rights, including services through the State.

The purpose of the initiative is to determine the level of human development within impoverished communities spread across the Essequibo Coast, with a special focus on the difficulties encountered by women in the quotidian management of their households.

Findings unveiled a troubling social and economic climate in both villages subject to assessment, with unemployment identified as the source of most societal woes. Limited State intervention and legal gaps also constitute part of the problem identified by stakeholders.

This report constitutes a pilot for future ground work to be undertaken by GEPAN. It is hoped that stakeholders to human development and women's rights will find useful information in the pages that follow, and will also be encouraged to contribute to the amelioration of the lives of rural Guyanese.

Resources gratuitously provided by Regional and Neighbourhood Democratic Councils of Region 2, the Anna Regina Sexual Offences Police Department, and the Anna Regina Social Welfare Department.

Date: 2016

INTRODUCTION

County profile

The Essequibo Coast forms part of the three counties in Guyana and is a narrow coastal strip, stretching from Supenaam which overlooks the Essequibo River, to Charity which gives access to the Pomeroon River. It is densely populated on both sides of the public road, with residents backing the Atlantic Ocean to the North and rice lands to the South. Five titled Amerindian villages are accessible on the Essequibo Coast, namely Bethany, Mashabo, Capoey, Mainstay Whyaka and Tapakuma.



Young mother of 2, Red Village

The county is highly dependent on rice farming and to a lesser extent, cash crops. The main centres of activity are Suddie, Cotton Field, Anna Regina and Charity, all of which possess market places, local business, regional and or municipal administrative offices, police stations and other representations of State institutions and services. Banks are also present in Anna Regina, Cotton Field and Charity.

EDUCATION



Primary and Secondary education are easily accessible and provided free of cost by the State. By 2009 90% of children enrolled in Grade 1 reached Grade 6 and the enrolment rate for Primary education remained at a constant 95%.¹ The costs incurred by parents include transportation, uniforms, shoes, stationery, meals and material for school

projects. Families are eligible for a financial assistance of GY \$2 000 (appr. US \$10) per child

¹ Guyana MDG Report, 2011

through the Education Ministry (Up to 2015 the sum allocated amounted to GY \$10 000 (appr. US \$50) per child).

While the primary and secondary school enrolment rates remain relatively high, school drop-out is prevalent in poor communities, and affects in particular boys. Tertiary enrolment while on the increase, remains relatively low on the Essequibo Coast.



Employment

Unemployment is a major challenge affecting Essequibians. Most men in poorer communities depend on the rice, mining and logging sectors for an income. Women are particularly affected by unemployment and while the younger generations turn to public function and low income jobs in the private sector, a significant majority of women remain housewives on the Essequibo Coast.

Social issues

While there is no official data on the level of suicide on the Essequibo Coast, in 2012 the World Health Organisation (WHO) placed Guyana at the head of the list of countries by

suicide rate per capita².

The rate of suicide attains its highest peak among young people and the elderly, according to the report.

GEPAN reviewed the number of suicide cases which were reported in the national dailies and found that Essequibians appear to be particularly affected. In the period spanning December 25, 2015 to February 15 2016, 12 individuals from the Essequibo Coast attempted suicide and of the 12, 8 succumbed. Of the 12, 7 were females and 5 males. 3 were between the ages of 12 and 18, 6 were between the ages of 20 - 25, 1 was between the ages of 26 – 30 and 2 were between the ages of 40 – 45.

In newspaper reports ensuing from interviews with those who survived, the victims presented reasons for attempting to commit suicide such as frustration within the family circle and complicated romantic relationships.

Among other social dilemmas is domestic abuse which in some cases can be fatal. Incest, teenage pregnancies, alcoholism and drug abuse are also rampant on the Essequibo Coast, with varying levels from village to village. Impoverished communities tend to suffer more from a combination of these problems.

Purpose of the report

Insight into Guyana's Rural Communities - The Struggles of the Essequibian Woman is a preliminary report on the situation of women living in rural, impoverished communities on the Essequibo Coast. It was designed to raise awareness in the public domain regarding the strides that Guyana has yet to make in addressing women's rights in development.

