

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME



SURINAME REPORT NATIONAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION + 25

Ministry of Home Affairs,
Bureau Gender Affairs
August 2019

SURINAME REPORT
**NATIONAL REVIEW
IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE
BEIJING DECLARATION
AND
PLATFORM FOR ACTION + 25**

COMPILED BY THE BUREAU GENDER AFFAIRS

MELINDA REYME
MIREILLE NGADIMIN
MELISA WENS - DEEL
SHARON SARIDJAN - TJOKRO
DETIE DARSAN - JAGAN
REVEENA SOEKHLAL
SHIEFANIA JAHANGIER
JUDITH KARIJODRONO
STEPHEN POWEL
JULIA TERBORG (CONSULTANT)

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UNDP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	5
INTRODUCTION	8
SECTION 1: MACRO ANALYSIS OF PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS	9
1.1. ACHIEVEMENTS.....	9
1.2. CHALLENGES	13
1.3. TOP FIVE PRIORITIES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS	15
1.4. SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS.....	20
1.5. TOP FIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING FIVE YEARS.....	23
SECTION 2: PROGRESS ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN	28
2.1. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHARED PROSPERITY AND DECENT WORK	28
2.1.1. Actions to advance gender equality in relation to women’s role in paid work and employment	28
2.1.2. Actions to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work.....	29
2.2. POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES	29
2.2.1. Actions to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls	29
2.2.2. Actions to improve access to social protection for women and girls.....	31
2.2.3. Actions to improve health outcomes for women and girls	33
2.2.4. Actions to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls.....	35
2.3. FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, STIGMA AND STEREOTYPES	36
2.3.1. Prioritized actions against different forms of violence against women and girls	36
2.3.2. Actions to address violence against women and girls.....	38
2.3.3. Strategies to prevent violence against women and girls.....	40
2.3.4. Actions to prevent and respond to violence facilitated by technology.....	41
2.3.5. Actions to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination in the media	42
2.4. PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS	43
2.4.1. Actions to promote women’s participation in public life and decision-making	43
2.4.2. Actions to increase women’s access to media, including ICT	44
2.5. PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES	46
2.5.1. Actions to combat trafficking in women and children	46
2.5.2. Actions to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child	46
2.6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION	48
2.6.1. Actions to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies	48
2.6.2. Actions to integrate gender into disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation.....	49
SECTION 3: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES	51

SECTION 4: DATA AND STATISTICS	53
4.1. TOP THREE AREAS WITH MOST PROGRESS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.....	53
4.2. TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR STRENGTHENING GENDER STATISTICS.....	54
ANNEXES	56
STATISTICAL APPENDIX: TABLES AND FIGURES	56
LABOR.....	56
HEALTH.....	59
CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGES.....	60
VIOLENCE.....	61
DECISION-MAKING	63
SOCIAL SERVICES	65
EDUCATION.....	70

ABBREVIATIONS

AHP	Affordable Housing Program
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AOV	Algemene Oudedags Voorziening (Old Age Allowance)
BEIP	Basic Education Improvement Plan
Belém dó Pará	Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women
BGA	Bureau Gender Aangelegenheden (Bureau Gender Affairs)
BLS	Basic Life Skills
BRvK	Bureau Rechten van het Kind (Bureau for the Rights of the Child)
BvK	Bureau Vrouw en Kind Beleid (Bureau for Women and Child Policy)
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBET	Competency Based Education and Training
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CENASU	Centrum voor Nascholing in Suriname (Centre for Continuing Education of Suriname)
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
COCON	Stichting voor Communicatie, Cultuur en Ontwikkeling (Foundation for Communication, Culture and Development)
CRB	Community Resilience Building
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
DWCP	Decent Work Country Program
DNA	De Nationale Assemblée (The National Assembly)
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission
FP	Family Planning
FHH	Female Headed Households
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GBS	General Bureau of Statistics
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEI	Gender Equality Indicators
GMMMP	Global Media Monitoring Project
GoS	Government of Suriname
HiAP	Health in All Policies
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
HvJ	Hof van Justitie (Court of justice)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDB	International Development Bank
IGSR	Institute for Graduate Studies and Research
IKBen	Integrated Child Protection Network
ILO	International Labor Organization
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
IWGDS	Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies

KPS	Korps Politie Suriname (Police Force of Suriname)
LBGT	Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender
LBO	Lager Beroeps Onderwijs (Lower Vocational Education)
LISP	Low Income Shelter Program
LMISP	Low-Middle Income Shelter Program
MaMS	Maternal Mortality Suriname
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations
MJ&P	Ministry of Justice and Police
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MNH	Maternal and Newborn Health
MOESC	Ministry of Education Science and Culture
MSAH	Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing
MZ	Medische Zending (Medical Mission)
MZPHCS	Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname
NCCR	Nationaal Coördinatie Centrum voor Rampenbeheersing (National Coordination Center for Disaster Management)
NCDV	National Council Domestic Violence
NCUK	De Nationale Commissie Uitbanning Kinderarbeid (National Committee for the Elimination of Child Labor)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSO	National Statistics Office
OM	Public Prosecutor's Office
PAHO	Pan- American Health Organization
Perisur	Perinatale Interventies Suriname (Perinatal Interventions Suriname)
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PPP	Positive Parenting Program
PWDs	People with Disabilities
RACO	Council for Cooperatives
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
RGD	Regionale Gezondheids Dienst (Regional Health Service)
SAO	Stichting Arbeidsmobilisatie en Ontwikkeling (Vocational Training Institute)
SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Suriname Diplomatic Institute
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SLHC	St. Lobi Health Center Foundation
SNTA	Suriname National Training Authority
SPWE	Stichting Productieve Werk Eenheden (Foundation for Productive Works)
SRD	Surinamese dollars
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRC	Suriname Red Cross
STEM	Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics
STES	Secondary Technical Education Support
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections

TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nation Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
US\$	United States dollar
VSB	Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (Surinamese Business Association)
WHO	World Health Organization
WRC	Women's Rights Center

INTRODUCTION

The strategic goal in our National Development Plan 2017-2021 with regard to gender as a multidisciplinary policy area is as follows:

“Laws and regulations and policy principles of private and public organizations should guarantee the right to personal security and freedom of men and women whereas opportunities to realize their ideals and talents should not be influenced by gender stereotyping.”

With this goal, Suriname acknowledges that gender equality and women’s empowerment are pre-conditions in achieving national development as well as the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The National Review Beijing +25 Suriname report is a reflection of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly 2000 in Suriname.

This national review has been drafted and completed by the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA,) in accordance with the guidelines of UNWOMEN, and with financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The consultant, Dr. Julia Terborg, provided guidance to the BGA during its drafting of the national review.

The review shows that in the past twenty five years, in many areas substantial progress has been achieved. Notable progress can be observed in the strengthening of the legal and policy context given the ratification of key international agreements, revision and adoption of supportive national legislation, the formulation of various national plans, programs and projects, increased access to basic education, health and social services, availability of disaggregated data through (new) surveys, capacity strengthening of service providers, and the acknowledgement, protection and realization of human rights. A major achievement is the development of the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 and Gender Plan of Action 2019 and 2020. The policy document envisions gender equality and equity over a period of roughly 15 years. In this manner, the goals of the 2030 World Agenda and the national goals can be better coordinated and the vision of development and intended change can also be better articulated.

Despite the achievements, some challenges continue to exist in achieving targets such as translating evidenced based national legislation and policies into annual plans, regulations and programs. However, with the recently established and strengthening of the ministerial Plan Units the first steps have been taken to tackle this challenge.

Another challenge regards the heavy cuts in government budget, due to the economic downfall of the Surinamese economy, which led to fewer funds available for implementation of specific programs, including in the areas of service provision to vulnerable groups such as education, awareness and guidance programs for teen mothers, youth in low income communities etc. Several initiated programs aimed at specific (marginalized) groups were discontinued or implemented with donor funding.

In spite of the above mentioned challenges, the Government of Suriname remained committed to promote and create conditions for gender equality and the full exercise of the rights of women in Suriname.

In the implementation of the National Development Plan 2017-2021, the Government takes into account the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Suriname remains committed to leave no one behind and acknowledges that empowering those who are vulnerable, is essential in creating a society where the personal wellbeing of all is guaranteed.

SECTION 1: MACRO ANALYSIS OF PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

1.1. ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Strengthening of the legal context

Over the past five (5) years progress has been achieved in the adoption and strengthening of the national legal framework to further support the implementation of the Development plans of the Government of Suriname 2012-2016 and 2017- 2021, relevant international agreements and other related national policies, including:

- **Amendment of the Law of 1975 on Nationality and Residency (July 2014).** The amendment includes the removal of gender discriminatory provisions regarding the acquisition and loss of nationality in the context of marriage and divorce. A child is now granted Surinamese nationality automatically if its father or mother is Surinamese at the time of its birth (Article 3(a) as amended) and the other conditions for a woman to confer her nationality to her child have been removed. The explanatory note to the law states that this amendment “demonstrates the full equality of man and woman (father and mother) before the law in the establishment of the nationality of the child at birth”.
- **Revision of the Penal Code, namely the First, Second and Third Book in March 2015.** Important to mention is that the prison sentences in cases of assault and grievous bodily harm may be increased by one third for the perpetrator who commits the crime against his or her mother, father, spouse or partner, wife or partner or child (article 364.1 of the Penal Code).
- **Revision of the Penal Code with regard to trafficking in persons (2015).** This code has been brought more in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. The revision includes first of all an extension of the jurisdiction, which means that the Penal Code of Suriname is also applicable to Surinamese persons who commit trafficking in persons outside Suriname. Secondly, the revision includes the preclusion of criminal proceedings by laps of time. Generally, the term of preclusion commences on the day after the criminal offence has been committed. Exception is made in cases where trafficking is committed against a person who has not yet reached the age of 18 years. The term of the preclusion commences in these cases on the day the victim turns 18 years. Thirdly, apart from sexual exploitation other purposes of trafficking have been included, such as forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, and removal of organs. Fourthly, for mutual balance between the maximum penalties, the sentences have been increased.
- **Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** in March 2017.
- **Ratification of three (3) ILO Conventions** namely the Conventions on Equal Remuneration, 1951(No. 100), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111) both in 2017 and Minimum Age, 1973 (No. 138) in 2018. The implementation of these ILO conventions will entail more activities towards the full and equal participation of women on the labor market.
- **Adoption of Law on Labor of Children and Youth (2018).** To eradicate child labor and with the view to harmonize the Surinamese labor law concerning child labor to the present context as well as to the ILO standards (ILO- convention 138 and 182). This law replaces the previous labor legislation concerning children and young persons, dating from 1963.

- **Adoption of the Family Employment Protection Act (2019).** In the past, women employed in the private sector by companies without a collective labor agreement had no legal coverage for maternity leave services provided by their employers. With this law employed women will be entitled to paid maternity leave for at least 16 weeks and men to 8 days paternity leave. Women who give birth to multiple births, i.e. three or more children, are entitled to maternity leave up to a maximum of 24 weeks.
- **Adoption of the Minimum Wage Act (2019).** Upon the entry into force of this law, the Minimum Hourly wage act (2014) will be withdrawn.

2. Development of policies and (action) plans

In the past five years, two national development plans were developed and being implemented: 1. Development plan 2012-2016, and the Development Plan 2017-2021. Within these development frameworks, several national plans and policies have been developed, including on women, children and youth, such as: National Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health Action plan (2013-2016), National Plan Suicide Prevention (2015-2020), National Policy on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (2013-2017), National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2015-2020), National HIV Plan(2014-2020), National Policy 'Health in All Policies' (HIAP)(2017), National Policy for a Structural approach of domestic violence (2014-2017), National Action plan prevention and reduction of Child Labor (2019-2023), National Action Plan Trafficking, Gender Action Plan (2019-2020), Gender Vision Policy Document (2021-2035), Policy Plan National Anti-Drugs Council (2019-2023), National Strategic Plan for Health and Wellbeing (NSPH) (2019-2028), National Action Plan Children (2019-2021), Decent work country program 2014-2016.

3. Increased Access to basic education, health and social services

• Continued relatively high enrollment of women at all educational levels

In accordance with the regional trend, gender differential in participation rates increases with the educational level. From the secondary junior level to tertiary education the gender parity ratio is still in favor of girls, as in all these educational levels more women than men are enrolled.

• Execution of structural changes in education sector.

- a. The first Basic Education Improvement Program (BEIPI) was from March 2004- March 2009. But due to delay in the implementation it ended in March 2012. BEIP I was followed up by a Second BEIP, phase I, 2012-2016, with a total investment of 14 million US\$ and currently Second BEIP phase II from 2016-2021, with a total investments of 40 million US\$. Also, this current plan will continue with implementation of strategies and actions that respond to gaps in the education system and is strongly focused on increasing access to quality basic education, in particular in the remote areas, in particular interior and rural districts through improvement of curricula (including integrating gender), school infrastructure, capacity of teachers in the provision of quality of child friendly education, ICT education. Much of the activities are focused on - marginalized populations in the interior and other remote districts.
- b. Increased availability of funding programs for tuition and other study expenses for undergraduate and graduate students studying in Suriname and abroad.
- c. The formal establishment of the Suriname National Training Authority (SNTA) and the execution of a nationwide project (funded by the Islamic Bank) for strengthening of vocational education aimed at strengthening skills among young people and close gaps between schools and needs of labor market. Also in vocational education, the share of female students is increasing.

- **Increased access to basic health services, social protection**
 - a. **Expansion of primary health services in the coastal areas and in the interior:** renovation of policlinics and transformation of some of these clinics to community health centers, with significant expansion of mother and child health care, including obstetric services. Construction of 3 hospitals, 2 in rural areas and 1 in the interior, which will be finalized this year, 2019.
 - b. **Implementation of a National Social Security System** (2014) composed of three (3) social laws namely: the Minimum Hour Wage Act (2014), the General Pension Benefits Act (2014) and a National Basic Health Insurance Act (2014). Major beneficiaries of these interventions are women, considering their overrepresentation in lower income groups and the growing number of female heads of households.

- 4. **Increased availability of strategic information for monitoring purposes**
 - a. **Production of statistics and statistical papers on women and gender**
The General Bureau of Statistics (GBS), Suriname's National Statistics Office (NSO) is responsible for the production of gender statistics. The first publication 'Selected Gender Statistics', launched in 2002 is published every odd year by the GBS. In 2017 the GBS published the publication under a different title "Selected Statistics about women and men in Suriname". In addition to this regular publication two gender related publications were produced: 1. The Housing situation of Female Headed Households (FHH) In Paramaribo (2015) and 2. "A statistical study from a gender perspective on Surinamese women and men (2016)
 - b. **Implementation of the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) model**
To meet the lack of gender disaggregated data, the Ministry of Home Affairs/Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) has executed the GEI with support of CARICOM and UNWOMEN and in close collaboration with the GBS. The main goal of this initiative was to develop a set of indicators (the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model) parallel to the Global Set of Minimum Gender Indicators to identify, assess, measure and track the persistent gender equality concerns and disparities across the CARICOM Region, in accordance with the newly adopted SDGs. Suriname was one of the four pilot countries (apart from Dominica, Grenada, and Jamaica). This study was conducted between January and July 2017 and did not only provide in recent data, but also revealed the shortcomings in the collection of gender-related data.
 - c. **Implementation of the CariSECURE project**
CariSECURE is a regional project initiated by the USAID / UNDP in 2016. The goal of the CariSECURE project is to improve youth crime and violence policy-making and programming in the Southern and Eastern Caribbean using quality, comparable, and reliable national citizen security information. The Government of Suriname participates in this CariSECURE project. Steps taken in this regard include among others the:
 - Installation of a Task Force in February 2018 with the task to improve how law enforcement agencies use data for violence and crime prevention policy making. This Task Force consists of representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Police, Sport and Youth, Education Science and Culture, the Attorney General's Office and the General Bureau of Statistics.
 - Launch of a management information System for the police in April 2019 by the Ministry of Justice and Police as a first step in strengthening the fight against the increasing trend of criminal acts particular among young people. This management information system is in a pilot phase in which crime information will be stored centrally.

- d. **Implementation of several nationwide studies, including on ‘Violence against Children’ (2017), ‘Global School based Student Health Survey’ (2017), ‘Violence against women’ (2018), ‘Prevalence of poverty’ (2019), ‘ MICS 6’ (2018), HIV Legal Environmental Assessment Report (2018).**

During the drafting of this report the results of the most recent MICS study (2018), the ‘Poverty Study’ (2019) and the study to measure the existence of violence against women (2018) were not available as yet.

5. **Acknowledgement, protection and realization of human rights**

Several efforts and measures specifically targeted at eliminating discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups, in particular LGBT’s, abused children, and indigenous communities have been taken.

- a. **Establishment of the "Diversity and Inclusivity" working group (2016)** at the Ministry of Justice and Police to make recommendations on actions to prevent and combat discrimination against the LGBTI community. This working group included representatives of different relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, organized several public hearings in collaboration with civil society in the country to discuss expanding the rights of LGBT people.
 - b. **The establishment of the National Human Rights Institution** is introduced by the State Decree, regulating the departmental tasks of the Ministries (1991, as amended on March 27, 2015, art. 1 section 3 B (O). The Implementing Order, which deals with the operation and staffing of this institute, is currently being prepared. The Paris Principle will be taken into account and it is to be expected that this will be implemented. The planning is that a transition period will be implemented in 4 years. This means that in this period the Institute will be made into an independent institution. In the final phase of this transition, the Institute will thus completely stand alone.
- **Implementation of programs to end stigma and discrimination towards LGBT’s:**
 - a. **Equality in the workplace: The Workplace Pride project:** The leading LGBT NGO in Suriname successfully partnered with private sector companies to sign the “Declaration of Paramaribo”, in which employers express their commitment to implement gender neutral HR policies and eradicating discrimination from their work environments.
 - b. **Education and awareness raising among service providers:** Members of the Police Force of Suriname (KPS) have participated in seminars on recognizing violence against gay people, organized by the LGBT Platform Suriname.
 - c. **Education and awareness raising of the general public:** Since 2010, every year in October, a Coming Out Week takes place in Suriname (October 11th is International Coming Out Day), with social and cultural activities. As part of the Coming Out Week a Pride March is held in the center of Paramaribo. From 2017, the Coming Out Week has grown to a Pride Month, where in the month October, activities are organized, concentrated in the weekends, with the Pride Parade on the last Saturday of October.
 - **Establishment of ‘Meldpunten Kindermishandeling’ (Centers for Reporting Child abuse):** To increase access to services for child victims of violence, the ministry of Justice and Police established centers for reporting of child abuse in communities with relatively high prevalence of child maltreatment. In 2019 several actions have been implemented to further strengthening of delivery of services at the ‘Meldpunten’, such as development of operational plans, capacity building of service providers and establishment of case management teams for enhancing an integrated approach in serving child victims of domestic violence.
 - **The Ministry of Labor drafted in 2018, the law on "Labor, Violence and Sexual Harassment"** that refers to the private sector. NGOs and government institutions were consulted for their input on the content of this draft law. The draft law was presented to the State Council in February 2019.

- **Indigenous land rights**

- a. December 22, 2017, the National Assembly (DNA) amended the “Decree on Fundamentals of Land Policy” (1982). The new title is the “Protection of Residential Area and Habitat Act”. This legislative amendment is intended to prevent the issuing of concessions within a radius of 10-kilometer around every village.
- b. In follow up of this amendment in June 2018, the minister of Regional Development developed the “Step-by-step plan for legal recognition of the land’s rights of indigenous and tribal peoples in Suriname.” In accordance with this plan a management team and tree technical committees have been installed to develop a Surinamese model of legal regulation and recognition of the land’s rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, which is aligned to the international agreements and regulations.

- **Reports to the UN, in close partnership with Civil Society**

In the past 5 years the government submitted several country reports on the status of commitments related to human rights according to the UN guidelines, including the 4th, 5th, 6th combined CEDAW report, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Suriname Progress report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus 2013-2018 (2018). Suriname Report on the Implementation of the Montevideo Strategy October 2016 - May 2019. Several ministries and civil society institutions have participated in the process of drafting these national reports.

