



# Suriname SDG Policy Analysis Report

September 2022

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## Introduction

In December 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation (BIBIS) and the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO) in Suriname proposed the assignment for conducting the policy analysis of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Suriname. The objectives of the policy analysis were to:

1. Examine Suriname's achievements in implementing the SDGs in detail using UN guidelines on SDG reporting;
2. Review how the SDGs have been aligned with Suriname's national policy frameworks; and
3. Assess Suriname's progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including: the SDGs and targets.

The analysis was of importance due to Suriname's commitment to submit its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report in June 2022 to the United Nations. For its first VNR, the Government of Suriname decided to report on the SDGs 4, 8, 13 and 17.

Through this assignment, technical support was provided to support the Government's VNR technical committee to prepare the first VNR report. The VNR was finalized in June 2022 and the Government delegation participated in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in July 2022, where it presented the findings of the VNR.

The analysis of the implementation of the SDGs 4, 8, 13 and 17 in Suriname is therefore taken up in the Suriname's first VNR report, while this report contains the analysis of the remaining SDGs.

It should be noted that this policy analysis can serve as a baseline for determining Suriname's progress on the implementation of the SDGs. Through desk review, consultations and interviews with government officials, civil society representatives, private sector stakeholders, and representatives of international organizations working in Suriname, policy information was gathered as much as possible. However, it is evident that not all implemented policy interventions, programmes and projects have been identified. There have been limitations that impacted a complete analysis of the policy interventions. For example, it is evident that there are challenges with centralized policy information gathering and evaluation within the Ministries. Information of policy implementation and evaluation is scattered within the Ministries, as a result of which different responsible persons within the respective Ministries have to provide the data and information. This is not effective for a proper policy evaluation and analysis. Also, not all relevant government stakeholders were available for the consultations and interviews due to different circumstances, which have led to information gaps.

Based on the information that has been gathered and collected, the status of implementation based on the respective SDG targets have been determined. The SDG analysis assignment took place simultaneously with the assignment to prepare the Suriname SDG Data and Analysis Repository. This assignment was crucial to support the SDG policy analysis assignment, since the gathered data supported the policy analysis.

In the following chapters, the policy analysis for the SDGs that were not part of Suriname's first VNR are presented. It should be noted that for the first VNR, a traffic light model was used to determine the status per target of a certain SDG. This assessment has not taken place as yet for the SDGs taken up in this report. This will require a thorough discussion with the management of the Ministries. This report can serve as a baseline for the Government's plan to prepare the second VNR. It is highly recommended that the national SDG committee, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Relations complements the policy information per SDG in this report, to start preparing for the next VNR report of Suriname.

Simultaneously, the Suriname SDG Data and Analysis Repository should be updated and maintained. A recommendation is to organize writing workshops per SDG with the key Ministry/Ministries taking part with all relevant technical staff who can provide the policy and data input.

Important is also building the capacity of the national SDG committee and the SDG Platform (forum of government, private sector and civil society) in understanding the targets and indicators. In the current state of affairs, the policy that is being implemented should be related to the SDG targets and indicators. This will also facilitate the monitoring of the Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022-2026. It is also important to acknowledge that not all policy within the Ministries is developed based on the SDGs. Some Ministries have specifically related their policy interventions to the relevant SDGs but not all.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the full support and engagement of the team of the UNRCO in Suriname, Ms. Jessica Chandnani and Mr. Jozef Moestadjap, the deputy director International Cooperation of the Ministry of BIBIS, Ms. Elizabeth Bradley and her team and the VNR technical committee.

This assignment would have not been completed without the huge effort of my colleagues Anjali Kisoensingh and Rosita Sobhie, responsible for the Suriname SDG Data and Analysis Repository. Appreciation is also extended to Ms. Jacqueline Warso of the Ministry of BIBIS and Ms. Tesora Ooft for their review and editing of the reports.

## Chapter I Sustainable Development Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Status of the Targets

SDG 1 Targets		Status
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day		
1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions		
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable		
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance		
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters		
1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions		
1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## Policy context and Progress

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day**
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions**
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable**

Poverty refers to a situation where households and individuals don't have enough resources to ensure decent living conditions and therefore face many challenges to make ends meet. Due to the multi-faceted nature of poverty, social protection systems and poverty targeting programmes need to be flexible and take multiple dimensions into account to be successful. In the past decade the Surinamese government faced many challenges due to deterioration of the economic situation, the dynamic change in the concept and practice/reality of poverty, and the COVID pandemic. Still poverty alleviation is one of the main policy goals. Ensuring wellbeing and prosperity for its citizens, is one of the fundamentals which is anchored in the Surinamese Constitution, and is stated as follows:

'Ensuring prosperity and well-being for every citizen is the aspiration of every government ... the social objectives of the State are aimed at, among other things, a fair distribution of the national income, aimed at a just distribution of well-being and prosperity among all layers of the population'.