Its overall objective is to provide a glimpse into the challenges faced by women in rural communities, reflecting the level of development achieved and the areas necessitating further investments by Government, and where possible, other actors.

It is hoped that the report will prompt action by stakeholders to rural development and women's rights, in order to impact positive change in policymaking, mentality shift and socioeconomic development.

² <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2014/suicide-prevention-report/en/>

Methodology

Struggles of the Essequibian Woman is the result of a participatory approach which relied on the input from the Regional Democratic Council of Region 2, Neighbourhood Democratic Councils, local businesses, identified leaders within targeted communities, the Police, Welfare and Probation Officers through the Ministry of Social Protection and established women's groups on the Essequibo Coast.

Introductory meetings were held with stakeholders to present the initiative as well as discuss which communities would be best suitable to investigate.

A first encounter involved the Regional Chairman for Region 2 Devanand Ramdatt, who heads the Regional Democratic Council. Through this meeting a solid network of on-the-ground actors both within municipalities and target communities, was established.

Meetings were held with members of the Riverstown/Anandale Neighbourhood Democratic Council responsible for Red Village, to identify facilitators who would participate in field activities. The organisation also exchanged with a Councilor of the Paradise/Evergreen NDC who facilitated work in the village of Westbury.

In parallel, the report compiled information collected during meetings at the Ministry of Social Protection Branch in Anna Regina, the Police Station of Anna Regina, and leaders and established women's groups.

Additionally, local business men and women substantial information on realities within their communities.

Individual interviews with women of target communities were conducted to assess the challenges with which they are faced on a daily basis.

Qualitative and quantitative information is provided insofar as available.



Regional Chairman for Region 2, Mr Devanand Ramdatt



RED VILLAGE...

The Single Parent Combat



Red Village is a small community located in the vicinity of Suddie. Based on information gathered from the RDC, the village was established circa 2008.

The community is built on sandy soil which is not suitable for all types of cash crops and kitchen gardens. However, some residents have enriched the soil in their yards to optimise productivity.

One small grocery shop was identified in the community. One primary school catering for

up to Grade six pupils was also identified. Children who graduate from Primary School would attend Secondary Schools located close to or along the Public road extending from Supenaam to Charity.

The population is comprised predominantly of Amerindians and people of mixed lineage (African and Amerindian mainly), and accounts for not more than 700 individuals. Those of Amerindian descent originate principally from the Pomeroon riverine communities such as Kabakaburi, as well as Region 1. Warrous and Arawaks comprise the majority of Amerindians. One Wai Wai woman was

identified.

There is no health centre, community multipurpose building or properly maintained play field. The pitched streets are built on sandy loam soil which due to erosion, caused undermining and overall deterioration of the roads in the village. The main access road to Red Village is built with sand and loam, rendering it difficult to navigate during the rainy season, especially for pedestrians.

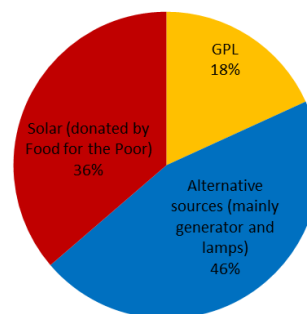
Based on the survey conducted by the GEPAN, the majority of men work as manual and polyvalent labourers, or in the logging and mining sectors. Those who work in the logging and mining sectors are absent from their families for extended periods of time, going up to 4 – 6 months. Families depend on their return for income, or occasionally, on monies sent from the interior via third parties.

Unemployment was one of the recurrent issues identified by participants, as plaguing the community. Women associate their disempowerment with inaccessibility to the job market due to varying factors, notably limited education and a significantly high level of unemployment on the Essequibo Coast.

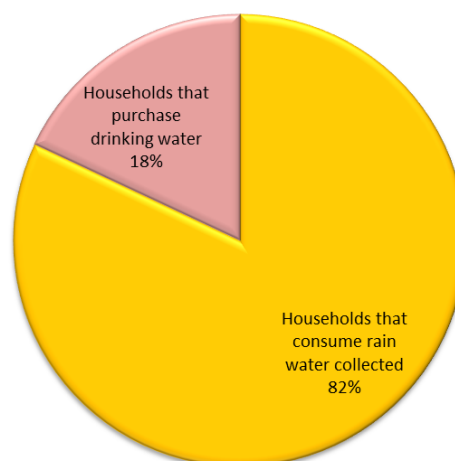
Another problematic identified is the heavy consumption of illicit substances, in particular marijuana, by young men within the

community. This is believed to be a direct consequence of the high level of school drop-outs due primarily to the financial difficulties faced by households.