1.2. CHALLENGES

1. Economic downfall

The Surinamese economy is slowly stabilizing from a serious recession in the period 2014-2018, characterized by a sharp decline in revenues from the main commodity exports, gold and oil, increased public spending, causing substantial external and fiscal deficits, and a significant loss of international reserves. The devaluation of the Surinamese dollar- Suriname moved to a freely fluctuating exchange rate in 2016, and the currency had weakened to 7.45 Surinamese dollars (SRD) per United States dollar (US\$) by end of 2016. The strongly fluctuating exchange rates were the main causes of high inflation, reaching its peak in 2016 with 52.4% inflation, and resulted in an ongoing drop in purchasing power of the population. To mitigate negative impact of this recession, heavy cuts were made in government budget with main focus on covering of essential exploitation expenses (mainly salaries of government employees) with relatively less funds available for development and implementation of specific programs, including in the areas of service provision to vulnerable groups such as education, awareness and guidance programs for teen mothers, youth in low income communities etc. The direct consequence of governments economizing was that several initiated programs aimed at specific (marginalized) groups were discontinued or could never start due to lack of funds. Some programs could continue with donor funding, however with no guarantee for follow up/sustainability.

However, the medium-term growth outlook remains favorable, given the expansion in the oil and gold production. Expectations are that real GDP growth will recover to 2.5 percent in 2018, and further to 3.0 percent over the medium term. IMF stated in its rapport ‘Regional Economic Outlook for the Western Hemisphere 2017’ presented in May of 2017 that Suriname’s economy is on the rebound and restoring.

2. Poverty and disparities in access to services

Poverty and social inequality remain large challenges. In Suriname the Gini coefficient is estimated at 0.44. By global standards, this constitutes a fairly high level of inequality. Suriname has not yet developed a poverty reduction strategy while still little is known about the magnitude of poverty and inequality and

characteristics of vulnerable groups. There are indications that poverty is higher in female headed households¹ (Sobhie R. et al, 2012). In June 2016, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing reactivated efforts for defining a national poverty line, in accordance with the current government's social agreement. A National Commission Establishing Poverty Line, with staff from the National Statistical Office and Government and academics from the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research of the University, was set up for this purpose. Currently a nationwide study to assess poverty levels, financed by the IDB, has been finalized, however not yet at the stage of reporting results. This study will result in disaggregated data that will provide a more detailed understanding of the most vulnerable groups/household and recommendations for effective actions.

3. Weak (government) institutions

While significant progress has been achieved in strengthening of the legislative and policy environment, and also availability of disaggregated data, some challenges continue in achieving the set targets. Translating evidenced based national legislation and policies into annual plans, regulations and programs that are not only implemented but also guided by operational plans and regular monitoring remain a big challenge. Persistent barriers include lack of required capacity in gender mainstreaming, data management, evidence-based policy making, management of programs and monitoring and evaluation. Although a national social security system, including basic health care, minimum wage and pension, was established, it appeared that the establishment of a social protection system that is universal and rights-based is slow in its realization. Certain vulnerable groups, such as poor pregnant women, and other vulnerable women such as single female headed households, teen mothers, are often at risk of being unsecured or insufficiently covered. Eligibility criteria are not developed yet or not transparent, not rationalized, and coverage of basic healthcare is limited, especially in some areas such as mental health, post-natal health, family planning (variety of modern contraceptives methods), and safe abortion (only available as a private service). A great part of these services have to be paid out of pocket, which impose a great barrier in particular for women in lower quintiles. Even if access to basic health care for elderly is free, elderly women, with higher prevalence of morbidity in old age, are only partly covered for specialized services such as revalidation, home based care and certain surgeries.

4. Challenges regarding improvement of sexual and reproductive health

Maternal mortality rates and HIV prevalence show fluctuating trends, with persistent high averages. In 2018 maternal mortality rose again to 155 /100.000 live births. This put Suriname at the regional level in the third place in the list of countries with the highest mortality rates, following Haiti and Guyana. A recent study shows that maternal deaths are higher among women in the interior and in the lower income groups (Kodan et.al. 2017). As access to safe abortions is restricted to women who can pay for these services, scattered data indicate annually approximately 500 women registered at the emergency room due to complications of unsafe abortions. Alarming is also the relatively high annual number of new HIV infections, in particular among young people. Comprehensive sexuality education is not yet structurally integrated in schools and most health clinics offering sexual reproductive health services, especially in the interior and rural areas, still lack sufficient capacity to attract youth with services that are friendly and confidential. Linkages of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in the interior to HIV continuum of care services are weak.

¹ Hoe arm is Suriname? R. Sobhie, P. Deboosere, G. Dekkers, IGSR/ Anton de Kom Universiteit, VUB/ Free University of Brussels, Federaal Planning Bureau van België, KU Leuven

Despite significant increase in education and awareness activities as well as capacity strengthening of service providers, annual femicide numbers are still alarming. Professional help for victims of (sexual) violence, including children remains limited.

There is no special law that regulates sexual harassment that takes place at the workplace within the public sector. A draft has initially been formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and is currently being reformulated by the Foundation Ilse Henar – Hewit Legal Assistance for Women. There is no specific legislation on femicide. However, the article 364.1 of the Criminal Code as revised in 2015 states that the prison sentences in cases of assault and grievous bodily harm may be increased by one third for the perpetrator who commits the crime against his or her mother or father, spouse, wife, or partner or child

1.3. TOP FIVE PRIORITIES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

1. Eliminating violence against women and girls

- **The installation of mechanisms to combat Domestic Violence.**

The Ministry of Justice and Police has installed a Steering Committee Domestic Violence in 2008 which consisted of representatives various ministries and in 2010 a Platform composed of representatives from NGOs and other government institutions. The main task of these mechanisms was to develop an integral policy plan to combat domestic violence. A policy plan ‘National Policy Plan Structural Approach Domestic Violence 2014-2017’ has been drafted in which the following areas are included: structures (organizational structure to implement and monitor the policy plan), legislation, awareness and training, research and data collection, assistance (counseling), centers for reporting domestic violence, and monitoring and evaluation. Important to note is that the duration of both mechanisms has ended.

The National Council Domestic Violence (NCDV) was installed in June 2017 by the Minister of Justice and Police for a period of 3 years and is composed of representatives of various ministries and NGOs. The main task of this council was to update the National Policy Plan Structural Approach Domestic Violence 2014 – 2017; to formulate a Work plan for the integral approach of domestic violence; and the monitoring of the implementation of all the activities mentioned in these documents. In July 2018 the council presented the updated National Policy Plan “Structural approach Domestic Violence” and the related work plan to the Minister of Justice and Police. The council is also in charge with the monitoring of the implementation of the work plan.

- **Continued capacity development of service providers:** In 2015, training courses on domestic violence were provided for employees of the OM / HvJ and KPS.

In 2016 and the first half of 2017 the staff members of Justice were trained on domestic violence. In 2018 social workers of the Ministries of Social Affairs and Housing (MSAH) and Justice and Police (MJ&P) in urban and rural areas were trained within the framework of the project “Developing a Positive Parenting Program”, to support parents / families who are in difficult social circumstances.

- **Orange day:** The MHA/BGA supports the Orange day Campaign from the UNWOMEN`. As of 2015 on the 25th of every month the BGA organizes activities on orange day to raise awareness and to take action to combat violence against women and girls.

- **The development and approval of a standard form for registration of domestic violence.**

The Ministry of Justice and Police started this project in 2014 in collaboration with the United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs. In June 2018 approximately 50 persons were trained in the use of the registration form. The registration form has been piloted for a period of four and a half months. After several discussions, the draft form was adapted and formally approved by the Minister of Justice and Police in December 2018.

- **Appointment of cantonal judges to deal with protection order appeals** in cases of domestic violence. Since 2014, four cantonal judges have been appointed for the district of Paramaribo and surrounding area for the duration of two years to deal with protection order appeals in cases of domestic violence, in addition to their existing regular duties. For the rural district of Nickerie one judge has similarly been appointed.
- **First Nationwide study on ‘Violence against Children’ commissioned by The National Assembly:** In December 2017 the results of the first nationwide study on violence against children was presented to the Parliament. The study collected disaggregated data, which not only identified children who are in high risk situations, but also provided important input for stronger targeting of programs on identified vulnerable groups.
- **Strengthening of national response to human trafficking**
The provisions of the revised Criminal Code extended jurisdiction to nationals who committed trafficking offences in other countries and there was no statute of limitations for trafficking offences. Regular awareness-raising programs were carried out, including campaigns specifically targeting women, who could be perpetrators as well as victims. Trafficking victims of both sexes had access to a shelter. In 2019 a ‘National plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons’ was officially launched with several additional actions included, such as the establishment of a hotline and dissemination of mass media awareness raising and educational materials.

2. Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

- **Curricular reform and teacher training;** Phase I of BEIP II has made significant progress in the areas of curricular reform, teacher training and the provision of textbooks and teacher guides. The program redesigned and implemented the curriculum for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6; trained 6,000 teachers in the new curriculum; and distributed 440,000 textbooks and teacher guides. In phase II these activities are continued for the remaining grades of primary education and a strategy for junior secondary education reform will be developed. At the same time, a successful social marketing campaign is being carried out to inform and involve all stakeholders (parents, teachers, principals, and personnel of the Ministry of Education Science and Culture (MOESC)) about the reform. Phase II will continue strengthening the capacity of the MOESC².
- **Development of an ICT policy;** Phase I of BEIP II also supported the development of an ICT policy that was adopted by the MOESC. The ICT policy provides clear guidelines on how the use of technology can complement the delivery of the curriculum.

3. Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

a. Development of the National Basic Health Care Act

To grant access to basic health care the government of Suriname adopted the Act Basic Health Insurance in 2014 (BAZO) that compels every resident to take out health insurance for medical expenses. By using BAZO insurance these persons insured are guaranteed a basic health care package: medicines, doctor’s treatment and selected specialist and paramedical treatments.

² Suriname Second Basic Education Improvement Program (2NdBeip)
Phase 2 (Su-L1038)

b. **Development of national health related policies** The Ministry of Health has developed several policies and plans of actions, aimed at increasing access for all including women and girls to health, guided by human rights based approach and a gender perspective.

c. **Special Programs to increase access to reproductive health and services**

- **Maternal Health and neonatal services:**

a) In 2018 the Ministry of Health installed the **Commission Maternal Mortality Suriname (MaMS)** to review all maternal deaths in Suriname. The MaMS Commission identifies and audit every maternal death and advises the government on priority measures to prevent and reduce maternal mortality.

b) **“Perinatale Interventies Suriname (Perisur)”**.

This project has two components: the first component consists of the development and execution of an educational program aimed at informing the society about adverse birth outcomes. In this regard a pregnancy book for pregnant women has been developed with information about safe/ healthy pregnancy. The project focuses on the promotion of healthy pregnancies and a healthy start for new born babies. Within this project a Perisur clinic has been opened at one of the hospitals. The Perisur clinic is intended for pregnant women and their partners who want to be guided in the safe pregnancy and healthy birth of their child.

- **Capacity building of Primary Health Care workers:**

In the area of Early Childhood Development (ECD), with support of the UN, training in the early detection of microcephaly or other birth deficits causing possible disabilities and growth defects in young children was conducted. 114 health care providers serving in the Interior of Suriname including in Amerindian region were trained. This will enable them to better support over 2,000 families in growth monitoring of infants and young children. Also approximately 300 ECD kits have been provided to community health workers (MZ & RGD).

- **In 2018 the first group of students have successfully graduated from the postgraduate “geriatric nursing” course** of the Elsje Finck- Sanichar (EFS) College COVAB. The graduation projects of the students aim to develop an improvement plan for the care of the elderly in Suriname. Suriname is currently the only country in the Caribbean with a curriculum in care for the elderly. This makes Suriname and thus the EFS College COVAB respectively the first country or training institution that delivers the first geriatric nurses at national and regional level.

- **Scaling up of cervical cancer screening**

As part of the development of the National Plan on the prevention and control of cancer, several activities have been initiated c.q. implemented for the prevention and control of cervical cancer. The Stichting Lobi Health Center Foundation (SLHC), a leading partner in the prevention of cervical cancer, designed and implemented a model Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCC) project for effective screening, tailor made to the specific needs and nuances of specific groups of women. With support from the Ministry of Health and the Pan- American Health Organization (PAHO), the SLHC successfully piloted this community cervical screenings program in the rural district of Saramacca, and is currently implementing a similar program in the district of Wanica. The ultimate aim is to develop a phased national cervical cancer screening program. In December 2017, the SLCH presented the outcomes of the Saramacca initiative as a best practice for cervical cancer screening at a National Cervical Cancer Congress, to be considered for national replication. As a follow up of this national congress, the ministry of Health installed a national commission on ‘Cervical Cancer screening’ to develop strategies and actions for at least 80% coverage of cervical screening nationwide.

- **Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives (BFHI)**

To strengthen infant feeding practices, five hospitals were assessed for readiness for Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives (BFHI) and 80% maternity ward staff was trained.

- **Establishment of a maternity home**

The Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname (MZPHCS) has started in 2018 with the project 'Doorgangshuis MZ'. With the aim of reducing mother and child mortality the MZPHCS offers shelter for pregnant women from the interior, who are expected to have a complicated pregnancy or delivery, and who have indicated to have financial and/ or shelter problems. Other MZ patients from the interior can also make use of this facility. With this project the referral of particularly pregnant women to the capital (Paramaribo) is guaranteed. The shelter has the ability to accommodate 10 women and is also suitable for the accommodation of (expecting) mothers and their companion and the newborn child.

- **Expansion of local RGD clinics with comprehensive obstetric facilities**

In accordance with the Safe Motherhood plan, the number of policlinics of the Regional Health Service with comprehensive obstetric facilities has increased significantly.

- **Capacity building of midwives**

Against the background of the regional target to reduce maternal mortality to < 30 per 1000 live births in 2030, the first national Obstetric Congress was organized in 2016 to develop essential national protocols. In April 2019 a second national Obstetric Congress was held to evaluate the application of the protocols, and to revise where needed.

As part and in follow up of these congresses a variety of training programs have been conducted for midwives to improve implementation of national guidelines and (postnatal) care strategies.

- **From 2014 to 2019 multiple studies have been conducted on maternal mortality and morbidity and perinatal mortality.** The results of these studies were presented at the recent National Congress on Obstetrics in April 2019 to assess and prevent severe obstetric complications and make progress to reach the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) target in 2030.

- **HIV response : achieving the 90-90-90 target**

A national HIV plan 2014-2020 has been developed to guide the achievement of the international target of 90-90-90. In the past 5 years HIV testing, outreach education to 'hard to reach groups' has scaled up, as well as efforts to establish linkages for HIV continuum of care. With regard to HIV treatment, ART guidelines have been adopted, protocols on HIV, syphilis and hepatitis-B have been finalized and resulted in the increase of HIV treatment for people including pregnant women and infants living with HIV. ART coverage has increased from 36% in 2014 to 64% in 2017. The share of diagnosed people living with HIV (PLHIV) has increased to 80%, while PLHIV with a suppressed viral load (effective HIV treatment) has increased to 65%. (2017)

4. Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)

- **In 2014 three laws were promulgated**, which constitute the basis for the Surinamese Social Security System. These are the National Basic Health Care Insurance Act, the General Pension Act and the Minimum Hour Wage Act.

- **The General Pension Act 2014** requires employers and employees, but also self-employed people to take out a pension insurance. This law aims at increasing the coverage of the active population for pensions by providing a pension scheme to persons who were not yet covered by an existing scheme.

- **The Minimum Hour Wage Act** was promulgated as the third component of the social security system. The law came into force as of January 1, 2015. This law is aimed at preventing extremely low wages and also results in an overall increase in labor productivity. This law will be withdrawn and replaced with the recently approved **Minimum Wage Act (July 2019)**, given the significant devaluation of the Surinamese

dollar which undermines the purpose of this law to guarantee employees and their families a certain minimum subsistence. In consultation with social partners and trade unions the minimum hour wage has increased by approximately 95 percent within the period 2015-2018.

- **Senior citizens support plans (Ministry of Home affairs)**

The Civil Servants Pension Fund (*'Pensioenfonds Suriname'*): The government manages a pension system granting a pension to Surinamese civil servants and employees of State-owned enterprises.

- **Widows Pension System:** Governmental Pension Bureau manages a Widows Pension System for widows of civil servants and employees of State-owned enterprises. A comparison between 2002 and 2013 shows that the percentage of women receiving pension increased from 40 % to 44 %, while women receiving widow's pension, shows a slight decrease from 94 % in 2002 to 91 % in 2013.
- **Support in access to Universal Health Care** is provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (MSAH). The law, making basic health insurance mandatory, was passed in 2014 and subsequently, the ministry was put in charge of the implementation. Three main categories are persons under the age of 17 years, 60 years and older, and the age group 17 to 59 years. Up until now the government pays for the insurance premium of the two former groups and for those from the latter group that lack the fund to pay for them. If necessary (if the limit of the coverage of the health insurance has been reached) extra medical costs are covered by the MSAH.
- **Social transfers that were budgeted** the past five years are financial assistance to poor households (SRD 33, 50 up to 40, 50 monthly), financial assistance to persons with disabilities (SRD 325 monthly), child allowance (SRD 50 monthly) and general old age pension (SRD 525 monthly).
- **The amount of child allowance increased** from SRD 30 to SRD 50 per child per month. For the other cash transfers there was no increase in the amounts. A challenge for all cash transfers is the payment in the interior, due to the high transportation costs. To overcome these and other challenges related to other social transfers and to facilitate the elderly and persons with disabilities the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing introduced the so-called Moni Karta in 2017. The Moni Karta is a debit card on which the various financial benefits provided by the government are made available every month for the eligible persons. The Moni Karta is also made available for persons living in the interior.
- **Financial assistance and food packages** have been provided to mothers with triplets.

5. **Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)**

- **Increased access of villages in the interior to clean drinking water and sanitation**

The Ministry of Natural Resources has signed agreements with UNICEF to build or restore some of the water systems in the interior (Upper Suriname River mostly). The water systems in the villages Abenaston and MasiaKriki within the district of Sipaliwini have been fully restored. Mostly women and children make use of water in these areas as they live and stay in the villages and use water for daily maintenance and care of children and the elderly.

- **A movie regarding dangers of unclean water and bad hygiene practices** and the necessity of clean water was produced. A WASH awareness booklet for children in school was also developed.
- **Access to safe sanitation:** In addition to the WASH project, the Ministry of Regional Development also signed an agreement with UNICEF to provide material to build toilets in some of the villages in the interior. The goal of this project is to stimulate and motivate the villagers, mostly women and the elderly, in the use of toilets and therefore decreasing the risk for diseases and the pollution of their immediate environment.
- Other projects that were executed in the interior were among others:
 - 2 Rain Water Harvesting Projects in the interior reaching approximately 100 Households.

- In 2016, 14 persons (4 men and 10 women) received training in roof gutter installation linked to a water reservoir.
- In 2017, 2 men and 11 women of the village Asigrón were trained in a rain harvesting project by making concrete platforms on which water reservoirs can be placed. The participants have been trained in how to install and maintain water reservoirs (duro tanks).
- **Capacity strengthening in climate change mitigation and adaptation**
Various projects have been executed with regard to water and digital infrastructure such as:
 - ‘Enhancing access to drinking water for the Maroon community of Asigrón within the district of Brokopondo’. The aim of this project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Regional Development to design and execute drinking water projects in vulnerable communities in the interior of Suriname; provide access to clean and safe drinking water, in the rainy and dry season that meets national standards for 100% of households and improve drinking water management and storage capacity in the Maroon community of Asigrón.
 - ‘Climate resilient access to drinking water for the Maroon community of Nieuw. Lombé of the district of Brokopondo. The aim of this project is to reduce women’s time spent on collecting water, thus allowing for increased investment of time in social and productive activities. It proposes completion of a water distribution system. This system will pump and filter well water to all households in Nw. Lombe.
 - A center for practical knowledge education, INFRA HUB, has been set up at the Anton de Kom University Suriname. The INFRA HUB will conduct research on and gain knowledge in small infrastructure measures combating the effects of climate change in the built environment.
 - Combating flooding and increasing water supply through waste water treatment. This technique has been applied in a small pilot plot within the Old Kampong in Mariënborg located in the district of Commewijne’.