Using the international monetary poverty lines for indicator 1.1.1, the figures show that in 2014 about 22% of the households were living below the USD 1.90 (ppp) a day, and about 44% with less than USD 3.20 (ppp) a day, using consumption expenditures as a proxy for income. There are distinct differences at geographical level and by economic status. Employed household head's and those who are retired have a relatively lower risk to be observed as poor. This difference is not reflected by gender of the household head.

Measuring poverty in Suriname has always been a challenge. In 2016 the National Committee for Poverty Measurement and Targeting Strategies proposed to use both the basic needs approach (using the energy-food-intake methodology), and the multidimensional approach as poverty measure for Suriname and formulated the following National Poverty Definition:

'Poverty of households in Suriname is characterized by a lack of income and/or possession to acquire a basic package of food and other necessary goods and services, which are needed for a dignified life. It should be noted that necessary goods and services include adequate housing, clothing, footwear, but also access to public services and services such as education, health care and utilities (water and electricity), transport and participation in society. By composing the poverty characteristics, disparities between the different districts will be considered.'

The work of the 2016 Committee has been continued by the Multidisciplinary Poverty Measurement Committee installed in 2020. The main target for the Government is to develop a national framework for measuring poverty in Suriname. This involves research on and testing of existing poverty approaches, calculation techniques and procedures for determining the incidence and severity of poverty, the limitations of the monetary approach, and the identification of indicators to be used as proxies in targeting programmes. The National Poverty Committee proposes the following basic needs poverty lines using the food energy intake method, using the latest household budget survey data.

The latest household budget survey carried out in 2013/2014, collected consumption expenditures data from households. Based on the reported consumption on food of these households, a food basket is derived based on a 2200 Kcal daily diet, using the products (vegetables, meat, grains, etc.) with the highest nutritional level, based on the most economic prices and taking account of separate food/nutritional groups.

In the list presented in this section you find the items which were included based upon the consumption expenditures of households in the country. The value of this basket is about SRD 309 (equivalent to USD 93 using 2014 exchange rates) on a monthly base. This amount of SRD 309 can be referred to as the food poverty line for an adult or a 1-person household. Using equivalence scales, food poverty lines for households with varying sizes and compositions can be derived. Households with an income less than the respective food poverty lines can be considered households with a high risk to be observed extreme poor, since they have a high risk for not being able to afford a daily diet of 2200 kcal per day.

By expanding this food basket with non -food, but very essential basic items as housing, health, utilities, the value of the basket is increased to SRD 515 per month for an adult (1 -person household), based on the price levels of December 2014 (equivalent to USD 156 per month using 2014 exchange rates) for an adult or a 1-person household.

This basket value of SRD 515 (and adjusted by household size and composition) serve as the National Poverty line for 2014. Using inflation figures these poverty lines are updated to estimate the current level.

By using these national poverty lines about 46% (living below SRD 515 per month using 2014 exchange rates) is poor and 25% extreme poor, since they could not afford the food basket in 2014. There is a huge inequality between urban and rural. In December 2021 the estimated poverty line is SRD 3365 per person (USD 157 using 2021 exchange rates).

		National Poverty line in SRD, December 2020 by household size and composition					National Poverty line in SRD, December 2021 by household size and composition				
		Number of children					Number of children				
		0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Number of adults	1	2,081	2,946	3,691	4,367	4,991	3,365	4,762	5,966	7,059	8,069
	2	3,290	4,002	4,654	5,260	5,832	5,318	6,469	7,523	8,503	9,427
	3	4,302	4,930	5,520	6,080	6,614	6,953	7,969	8,924	9,828	10,692
	4	5,199	5,775	6,323	6,847	7,352	8,403	9,336	10,221	11,068	11,884

With the estimated poverty lines not only the poverty incidence is calculated and the poor are identified, but also characteristics of the poor can be derived.