Source of electricity



Type of water consumption



Findings of survey

Guided by a Councillor from the Riverstown-Anandale Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC), GEPAN surveyed 12 different households. In each case we were met with the mother of the family who was either a single parent or whose husband or partner was away at work for a few weeks or months.

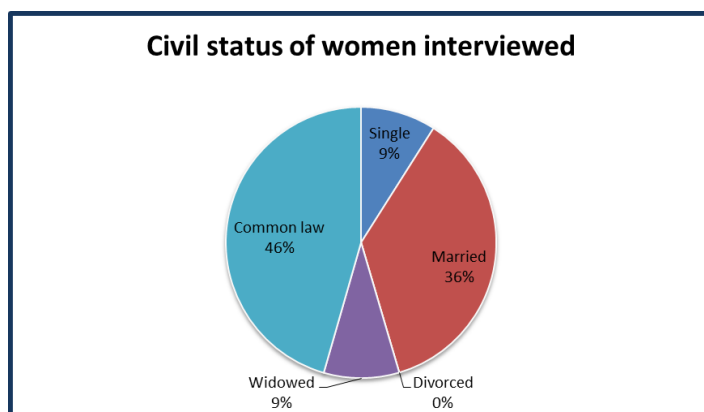
The surveys and interviews were conducted with the informed consent of each household head then present.

All mothers depicted the same situation of unemployment and economic disparity which are the leading factors of social ills within the community. Unemployment is described as the source of financial difficulties which in turn, are responsible for a number of aggravated social troubles affecting firsthand, young people.

Personal/household initiatives

Only 18% of the women interviewed have invested in a kitchen garden or poultry initiative. Another 18% have invested in a grocery shop or similar initiative.

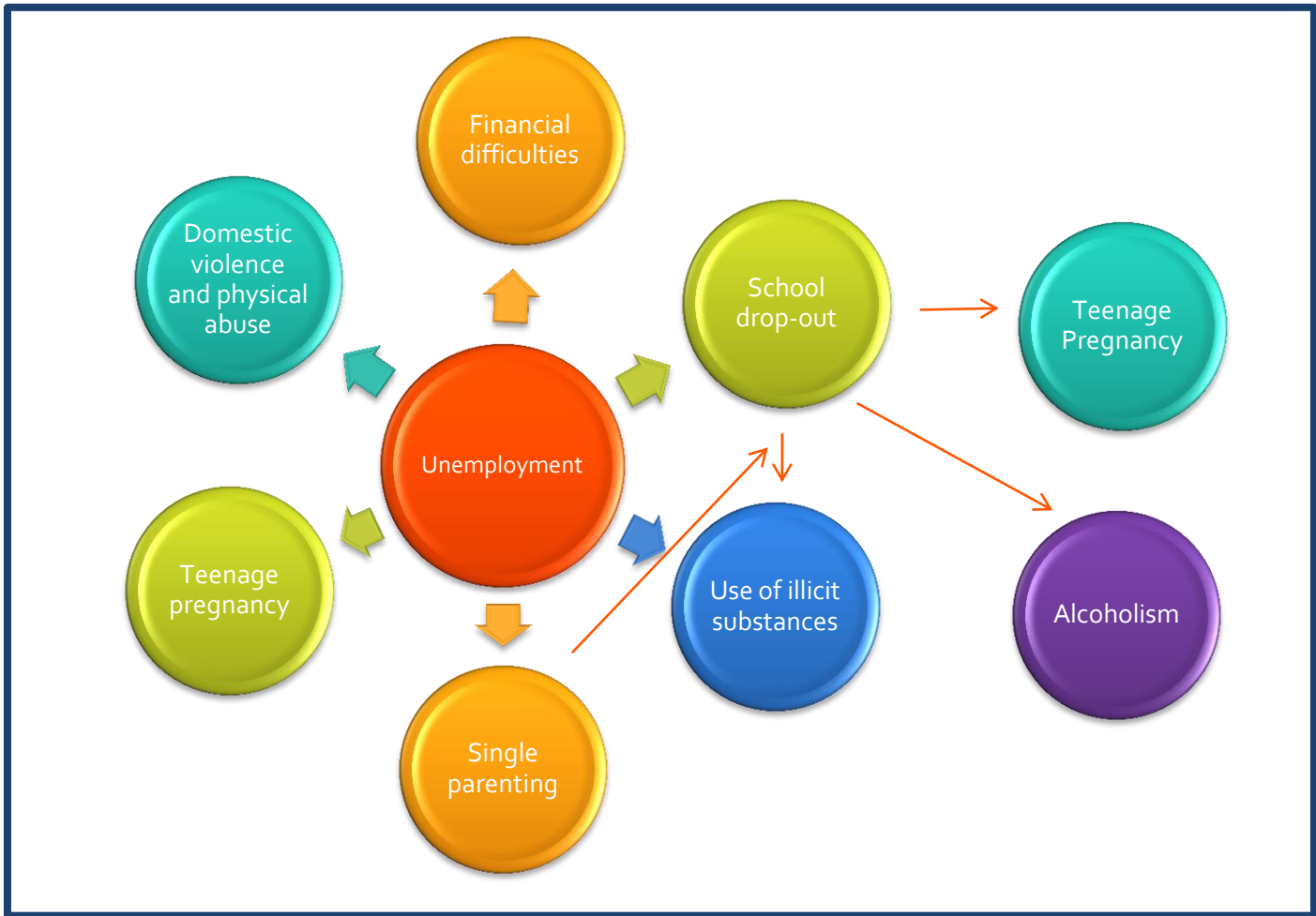
One woman interviewed uses her indigenous medicinal knowledge to create herbal medicine on demand. The revenues generated assist her family in expanding a village shop. 18% of women interviewed have indicated their interest in enhancing skills in sewing and cake decoration.