1.4. SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS

With regard to discrimination it is important to mention that although the draft Revision of the Civil Code does not include a specific definition on discrimination, the principle of equality between men and women is integrated in that draft revision. For example: joint exercise of parental authority; decision on the surname of the child (the choice can be made between the surname of the father or the mother or for a combination of both). Unlike the draft Revision of the Civil Code, the Revision of the Penal Code, approved in 2015, contains a definition of discrimination (article 126a). This definition is applicable to both men and women and is in line with CEDAW. In addition, article 500a of the Revised Penal Code, which deals with occupational discrimination, sexual orientation is explicitly mentioned as a ground for discrimination.

1. Women living in remote and rural areas

- **Access to health services for women in the interior through the** building of a hospital with comprehensive obstetric services in the remote district of Marowijne.
Access of rural women to health services has been provided with the opening of a new hospital “Marwina” in the district of Marowijne. The hospital has an emergency room and an operating room. There is also e.g. a delivery room, a laboratory, pharmacy and an X-ray department. A gynecologist is also present and women have access to services specifically for women (e.g. smears). This hospital will work together with the different health care centers of the Regional Health Services. Furthermore a health care center has been built in other parts of earlier mentioned district.

- **Free distribution of contraceptives in goldmining areas in the interior** to promote access to contraceptives in the interior. These contraceptives are distributed through the Malaria Program of the Ministry of Health. In 2017 an agreement has been signed with NGOs to also distribute contraceptives in the mining fields while conducting their outreach programs.
- **Health education for protection of pregnant women and children against mercury.** Various projects have been executed with regard to the protection of pregnant woman, women who breastfeeds and children with regard to mercury and methyl mercury. These groups are more sensitive to the effects of mercury and methyl mercury. These projects are:
 - The project **PROSAMIGO** (promoting Health in Small Artisanal Mining of Gold) focuses on the development of a health education program to increase the level of knowledge about the health effects of mercury and mercury compounds. Gold miners and residents are being informed in possible ways to reduce the intake of mercury and thus limit the health effects. The intention is also to investigate the feasibility of setting up a program for the biological monitoring of mercury (blood, urine, exhaled air and hair) in gold miners and in adults and children from the local population. Awareness material was also developed for the local communities in 3 local languages.
 - Another project is **"MeKi Tamara"** which started in 2015, that specifically focuses on pregnant women and their babies. This project is a 5- year longitudinal study of 1000 pregnant women and their babies. The focus of the project is to examine what the influences of mercury and pesticides are to the brain and learning abilities of babies and young children. Every pregnant woman 16 years or older in her first or second trimester participated in this project and the mother to be will be followed until delivery.

- **Access to quality education**

- **Construction of schools and teacher housing in the interior**

Phase I of BEIP II successfully built 2 new schools and renovated 12 schools in the interior (21 new classrooms and 20 renovated classrooms) and built 20 new houses for teachers. These new schools, classrooms and teacher housing have allowed students in the interior to have access to adequate learning environments and have enabled teachers to live close to the schools that otherwise are very hard to reach given their remoteness in the interior.

2. Women living with disabilities

- **Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** in March 2017. In this regard, a CRPD training was organized in October 2017 in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Government officials and stakeholders were trained in subjects such as the key principles and core obligations regarding the CRPD, the work of the CRPD Committee, reporting cycle and guidelines on how to prepare the CRPD State party report. Subsequently awareness raising campaigns were launched in December 2017 at the Training Centre for adolescents with disabilities and a school for persons with a visual disability. Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing is planning to conduct a research with regard to residential and living conditions of people with disabilities. The BGA will conduct in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing a National survey on the position of persons with disabilities to collect and analyze information on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, paying particular attention to their access to education, employment, housing and health care, and on the quality of the services available.
- In the interest of improving the position of people with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing is implementing **two national campaigns** ("Sori yu srefi" (freely transl: show yourself) and "Kenki a Denki" (freely transl.: change the perceptions). These campaigns are focused entirely on making citizens

with a disability visible and eliminating the stigma placed on this group. In this context, the community is provided with information through flyers, brochures and videos.

- **A database** of the Alliance for Decent Work for People with Disabilities was launched in order to provide a digital platform for registering people with disabilities (PWDs), who are in need of work or wish to establish a small business. In addition, the database will function as a follow-up system and monitoring tool for the performance of PWDs who are employed and or have a business. It will also serve as a matchmaking platform for unemployed people with disabilities and businesses/companies that are hiring. The Alliance is a joint initiative between the Association of Surinamese Business (VSB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Alliance aims to promote decent employment and entrepreneurship among PWDs in Suriname. The proclamation of the Alliance took place in February 2018. Other entities participating in the Alliance are the Ministries of Labor, Trade, Industry and Tourism, Social Affairs and Housing; plus organizations working with or for People with Disabilities, namely Nationale Stichting voor Blinden en Slechtienden in Suriname, Stichting Wan Okasi, and Unu Pikin³.

3. Women living with HIV/AIDS

Ongoing review and improvement of the structure of the Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission (EMTCT) program. The aim is to strengthen the link with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program and expanding the scope of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Family Planning (FP) package, and improved adherence to the national Quality Control (QC) system for HIV testing. The third national strategic plan for HIV, 2014-2020 was developed in consultation with various health sector and non-health sector stakeholders. The main strategic objectives formulated are the reduction of HIV transmission among key and vulnerable populations groups (Men having Sex with Men, Sex Workers , Youth/Adolescents and others) and in the general population, the expansion of high quality comprehensive HIV treatment, care and support, and the elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission.

4. Women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities

The Surinamese Constitution does not explicitly protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation. There is a general article which prohibits discrimination. In March 2015, Suriname legislation was adapted; in particular, the Surinamese Penal Code was updated with articles sanctioning hate speech and the recent government administrations have taken the position that LGBT can consider them protected by this article, which included sexual orientation as a ground for non-discrimination complaints. Violation of this law can result in a prison sentence of up to one year or a fine.

3

http://www.sr.undp.org/content/suriname/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/Launch_data_base_decent_work_for_pwd.html?fbclid=IwAR0srguy6E_qZxEjx-11Oy3gPzS-Pi2fqWi-Vuw_glusl7GCq0zVGacRLY

1.5. TOP FIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING FIVE YEARS

- Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- Eliminating violence against women and girls
- Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Political participation and representation
- Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
- Gender-responsive disaster risk prevention, reduction and resilience building

The above selected priorities can be linked to the thematic areas identified in the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035.

The gender vision policy is aligned to Suriname's international and regional obligations to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; the Constitution of Suriname; the Development Plan of Suriname for the period 2017 – 2021 and the evaluation of earlier integral national gender policy plans. The identified priority areas for the period 2021 – 2035 are:

- Labor, income and poverty reduction
- Education
- Health
- Power and decision-making
- Gender-based violence
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Environment and climate change

For the period 2019- 2020 gender action plans have been developed, in close collaboration with the relevant ministries and NGOs, in which per priority concrete activities have been identified.

Below is a brief reflection on the priorities, taking into account the broader framework of the gender policy as well as the specific national policies and strategies that will guide the national response in the next 5 years.

1. Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

- **Redesign and development of curriculum through the Second Basic Education Improvement Program (2nd BEIP).** There are interventions to improve the quality of education. These include redesign and development of curricula, revision and development of textbooks to ensure that textbook, curricula and other materials are gender sensitive and emphasizing the portrayal of non-stereotypical gender roles⁴. On a small scale illustrations of several disciplines (history, nature education, and geography) have been revised in order to give a more gender balanced perspective.
- **Improvement of access to education in the interior (US\$5 million).** Within the BEIP II project there will be interventions with the objective to improve the access to education in the interior and to motivate/ interest more teachers to go to the interior. There will also be improvement of the facilities of the MOESC. These are:
 - a. the assessment of school infrastructure needs;
 - b. renovation and expansion of classrooms and teacher housing in the interior. In this regard the expectation is to have 7 schools remodeled and/or expanded.

⁴SURINAME, SECOND BASIC EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (2ND BEIP)
PHASE II (SU-L1038), p.12

c. construction of the Centre for Continuing Education of Suriname (CENASU) to train teachers and principals. It is expected to train 6850 teachers in the use of new curriculum.

- **Improvement of school results in the interior.** Through the BEIP II it is planned to increase the percentage of students in the district of Sipaliwini that complete primary education on time (to grade 8) from 8 to 25%, and in the district of Brokopondo from 16 to 30%.

- **Improvement of management capacity at the MOESC (US\$1.54 million)**

The objective of this component is to improve the capacity of the MOESC in delivering education services, supporting schools and teachers and monitoring progress. This component will finance the following activities:

- a. capacity strengthening of MOESC departments;
- b. continued implementation of the social marketing campaign to inform the public about the program; and
- c. assistance to the MOESC in the execution of the ICT in Education Policy.

- **The Suriname National Training Authority (SNTA) working group** was set up to formulate the TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) policy for reforming and establishing a quality structure within vocational education that meets international standards and is also tailored to the needs of the labor market. Vocational education then becomes outcome based, which means that it meets the demands of the government and the business community. The SNTA also focuses on standardizing technical education in accordance with the rules of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The SNTA working group consists of representatives from the trade union movement, the government and the business community. This working group will work towards education and training institutions providing training that meets the demands of the labor market (demand-driven or market-oriented); the development and maintenance of a "Qualification Framework" (Qualification structure) with associated professional standards entirely in accordance with a system of "Competency Based Education and Training (CBET)". All this entirely focused on the demand (needs) of the market (market driven or demand driven
- Develop and implement quality requirements as basic conditions that training institutions must meet in order to be able to provide education and training in this context and to be part of the assessment and the process of issuing certificates.
- Quality assurance (quality guarantees / "Quality Assurance"): develop guidelines for "learner-centered" curricula and institute and learning material.
- Assessing (assessment) and establishing and applying certification standards.
- Information, Promotion and Records Keeping.

2. Eliminating violence against women and girls

In recent years important targets were achieved with respect to the creation of an enabling environment with the approval of required legislation⁵ and development and implementation of policies, in particular the national policy on prevention of domestic Violence. In the gender vision policy document 2021- 2035 gender-based violence is identified as one of the priority areas. In close collaboration with the National Council for Domestic Violence (NCDV), the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) will coordinate and monitor activities on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence, as included in national plans.

⁵1. Amendment of the Penal Code with regard to trafficking in women and minors in 2006 and 2015. 2. Amendment of Penal Code with regard to sexual crimes in 2009. 3. Law on Combatting Domestic Violence in 2009. 4. Law on Criminalisation of Stalking in 2012.

These actions will be in the area of 1.) prevention (education and awareness raising around the commemoration Orange Day; Commemoration Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence; International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; Human Rights Day). The development and distribution of information brochures and the development of information programs on domestic violence; 2.) capacity building (continuation training of FBO). Continue strengthening the capacity of judges, public prosecutors, border police, immigration authorities and other law enforcement officials of early identification and gender-sensitive protocols for dealing with victims of human trafficking; 3.) Protection of victims; 4.) psycho-social assistance to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and their families (Establish additional shelters for victims of gender-related violence, accessible to women and girls, particularly from rural areas, which provide legal aid, rehabilitation and psycho-social support to victims); 5.) Expansion of victim rooms at police stations; 6.) Strengthening of strategic information and translation in to policies and programs (Systematically gather data on gender-related violence, according to age, ethnicity, geography and relationship between victim and perpetrator, and ensure that research in this area forms the basis for comprehensive and targeted interventions).

3. Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

- **In 2015 Suriname committed itself to the application of the strategy of Health in All Policies (HiAP).** The HIAP monitoring strategy was implemented, including disaggregation of disease and social determinants of health such as education status, exposure to violence and socio-economic status by gender, location and age. In addressing the social determinants of health, health inequities, and the SDG-2030 participants from all key sectors across government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector formulated 12 policy measures.
- **Within the Development Plan for 2017-2021, the Ministry of Health has identified two high level policy priorities for health policy:** Policy area 1: Prevention and reduction of morbidity and mortality; and Policy area 2: Availability and accessibility of quality health care for the entire population.
- **In addition the Ministry of Health developed the following plans all aimed at achieving universal health**

Plan	Actors	Period
Development Plan 2017-2021	Government	2017-2021
National Mental Health Plan	Ministry of Health	2015-2020
National Plan Suicide Prevention	Ministry of Health	2015-2020
National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases	Ministry of Health	2015-2020
National Policy Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	Ministry of Health	2019-2025
Nationaal Strategic Health Plan	Ministry of Health	2018-2028
Road Safety Strategic Plan Suriname	Ministry of Health	2018-2021
National Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health Action plan	Ministry of Health	2013-2016
National HIV Plan	Ministry of Health	2014-2020
National Adolescent Health Strategy	Ministry of Health	2018- 2025
Policy Plan National Anti-Drugs committee	Ministry of Health	2019-2023
National Policy 'Health in All Policies' (HIAP)	Ministry of Health	2017

- **The National Strategic Plan (NSP) for a multi-sectoral approach to HIV in Suriname 2014-2020** focuses on the prevention and the improvement of access to comprehensive HIV treatment, care and support and Elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission. It places emphasis on the prevention of contracting HIV/AIDS by high-risk groups, namely women in prostitution and women working as prostitutes in the mining field in the interior, man having sex with man, LGBT and youth as well as the need to reduce stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV.
- **The overall purpose of the mental health plan 2015-2020 and national action plan suicide prevention 2015-2020** is to reduce the suicide annual prevalence in Suriname by 10%, increase access to mental health care for suicidal persons and relatives, limit access to potentially lethal agents and agents at risk of committing of suicide increase, improve imaging about suicide, increasing the socio-economic and cultural resilience of vulnerable groups and strengthen (coordination of) research.
- **Within the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 health is mentioned as one of the priority areas.** The focus is on the reduction of maternal mortality and the improvement of reproductive health. Various actions have been identified to achieve these goals such as: provide access to safe and affordable prophylactics, family planning services and adequate information on sexual and reproductive health with special attention for young people, conduct a study of the causes of the lack of ART for men and women in the communities of the interior, improve access to ART for men and women living with HIV/AIDS, particularly aimed at communities in the interior.
- **Stakeholders meetings have been organized for the development of a maternal and newborn strategy (2019-2025) and operational plan**, including health promotion/community health interventions focusing on population groups with highest maternal and perinatal health issues and priority themes for communication. The National Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy of Suriname, 2013-2017, is being updated with support of UNFPA.
- In addition, a national version on Health Promotion Interventions for Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) (2015), based on the WHO recommendations, is to be developed. This will be accompanied by a communication strategy for maternal new-born health to guide health education.
- A national stakeholder workshop to identify key issues and identify priority for Maternal and Neonatal Health, community health interventions and communication themes was held in November 2018. SWOT analyses with key stakeholders were carried out during the first trimester of 2019 to inform the national maternal and new born strategy to be developed by the end of 2019.

4. Political participation and representation

In March 2019, UNDP and the Ministry of Home Affairs signed the agreement for "Technical Assistance towards the 2020 Elections in Suriname". Activities to be implemented include: capacity strengthening for relevant institutions, support towards the participation of women, the indigenous population and persons with disabilities, training sessions for the media and a voter outreach campaign.

The gender action plan 2019 and 2020 also contains activities to increase women's political participation and representation.

Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability

- ⁶In the coming years, policy on the environment, biodiversity and climate change will be aligned with the gender policy. The draft environmental framework law, which is submitted for approval to The National Assembly, sets out the environmental strategy and policy. In the Gender Vision policy document 2021 - 2035 and in the Gender Action Plan 2019-2020, a step has already been made on incorporating

⁶Gender vision policy document 2021-2035

environmental and climate change activities that are specifically related to gender equality. The Bureau Gender Affairs will further coordinate with the organizations in charge of environmental policy on adapting interventions in the environment and climate change priority area.

- Suriname is currently in the process of developing indicators for the Safeguards Information System (SIS) for REDD+ project to promote benefits that are gender sensitive and culturally appropriate.

Gender-responsive disaster risk prevention, reduction and resilience building

- ⁷The interior is a specific focus area for the National Coordination Center for Disaster Management (NCCR) because of the increasing frequency of flooding versus the vulnerable situation of population, who are highly dependent on their natural environment for their daily subsistence. NCCR strives to ensure the effective participation of Indigenous and Maroon women during its activities in the interior, among others, during the coordination of emergency assistance where women are usually the recipients. An increasing number of the traditional authorities of the Indigenous and Maroon peoples (captains or chiefs, and *basjas* or assistants) with which NCCR works are female and many villages have women organizations. These authorities and organizations are involved at community level when discussing disaster management, including response and prevention. Furthermore, NCCR is currently in the process of training regional district administration officers (“Bestuursdienst”) in disaster management procedures and planning, where a substantial number of the staff is female and from the local communities.
- ⁸The aim of the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Caribbean Region programme is to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities in Suriname, Belize and St. Vincent & the Grenadines against the consequences of natural disasters, by applying a gender responsive - as well as an eco-system related approach, in the context of community disasters, risk management and adaptability to climate change. The implementing partner for Suriname is the Suriname Red Cross (SRC). The SRC team is in the implementation phase of the CRB project. This project is funded by the Canadian Government and will run until March 2021. The ultimate goal of the project will be to make vulnerable communities resilient to potential calamities / disasters. Special focus will be placed on the vulnerable groups within our society with gender equality, climate change and child protection as the common thread. In collaboration with the BGA, who will train the stakeholders, this project will be monitored on gender sensitivity.
- ⁹UNDP with support of the Suriname Government is in the phase of implementing the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) project. UNDP is the implementing partner and this project will run until 28 February 2023. This project aims to ensure that actions related to climate change and disaster risk reduction are better informed by an analysis of gender inequalities, and decisions are taken to ensure that inequalities are alleviated rather than exacerbated and that minimum standards are being met in doing so. The ultimate outcome of the project is to support *improved climate resilience for women and girls and key vulnerable populations and future generations in the Caribbean*. Therefore, sustainable action is critical and must be embedded in national and regional decision-making processes. In support of its achievement, the proposed intermediate outcomes will focus on ensuring that the capacity for gender-responsive climate change action and disaster recovery is strengthened and that governance and decision-making are also made accessible to women, and address gender equality as a matter of course.

⁷Cedaw Combined 4th to 6th Periodic Report Suriname

⁸Surinaams Rode Kruis CRB project

⁹ UNDP ENGender Project Proposal

SECTION 2: PROGRESS ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

2.1. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHARED PROSPERITY AND DECENT WORK

2.1.1. Actions to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment

1. **Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation**
 - **Ratification of three (3) ILO Conventions** namely the Conventions on Equal Remuneration, 1951(No. 100), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111) both in 2017 and Minimum Age, 1973 (No. 138) in 2018. The implementation of these ILO conventions will entail more activities towards the full and equal participation of women in the labor market.

2. **Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)**
 - The government, together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has started a program to improve the business climate and innovation in Suriname. As follow-up, the Pilot Program Innovation in Firms (IFS) is carried out. The aim of this pilot project is to support innovation in local companies and to strengthen their integration into clusters and value chains.