The incidence of poverty and the main poverty characteristics at country level, using available data from latest Census (2012) and the more recent data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2018, shows that the headcount ratio (H) lies between 24-28 percent, while the poverty intensity (A) is about 40 percent. Disaggregation at district level and by ethnicity reveals high discrepancies for specific population subgroups. For example, the incidence of multidimensional poverty for households in the interior is higher (around 75%) than for households located in the urban (15%) and rural regions (25%). The inequality in poverty incidence between female- and male-headed households is much lower, than between ethnic groups.

With regard to the social protection system, the Government of Suriname is providing social provisions to citizens based on certain criteria to determine eligibility.

These benefits are (i) the old age allowance which is a universal provision for persons of 60 years and older; (ii) financial assistance for persons with disabilities; (iii) financial assistance for poor households and (iv) the general child allowance for persons who do not receive child allowance through their employer. The estimated poverty lines can provide poverty profiles which can serve as a base to decide upon eligibility of households and individuals for specific poverty programmes.

Before 2014, the Government implemented a health-card system operated through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing, through which persons who were categorized as low income received a health card, which provided access to primary and secondary health care. In 2014, the Government adopted the National Basic Health Insurance Act. Through this Act, children in the age-group 0-16 years and persons of 60 years and older are automatically eligible for the basic health insurance. For persons in the age group 17-59 years, there are criteria to determine whether they can receive a health card subsidized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing.

Major beneficiaries of these social provisions are women, considering their overrepresentation in lower income groups and the growing number of female heads of households.

By using basic health-card insurance, persons insured are guaranteed a basic health care package: medicines, doctor's treatment and selected specialist and paramedical treatments.

About 11% of the population receives the elderly allowance. In Suriname every person aged 60 years and older received by administrative regulation an old age pension. The percentage of the number of registered persons that receives financial assistance is about 2% of the population. Also, about 2% of the population receives financial support for having a disability. Due to improved health security care system, there is an increase from 10% around 2015 to 35% in 2021 in health insurance coverage for those in need and not being able to pay for their health insurance.

**1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance**

Using the multidimensional poverty method, as proposed by the National Poverty Committee, the standard of living is one of the assessed dimensions. Access to basic services as drinking water, electricity, sanitation and waste disposal are indicators among others to derive the household's standard of living by testing the deprivation level of each household. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018 survey, about 98% has access to any kind of improved drinking water source. Two percent uses an unimproved source or surface water. For sanitation about 90% makes use of a basic service, however in the Interior access to these services is only available for less than 50% of the population living there. Ninety-four percent of the population has access to electricity from an interconnected grid. Again, for in the Interior this basic facility is only available for 56% of the population.

Fifty-two percent of the population living in the urban areas has access to internet at home; this counts for 42% of the rural population and for about 22% of the population living in the Interior. Looking at national figures Suriname's status to access of basic needs services improved significantly, still the situation in remote areas needs special attention.

**1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters**

The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), responsible for coordination, prevention and/or management of crises and disasters, has trained disaster response teams in land search and rescue (LSAR). To be able to provide assistance on community level in all ten districts of Suriname, administrative officials of the respective District Commissioners' offices, staff of the Medical Services and other actors were trained in disaster risk management, and are part of the National Disaster Response Teams.



**1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

**1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions**

With the proposed measures for poverty, the possibility to derive selection criteria to carry out social protection programmes depicts positive developments regarding poverty alleviation. Continued efforts are made to strengthen the social protection programmes for those in need namely subsidies for utilities, subsidies for fuel, subsidized transportation for citizens and more specifically for persons with a disability and elderly, financial assistance programmes, subsidized school fees and grants, vocational training and employment programmes for adolescents and persons with a disability, subsidies and provision of food and milk to care institutions for elderly, children and persons with a disability, affordable housing programmes for those with no or low-income, providing food packages to families in need, school transportation for children from all levels of school and the baby feeding programme. With both national and international partners, financial resources are being mobilized for the investments in social protection.

## Chapter II Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

### Status of the Targets

SDG 2 Targets		Status
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round		
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons		
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment		
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality		
2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed		
2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries		
2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round		
2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## Policy context and Progress

### **2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round**

In 2015, the Government of Suriname with the support of FAO, prepared the Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) policy for sustainable improvement of the production, access and consumption of adequate and healthy food. The FNS agenda deals with cross-sectoral themes such as sustainable agricultural, employment, health, education and social programs and distinguishes 4 components:

- a) availability focusing on sustainable agriculture production
- b) accessibility addressing infrastructure, employment, safety nets
- c) utilization including lifestyle education and food safety
- d) sustainability relating to all threats including economic shocks and climate change

The implementation of this policy has been taken up, however there are institutional, human resources and financial challenges that impede effective implementation.