A poverty spiral depicted by women in Red Village

According to the information provided by the mothers interviewed, the schema below represents the spiral of poverty and the impact it has on the lives of their families. Unemployment is singled

out as the source of all social woes which affect families. 27% of the women interviewed are employed, as opposed to a remaining 73%.



Above: Poverty spiral as represented by participants

School drop-out

Financial complications are identified as the leading cause of school-drop out and consumption of illicit substances (mainly marijuana) as well as alcoholism. Teenage pregnancy was cited as another result of financial difficulties faced in single parent homes. 70% of the participants interviewed identified school-drop out to be a leading cause of the insecurity which plagues the community especially at nightfall.

Women have indicated that it is a challenge to raise their daughters in this unsafe environment. Boys are identified as the first victims of school drop-out, and are pressured by the responsibility for providing financial support to their families.

Teenage pregnancy

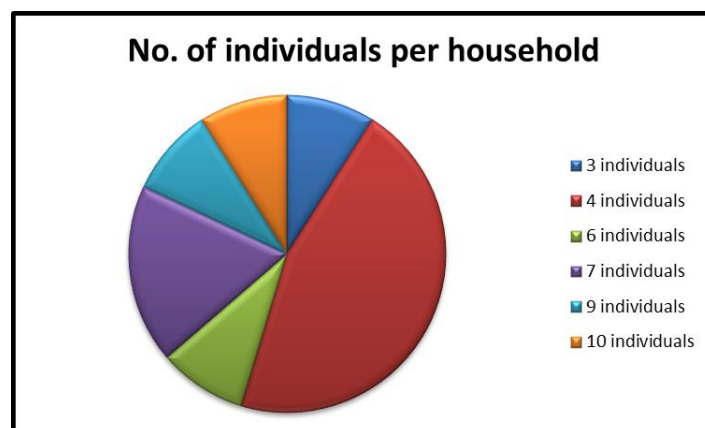
Teenage mothers were found in 18% of the households interviewed, with 9% being underage. 9% of teenage mothers belonged to

single parent homes as opposed to the other 9% where both parents are present daily.