3. **Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women**
 - The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and the Cooperative Savings and Credit Bank Godo G.A., have signed a cooperation agreement in February 2019 to improve entrepreneurship in Suriname. They have agreed to work together to guide entrepreneurs in Suriname and offer technical support where needed, as well as joint education and training. The guidance, technical support, education and training will be available for eligible entrepreneurs within the tourism and agricultural sector, as well as those who are involved in the import replacement industry.
 - **Provision of microfinance credit through the Micro Credit fund:** The Government, in collaboration with development partners, NGOs and the private sector (banks, credit cooperatives), has invested in the provision of microfinance credit. In this context, the Micro Credit Fund (*'Micro Kredietfonds'*) was established in February 2010 enabling small-scale entrepreneur's access to small loans to a maximum of SRD 10,000 with or without collateral. The funds which were reserved for this program are being managed by the 'Suritrust Bank', while loans are being provided through various institutions among which, the Credit Cooperative 'De Schakel', the Women Business Group Foundation, SEVA Foundation now known as Seva Agro Finance N.V. (situated in the district of Nickerie) and Trustbank Amanah. Since 2016 the NGO active in the interiors 'Stichting Binnenland Technishe Ontwikkeling' is also providing microcredits in collaboration with 'the Suritrust Bank'
 - The work arms of the ministry of Labor namely Foundation for Productive Works (SPWE) and Vocational Training Institute (SAO), the Council for Cooperatives (RACO) and Trustbank Amanah have agreed to a Public Private Partnership and an MOU has been signed in April 2019. The purpose of this collaboration is to stimulate micro and small entrepreneurship. Strengthening this sector will result in the growth of job creation. Trustbank Amanah will offer access to finances for men and women at the start-up and expansion of their business.

2.1.2. Actions to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work

1. Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave

Adoption of the Family Employment Protection Act (2019). In the past, women employed in the private sector by companies without a collective labor agreement had no legal coverage for maternity leave services provided by their employers. With this law employed women are entitled to paid maternity leave for at least 16 weeks and men to 8 days paternity leave. Women who have a multiple birth, i.e. three or more children, are entitled to maternity leave up to a maximum of 24 weeks.

2. Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers

The ministry of Labor with support of the ILO has conducted the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) 2014-2016. This program has two main objectives are namely, to promote decent work as a key component of national development strategies and to organize ILO knowledge, instruments, advocacy and cooperation at the service of tripartite constituents in a results-based framework in order to advance the decent work agenda. In this context several activities have been conducted among which the formulation of the Termination of Employment Act 2016; State decree on Dismissal Permits and Summary Dismissals; Ministerial Decree Criteria Termination of Employment. Furthermore the acts on Collective Labor Agreement and Trade Union Freedom have been approved unanimously by the National Assembly in 2016. Preparations are being made with regard to setting up the second Decent Work Country Program (DWCP 2019-2021). Suriname has implemented the first program (DWCP 2014-2016) to the satisfaction of the ILO. This program has mainly resulted in both the adaptation of existing and the production of new labor laws.

3. Introduced legal changes regarding the division of marital assets or pension entitlements after divorce that acknowledge women's unpaid contribution to the family during marriage

- In 2014 the General Pension Act was approved. With this act the General Pension Fund was established. Article 1 sub g of the Pension Act states that a partner is the spouse of the participant or one who maintains a sustainable joint household with the participant in the General Pension Fund. Article 3 sub 2 states that when a participant dies the partner will receive pension. Sub 3 states that in the event of dissolution of the marriage through divorce, the husband or wife has the right to a proportional part of the pension. This part is equal to the proportional part of the amount of marriage years of 50% of the pension.
- **Austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, has been introduced,** but the impact on women/men has not been assessed.

2.2. POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

2.2.1. Actions to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls

1. Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities

- In the period 2012-2015 SPWE has provided business related trainings to 1497 persons among which 775 women and 722 men. Furthermore the Business Support Unit of the Ministry of Labor in collaboration with SPWE has started to provide basic business skills trainings since February 2019 and has trained 97 men and 62 women in the past months. The trainings provided by the Business unit were all free of cost. Recently the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing has also conducted trainings for entrepreneurs who had just started their businesses.

- In 2014, the percentage of female self-employed entrepreneurs was 8% and 2.7% for the opposite sex. In 2015 this percentage decreased for men to 7% and the percentage for women increased to 3%. In 2016, the share for men at that time was 8.2% and for the women 2.5%¹⁰
- Markets have been established where the vast majority of the vendors consists of female entrepreneurs among others: The craft market 'Waterkant', for the sale of handicraft products made by mainly Maroon and Indigenous women and the 'Haitian market', for generally Haitian female farmers and the 'Kwakoe Market' for mainly Maroon women to offer their fruits and vegetables to the community.
- The Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project (SAMAP) is being carried out by the ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries for a period of four (4) years to strengthen sustainable agricultural development in Suriname through more competitive and safe production and better access to the export market. The emphasis will be on fruit and vegetables, non-wood forest products and the processing of root crops by inland communities. Among other things this project will work with at least 1,000 small-scale farmers, of which at least 30% are women.
- The agricultural cooperation *Wi Uma fu Sranan* is the first women's agro cooperation in Suriname (launched in February 2016). It consists of approximately 40 Maroon women. This cooperation aims at jointly developing the interior of Suriname by increasing employment opportunities for Maroon women. The cooperation is active in the districts of Brokopondo, Saramacca, Para and Wanica, and works with strategic partners, including the government. Currently the cooperation produces and sells a variety of cereals made from cassava.
- In March 2019 the agricultural cooperation "Wi Uma fu Sranan" has provided the training, 'Good Agricultural Practice' (GAP), to entrepreneurs in the district of Coronie. This training has been provided in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fisheries. GAP can contribute to the proper administration and registration of the income and expenses of the company or entrepreneur.
- In the period May till December 2018, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism has provided training sessions called 'entrepreneurship and Business plan' for potential and starting entrepreneurs. The total of participants for the training sessions was 188, among which 106 females and 82 males. Furthermore in the period January - June 2019, this ministry in collaboration with the organization REDD+ has provided 'entrepreneurship trainings' for 107 persons among which 67 females and 40 males. Some of these sessions were also conducted in the districts and overall more women than man has been trained.

2. Increased access to land and housing

Actions that have been taken in the past five years are the building of houses for persons with low income. The Ministry of Finance has signed a loan agreement (2017) with the Islamic Development Bank for the implementation of the Affordable Housing Project (AHP) for a period of 5 years. Gender equity is a key principal of the AHP and therefore will be issued as a key performance indicator. The Project Implementation Unit installed for this project in 2019 must undertake all necessary steps to ensure that a minimum of 40% of all AHP awarded subsidies will be granted to female headed households. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing is responsible for the implementation of the AHP.

3. Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty

- While no special mechanisms or procedures are in place for women to enforce their rights, it should be noted that women have access to justice through the usual proceedings of the courts. The government provides legal assistance and legal aid free of charge to the financially weak irrespective of sex, through the Legal Aid Bureau (*Bureau Rechtszorg*) of the Ministry of Justice and Police. Free legal assistance

¹⁰ Nationaal Rapport, Situatie analyse van vrouwen en mannen in Suriname, 2018
Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken

includes counseling services in all areas of law provided by legal officials, and if necessary, clients are referred to lawyers who are paid by the government for their services.

2.2.2. Actions to improve access to social protection for women and girls

1. Social protection for low income households/ people with a disability: Provision of free health insurance and unconditional cash transfers

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing is mainly responsible for the development and implementation of the social protection policy. Identified target groups are mainly vulnerable groups or groups at risk, such as elderly or disabled people, children and women in poor households or households with a minimum monthly income. The ministry has a supply scheme including material and immaterial social services, which are accessible for both men and women. Women are major beneficiaries of social benefit plans.

Women's major presence as grantees for Financial Assistance and Child Allowance is related to their position as care takers in families and a relatively high prevalence of households headed by women, both in the coastal areas and in the interior.

The basic social protection services are:

a. Free Basic Health Insurance

(Since August 2014 after the National Health Insurance Act was approved vulnerable groups have access to free Basic Health Insurance/ BAZO&BZV)

b. Old age allowance(AOV)

This allowance is granted to all Surinamese who have reached the age of 60 and who apply for it, there are no limitations or restrictions for nationals. It is also managed by the Government, i.e. the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing. This benefit was increased from SRD 275 in 2008 to SRD 350 in 2010; to SRD 425 in 2011; and to SRD 525 monthly in 2012; a 90.9 % increase from 2007 to 2012. In 2018, a total number of 60,578 persons were eligible for this benefit, approximately 55 % of whom were women.

A comparison between 2014 and 2018 shows, that the overall proportion of women beneficiaries remained stable between 54 % and 55 % respectively.

c. Child allowance

Eligible for this allowance are families who do not receive child allowance from their workplace or employer.

In 2011 the amount was raised from SRD 3 to SRD 30 per child monthly (for 4 children at the maximum) (900 % increase). In June 2015 the allowance was raised from SRD 30 to SRD 50. Women still account for the largest group of registered grantees. For the year 2013 the number of women registered as grantees was 34,713 (91 %) compared to 3,183 men (9 %). In 2018 the number of women registered were 40,440. The largest number of child allowance grantees (16,621 persons) was from the District of Paramaribo, of whom 93 % was female (15,495 women), followed by the District of Wanica and the District of Sipaliwini.

d. Financial assistance is granted to poor individuals and households on subsistence level and has two components, namely Financial Assistance to Single Persons and Households, and Financial Assistance to Disabled Persons. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing has requested the Government to increase the assistance for single persons from SRD 33 to SRD 108 (227 % increase) and for households from SRD 40.50 to SRD 115.50, a 185 % increase.

- e. The **Disabled Persons Benefit** was increased from SRD 150 to SRD 225 in 2011 (50 % increase). In July 2012 it increased from SRD 225 to SRD 325 per person a month. Women made up 55.6 % of the total number of grantees for financial assistance in 2016 (6,956 of 12,505 persons).
- f. **Immaterial services:** In addition to material social benefits (**food provision to social institutions** and families and a community development program) the Government, through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing, provides **immaterial services**, such as coaching to families, elderly and disabled persons and a telephone aid service for children and youth (Child Help Line). These service programs focus on empowerment of families and individuals as an important tool to develop ownership and to reach sustainability.
- g. **Distribution of food packages:** Implementation of the first phase of the Social Improvement Programme by the government (**SOZANET**). This project was launched in December 2015. In the first phase (pilot) 7,000 food packages were provided to the most vulnerable groups in society. Phase 2 started in April 2016. In this phase once again 7,000 food packages were provided monthly to those who "absolutely needed it the most". Phase 2 was from April through December 2016; in total 10 months. Since 2018 every month approximately 10,000 food packages are distributed nationwide. When picking up the package the beneficiary must pay an amount of SRD 50. Such a food package has a value of SRD 225. In the districts it has a value of SRD 275 because of the transport costs. The package consists of basic food necessities. From December 2015 to December 2016, 487,000 food packages were provided.
- h. **Financial Assistance for Calamities and Financial Assistance for Medical Utensils.** The Law on Social Shelters ('Wet Opvanginstellingen'), which was approved by parliament in 2014 provides for the rules, regulations, quality standards and obligations for the registration of social shelters and institutions for children, disabled persons and elderly persons. Furthermore subsidies are provided to institutions taking care of the elderly, children and people with a disability, while services with respect to family counseling and community work are also provided.
- i. **Special Transportation and Home care for the elderly and people with a disability.** Within the ministry of Social Affairs and Housing there is special transportation "Zorg vervoer" for senior citizens and people with a disability for a lower rate. With this type of service the ministry aims to increase and upgrade the mobility of these two groups and further promote their integration and participation within the society.

2. Social housing programs

Since 2003 the government of Suriname established **low- and middle-income housing programs**. These programs provide technical and financial support (low interest housing loans) for home modifications and construction through government subsidies

- a. The Government of Suriname, in collaboration with the private sector and NGOs, implemented the first Low Income Shelter Program (LISP) 2003-2008 with the support of the IDB. LISP 1 resulted in the support of 891 newly built houses and 2,380 renovations and/or expansions of homes. Successful evaluations resulted in the implementation of the second LISP program (2010-2015), which has been extended to rural districts and the interior and plans to build 3,100 homes within five years. In addition, the Government implements the Low-Middle Income Shelter Program (LMISP) for low or middle income households (SRD 900 to SRD 2,030 monthly). Loans are provided to a maximum of SRD 25,000 for renovation and SRD 50,000 for a new house at a low interest rate between 5-6 %. In addition, there is a window for 7 % loan to facilitate construction of houses by families, guaranteed through a special cash reserve program between the Central Bank of Suriname and local financial

institutions. Data provided by the LISP office show that 44 % of the support or subsidy for the ongoing LISP 2010-2015 Program until June 2014 was granted to women.

- b. With the financial support of the People's Republic of China the government has started with the construction and building of a thousand (1,000) houses, making a contribution to meet the housing demands of our people. Regarding **the housing program**, which runs from 2012 to 2017, the necessary opportunities for the involvement of private companies in the implementation of the housing program will be created.
- c. In 2017 the government has started with the implementation of the **Low Income Shelter Program (LISP-III)**. LISP-III was transformed in 2019 into the Affordable Housing Project (AHP) with a budget of \$25 million from a loan of the IsDB. The specific target group of the LISP-low income families will be able to obtain for a grant in both home improvements as well as in new construction in the coastal area. In the Interior more villages will be provided with homes within this new programme.
- d. The aim of the affordable housing projects is that 40% of the 4000 houses must be granted to female headed households.

3. Strengthened non-contributory social pensions

Suriname has a **general old age allowance**, starting at 60 years where everyone who reaches this age and has the Surinamese nationality can obtain or apply for it. Although the amount is still low, there has been a significant increase from SRD 150 (US\$ 46) in 2004 to SRD 525 (US\$ 126) in 2012 till present day. With an exchange rate of SRD 7.56 = US\$ 1.00 now a day it is approximately us\$ 69.45.

4. Preparations for the establishment of a conditional cash transfers program (Pilot project)

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing will proceed to reform its social policy. The implementation of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program is part of this aid program. The basic starting points (goals) of this reform of social policy are: reducing the social and economic vulnerability and dependence of persons and (family) households by increasing their responsibility and capacity to property, income, knowledge, skills and to insure against unexpected events and difficulties or periods due to natural, social and economic calamities. This financial support will be granted, only when and as long as the children of the family are attending the school and are registered on time to get vaccinated. This social program is not a social safety net. This social program is explicitly focused on making the target groups resilient through education and training in order to increase the possibilities for participation in the labor process. This social program is funded by the Islamic Development Bank and has started with a pilot project.

To realize these goals the focus will firstly be on the following issues: analysis of the knowledge and skills of members from households out of the pilot phase of the initial POWA trail (program for the development of welfare and labor) training and training for selected individuals as part of the capacity reinforcement guidance and coaching of the selected individuals. A "clean-up" and digitization of the client database of the weak households will take place.

2.2.3. Actions to improve health outcomes for women and girls

1. Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services

- Expansion of universal health coverage in Suriname was done by not only the introduction of the *Basic Health Care Insurance Act* that came into effect with the aim to provide health insurance coverage for the population under 16 and over 60 years old but ensured that pregnant women were not excluded. Women

(even if she is pregnant) that don't have a job and are not able to pay their insurance, can make use of the Basic Health Insurance which is made available by the government. The services which are covered by this insurance are perinatal and postnatal care without complications.

2. Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services

During 2017 a 6 month project was carried out by the foundation COCON (Foundation for Communication, Culture and Development) in collaboration with the ministry of Health and funded by the Global Funds. This project aimed at adolescents (girls and boys) with a special focus on girls in the hinterlands of Suriname.

The project was based on the edutainment principles which aimed to increase the knowledge of HIV (risk factors, prevention treatment). An outstanding approach to do this effectively was the development of an app (available in the app store) that provides information (in text, audio and video) on HIV and related issues (such as TB).

- Access of rural women to health services has been provided with the opening of a new hospital "Marwina" in the district of Marowijne. Women have access to a gynecologist and to services specifically for women (e.g smears).
- There is ongoing review and improvement of the structure of the EMTCT program aimed at strengthening the link with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program and expanding the scope of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Family Planning (FP) package, and improved adherence to the national Quality Control (QC) system for HIV testing. Progress was shown in the Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission (EMTCT) program with an increase in the percentage of HIV positive pregnant women receiving ART from 64% in 2006 to 93% in 2017. The number of infants born infected with HIV is relatively low and fluctuated in the period 2015-2017 between 3-4 HIV infected infants.
- The Stichting Lobi Health Center (SLHC) has a specific department that focuses on comprehensive sexuality education for youth in and out of schools, training and workshops for parents and educators about sexuality and information and awareness sessions for companies and other groups and organizations about Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Although the services of the SLHC are not free and the government does not subsidize them, the organization has agreements with all health insurance companies in the country.

To increase the access to its services the SLHC regularly organizes outreaches in 9 of the 10 districts, bringing its services closer to especially remote areas and vulnerable populations. The SLHC has three static clinics one in Paramaribo, one in Lelydorp and one in Nieuw Nickerie.

3. Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns

HPV Vaccination Campaign: "Voor een prikje ben ik niet bang, HPV vaccinatie in mijn belang" (I am not afraid of a shot, HPV vaccination in my interest)¹¹. This vaccination campaign which started in 2013 is aimed to increase vaccination coverage and to raise awareness on the benefits of the vaccine through vaccine promotion activities. Girls in the age group 9-13 are vaccinated with the HPV vaccine to reduce cervical cancer.

The objective is to increase immunization of girls in schools, for girls who are difficult to reach, focusing on those who live in remote areas, so that every girl within the age group can be immunized. Communication campaign with enough information about HPV vaccination for the general public has been conducted. For

¹¹https://www.paho.org/sur/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=551:hpv-vaccination-campaign-voor-een-prikje-ben-ik-niet-bang-hpv-vaccinatie-in-mijn-belang-period-17-november-17-december-2017&Itemid=563

girls who have not received the vaccine, there is an opportunity to collect it at the Bureau for Public Health. It is also possible to get the vaccine from the nearest RGD outpatient clinic.

4. Strengthened comprehensive sexuality education in schools or through community programmes

In 2017 the Foundation COCON in collaboration with the ministry of Health conducted training about responsible sex life for the youth of the village “Goejaba” in the interior. With this training, the foundation aims to raise awareness with regard to various sexually transmitted diseases and to empower the youth in making the right choices. The training is done by young people. The aim of this project was to raise awareness with regard to a responsible sex life (sexual transmitted diseases). This programme was targeted at 1250 youngsters in the age group of 10 – 19 years.

2.2.4. Actions to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls

1. Measures to increase girls’ access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes.

A number of actions have been taken to provide information about lower vocational education. Posters and a commercial have been developed with information of the new structure of lower vocational education. Commercials about different fields of study were developed, in which both boys and girls are visible. Information is also provided during the open days and youth information fairs which are organized yearly.

2. Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education.

- In November 2018, the MOESC started with an analysis of gender inequality within the current curriculum of primary education. The final results still have to be presented by the consultant. The staff of the department Curriculum Development of the abovementioned ministry will be trained in development of curricula based on gender equality. Based on this training, the curricula for grades 7 and 8 of primary education will be developed or renewed. The aim is to complete these curricula by May 2020.
- At the University of Suriname, especially in the faculty of Social Science, there is an increase in ‘gender’ courses including “Gender and Development” in the department of Sociology, “Gender in International Relations” in the department of Public Administration. Gender has also been integrated in the curricula of several master studies, as separated courses or integration of a gender perspective in general courses. Noteworthy is also the blended course for students in Suriname and Guyana delivered in 2018 on ‘Gender and sexuality’ that was developed by the Institute of Women and Gender Studies in Suriname in close collaboration with the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana.
- Since 2016 gender is included in the curricula of the annual courses of the Civil Servants education of the Ministry of the Home Affairs. Different topics such as gender stereotyping, gender discrimination, gender equality, violence against women are addressed in these courses.

3. Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls.

To promote safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls, school visits are no longer conducted by the female school inspectors alone, but in the presence of a male inspector as an instruction from the head of the department due to safety. There are separate toilets for men and women and the furniture (desks) and work spaces have been adapted to prevent violation of intimacy.

The school inspectors give approval to the schools to invite organizations to organize information sessions about safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls.

4. Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy.

Within the Basic Education Programme 2, a STEM / STEAM program for the primary years 1 to 8 of primary education will be developed. This course material must be completed by May 2020 at the latest.

5. Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings

The schools that are connected to the water supply network have the guarantee of safe drinking water. The schools that are located in the distant districts and interior are equipped with lockable water trays for the collection of clean rainwater. In the schools there are separate toilet groups for boys and girls. Regarding hygiene, the toilets are cleaned and disinfected every day. Even during the autumn holidays, a major cleaning and maintenance service takes place in which defective devices are replaced, leaks are repaired and clogs are removed. Both the floors and walls of the toilets are tiled. In every toilet group there are sinks and or wash troughs for hand washing. The staff has separate sanitary facilities for both men and women.

6. Strengthened measures to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to enable adolescent girls to continue their education in the case of pregnancy and/or motherhood

Since 2016, a pregnancy protocol has been established by the MOESC through a ministerial decision so as to ensure regulation at secondary schools and prevent school principals from taking their own decisions on removal of pregnant adolescents and mothers from school. The protocol is followed and schools are called upon that pregnant students also have right to education at all education levels. In case of pregnancy, the pupil is offered the opportunity to receive education as long as possible and / or to come back after giving birth. This also depends on the student's condition and the doctor's advice. With regard to pregnant adolescents who drop out of the formal school system, they are offered an opportunity to continue their education through training-courses offered by the Ministry of Labor and NGOs.

2.3. FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, STIGMA AND STEREOTYPES

2.3.1. Prioritized actions against different forms of violence against women and girls

1. Capacity strengthening of service provision to victims of domestic violence

In order to increase awareness on gender and domestic violence, the BGA has trained around 400 civil servants of the Ministry of Home Affairs (permanent secretary/ deputy directors/ policy advisors/ policy officials, heads of bureaus/ divisions and other personnel) in gender and gender related violence/ domestic violence during January 2016 – June 2017. Similar trainings are also provided for NGOs. In collaboration with Women's Rights Center (WRC), UNFPA and PAHO, The Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS), provided a training on domestic violence to university students, police officers including officers who are responsible for a specific neighborhood (community police managers). Since the Police Force of Suriname (KPS) is an important stakeholder in approaching domestic violence issues, this force must be trained continuously in this area. The purpose of above mentioned training was to provide police officers and in particular officers who act as neighborhood managers with the tools to recognize violence from a gender perspective in order to provide the victim and the perpetrator with the necessary assistance.

2. Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and employment

- In 2013 a policy memorandum on sexual harassment at the workplace has been approved and signed by the Minister of Justice and Police and the heads of several departments of this Ministry.
- In March 2015 the NGO, 'Stichting Projekta', has published a serie of 4 blog messages about sexual harassment as part of the project "Maart van de Vrouw" (= the month March for the woman). On behalf of the NGOs 'stichting Projekta' has also contributed to the formulation of a statement for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2015.
- In 2018 several information sessions were implemented at the ministry of Justice and Police to make the personnel aware about sexual harassment at the workplace and how to protect themselves and other personnel from harassment at the workplace.
- In 2018, the Ministry of Labor also drafted the law on "Labor, Violence and Sexual Harassment" that refers to the private sector. NGOs and government institutions were consulted for their input on the content of this draft law. The draft law was presented to the State Council in February 2019.

3. Actions to prevent and reduce Trafficking in women and girls

- The Penal Code with regard to trafficking in persons is revised in 2015. The revised law is more in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (especially Women and Children) and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Through the amendment both sexes are protected against trafficking and the penalties have been extended especially when under-aged victims are involved. Except for the sexual exploitation other purposes of trafficking are included such as labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery and removal of organs.
- Under the revised Criminal Code, the maximum penalty for traffickers was life imprisonment. Judges were empowered to hand down sentences proportionate to the gravity of the offence.
- Shelter is also available for female and child victims of trafficking in persons and is located at a secret address for safety reasons. The shelter provides accommodation including food and other necessities to more than 20 victims at a time.
- Awareness programs on trafficking are being carried out for Maroon communities and women and girls in the interior. These programs are broadcasted in the languages Dutch, Sranan Tongo and Aucan (local language of one of the Maroon communities) through Radio Kojeba, as this radio station is popular among the Maroon community.
- In addition to awareness-raising activities on local radio stations, measures to combat trafficking included police patrols in remote parts of the country, sometimes in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization. Counseling and other services were provided to trafficking victims in partnership with the country's psychiatric institute.
- Suriname has committed itself to combat human trafficking in all its forms, using an interdepartmental coordination structure with an approach in which the victim is central. Regarding this, in 2019 the government of Suriname has launched a national plan of action for the prevention and response to trafficking in persons under the pillars of "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnership and Policy'.

4. Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber violence, online stalking)

- Since the last few years there are signs of an ICT related trend in child sexual abuse and exploitation, including cell phone pornography. The distribution of pornography through a data carrier, for example a cell phone, is penalized by law. Until now, children or youth proved to be both victims and abusers.
- In July 2009 the provisions regarding sexual abuse and exploitation in the Penal Code are revised by the parliament. The amendments of the sexual offences section in the Penal Code took into account the CRC

and the Optional Protocol on the trade in children, child prostitution and child pornography, the convention against transnational organized crime and its optional protocols, and the cybercrime convention. The amendments explicitly penalize child pornography and child prostitution and sanctions have been increased to a maximum of 15 years.

5. Child, Early and forced marriages

- Suriname still has marriages in the age group 15-19 years, registered at the Civil Registry Office (see annex on statistics). However, there are no cases of forced marriage registered at the official authorities such as the Public Prosecutors Office or at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing.
- Regarding child marriages the Republic of Suriname wishes to note that consultations between government and non-government organizations were held, which led to the amendment of the law on child marriage in the revision of the Civil Code. The minimum age to enter into marriage for both boys and girls has been raised to 18 years in the draft revised Civil Code.
- Since the draft revised Civil Code is aligned with the CRC, it will also not be possible anymore for parents to request 'dispensation'.

2.3.2. Actions to address violence against women and girls

1. Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation

- Revision of the Penal Code, namely the First, Second and Third Book, by National Parliament in March 2015. Important to mention is that the prison sentences in cases of assault and grievous bodily harm may be increased by one third for the perpetrator who commits the crime against his or her mother or father, spouse or partner, wife or partner or child (article 364.1 of the Penal Code).
- One of the major achievements of 2014 concerning policy and legislation which affects the implementation of the programs, has been the passing of the "Raamwet Opvanginstellingen" (legislation regulating institutional care in Suriname).

Personnel and other representatives of child care institutions were subsequently informed about the content of this legislation as well as the standards. At least 50% of child care institutions received this information.

2. Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls

- In June 2017, the National Council on Domestic Violence (NCDV) was established for three years in particular to evaluate and actualise the national policy plan for the Structural Approach of Domestic Violence 2014 – 2017. The policy plan has been assessed and actualised and a work plan for 2018 has been drawn up.
- The ministry of Social Affairs and Housing has formulated a national action plan for children, 2019-2021 (final concept). Seven priority areas have been identified, each are focused on the realization of multiple strategic goals. One of the priority areas is prevention and reducing violence against children. The general objective of this action plan is, facilitating coordinated and integrated implementation of legislation, policies and programs aimed at creating optimal development opportunities for all children in Suriname.
- ¹²The working group established by the Minister of Justice and Police formulated an action plan for the establishment of the unit Guidance for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence. The Guidance and Counseling training program was implemented as scheduled.

¹² UNDAF-UNDAP Annual Progress Report 2014

3. Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)

- The government **provides legal assistance and legal aid free of charge** to the financially weak irrespective of sex, through the Legal Aid Bureau (Bureau Rechtszorg) of the Ministry of Justice and Police. Free legal assistance includes counseling services in all areas of law provided by legal officials, and if necessary, clients are referred to lawyers who are paid by the government for their services. For example, in cases of domestic violence the Legal Aid Bureau provides legal assistance specifically to women victims and serves judicial sentences to the perpetrator through employed process servers. The Legal Aid Bureau aims to thus ensure the quality of legal assistance and aid provided.
- Since 2014, **four cantonal judges have been appointed for Paramaribo and surrounding areas** for the duration of two session years to deal with protection order appeals in cases of domestic violence, in addition to their existing regular duties. For the district of Nickerie one judge has similarly been appointed. The number of appeals has increased to such an extent that every judge in a session year concludes around 100 new appeals; has to deal with an average of 12-16 new appeals per month; considers at least 3-4 new appeals each week; and at least 3 to 4 cases are being processed in one session each week.

4. Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)

- Currently there is only one government shelter for women victims of domestic violence and their children up to 12 years old. For safety reasons this shelter is located at a secret address. The shelter provides practical guidance (when visiting the police, family doctor, emergency room if necessary and for making appointments with the employer and transportation of the children to school); emotional guidance through conversations; legal / emotional guidance when requesting a protection order, visiting the court, prosecution office or the Bureau for Family Law Affairs.
The services provided by the shelter are evaluated regularly for improvement. There are two bureaus for Victim Aid (one in the district of Paramaribo and one in the district of Nickerie). There are three Centers for Reporting Child abuse for child protection (meldpunt kinderbescherming) located in the districts of Sipaliwini (Apoera), Coronie and Paramaribo. A child help line 123 was also set up for children and youth if they are confronted with violence.

5. Monitoring and evaluation of impact, including evidence generation and data collection, regarding particular groups of women and girls

- In 2018 a study to measure the existence of violence against women has been conducted. The results of this study are not yet available.
- On behalf of the National Assembly with support from UNICEF, the research on violence against children in Suriname has been conducted in 2017. The aim of the research was to contribute to effective prevention and reduction of violence against children at home and in school.
- In the effort to establish effective national legislation, policies, structures, plans and M&E systems for Child Protection and Gender Based Violence, the Child Protection System Mapping and Assessment has been finalized. The assessment report has been translated in Dutch after which the translated document was shared with the stakeholders. Training has been provided to the personnel involved to secure the management of the system through the Ministry of Justice and Police. In addition, to develop and agree on the indicator framework for the Asyda system, the ministry has already drafted indicators for better monitoring and evaluation of this project.

2.3.3. Strategies to prevent violence against women and girls

1. Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours

- In close cooperation with CSOs, the BGA has carried out several campaigns regarding violence against women, including: HeForShe awareness raising campaign and Orange Day that were launched on the 24th of November 2015 by the Minister of Home Affairs. Furthermore Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence is commemorated annually. Activities carried out between 2015 to 2019 includes public awareness raising activities on gender and domestic violence for communication officials of the government, priests and youngsters from different denominations, civil servants, high level government officials and CBOs. The activities were not only carried out in the capital, but also in the rural and urban districts.
- In 2015 the ministry of Justice and Police started with the implementation of awareness programs on violence against children and sexual abuse in schools and other institutions in Moengo (district Marowijne) and Apoera (district Sipaliwini). The intention is to set up “meldpunten” (Centers for Reporting Child abuse) for violence/ sexual abuse in all districts. Everyone has access to the ‘meldpunt’ for information and ask help with regards to family law matters and violent crimes. As stated earlier three centers for Reporting Child Abuse have been setup in respectively in districts of Sipaliwini (Apoera), Coronie and Paramaribo.
- The students of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname who participated in domestic violence training in November 2016 were nominated by the minister of Home Affairs as Ambassadors of Domestic Violence. This training, organized by the Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), aimed at training students to make a major contribution to reducing, preventing and combating domestic violence.
In the coming period, work arrangements will be made and evaluation meetings will be held. In this context, the ambassadors will conduct investigations and plan activities in advance, with the support of the ministry.
- In the period June till December 2017 the Ministry of Justice and Police, in particular (BVK) Bureau for Women and Child policy implemented several trainings sessions in collaboration with the BGA on gender and gender related issues. In total 154 officials (20 male and 134 female) of the Ministry participated on the training.

2. Integration of basic life skills in primary education

Despite substantial investments in time and funding, the Basic Life Skills (BLS) program was on hold for many years. In the past 5 years accelerated efforts have been made to reactivate the BLS program (comparable with Health and Family Life Education in other Caribbean countries), in primary education. The BLS curriculum has been adjusted and aimed at providing youth a broad orientation, knowledge and skills to enhance responsible and healthy decision-making, including in the area of sexuality, discussing issues such as relationships, assertiveness, and gender relations. BLS will be integrated into the curriculum of grades 7 and 8. It will also be included as a course in the new curriculum of LBO/TVET/STES.

3. Execution of a pilot program on ‘a whole school approach in improving sexual and reproductive health and prevention and reduction of gender based violence ‘.

The Ministry of Education, in particular the department for vocational education on secondary level, collaborated with Belgian counterparts, the Anton de Kom University of Suriname and local NGOs, with financial support of the European Union, to implement a three year pilot program (2017-2019) “Initiatief

voor Gender-Responsief Onderwijs (iGROW) – Initiative for Gender-Responsive Education¹³ in 10 secondary vocational schools in urban and rural areas aimed at strengthening of a whole school approach in improving sexual and reproductive health and prevention and reduction of gender based violence. As part of this program several curricula were developed, from a gender and human right perspective, and delivered to students, school teams (teachers, school leaders) and parents. Also a baseline and endline study has been conducted to measure impact of the program, and education and awareness raising materials were developed. The whole school approach has 3 dimensions:

- Improved knowledge, policy, and practice of LBO teachers and school directors for addressing ASRHR and GBV.
- Creation of safe spaces for LBO students to critically reflect on and speak openly about ASRHR and GBV.
- Appropriate outreach to LBO students' parents or caregivers, through positive school-parent/caregiver relations and support for parents or caregivers in addressing ASRHR and GBV.

Within this whole school approach, collaboration between LBO schools and civil society organizations (CSOs) plays a central role.

4. Working with men and boys

- The Government of Suriname acknowledges the importance of engaging boys and men to achieve gender equality and the elimination of violence against women. The minister of Home Affairs has committed to the HeforShe movement in 2015, together with his male staff members. In this regard at an Orange Day awareness activity in 2016 eleven (11) prominent men from the district of Nickerie were installed as HeforShe agent, including three (3) members of the National Assembly. Until 2018 a total of 18 men, including 2 ministers, have committed to the HeforShe movement.
- A Masculinity Training has also been carried out in 2017. In other related activities more men engaged in the HeforShe movement.

5. Perpetrator programmes

The foundation Stop Violence Against Women provides inter alia psycho-social guidance to domestic violence perpetrators who visit the foundation voluntarily for guidance or obligatorily by an order of a judge in case of a protection order. The foundation has at its disposal two social workers who are acknowledged by the government for this purpose. Furthermore the foundation carries out also self-help programs for perpetrators.

2.3.4. Actions to prevent and respond to violence facilitated by technology

1. Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions

- Please find response to this question in 2.3.1 “Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber violence, online stalking)”
- The Revision of the Penal Code, approved in 2015, contains an expansion with regard to child pornography. Also punishable is the person who acquires image - or a data carrier, containing an image - of a sexual behavior in which someone who apparently has not yet reached the age of eighteen years is involved or apparently involved, or acquires himself through an automated work or provides access to it using a communication service.

¹³ <https://www.vvob.org/en/programmes/suriname-igrow>

2. Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings

- The ministry of Justice and Police is implementing a community based plan of action for raising awareness on child sexual abuse and other kinds of violence against children in the Moengo area in the Marowijne district. This project is implemented in collaboration with all the related stakeholders within the Government and the NGOs. A radio program and other communication methods have been utilized in the 2nd half of 2016 to sensitize the community about violence against children.
- The Ministry of Justice and Police also worked on the development of different short movies (sketches) in collaboration with a consultant and the UNICEF. These sketches were launched in November 2017 through which the ministry tried to raise awareness among children and adults in the city and the districts on child's rights, how they can protect themselves against the various forms of violence and how and where they can report cases of violence.

2.3.5. Actions to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination in the media

1. Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct

Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP): Every five years, within the framework of the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), research is conducted into gender-related topics in the media. In April 2015, research was conducted into the visibility of women in the media in that context. This shows that despite the fact that women worldwide make up around 50% of the world's population, they are only heard or can be seen in newspapers, on television and the radio news for 24%. In 2015, the visibility of women in digital modern media was examined for the first time. The invisibility of women in the traditional news has its bearing on the digital modern media, in which women are only 26% relatively visible in the news. To help the media in Suriname narrow the gap in the visibility of men and women in the media to achieve better results with GMMP 2020, a Gender Media Code has been developed.

This code also contains guidelines for a balanced presentation of men and women in realization to: credibility and impartiality, language, reporting on sexual violence, advertisements and ethnicity.

In the period 2 July to 15 August 2018, the GMMP team approached media houses in Suriname to include the code proposed in 2017 in their policies. The company that has applied this code best was eligible for the Gender media award, which was presented on 31 August as part of the regional project: "Achieving Gender Equality: Influencing Media Houses Policies to include Gender Equity", which is coordinated by "Women's Media Watch

2. Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media

In December 2015, BGA has organized a four day intervention domestic violence training for communication officials of the government, media workers and artists. 11 males and 20 females participated in the training. The purpose was to provide insights in the total cycle of domestic violence and an appropriate treatment of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. They also learned how to approach domestic violence issues within the media.

2.4. PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

2.4.1. Actions to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making

1. **Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning**
 - **Project “More Women in Decision-making 2015”** : During the general elections of 2015, the National Assembly also carried out activities to increase the number of women in parliament, such as the project “More Women in Decision-making 2015” with the purpose to mobilize commitment of political parties to nominate more women as parliament candidates, for management positions or political administrative positions; strengthen self-confidence/self-awareness of politically active women within political parties/potential candidates (how to present yourself); increase awareness on the importance of having more women (equal basis) in politics.
 - **The “OokZij” Campaign of Stas International (2014-2015)**. The purpose of this campaign, which includes promotion materials, mass media profiling of female parliament candidates, debates, was to increase public awareness on the importance of equal participation of men and women in decision-making and increase women share in parliament seats to at least 30%. This campaign was partially funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - **Awareness raising activities by Civil Society**: NGOs and others also made efforts to raise awareness on the importance of women's role in politics through discussions on strategies and more profiling of women during election periods.
 - After the elections of May 2015, the Bureau Gender Affairs has sent **an open letter** to the new government, disseminated widely through mass media, calling upon the new government to nominate and appoint women on equal terms with men to various public decision-making positions, in view of the principles of democracy.

2. **Collected and analyzed data on women's political participation, including in appointed and elected positions**
 - Despite the absence of laws that exclude participation of women, both national and international studies show that Suriname lags behind with the participation of women in decision-making positions. In the past years the trend of women's participation is strongly fluctuating with no consistent and significant increase. Up to 2005, the proportion of women representatives in the National Assembly (DNA) rose from 18 to 22 percent. This changed drastically after the 2010 elections when the percentage of women dropped to 10 percent. In 2015, the proportion of women representatives in the National Assembly rose to 25.5 percent again. In 2019, the proportion rose to 31%, however due to vacant seats being refilled through a system of moving the next person on the political parties' official lists of candidates.
 - At present, 16 of the 51 members are women. The position of Speaker of the National Assembly has been held by the same woman since 2010.
 - With regard to female ministers, since 2015 there were five (5) women and as of May 2019 three (3) women in a cabinet of 17 ministers: Foreign Affairs; Education, Science and Culture; and Sports and Youth Affairs.
 - The proportion of women in higher government institutions has significantly increased, particularly in the Court of Justice, the State advisory Council and the National Audit Office. The representation of women at the Court of Justice has changed drastically: the number of female judges increased from one in 2000 to fifteen in 2019, while the number of male judges dropped from ten in 2004 to five in 2019. Women also dominate at the Public Prosecutor's Office: 71% female public prosecutors versus 29% male share.

- With regard to diplomatic positions, up to 2014 nine women headed a diplomatic post. However, the proportion of women in the diplomatic corps has declined: at the end of 2018 there were two female ambassadors and one female consul-general in Surinamese diplomatic service.
- At the district level, four of 15 district-commissioners are women. With regard to women in district-level councils, there has been an increase from 31% (2010) to 35% (2015), while the proportion of women in the local councils rose from 35% (2010) to 45% (2015).¹⁴

3. Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures

- In 2013 and 2014 a few staff members of the Bureau Gender Affairs received the following training:
- Basic training in gender equality and gender mainstreaming.
- Training in the development of gender indicators and the collection of data on gender.
- Training in time-use surveys.

