

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Improvements in Internet Connectivity in Guyana's Hinterland, 2021–2026

1. Overview

Between 2021 and 2026, Guyana made a substantial transition from slow, limited and largely satellite-dependent internet service in hinterland communities to high-speed, low-latency connectivity using Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite technology, particularly Starlink.

The improvement is especially significant because Guyana's geography—large distances, rivers, forests and widely dispersed communities—makes conventional fibre and terrestrial broadband infrastructure difficult and expensive to deploy in many hinterland locations.

In 2021, the National Data Management Authority (NDMA) was operating 91 satellite/VSAT sites, with 90 providing internet access to more than 50,000 people in 99 hinterland communities. Fibre and LTE infrastructure was concentrated primarily along the coast, while satellite technology served the hinterland.

2. The situation before the LEO/Starlink rollout

Prior to the introduction of LEO connectivity, hinterland communities were predominantly dependent on VSAT/geostationary satellite systems. These systems provided important basic connectivity but had significant limitations in bandwidth, capacity and latency.

A useful indication of the improvement is provided by the Government's own comparison: between 2020 and 2023, bandwidth available through the government-owned satellite system increased from approximately 1 Mbps to 10 Mbps, with some locations reaching 15 Mbps. Even at that level, the service was primarily sufficient for basic messaging and online connectivity.

Contemporary accounts also illustrate how poor the experience could be. In a 2021 parliamentary presentation, the Prime Minister described attempting to access the internet in remote areas and finding that it was essentially continually buffering or simply showing “connecting.”

Thus, the problem was not simply that some villages lacked internet. In many places, the available connection was too slow or unreliable for modern

applications such as video conferencing, online tertiary education, telemedicine, streaming and extensive cloud-based services.

3. Expansion of ICT infrastructure: 2021–2024

The Government's ICT Access and e-Services for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities (HPRC) Project provided the physical foundation for the subsequent connectivity improvements.

In 2021, Government began implementing a programme to establish 200 ICT hubs throughout hinterland communities. Paruima in Region Seven became the first community to have its ICT hub commissioned in July 2021.

The hubs are important because they provide a community-level digital access point, including computers, internet access, training and access to government and educational services. Many are also equipped with solar power, making them suitable for communities where reliable electricity is itself a challenge.

4. The LEO/Starlink transformation

The most important change in hinterland connectivity occurred with the deployment of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite internet.

The LEO rollout officially began in July 2024 in the Moruca Sub-district, Region One, with Kamwatta serving as the launch location. Unlike traditional geostationary satellite systems, LEO satellites operate much closer to Earth, allowing substantially lower latency and much higher usable bandwidth.

The difference was dramatic.

By July 2025, just one year after the rollout began, 236 of Guyana's 253 officially recognised hinterland, remote and riverine communities had been connected to LEO internet, serving more than 132,000 residents. Reported connection speeds exceeded 200 Mbps.

This represents an enormous improvement over the earlier 1–10 Mbps government satellite service. A 2025 report also described hinterland bandwidth as having improved by approximately 300 times compared with 2020.

5. Full LEO coverage achieved

The Government announced in November 2025 that the LEO rollout had reached all 253 indigenous/hinterland, remote and riverine villages.

More than 135,000 residents were reported to have access to the service. The programme connected schools, ICT hubs, health centres, community facilities and administrative buildings.

The installations also used solar-powered systems with battery backup in locations where necessary, allowing communities such as Annisbisi (Red Hill) to receive 24-hour connectivity despite their remote location.

This is arguably the most important connectivity milestone in Guyana's hinterland during the 2021–2026 period: all 253 targeted indigenous communities have moved into the national high-speed internet environment.

6. Overall assessment

The 2021–2026 period represents a fundamental transformation of hinterland connectivity in Guyana.

In 2021, connectivity was characterised by limited satellite infrastructure, relatively low bandwidth and poor user experience. Government satellite bandwidth was measured in single-digit Mbps, and many communities experienced buffering and unreliable access.

By 2024–2025, the combination of ICT hubs, solar power, WiFiGY and LEO/Starlink had fundamentally altered this situation. By July 2025, individual communities were receiving speeds of more than 200 Mbps, and by November 2025 all 253 targeted indigenous communities had been connected to LEO-based public high-speed internet.

The impact extends beyond faster browsing. Reliable connectivity now supports:

- * Online tertiary education, including GOAL and University of Guyana programmes;
- * Telemedicine and remote healthcare consultations;
- * E-government services, reducing the need to travel to coastal towns;
- * Digital entrepreneurship and online commerce;
- * ICT skills development and employment opportunities;
- * Improved communications for schools, health centres and village administrations.

Conclusion

The most significant change in Guyana's hinterland internet environment since 2021 has been the progression from limited, high-latency VSAT connectivity to widespread high-speed LEO connectivity. The deployment of Starlink/LEO technology from July 2024 effectively overcame one of the biggest geographical barriers to broadband expansion in Guyana.

The progression from approximately 1 Mbps government satellite bandwidth around 2020, to 10–15 Mbps in the early 2020s, and ultimately to 200+ Mbps LEO service in many communities, illustrates the scale of the transformation.

End.