All teenage mothers dropped out of school, are unemployed and depend either on their families or their partners for financial support.

Level of education of participants interviewed

54% of women interviewed have completed a primary education, 18% have completed secondary education, 9% have completed tertiary training and 18% have completed neither primary nor secondary education.



Suicide

4 cases of suicide were identified within the community and occurred within a period of 2 years. 2 victims were in their 40s, 1 was 28 and 1 was younger. All victims were said to be males. 1 victim was the father of an underage teenage mother and a disabled wife



This baby was born to a 16 year old. Both the child and his mother are under the care of his disabled grandmother. None in the household benefit from an income - generating activity. According to the grandmother, the house is subject to frequent intrusions by men who roam the streets at night. The family cannot afford decent safety features for their home.

Domestic violence

The issue of domestic violence visibly constitutes a taboo within the community, where the women interviewed either declined being victims or in the case of 27%, indicate that they were victims in their previous common law relationships.

Participants' suggestions to improve life in the community

Participants believed that those who are most vulnerable to the difficulties which ensue from unemployment are young people. The following are suggestions from women in the community to alleviate the impact of unemployment in Red Village:

1. Creation of a small market within the community which would help in generating income and creating jobs
2. Establishment of a farm in the vicinity of the community to enhance livelihood, generate income and create jobs
3. Creation of a women's group to enhance self-help among women
4. Create initiatives to empower women, rendering them more responsible within their households and providing educational support
5. Create youth associations to provide an outlet for young people to express themselves and to support those who dropped-out of school
6. Upgrade the community playground which is unsuitable for recreational activities
7. Create a health centre within the community
8. Enhance access to transportation for school children
9. Enhance infrastructure
10. Provide financial assistance for children who go to school to limit school drop-out
11. Better parental supervision and guidance of children, particularly in large households.

Note

A total of 70 individuals and 12 households were surveyed. All interviews, images and information transmitted in this report were obtained with the informed consent of participants.



THE CASE OF WESTBURY

Village Profile

Westbury is a small community juxtaposing Dartmouth, along the public road on the Essequibo Coast. The community is inhabited predominantly by Guyanese of African descent, with a minority of East Indians, Amerindians and mixed.

The community is poverty stricken and plagued by social issues necessitating urgent State intervention. Westbury is a hub for drugs (mainly marijuana), and is affected by a high level of alcoholism. It is also known for its high school drop-out rate, despite there being primary and secondary schools within walking distance.

Just as troubling are the numerous accounts of sexual offences, domestic and other forms of physical and verbal abuses, including those reported to social services and the Police.

Working in the community revealed itself to be more difficult than expected and was only made possible by through a member of the

Paradise/Evergreen NDC who was born, raised and still resides in Westbury.

Drug and alcohol abuse

Broaching the issues of drugs, alcohol, teenage pregnancy, sexual offences and domestic abuse produced little results from participants. Almost none of the women interviewed admitted to being affected whether directly or indirectly by any of the above. Only 1 woman interviewed admitted to being affected a drug addict and alcoholic in the family. Yet, based on information obtained through the NDC Councilor who participated in the investigation, in 5 (50%) of the 10 households interviewed, drug abuse affected both the sons and fathers/male partners. In 4 of the households interviewed, alcoholism affected sons and/or male partners.



House on left: At least 20 individuals are reported to form part of the household. A recent case of reported incest erupted when a 13 year old girl accused at least twelve different men of having sexually molested her within the household. Her grandmother who is the head of the household, informed GEPAN that she only houses 12 individuals.

Overcrowding

A household does not necessarily comprise of family members only but can include non-relatives and families or non-relatives only, and Westbury is a perfect example of this. The smallest household surveyed comprised of 4 individuals while the largest accounted for 12 individuals.

Based on information collected from the NDC Councilor, households are often comprised of members of several families resulting in up to 20 individuals sleeping if not dwelling, under the same roof.

Overcrowding generally occurs as a result of financial hardship faced by family or non-family members and the same can be said of Westbury households. While there is no legal definition for overcrowding in Guyana, in other countries a household is deemed overcrowded when the number of individuals living and sleeping under the same roof exceeds a standardized space requirement (square meters or feet) per person.