In 2014, the gender focal points from the different ministries and the UNDP Co-chairs of the Program Coordination Unit received a basic training in gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

- A train the trainers program in gender and gender related concepts was carried out in 2016 – 2017 for the BGA personnel, some officials of various departments within the ministry of Home Affairs and gender focal points of the ministries. A part of these gender trainers has already conducted gender training sessions for various target groups.
- In December 2017 the Suriname Diplomatic Institute (SDI) was officially opened as part of the Institute for Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR) with the aim to provide a regular framework for the government's diplomatic services. It is also the intention that current diplomats receive additional training. A total of 53 persons of which the majority consisted of women, received a certificate in December 2018.
- Within the framework of the elections of 2020, selected personnel of the Ministry of Home Affairs were trained in the period 2016 -2017 in the various election processes. A presentation on the importance of women's participation in the election bodies and in politics was also provided by the Bureau Gender Affairs. This project "Training Institutional Strengthening Election Organization" was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2.4.2. Actions to increase women's access to media, including ICT

1. Measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free Wi-Fi hubs, community technology centres)

- **"Girls in ICT Day"**: Since April 2011, the "Girls in ICT Day" is commemorated in Suriname every year on the fourth Thursday in the month April. Activities of the past years include for example the participation of girls with physical and mental disability in various ICT related activities, and in 2018 and in 2019 the participation of about 35 young female adults of 4 different foster homes / foundations. This activity was organized by the Telecommunication Authority Suriname (TAS), in collaboration with the ICT association. The theme of 2019 was "All Digital".
- **National computer project**: The Bureau of the First Lady of the Republic of Suriname implements various ICT projects. In this regard schools within various districts are provided with personal computers and laptops. In 2018 the Bureau of the First lady received funds from the Ambassador of the Republic of India after submission of project proposals.

¹⁴Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035

One of the projects is entitled 'every child a computer'. In the meantime the Bureau has been able to reach more than 20,000 young people at junior and senior secondary level with this national computer project.

National budget invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women

The existing structure of the government budgets does not enable measurement or tracking of total financial flows to gender equality. As the key areas of women's rights and empowerment are multiple and spread over several government institutions and the private sector, coordination of implementation and enhancing an integrated approach is of critical importance for success.

There is only limited data available on this indicator. Each year each ministry submits the yearly budget to the National Parliament for approval in which policy measures with funds for several programs and plans are included. In general it can be stated that not all ministries have a specific policy measure regarding gender within their total budget.

The gender activities that are carried out within these ministries are part of programs and plans derived from a specific policy measure. As the Ministry of Home Affairs has a leading role in the formulation, evaluation and implementation of the gender policy it has a separate policy measure on gender within her total budget in which funds for programs, plans regarding gender equality are allocated every year. The same is also within the Ministry of Justice and Police. There is a policy measure on youth, moral and gender policy in which funds for programs, plans on violence are allocated every year.

National strategy for gender equality

The Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 was launched on July 5th 2019. This policy document elaborates on Suriname's international and regional obligations to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; the Constitution of Suriname; the evaluation of earlier integral gender policy plans of the Ministry of Home Affairs; and the Development Plan of Suriname for the period 2017 – 2021. The priority areas for the period 2021 – 2035 are:

- Labor, income and poverty reduction
- Education
- Health
- Power and decision-making
- Gender-based violence
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Environment and climate change

The formulation of a long-term gender policy was preferred with a view of a period of approximately 15 years (2021 – 2035), as processes of social change associated with gender equality and equity require time. In this manner, the goals of the 2030 World Agenda (SDGs) and the national goals may be better attuned to one another and the intended vision on development and change will be more clearly expressed.

Implementation of the CEDAW recommendations

The CEDAW recommendations have been disseminated to the various ministries with reference made to the articles concerning their policy area.

There are no specific action plans and timelines in place for the implementation of the CEDAW recommendations; however, the various ministries responsible for the implementation of the recommendations include these recommendations in their action plans. The BGA has included e.g. the CEDAW recommendations and SDG targets in the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 with a specific timeline.

National human rights institution

In December 2016, the Ministry of Justice and Police launched the National Human Rights Institute. The planning is that a transition period will be implemented in 4 years, wherein the institute will be arranged in such a way that it will comply with the requirements according to the Paris Principles. This means that in this period the Institute will be made into an independent institution. In the final phase of this transition, the Institute will thus completely stand alone. This institute will deal with the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Also, a general ombudsman will be linked to this institute. The ombudsman will be divided into two divisions, being one for children and one for adults.

2.5. PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

2.5.1. Actions to combat trafficking in women and children

- The Government of Suriname (GoS) recognizes the disproportionate impact conflict and post-conflict situations have on women and girls. It also acknowledges the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of a gender perspective in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts and maintaining international peace and security.
- The GoS, despite its relative small size and scale of its armed forces underscores furthermore the importance of this resolution as well as the fact that this resolution provides an important means or instrument for national institutions, agencies and actors alike to assess the domestic implementation of this resolution and its impact. Unfortunately, the GoS has not yet submitted its mandatory annual national reports.
- The Ministry of Defense, more specifically the Sub Directorate for Personnel Affairs embarked on a program aimed at assessing among others, gender perspective in the areas of Gender integration in the Armed Forces and Women in the Armed Forces. Part of that program had to do with national legislation and policies, Human Resources, Women in operations, Prevention of sexual harassment and assault and Women and military ranks. This program was regrettably not finalized, but the key findings and results can serve as important inputs for our national reporting.
- The ministry of Justice and Police installed a workgroup in 2016 on short term with the aim to carry out a crash program. This program contained actions that needed to provide solutions for serious bottlenecks. Some of these were; providing shelters for victims of Trafficking in Person (TIP) namely women and children, create and implement a national TIP strategy through finance, relevant training for police, military police, health workers, social workers, ministry of Labor, employees of justice and many more who have a relation within this area.

2.5.2. Actions to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child

- 1. Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices**
 - **Installation of the ‘Integrated Child Protection Network’ (IKBeN).** In November 2017 the IKBeN pledge was signed by all ministers as well as the First Lady and the Chair of the National Assembly (DNA), which emphasizes the commitment from the Government for the protection of the child in Suriname. IKBeN stands for the Integrated Child Protection Network. All ministries, as well as NGOs, are part of this network. Within this group, a Technical Committee (TC-IKBeN) has been appointed to ensure that IKBeN

takes further shape and is promoted within society. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the TC-IKBeN to identify and enhance responses to the priority issues of child protection.

- **Establishment of a referral system:** At present, a uniform referral system is missing. Different institutes conduct their work without involving each other, which means that cases involving children in crisis situations usually take too long to resolve. The TC-IKBeN, in cooperation with UNICEF, has started a process to build a well-developed referral system. This should ensure that children, in this case, girls who are victims of violence, timely receive the appropriate guidance and care. All relevant authorities (government and non-government) are involved in this process
- **Youth debate:** In November 2018, the Technical Committee of the Integrated Child Protection Network (IKBeN) organized a two-day workshop and youth debate in the context of "The International Day for the Rights of the Child". After dealing with the topics Youth and Violence, Alcohol and Drugs, Empowerment & Motivation, and Social Media, an interactive debate was held.
- **Positive Parenting Program (PPP):** Another project that is being carried out in collaboration with UNICEF is the Positive Parenting Program (PPP). In this regard social workers of the Ministries of Social Affairs and Housing (MSAH) and Justice and Police (MJ&P) in urban and rural areas are trained to support parents / families who are in difficult social circumstances.

2. Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labor and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children

- The MSAH is represented in the National Committee for the Elimination of Child Labor (NCUK). The recently approved Law "Workers and Children Youth Act" includes the responsibility of the MSAH to set up a committee to ensure that victims (of child labor) receive the necessary guidance and support from the Government.
- The National Action Plan on Child Labor has been approved for the period 2019-2024. This National Action Plan contains action to combat child labor.

3. Promoted girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life

- **Awareness raising and education through mass- and social media:** In 2016 the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) wrote an article regarding the International Day of the Girl Child and it was published in DWT online. A Radio interview (in the morning) through a local Radio station regarding the International Day of the Girl Child to promote the rights of girls to participate in social, economic and political life was given by BGA.
- BGA wrote letters to media workers with the request to promote the International Day of the Girl Child and their rights to participate in social, economic and political life.
- In 2016 the Minister of Home Affairs took part in the TV program Panorama of a local television station to promote the International Day of the Girl Child. Information about the International Day of the Girl Child and the position of girls in Suriname was provided.
- In the past 5 years the Bureau for the Rights of the Child (BRvK) has held one (1) promotion activity in the context of "The International Day of the Girl Child" at a children's home in Commewijne (Huize Sukh Dhaam). Hereby the children were informed about children's rights and in particular about the rights of the girl. In the context of this day, statements have also been published through the FB page of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing to draw attention to the rights of girls.
- **Awareness raising and educational activities in schools:**
 - Since 2013 the BGA started with the implementation of Station Races at junior secondary schools in urban and rural areas. A Station Race is a Gender Awareness activity for the entire school, where the

students are being tested on their knowledge of gender and gender-related topics, through a creative and educational way.

First the teachers of the schools were trained. The purpose of this training was to familiarize teachers with gender and gender-related concepts before they would transfer that knowledge to the students. During one (1) week, the students received and discussed 1 document daily (6 in total) with gender-related topics from their respective teacher. The documents (fact sheets) were provided by the BGA.

- In 2017, as part of the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child, BGA held an awareness session at the Giovanni Montini school (a junior secondary school) in the district Para, where 130 boys and girls participated. In the first phase of this project the students were provided with the information regarding the International Day of the Girl Child, gender, gender related issues and gender based violence and other problems and challenges that girls face. In the second phase of this the students were examined by answering a questionnaire. Through this activity, an attempt was made to raise awareness among students about the International Day of the Girl Child and the importance of equal treatment of girls and boys.
- The Bureau for the Rights of the Child also participated in fairs organized by "Stop Violence against Women Foundation", a Back to school Holiday Open (youth) center activity organized by the Stop Violence against Women Foundation in cooperation with Platform for Community Organization and in a parent and children's activity "Bromtji Fu Tamara Village" organized by Chetskeys advertising Promotion & Production.
- **Production of audio visual material:** In 2018 BGA in collaboration with de UNICEF, UNDP, UNRCO and UNFPA produced a short video in the frame work of The International Day of the Girl Child. This video highlights and addresses the needs and challenges of girls, while at the same time promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The video is still broadcasted through the GOV.TV (Government tv station) and DNA TV (the National Assembly TV station).

2.6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION

2.6.1. Actions to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies

1. **Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance**
 - Within one of the projects, implemented by the ministry of Regional Development early 2017 named 'Enhancing access to drinking water for the Maroon community of Asigrón Brokopondo' 42% of the persons participated were women and 47.8% were female heads of households. Notable is also that the majority of youth participants were girls (53%) while the majority of elderly were women (55%).
 - The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (JCCCP) aims to support countries in advancing the process of low emission risk-resilient development by improving energy security and integrating medium to long-term planning for adaptation to climate change. In 2015 the Amazon Conservation Team Suriname (ACT-S) started with the implementation of the project 'Women Empowerment & Renewable Energy'. Two (2) women of the Indigenous Village, Pelele Tepu, received a train the trainers training, supported by the Government of India, from October 2015 until March 2016 in the installment, maintenance and service of the solar panel system. This Renewable Solar Energy Project was co-funded by the UNDP JCCCP. The Ministry of Natural Resources, Electrification Service and the local community were also involved in the entire process. The solar energy system was formally handed over to the minister of Natural Resources in July 2019.

2. Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)

- From February 2017 until June 2019 information sharing sessions were held in the different maroons/tribal and indigenous tribes. The tribes were being informed about climate change, the phases in which the REDD+ is currently working in and how REDD+ can contribute to Suriname and the different specific target group such as women, children, youth, etc. Consultations to develop a REDD+ National strategy have also taken place in different tribal and indigenous communities. During these information sharing sessions and consultations the participation of women of these communities was also a requirement.
- Women at different levels took part in e.g. the REDD+ National Strategy regarding REDD+. The information sharing and consultation sessions are ongoing. The last REDD+ consultation regarding the REDD+ Safeguard Information System (SIS) has been held in the month June 2019 and will continue until the end of 2019.

2.6.2. Actions to integrate gender into disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation

1. Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects

- The UNFPA is supporting the Government of Suriname in the development and implementation of the SPRINT and MISP initiatives tailored to the country's reality and the recommendation is to have these training provided at the district level.¹⁵
- Due to the decentralization, at district level plans are being developed wherein aspects of emergency preparedness need to be incorporated.
PRINT is an initiative designed to ensure that sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services are made available to populations during humanitarian crises. SPRINT promotes the Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations (MISP). The MISP, if implemented at the early stages of a crisis, co-ordinates the SRH response and agencies involved. It prevents sexual violence and provides care for survivors of sexual violence; reduces the transmission of HIV; prevents maternal/newborn death; treats sexually transmitted infections (STIs); provides contraception; and ensures that anti-retroviral are available for HIV treatment. The MISP guides plans for the introduction of more comprehensive SRH services as and when the situation allows. The SPRINT and MISP training package will be offered to all stakeholders involved in national disaster coordination, preparedness and recovery.
- The fire evacuation drill has been conducted in one hospital with several ministries involved. Training regarding preparedness for Ebola and Chikungunya to the government and to relevant stakeholders has been executed and development of materials has taken place.
- The REDD+ information sharing sessions involved women, children and youth in maroon and tribal communities.
- In these information sessions in the period February 2017 until June 2019, 2620 persons participated from 59 tribal and indigenous communities of which 1143 men and 1477 women (56% women).

2. Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters.

- In December 2017, a presentation regarding Disaster Management and Gender was held for volunteers of the Suricorp by the Bureau Gender Affairs.

¹⁵ UNDAF-UNDAP Annual Progress Report 2014

- In March 2018 the Bureau also held an information session regarding 'Climate Change and Gender in the Media' for students of the media academy and other media workers from the government.
- In November 2018 an information session regarding 'Climate Change, Community Resilience Building and Gender' was held by the Bureau Gender Affairs for stakeholders of the Suriname Red Cross Community Resilience Building Project.
- In January 2019 as technical assistance to the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, the BGA held a presentation regarding mainstreaming gender in GEF environment projects at a High Level Meeting for Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and other representatives of the GOS.

3. Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

In the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021-2035, Environment and Climate Change is a priority area in which the effective participation of women in this priority area is essential, not only because women are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change and disasters, but they are also agents of change and play an important role in formulating and implementing policies and action plans with regard to the environment, the protection of biodiversity, as well as adaptation and mitigation in climate change.

SECTION 3: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

Bureau Gender Affairs is the current national machinery and is a department within the Ministry of Home Affairs. An auxiliary branch of the BGA was opened in the district of Nickerie in 2006, operational until 2015, and has been revitalized in March 2016.

In addition to the BGA, the Gender Management System, comprised of gender focal points that are appointed by different ministries, has been established since 2001. The main task of the GMS is to implement and monitor the Gender Action Plans in order to mainstream gender into policies and programs within their ministries, and is an essential communication link between BGA and the various ministries and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

In February 2019 the Gender Platform Nickerie has been installed with the aim to identify gender issues in district Nickerie and to propose solutions. The platform consists of government organizations, and non-governmental organizations and individuals.

SDG implementation

SDGs are integrated in the Development Plan 2017-2021. The Planning Office Suriname is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this national development plan. All ministries are responsible for aligning their strategic planning to national policies as well as to international agreements, including the SDGs. In this regard, ministerial Plan Units have been established and strengthened.

Formal mechanisms for implementation and monitoring Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

There are no formal structures; however, it is common practice that all relevant stakeholders are involved in preparations of the development of national policies/strategies through discussion in workshops and review of draft documents. The same consultation process is implemented when Suriname has to report on the implementation of international commitments, such as CEDAW, CRC, and also Beijing Platform for Action.

Stakeholder's participation to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

There are no formal mechanisms; however, in development of policies and reviews of national implementation of international conventions stakeholders are involved, mainly civil society organizations, Women's rights organizations, Academia and think tanks, Faith-based organizations to contribute to the implementation of conventions.

It is mainly through close collaboration with civil society, including women's- and youth organizations, that BGA enhances participation of **women and girls from marginalized groups** and the inclusion of their voices and concerns in development and implementation of policies and action plans.

This Beijing +25 National Review was produced by the Ministry of Home Affairs/ Bureau Gender Affairs with the contribution of various stakeholders. Information was obtained from key persons and the Gender Focal Points of the various ministries and relevant organizations. For the validation, the draft report was also sent to abovementioned stakeholders.

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls for SDG implementation

Although there is no national plan/strategy for SDG implementation, the SDG targets are included in national policy documents. The Ministry of Health has mainstreamed SDG 3 within the health policy and the SDGs are also integrated in their long term National Strategic Plan 2019-2028.

In the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021-2035, formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Bureau Gender Affairs, the SDG targets are also included.

The four Pillars of the Development Plan 2017-2021; Strengthening development capacity, Economic growth and diversification, Social progress, Utilization and protection of the environment are also linked with the three (3) dimensions of Sustainable Development.

SECTION 4: DATA AND STATISTICS

4.1. TOP THREE AREAS WITH MOST PROGRESS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

- **Capacity Building workshop in the Compilation of Social Statistics** for GBS, BGA and several ministries organized by the GBS in 2016 with support from the CARICOM. This capacity building workshop was focused on selected areas of Social/Gender Statistics, and on production and compilation of data for the Indicators of the SDGs, the SIDS/Samoa pathway, CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model and the Revised Minimum Indicators (Social).
- **Gender sensitive data were used** during the drafting of the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 in 2018.
- **The General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) has published in 2017** their biannual gender publication entitled “selected Statistics about women and men in Suriname”. Furthermore statistical papers were produced by the GBS such as:
 - A statistical study from a gender perspective on Surinamese women and men (2016). Housing situation of Female Headed Households (FHH) In Paramaribo (2015)
 - An article “The living situation of Surinamese Men and Women, an analysis of gender relations in Census 2012” was also published in a publication “Mozaïek van het Surinaams Volk, Volkstellingen in Demografisch, Economisch en Sociaal Perspectief” produced by the GBS and the Institute for Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR) in 2016.
- **User- producer dialogues were organized in 2017** in order to have a view on the main institutions that are using and producing statistics on the indicators of the five (5) thematic areas of the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators. A total of four dialogues were organized. During these dialogues, discussions were held on the importance of Gender data, data gaps, collaboration between Users-Producers of data and bottlenecks encountered by organizations in data collection.
- **The study to measure the existence of violence against women** (2018) was conducted for the first time in Suriname. Unfortunately the data were not available during the drafting of this report.
- **The production of Factsheets** in 2018 by the Bureau Gender Affairs based on the research findings of the Pilot of the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) model. These factsheets were shared with stakeholders and also placed on the Facebook page of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **A Gender Assessment** has been conducted in April 2019 by the General Bureau for Statistics with support from the Italian Istituzione Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with the objective to focus on the strengthening of the capacities of the countries of the Caribbean Region to produce statistical information in the three (3) specific sectors of Gender; Environment; Agriculture and Rural Development based on data from administrative registers and survey data.

4.2. TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR STRENGTHENING GENDER STATISTICS

- **Statistical capacity building of users** to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars).

The Ministry of Home Affairs has signed, through the ministry of Finance, an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank for technical assistance for the period 2019-2022 for the institutional strengthening of the BGA. With this project the BGA aims at closing the gaps in sex disaggregated data, which will make it possible to present trends over time in the situation of women in Suriname and meet the national and international reporting obligations. The Technical Assistance from the IsDB will support the establishment of a robust data collection system. Activities to be carried out in this regard are the following:

- **Strengthen the research departments of social ministries:** Health; Justice and Police; Education, Science and Culture; Labor; Social Affairs and Housing; and key government officials (e.g. policymakers) in order to increase the reliability, regularity and use of the gender statistics collected within the national and international framework and disseminate the findings to inform policy development with respect to national and international framework.
- **Strengthen the capacity of key government officials** (e.g. policymakers) in the application/ translation of available sex disaggregated data to the development of evidence-based formulation of policies and programs.
- **Strengthening the national data collection system** in capturing measurable gender indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress made towards the realization of women's empowerment in all areas covered by the CEDAW Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs.