In the context of food security and food safety, various training courses have been provided to stakeholders in the different regions of Suriname, including plant propagation, construction of nurseries, construction of vegetable gardens, Good Agricultural Practices, Pest Risks Analyses, Communication skills, etc. Within the project Cassava Industry – Market Assessment and Technology Validation and Dissemination, the training “Farmer Field School” (FFS) was provided, in which the knowledge and skills of Agricultural Extension Officers and Researchers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries were increased.

In regard to adolescent and adult feeding, national nutritional guidelines have been developed and will be distributed to the wider society e.g. through school.

School feeding projects: schools are selected on a sample basis and together with the schools and support of all relevant government entities, the school gardens are established to promote healthy eating.

The Government has been providing food packages to low-income households or those with no income. The Government has also been providing day care centers as well as institutions for the elderly and persons with a disability with food packages and milk. To support those households with no or low-income, the Government is executing a financial assistance programme, through which these households receive a monthly financial provision. There are also programmes for a monthly financial provision for persons with a disability.

The programme for pilot testing and validating the revised Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) for Suriname is being executed. The objectives are: (i) to support the Government of Suriname to pilot test the FBDGs messages with focus groups; (ii) to analyze the results and incorporate the changes into the FBDG messages; and (iii) to validate the revised FBDGs with different stakeholders through interactive sessions to ensure their clarity, cultural appropriateness and usability for meal planning and choosing healthy food options and lifestyles. The expected results are food messages and graphics that are understood by all ethnicity groups living in Suriname and applied to some extent to daily food preparation and intake - revised and new FBDGs to support the Suriname population on choosing, preparing and eating healthy foods.

To guarantee food security, vegetable gardens are set up at educational institutions, childcare centers and homes for the elderly. The children and the elderly are thus encouraged to plant their own fruit and vegetables.

Vegetable gardens have been laid out at various children's homes, as well as at various schools in the different regions. Various resort gardens have a greenhouse, which serves as a demonstration object for those interested. Several vegetable varieties were grown in open ground, both in a greenhouse and in an open field.

The National Food Safety Institute (NIVS) law was approved by the President of Suriname in January 2021. The Government received support for the introduction of innovative practices, capacity building and facilitating the development and/or revisions to legislative and regulatory frameworks as well as capacity building in food safety to enable stakeholders to adopt specified national standards. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries collaborated with FAO to complete an assessment for the establishment of a certification body. As a result, 2,000 farmers, exporters, food processors participated in food safety activities, and over 100 extension officers, customs officials and exporters received training in food safety protocol. Customs and border control officials participated in sensitization sessions on the handling of fruits and vegetables in compliance with the Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary protocols. Laboratory operators were trained and food safety laboratory and analytical equipment was procured.

The Ministry of Health's baby food project is also in execution and has feeding provided to more than 1,700 mothers. The project is part of the measures in the Recovery Plan and is intended to mainly accommodate low-income families.

## **2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons**

The policy focused on updating the counseling chart for feeding, whereby information is provided to parents about nutrition of their child. The tools and protocols were developed in the period 2016-2019. The health workers were trained but there have been some delays in re-training of the health workers due to the COVID pandemic.

The baby and toddler booklet has been updated and this booklet is provided to parents and health workers as a guidance.

With support of the PAHO, strategies have been proposed and an action plan has been drafted to promote healthy lifestyles throughout communities.

Having found increasing non-compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in recent years, the Government has drafted national codes of practice for the marketing of formula milk and related products, and also for food products for infants and young children. There are also efforts to integrate and promote breastfeeding.

Strengthening baby-friendly care and optimal nutrition by supporting breastfeeding in hospitals and primary health care facilities, parental awareness, counseling on early stimulation, nutrition and advocating for family-friendly policies. Awareness and communication targeting approximately 10,000 mothers yearly, promoting exclusive breastfeeding practices and proper complementary feeding continued as part of the infant and young child feeding plus (IYCF+) strategy.