The consequences of overcrowding can be detrimental and are often linked to poor performance in school, school drop-out, abusive behavior, illness and sexual molestation, in particular incest.

Sexual and physical abuse

In Westbury, a household known to commonly shelter some 20 individuals at night became the object of investigation from social services in 2014, when a thirteen year old girl accused up to 12 men from the household of sexually molesting her (see house in the above image). She was taken into foster care by social protection officers.

Cases of incest affected 2 (20%) households. However none of the mothers interviewed were willing to broach the issue.

Large households are common in Westbury where children do not always live with their parents, but instead take up shelter with their grandparents (often grandmothers), aunts and other relatives. Incest and sexual abuse of minors in Westbury are suspected to be well above the few reported incidents. According to the information provided by the NDC Councilor during our investigation, the sexualisation of children and minors is facilitated by the environment in which drug abuse and alcoholism is prevalent and where parental guidance is lacking.

Abuse also comes in the form of domestic violence where women fall victim of physical and emotional abuse by their partners. Unfortunately, domestic violence in Westbury is not a subject which women felt comfortable discussing during our work in the community. As in most villages GEPAN visited, domestic violence remains a taboo and victims are reluctant to share their experience. Sentiments of shame and fear inhibit traumatized victims who, in Westbury, are often mothers.

Physical abuse however, is not limited to children and mothers in Westbury, but also can affect the elderly. During our visit to the community, we encountered a case where an elderly woman is the victim of verbal and physical abuse from her son who is in his late 30s.

78 year-old widow, Sanchari Duncan (pictured below), houses her son, his partner and their 5 children. She suffers from diminished eyesight due to advanced cataract and is forced to feel her way around the house and yard. She explained that she has no other income but the pension she receives from the State, and does not benefit from the income her son, who is a labourer, makes.

Mrs. Duncan explained that the entire household suffers the consequences of her son's drug addiction. His violent temperament results in domestic violence within the household. She also related that she is a victim of his beatings despite her fragile health. At the time of our visit, Mrs. Duncan explained that she had just recovered from a severe attack from her son, who she claimed doused her with kerosene before threatening to light her afire. Mrs. Duncan's immediate neighbours are also her children but do not intervene.



78 year old Sanchari Duncan sitting at her bottom-house

Employment

Most women in the households surveyed are unemployed and depend on the income of their husbands or partners, and/or son (s). The men in the community are heavily dependent on seasonal employment, mainly in rice farming which is the main income generating sector on the Essequibo Coast, along with gold mining, cash crop farming and to a lesser extent logging.

The turbulences which rocked the rice sector in recent years however, have increased the precariousness of workers who depend on seasonal employment for income. The removal of State intervention in 2015 coupled with climate change significantly impacted productivity in the rice sector, causing farmers to suffer massive losses, while reducing investments.

This dependence was identified as the principal reason for the overall stymied development in Westbury.

Only one of the women interviewed was employed, leaving the remaining 9 without independent sources of income. As a result, 9 of the women



interviewed cultivated small kitchen gardens and/or reared poultry, despite on a small scale due to the very limited yard space characteristic of the small housing scheme.

Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy, though said to be another factor impacting the elevation of women to better living standards in the community, was only found in one household interviewed, where all four daughters became pregnant before reaching 18 years of age.

School drop-out

In 3 households interviewed, 3 boys and 4 girls dropped out of school (teenage pregnancy).

Participants' suggestions to enhance the quality of life in Westbury

There is unanimous belief that young people should benefit from better accessibility to employment opportunities, especially due to the high level of school drop-out.

Women also felt that their empowerment requires thematic capacity building initiatives in areas such as single parenting and entrepreneurship.

Enforced presence of social protection also figured among the suggestions, to combat the consequences of alcoholism and drug abuse. One participant felt that Police presence needs to be reinforced to fight the drug trade in Westbury.



Bean processing facility in Dartmouth, responsible for employing men from both Dartmouth and Westbury seasonally.

Note

10 households were surveyed with only 10 women accepting to participate in the interviews. All information, images and information documented in this report were obtained with the informed consent of participants.



CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

The constraints faced in enhancing accessibility to women's rights in both communities are similar and in some instances entwined in root challenges of the region's overall development.