Only for some indicators data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs has begun.

SDG 5 indicators

Indicators		Yes	No	Partial	NA
5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	X			
5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	X			
5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence		X		
5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18		X		
5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age				X
5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location		X		
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments - Cabinet	X			
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions	X			
5.6.1	Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care		X		
5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education				
5.a.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure				

Note: The indicators highlighted in green are also CARICOM Core indicators.

NA= not applicable

The following disaggregation¹⁶ is routinely provided by major surveys

- Geographic location
- Income, due to low response this data is not published
- sex
- Age
- Education
- Marital status
- Race/ethnicity

¹⁶ As specified in A/RES/70/1, with the addition of education and marital status.

ANNEXES

STATISTICAL APPENDIX: TABLES AND FIGURES

LABOR

Table 1 Training courses "Stichting Arbeids mobilisatie en Ontwikkeling (SAO) period 2014-2016

Training courses Day time training	2014		2015		2016	
	Graduates		Graduates		Graduates	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nursing Assistant	-	15	-	16	-	16
Home care	-	11	-	6	-	8
Textile	-	7	-	-	-	3
Car Assembly	18	-	17	-	10	-
Auto Body Repair	8	-	11	-	7	-
Light welded construction	28	-	9	-	13	-
Machine bench work	13	-	5	-	5	-
Construction	3	-	4	-	4	-
Gas water Sanitation	10	-	11	-	12	-
Electro Home installation	11	1	17	-	16	-
Welding	16	-	6	-	9	-
NHB	-	-	5	-	3	-
Basic Refrigeration	8	-	9	-	10	-
Streets maker	6	-	3	-	5	-
Computer training	26	50	15	18	3	21
TOTAAL/TOTAL	147	84	112	40	97	48
	231		152		145	
%%	63.6	36.4	73.7	26.3	66.9	33.1

Source: Ministry of Labor / SAO

Table 2 Training courses "Stichting Arbeids mobilisatie en Ontwikkeling (SAO)" period 2014-2016

Training courses / After- noon courses	2014		2015		2016	
	Graduates		Graduates		Graduates	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Home installation (electro)	32	2	9	1	18	-
Home care	-	16	-	-	-	-
Maternity care	-	9	-	12	-	10
Basic electronics	14	-	10	-	32	-
Barber	-	17	-	-	-	-
Mani - pedicure	-	21	-	-	-	-
Personal management	5	15	-	-	-	-
Organizational Management	4	20	-	-	-	-
Excavator operator	10	-	-	-	-	-
Based refrigeration	13	-	32	-	60	-
Welding module 1	6	-	14	-	6	-
Gas Water & sanitation	12	-	86	-	93	-
Computer hardware 1	3	-	10	-	-	-
Archive	5	4	-	-	-	-
Cricket	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale Technics	13	4	-	-	-	-
VCA /PCS	18	-	-	-	-	-
Defensive driving techniques	318	6	81	1	-	-
Welder	-	-	-	-	6	-
Ass. excavator operator	8	-	-	-	-	-
Painting	5	-	-	-	-	-
Acrylic nails	-	-	-	3	-	-
Light welded construction	-	-	11	-	-	-
Advanced Electro	-	-	11	-	8	-
Tiler	-	-	-	-	4	2
TOTAAL / TOTAL	466	114	264	17	227	12
	580		281		239	
%%	80.3	19.7	94.0	6.0	95.0	5.0

Source: Ministry of Labor / SAO

Table 3 Training courses "Stichting Arbeids mobilisatie en Ontwikkeling (SAO)" period 2014-2016

Training courses Districts	2014		2015		2016	
	Graduates		Graduates		Graduates	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Nursing assistant (Nickerie)	-	25	-	-	-	-
Gas/water/sanitation (Nickerie)	21	-	-	-	-	-
Maternity Care (Nickerie)	-	19	-	-	-	-
Refrigeration tech. (Nickerie)	12	-	-	-	-	-
Electro (Nickerie)	15	-	-	-	-	-
Electro (Wanica/Leiding 8)	16	-	-	-	-	-
Mani-pedicure (Wanica/Leiding)	-	20	-	-	-	-
TOTAAL / TOTAL	64	64	-	-	-	-
	128					
%%	50.0	50.0				

Source: Ministry of Labor / SAO

Table 4 Training for Indigenous People (Marroons and Amerindians) in the districts of Marowijne and Brokopondo, 2016 - 2017

District / Training course	Total		Year			
			2016 *		2017 **	
	Started	Certified	M	F	M	F
MAROWIJNE (Ovia Olo) Installation of gutters linked to a Watertank (Duro Tank)	20	14	4	10	-	-
MAROWIJNE (Asigron) Cement Platforms on wich the Watertanks will be placed	16	13	-	-	2	11
BROKOPONDO (Brownsweg) Teaching methods how to create several things from fabrics/textile	30	25	-	-	1	24

Source: SAO (Ministry of Labor)

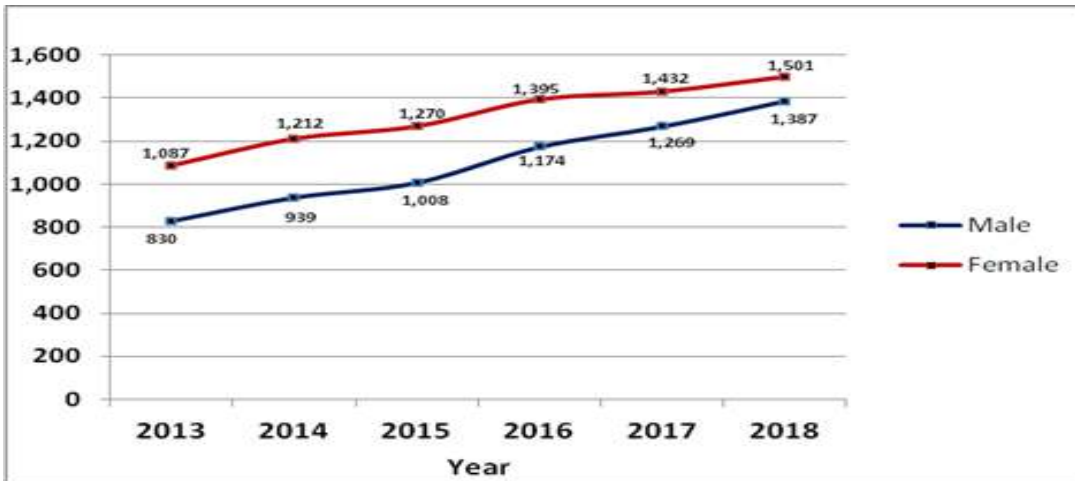
Table 5 Number of potentially trained self-employers by type of training and sex period, January 2012 - May 2015 by SPWE

Type of training	YEAR / SEX								TOTAL		
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2012-2015		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	TOT.
Financial management	17	43	10	26	4	8	-	-	31	77	108
Human Resource Management	96	127	129	153	80	125	124	8	416	408	824
Other (computer etc)	127	158	59	47	46	65	48	32	275	290	565
Total	240	328	198	226	130	198	172	40	722	775	1497

Source: Ministry of Labor (SPWE)

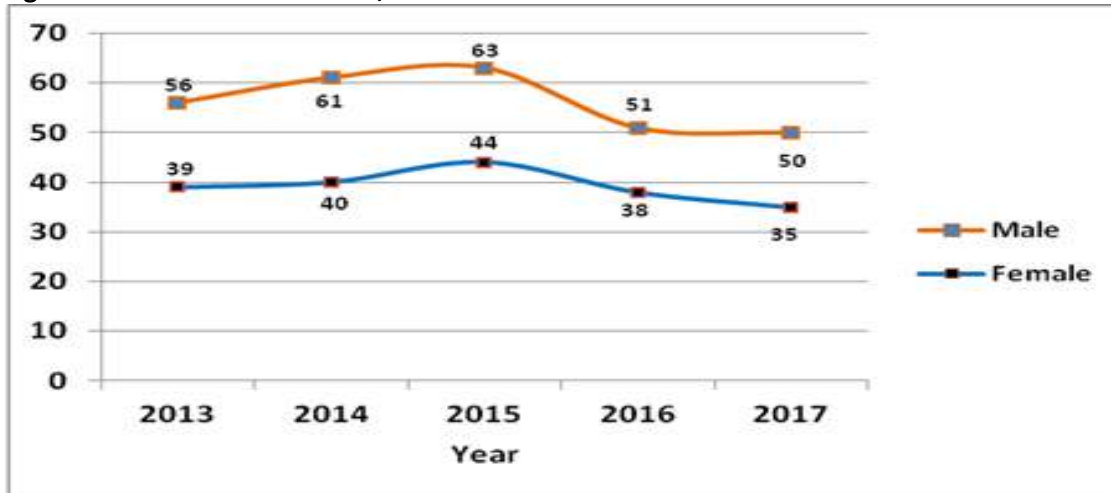
HEALTH

Figure 1 Number of people living with HIV on treatment, 2013 -2018



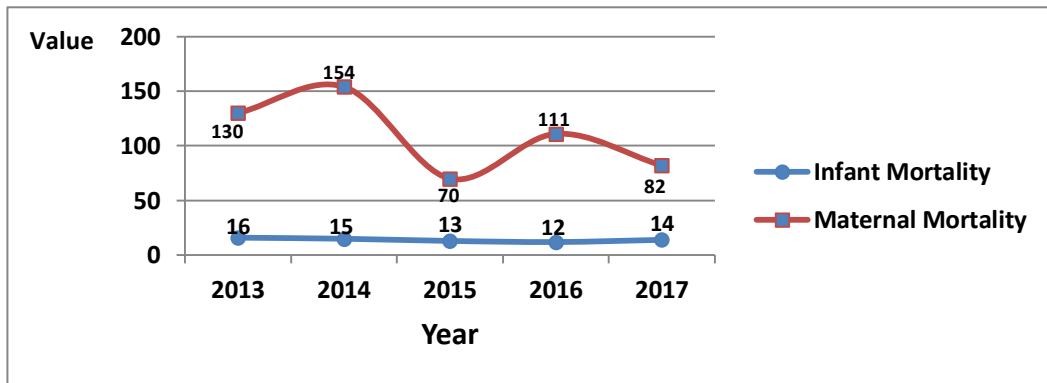
Source: Ministry of Health

Figure 2 Number of HIV deaths, 2013 - 2017



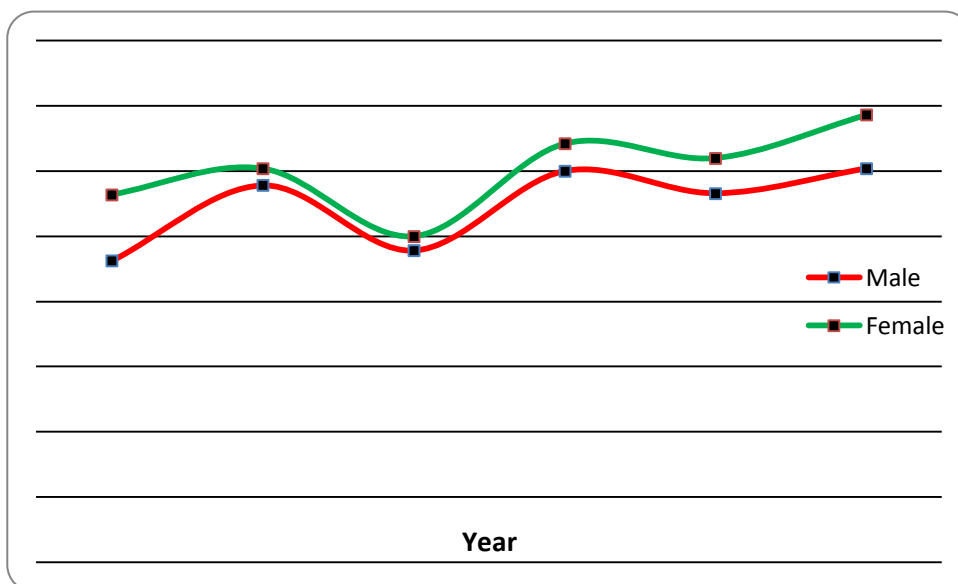
Source: Ministry of Health

Figure 3 Infant mortality and maternal mortality, 2013 - 2017



Source: Ministry of Health / BOG

Figure 4 Number of newly registered HIV cases , 2013 - 2018



Source: Ministry of Health

CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGES

Table 6 Number of marriages, age group 15-19 years by sex, 2013 - 2018

Period	Sexe		Total
	M	F	
2013	16	177	193
2014	15	163	178
2015	24	160	184
2016	14	148	162
2017	24	135	159
2018	19	108	127

Source: Civil Registry Office

VIOLENCE

Table 7 Number of cases of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and elderly women which were prosecuted, in proportion to the total number of reports of violence against women, * 2013 – 2016

Period	Number of police reports of which the results of the investigation is documented in a process file and submitted at the Public Prosecutor's office	Number of cases that are concluded at the court
	(criminal cases)	(criminal cases)
2013 (Oct.-Dec.)	16	3
2014	195	24
2015	170	21
2016 January-July)	52	6
Total	433	54

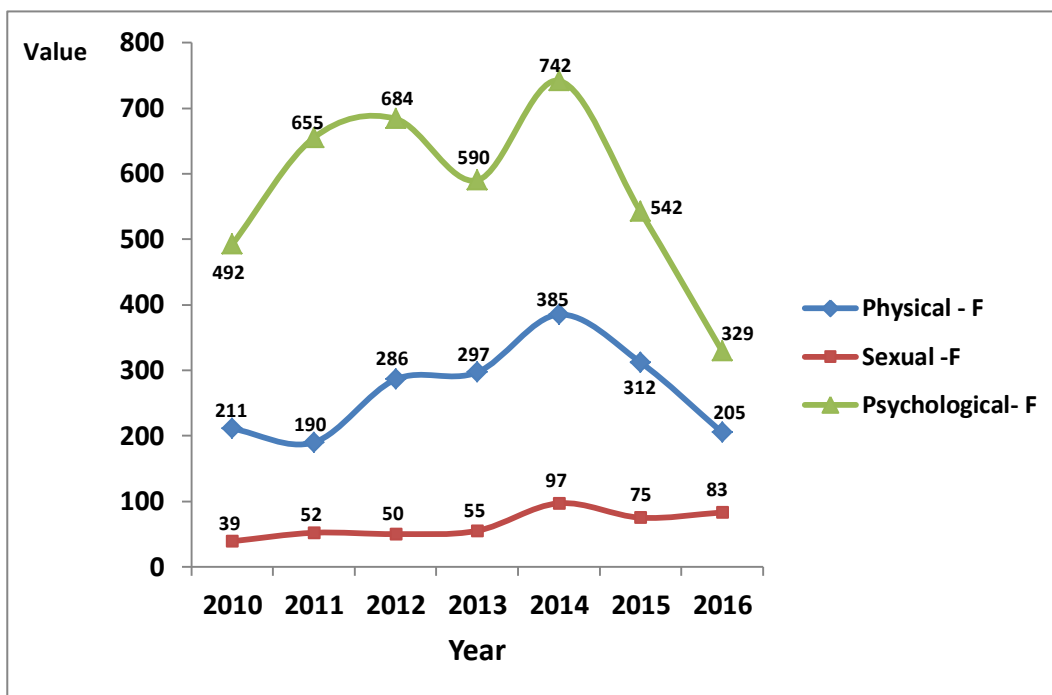
Source: Public Prosecutors' Office, information dated August 2016.

Table 8 Number of appeals for protection orders in cases of domestic violence submitted at the civil court: 2013 - 2016

Session Year October – September	Number of appeals
2013 – 2014	420
2014 - 2015	418
2015 - 2016	412
2016 – 2017 (February)	195

Source: report of a workshop of the Foundation Stop Violence against women, March 2017
These appeals for protection orders mostly regard new cases

Figure 5 Number of female victims from domestic violence by type, 2010 - 2016



Source: Corps Police Suriname

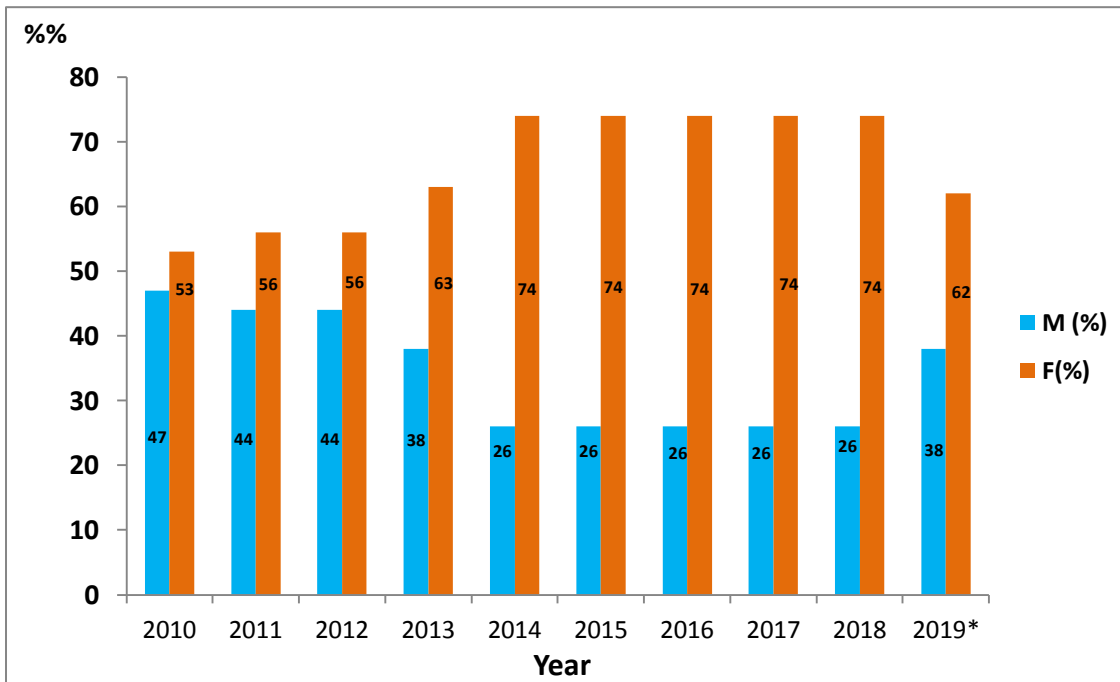
Table 9 Number of criminal proceedings for the crime femicide, homicide, murder, versus number of criminal cases with judgement (conviction or acquittal) for the crime femicide, homicide, murder: 2014 – 2016

Period	Description	Total number
2014	Murder	20
	Homicide	3
	Femicide	3
	Criminal proceedings	23
	Judgment	3 femicide cases are concluded in court and the suspects are sentenced
2015	Murder	23
	Homicide	5
	Femicide	7
	Criminal proceedings	21
	Judgment	5 femicide cases are concluded in court and the suspects are sentenced, while the other 5 cases are still pending in court.
2016 (Jan – July)	Murder	8
	Homicide	4
	Femicide	1
	Criminal proceedings	2
	Judgment	1 case of femicide still pending in court

Source: Public prosecutors' Office, information dated August 2016.