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was implemented in all-5 national hospitals and primary health care facilities out of which 2 hospitals progressed to the external BFHI assessment stage. Under the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) 230 healthcare workers were trained in the 20-hour maternity ward including training in two regions in the Interior, two hospitals and consultation clinics for pre- and postnatal care in two districts. Percentage of healthy births in hospitals covered by the BFHI increased from 9,063 (91 percent) in 2018 to 9,616 (96 percent) in 2019.

**2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment**

**2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality**

To increase agricultural productivity in Suriname, investments are made in infrastructure and management of irrigation and drainage systems in the main production areas in the country.

For the agriculture investment promotion, strengthening of critical areas of the extractive and agricultural sector is in preparation. Mapping the soils of the entire country will be done and addressing the constraints for investments in the agricultural sector.

The agriculture competitiveness programme aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector by supporting improvements in animal health, plant health and food safety and by promoting innovation through research and technology transfer.

To stimulate agricultural productivity and increase agricultural production, various agricultural engineering works were carried out in the different agricultural areas. Investments have been made in rehabilitating and overhauling of pumping stations.

With the Government of Malaysia, the Government of Suriname executed the reverse linkage project with the aim to enhance the capacity of Suriname in rice production in order to maintain self-sufficiency and increase the export of high-quality rice. New area-specific rice varieties with disease and pest resistance characteristics were introduced and the soil fertility was strengthened.

Investments in the coconut farming will lead to improvements about the knowledge regarding the selection of a mother tree for making plant material, the main common pests and recognizing the symptoms, recognizing nutrient deficiencies. A coconut nursery has been renovated in one of the Interior areas of Suriname. Furthermore, training courses have been provided to coconut growers and processors and other stakeholders in the two Rural districts and one Interior district.

Suriname has participated in the regional programme on Cassava Industry Development – Market Assessment and Technology Validation and Dissemination. The main purpose was to demonstrate improved crop management practices; disseminate new cassava production technology and strengthen farmers capacity to conduct participatory research.

The ‘Enhancing Food Security in Response to COVID-19 by Improving Access to Locally Grown Food’ programme’s focus is on the reduction of post-harvest losses in the crops cassava, mango and vegetables. A baseline survey of the crops was performed. Equipment for the Post-Harvest lab will also be delivered.

Hydroponics is the cultivation of plants in water, to which the necessary nutrients have been added. Research is being carried out in the cultivation of some vegetable crops with hydroponic systems and on substrate cultivation. In addition, visitors are given a guided tour and training courses are provided.

The National Development Fund for Agri-business (NOFA) has been established. The aim of the Fund is to provide credit to agricultural entrepreneurs in a responsible manner in order to strengthen their competitive position and earning capacity. The law establishing this fund was approved by the DNA in March 2022.

The project Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project (SAMAP) enhances sustainable agricultural development for inclusive growth and employment. The main impact indicator is to increase the level of assets/income of targeted smallholders by at least 15% in real terms. The project aims at increased, more competitive and safer production of selected crops (particularly fruits and vegetables) through an enabling environment and enhanced capacities of private sector and institutions.

Through the Matching Grant Facility (MGF), 155 Small and Large Grants have been successfully passed. Especially small-scale producers, agro-processors and agro-exporters from all districts in Suriname benefit from an investment support in the form of agricultural tools, machines and services for a total amount of almost USD 1.12 million. Sustainable production and value chain development and Strengthening food safety capacities and standards and their application to the private sector, are main areas of focus.

The Readiness Grant "Improving the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture of Suriname to build resilience to climate change in the agriculture sector" was approved on 15 December 2020 by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project aims to improve the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and partners, through enhancing systems, networks, skills and expertise in data assimilation and analysis for climate change in the agriculture sector and contribute to building the enabling environment to support the planning, programming and implementation of GCF-funded activities. The project will also build the capacity and provide the baseline data to allow Suriname to submit a project concept note to the GCF. Till date, the establishment of a Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries to coordinate all climate change related issues in the agricultural sector has taken place. Two Action Learning meetings held for the relevant stakeholders and a work plan has been developed for the Vulnerability Assessment for two regions in Suriname. The plan will be implemented through a Letter of Agreement with the Agricultural University of Wageningen in the Netherlands (WUR).

The Government has made preparations for the implementation of the following programmes:

1. Perspectives on Policy Interventions for the agrifood sector in Suriname: Focus on the Indigenous and Tribal Communities
2. The Accelerator for Agriculture and Agroindustry Development and Innovation Plus-Pineapple Value Chain
3. Inclusion, Building Resilience and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous & Tribal Peoples in Suriname
4. CLME+ - Sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil shelf large marine ecosystems aiming at catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region).