While some of these challenges are intrinsic to the context of Guyana's developing economy, others are more dependent on entrenched beliefs among local populations, which in some cases may significantly impact the rate of human development in terms of accessibility to human rights.

Lack of resources

Based on exchanges with the Social Protection and Welfare office and the Sexual Offences Police Department of Anna Regina, one of the first hindrances to delivering effective services in communities across the Essequibo Coast, is the deficiency in trained personnel. One female police officer is solely responsible for the Sexual Offences Department of the Anna Regina Police Station, and handles the majority of reports on the Essequibo Coast. Three social workers manage the Social Protection and Welfare office of Anna Regina, which is responsible for addressing the needs of the entire Region 2, and not just the Essequibo Coast.

The need for bigger teams was a recurrent need expressed by both services, not only as a

response to the needs of the region, but also to enhance the quality of personalized State services delivered to victims.

During our investigation we observed that three social workers occupied two rooms interchangeably. The Senior Probation officer in charge explained that victims are uneasy or reluctant to visit the office for counseling due to the apparent lack of privacy.

On the other hand, while only one officer heads the Sexual Offences Police Department of Anna Regina, the austere furniture of the room in which we were accommodated resumed to a table and two chairs, in a wooden building where having a private conversation in any room is by itself difficult.

Housing children who have been removed from their families due to abuse, presents another major challenge faced by both services. Although a children's safe house was constructed in the region late 2015, it does not have the capacity to cater beyond a limited number of children. As a result, at the time of this investigation, housing was still listed among the setbacks which diminish the quality of State services available. There is no State accommodation for women who are victims of abuse.



Children's safe house constructed in 2015 on the Essequibo Coast (Photo: The Guyana Chronicle State media)

Essequibo Coast is a “big neighbourhood”

Among the issues highlighted by the Senior Probation officer in Anna Regina, was the fact that the Essequibo Coast is a mosaic of closely knitted communities where “everyone knows everyone”. She compared the coast to a “big neighbourhood” which discourages people from seeking help or counseling due to sentiments of fear or shame, but also, which incites people to hide serious offences from the police and social services.

Non-cooperation from beneficiaries

At the Sexual Offences Police Department, it is of the belief that neighbours, victims and family of victims of incest and sexual abuse, predominantly women and children, infringe on their own rights by refusing to report cases of abuse or taking full legal action against offenders.

The case of a 3 year old who was raped by her grandfather was presented as an example by the Department, whereby the child’s mother refused to believe the medical report or the complaints of her daughter. The child was removed from her mother’s custody by Social Protection services, and placed in the custody of a relative. However, it was later discovered that the mother retrieved her child, and returned her to the same unhealthy environment.

The officer in charge explained that while the Police might be informed of a case of domestic abuse or sexual violence, the law can only be fully enforced with the consenting participation of all parties involved.

Limited information

Of all participants interviewed (both villages combined), only two reported having benefitted in the past from outreaches of NDC Councilors and women's groups. No mention of other forms of outreach by State services was made.

A general deficiency in information that could enhance the accessibility to women's rights in these communities was observed, and may be linked to the lack of resources discussed in a previous paragraph.

Women were unfamiliar with programs such as the Women of Worth (WOW) grants distributed through the Social Protection Ministry. Yet, this program is essential in fighting poverty as it provides women with significant financial aid for small entrepreneurial projects. In Red Village, at least 2 women were found eligible for the WOW grant.



GEPAN's President delivering a pre-screening form to a resident from Red-Village who might be eligible for the WOW grant.

It was also remarked that participants have limited knowledge of their own legal and specific rights as women. Although the Social Protection Ministry published a booklet on women's rights in Guyana, it has not been distributed to the wider public or in rural areas.

Inadequate infrastructure

The need for facilitated access to transportation and a health post in Red Village stands out as one of the factors affecting daily life. Access to Red Village is

rendered difficult due to the absence of a decent all-weather road, therefore limiting the circulation of public transportation.

In Westbury, the absence of a playfield forces children and young people to play on a car park along the roadside which is impracticable during the rainy season. In Red Village, the playfield is also inundated during the rainy season. There are no community halls in either village where residents can gather for activities.



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