DECISION-MAKING

Figure 6 Percentage of Judges by sex, 2010-2019*



Source: Court of Justice * February 2019

Table 10 District Commissioners by sex, 2010-2017

Period	Sex		Total
	M (%)	F (%)	
2010 -2015	73	27	100.0
2015 - 2017	71	29	100.0

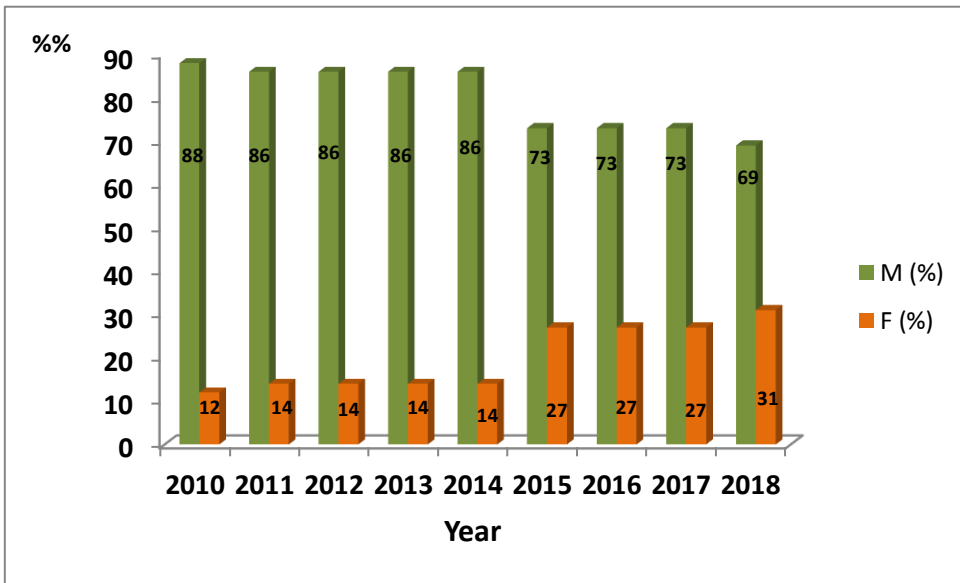
Source: Suriname Progress report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus 2013-2017

Table 11 Members of The National Assembly by Sex, 2010-2018

Year	Sex		Total
	M (%)	F (%)	
2010	88	12	100.0
2011	86	14	100.0
2012	86	14	100.0
2013	86	14	100.0
2014	86	14	100.0
2015	73	27	100.0
2016	73	27	100.0
2017	73	27	100.0
2018	69	31	100.0

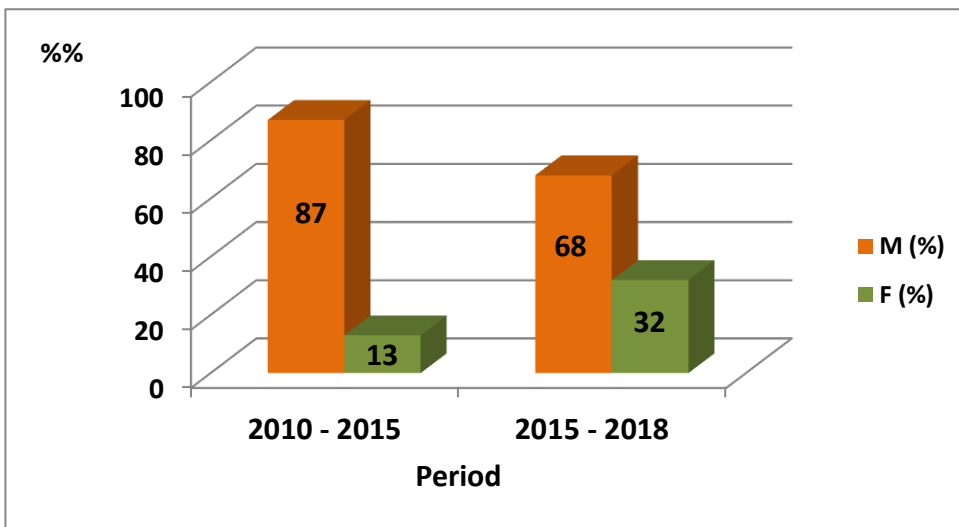
Source: National Assembly

Figure 7 Members of the National Assembly by Sex, 2010-2018



Source: National Assembly

Figure 8 Percentage of ministers irrespective of their term of office by sex, period 2010 -2018



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs/Bureau Gender Affairs

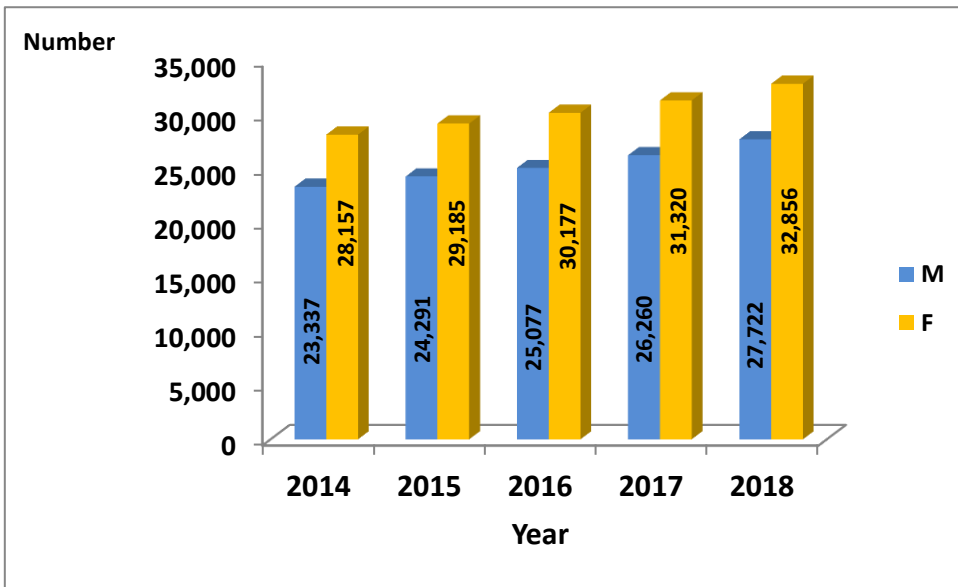
SOCIAL SERVICES

Table 12 Beneficiaries for General Old age allowance (AOV) by sex ,2014 – 2018

Year	Sex		Total M+F
	M	F	
2014	23,337	28,157	51,534
2015	24,291	29,185	53,476
2016	25,077	30,177	55,254
2017	26,260	31,320	57,580
2018	27,722	32,856	60,578

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Figure 9 Beneficiaries for General Old age allowance (AOV) by sex ,2014 - 2018



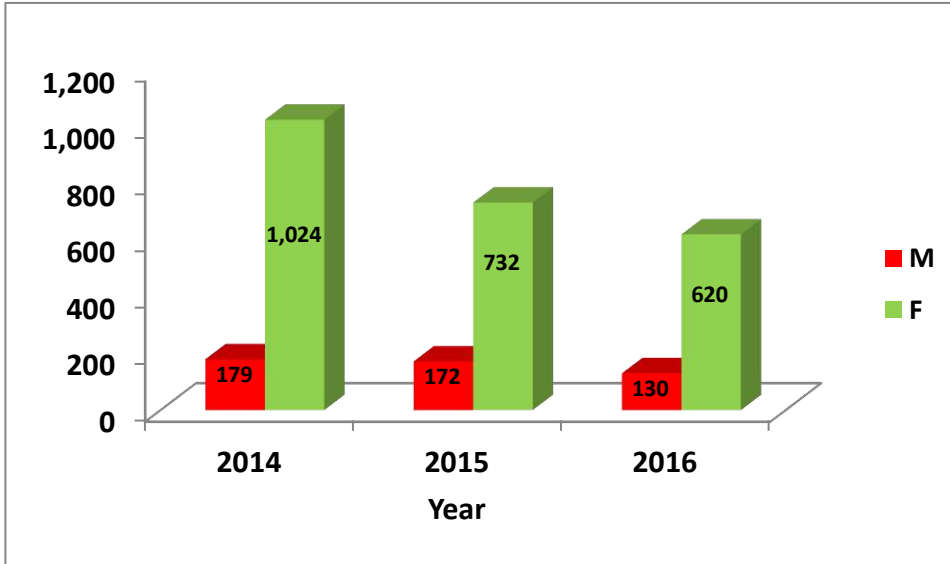
Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Table 13 Financial Assistance to poor households (FB) by sex, 2014 – 2016

Year	Sex		Total M+F
	M	F	
2014	179	1,024	1,203
2015	172	732	904
2016	130	620	750
2017	n.a	n.a	n.a
2018	n.a	n.a	n.a

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Figure 10 Number of beneficiaries for Financial Assistance (poor households) (FB) by sex, 2014 - 2016



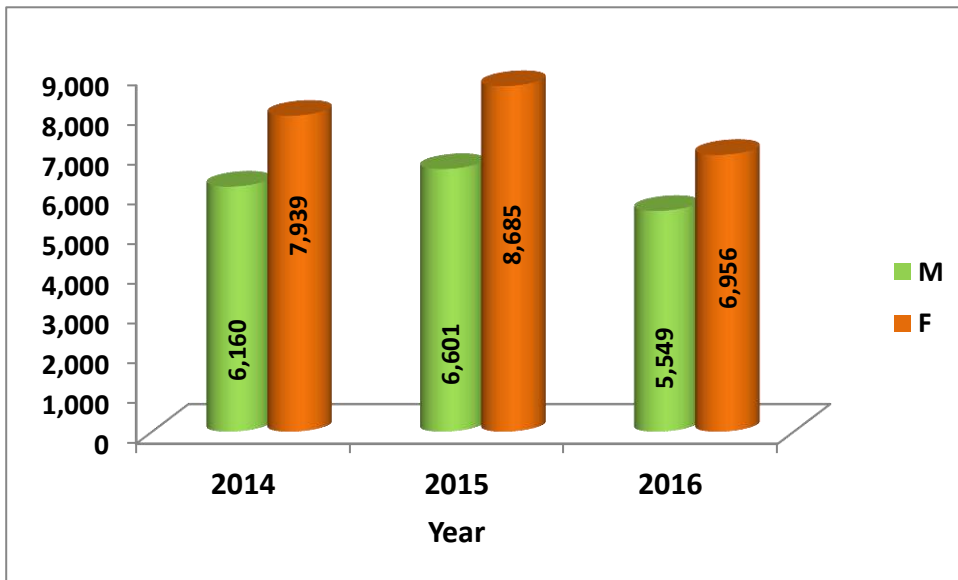
Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Table 14 Financial assistance to people with a disability (UPH) by sex, 2014 – 2016

Year	Sex		Total M+F
	M	F	
2014	6,160	7,939	14,099
2015	6,601	8,685	15,286
2016	5,549	6,956	12,505
2017	n.a	n.a	n.a
2018	n.a	n.a	n.a

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Figure 11 Number of beneficiaries for Financial Assistance (disability benefit) (UPH) by sex ,2014 – 2016



Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Table 15 Registered Child Allowance (AKB) grantees by sex, 2014 - 2018

Year	Sex		Total M+F	Number of Children
	M	F		
2014	3,955	34,082	38,037	82,724
2015	3,812	37,105	40,917	87,220
2016	3,844	38,738	42,582	88,867
2017	3,886	39,496	43,382	89,519
2018	3,878	40,440	44,318	90,207

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing (MSAH)

Table 16 Old Age Allowance (AOV) by district and sex, 2014-2015

District	AOV			AOV		
	december.2014			Dec-15		
	Sex			Sex		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Paramaribo	11,788	14,536	26,324	12,171	15,074	27,245
Wanica	4,156	4,650	8,806	4,398	4,904	9,302
Nickerie	1,760	2,076	3,836	1,840	2,159	3,999
Coronie	177	171	348	181	168	349
Saramacca	735	804	1,539	749	820	1,569
Commewijne	1,300	1,335	2,635	1,359	1,376	2,735
Marowijne	870	999	1,869	905	1,048	1,953
Para	973	878	1,851	1,041	909	1,950
Brokopondo	305	451	756	321	464	785
Sipaliwini	1,313	2,257	3,570	1,326	2,263	3,589
Total	23,377	28,157	51,534	24,291	29,185	53,476

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs / AOV Fund

Table 17 Old Age Allowance (AOV) by district and sex (2016-2017)

District	AOV			AOV		
	Dec-16			Dec-17		
	Sex			Sex		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Paramaribo	12,542	15,560	28,102	13,097	16,178	29,275
Wanica	4,621	5,175	9,796	4,918	5,474	10,392
Nickerie	1,884	2,220	4,104	1,917	2,247	4,164
Coronie	184	171	355	190	172	362
Saramacca	787	854	1,641	837	876	1,713
Commewijne	1,434	1,417	2,851	1,544	1,493	3,037
Marowijne	926	1,069	1,995	970	1,112	2,082
Para	1,069	949	2,018	1,120	994	2,114
Brokopondo	317	468	785	326	479	805
Sipaliwini	1,313	2,294	3,607	1,341	2,295	3,636
Total	25,077	30,177	55,254	26,260	31,320	57,580

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs / AOV Fund

Table 18 Old Age Allowance (AOV) by district and sex (2018)

District	Sex		Total
	M	F	
Paramaribo	13,689	16,827	30,516
Wanica	5,291	5,883	11,174
Nickerie	2,046	2,349	4,395
Coronie	209	189	398
Saramacca	905	909	1,814
Commewijne	1,657	1,607	3,264
Marowijne	1,010	1,156	2,166
Para	1,193	1,069	2,262
Brokopondo	335	487	822
Sipaliwini	1,387	2,380	3,767
Total	27,722	32,856	60,578

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs / AOV Fund

Table 19 Financial Assistance (FB) to Poor households by district and sex, 2014 – 2016

District	FB - 2014 (dec)			FB- 2015 (dec)			FB- 2016 (dec)		
	Sex		M+F	Sex		M+F	Sex		M+F
	M	F		M	F		M	F	
Paramaribo	60	152	212	52	111	163	26	98	124
Nickerie	63	180	243	65	161	226	36	127	163
Coronie	1	8	9	0	4	4	0	3	3
Saramacca	6	63	69	8	43	51	9	37	46
Wanica	30	150	180	30	107	137	26	91	117
Para	9	174	183	6	95	101	3	54	57
Commewijne	0	2	2	7	55	62	22	82	104
Marowijne	10	295	305	4	156	160	8	128	136
Total	179	1,024	1,203	172	732	904	130	620	750

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing

- Data 2017 -2018 not available

Table 20 Financial Assistance (UPH) for People with a disability by district and sex, 2014 – 2016

District	UPH - dec 2014			UPH- dec 2015			UPH - dec 2016		
	Sex		M+F	Sex		M+F	Sex		M+F
	M	F		M	F		M	F	
Paramaribo	2,796	2,904	5,700	2,954	3,200	6,154	2,543	2,766	5,309
Nickerie	305	185	490	311	208	519	329	208	537
Coronie	40	32	72	38	37	75	40	32	72
Saramacca	142	173	315	189	216	405	173	206	379
Wanica	1,470	1,920	3,390	1,665	2,294	3,959	1,549	2,148	3,697
Para	294	664	958	286	697	983	263	681	944
Commewijne	858	1,607	2,465	888	1,538	2,426	420	523	943
Marowijne	255	454	709	270	495	765	232	392	624
Total	6,160	7,939	14,099	6,601	8,685	15,286	5,549	6,956	12,505

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing

- Data 2017 -2018 not available

Table 21 Grantees for Child allowance (AKB) by district, sex and number of children 2014 -2015

District	2014				2015			
	AKB beneficiaries			Number of	AKB beneficiaries			Number of
	M	F	Total	Children	M	F	Total	Children
Paramaribo	914	12,483	13,397	27,859	932	13,892	14,824	30,322
Wanica	1,128	7,424	8,552	17,569	1,219	8,211	9,430	19,008
Nickerie	764	1,984	2,748	5,025	761	2,042	2,803	4,983
Coronie	11	97	108	209	13	101	114	220
Saramacca	129	844	973	1,952	139	930	1069	2,075
Commewijne	404	1,648	2,052	3,972	429	1,825	2,254	4,270
Marowijne	30	1,391	1,421	3,482	15	1,385	1,400	3,352
Para	90	1,994	2,084	5,072	94	2,196	2,290	5,430
Brokopondo	6	1,247	1,253	3,505	2	1,373	1,375	3,755
Sipaliwini	479	4,970	5,449	14,079	208	5,150	5,358	13,805
Total	3,955	34,082	38,037	82,724	3,812	37,105	40,917	87,220

Bron: Ministerie van SoZaVo/Dienst AUSV

Table 22 Grantees for Child allowance (AKB) by district, sex and number of children 2016-2017

District	2016				2017			
	AKB beneficiaries			Number of	Beneficiaries		Total	Number of Children
	M	F	Total	Children	F	M	M+F	
Paramaribo	1,081	14,539	15,620	31,429	15,049	1,118	16,167	32,233
Wanica	1,244	8,668	9,912	19,702	9,053	1,279	10,332	20,177
Nickerie	756	2,074	2,830	4,890	2,441	112	2,553	5,761
Coronie	15	92	107	202	1,962	403	2,365	4,354
Saramacca	135	923	1,058	1,980	948	135	1,083	2,001
Commewijne	418	1,917	2,335	4,368	2,058	734	2,792	4,797
Marowijne	31	1,389	1,420	3,287	79	15	94	172
Para	104	2,386	2,490	5,733	1,288	34	1,322	3,029
Brokopondo	9	1,426	1,435	3,882	1,419	6	1,425	3,853
Sipaliwini	51	5,324	5,375	13,394	5,199	50	5,249	13,142
Totaal	3,844	38,738	42,582	88,867	39,496	3,886	43,382	89,519

Bron: Ministerie van SoZaVo/Dienst AUSV

Table 23 Grantees for Child allowance by district and sex, 2018

2018				
District	Beneficiaries			Number of Children
	Sex		M+F	
	F	M		
Paramaribo	15,495	1,126	16,621	32,798
Wanica	9,250	1,275	10,525	20,276
Para	2,542	110	2,652	5,917
Commewijne	2,030	403	2,433	4,420
Saramacca	985	136	1,121	2,036
Nickerie	2,067	723	2,790	4,735
Coronie	83	13	96	175
Marowijne	1,330	31	1,361	2,995
Brokopondo	1,478	8	1,486	3,912
Sipaliwini	5,180	53	5,233	12,943
TOTAL	40,440	3,878	44,318	90,207

Bron: Min.SoZaVo/Dienst AUSV-AKB

EDUCATION

Table 24 Gender Parity Index (GPI) by educational level ,2009-2018

SCHOOL YEAR	Education Level			
	GLO	VOJ	VOS	TERTIAR
2009-2010	0.93	1.09	1.67	1.93
2010-2011	0.94	1.07	1.71	1.93
2011-2012	0.94	1.2	1.76	2.52
2012-2013	0.93	1.2	1.79	2.49
2013-2014	0.96	1.2	2.02	2.21
2014-2015	0.94	1.09	1.69	2.04
2015-2016	0.94	1.12	1.65	2.01
2016-2017	0.93	1.11	1.57	2.01
2017-2018	0.93	1.04	NA	NA

Source : Ministry of Education /Research and planning unit

Table 25 Percentage of students enrolled and graduates in the FMeSc*, 2013-2016

Academic Year	Enrolled		Graduates	
	M	F	M	F
2013-2014	34	66	60	40
2014-2015	33	67	89	11
2015-2016	36	64	33	67
2016-2017	38	62	-	-

Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men, and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

* FMeSc: Faculty of Medical Sciences

Table 26 Percentage of Students Enrolled and graduates in the FTeSc*, 2013-2016

Academic Year	Enrolled		Graduates	
	M	F	M	F
2013-2014	42	58	55	45
2014-2015	41	59	26	74
2015-2016	45	55	40	60
2016-2017	43	57	-	-

Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men, and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

* FTeSc: Faculty of Technological Science

Table 27 Percentage of Students Enrolled and graduates in the FSoSc*, 2013-2016

Academic Year	Enrolled		Graduates	
	M	F	M	F
2013-2014	25	75	23	77
2014-2015	26	74	20	80
2015-2016	27	73	18	82
2016-2017	28	72	-	-

Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men, and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

*FSoSc: Faculty of Social Sciences