**2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed**

The agriculture competitiveness programme aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector by supporting improvements in animal health, plant health and food safety and by promoting innovation through research and technology transfer. Some of the activities executed are: (i) research into environmentally friendly control measures against a number of diseases and pests has been completed, as well as research into the production of 7 varieties of sweet potato; (ii) training and training materials for compost production have been completed; (iii) two training courses for farmers and extension officers in the cultivation of passion fruit have been completed; (iv) training in vegetable crop cultivation for the farmers in one of the rural districts has been completed; (v) training of inspectors for export has been completed; (vi) educational videos have been produced about composting, citrus, hand pollination for passion fruit, plant propagation in sweet potato and the fruit fly.

The Foundation for Experimental Agriculture was established to support rice research and livestock farming activities. In view of the great need for support in the Agricultural sector in the rice district of Nickerie, programmes have been carried out in the field of rice research and animal husbandry e.g. seed production has already started.

At the Agricultural Practice Center in the rural district of Saramacca, testing ground will be set up to share knowledge and techniques among farmers in the surrounding area to increase the production of various crops. The deforestation work of 15 hectare of agricultural land has taken place. The starting signal for the establishment of the center will take place in the second half of 2022.

To strengthen the livestock production framework, a cooperation agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and the Polytechnic College Suriname for the development and provision of the 'Animal Production and Health Technology' programme.

Animal disease monitoring and surveillance: the sanitary position of animal health is strengthened and brought into line with the standards, guidelines and recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). In this context, an international consultant was recruited in December 2021 to develop the surveillance program.

Veterinary Laboratory: the laboratory is an important link for guaranteeing food safety and the animal disease monitoring system. A start has been made with the tendering procedure for the purchase of lab equipment for the current veterinary laboratory.

Animal husbandry legislation: the current laws are outdated and insufficient for the desired development of the livestock sector and further processing of its products. Some drafts have already been approved by the Government: draft Decree Import and Transit of Meat and other Animal products for own consumption, draft Transport decision and draft Restriction Act on Slaughter of Female Cattle.

**2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries**

**The agriculture orientation index for Government expenditures**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>445,000</b>	<b>466,000</b>
Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	2,224,604	2,936,143	2,991,850	2,727,737	3,142,529
<b>2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>14.8</b>

**2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

**2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

## Chapter III Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### Status of the Targets

SDG 3Targets		Status
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births		
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births		
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases		
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being		
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol		
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents		
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes		
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all		
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination		
3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate		
3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all		
3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States		
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/ Not applicable</b>



## Policy context and Progress

**3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births**

**3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births**

The Government has implemented/implements its policy based on the approved National Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health Action Plan 2013-2016 and the National Maternal Health and Mortality Reduction Priority Plan July 2019-September 2020. The Government updated its policy and the Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy 2021-2025, with an action plan for the period 2021-2023, has been approved and it's the most recent policy framework.

The policy activities to reduce maternal and infant mortality include (i) training of health professionals; (ii) strengthen health care professionals with knowledge and skills about mother (pregnancy) and child (neonatal) care and providing information and awareness to women and families; (iii) increasing the accessibility of care and improving the infrastructure of the health facilities; (iv) producing and implementing protocols and guidelines for care. Preparations are undertaken to strengthen the collection of perinatal data and to establish the Perinatal Information System (SIP). Training has been/is being provided in maternal deaths review as well as maternity ward training.

For integrated reviews of maternal deaths, a multi-disciplinary Maternal Mortality review committee (the committee Maternal Mortality Suriname [MaMS]) was initiated in 2015. The committee reviewed (potential) maternal mortality cases and collected additional case information if necessary. Based on the analysis of the committee, the adaptation of international obstetric guidelines to the national context to address Suriname's most common maternal health problems took place and obstetric emergency training was provided to health professionals. The evaluation of the previous guidelines and the development of guidelines on postnatal and antenatal care, emergency obstetrics, and early warning scores followed in April 2019. In addition to the quality-of-care improvement projects, committee MaMS was involved in conducting nationwide studies on maternal morbidity and near-miss (2017–2019), childbirth outcomes, and stillbirths. In April 2020, the Government installed a national steering committee for maternal health and mortality reduction to reinforce the coordination of the maternal health programme in Suriname. This steering committee guides, advises, coordinates and monitors response, but needs to be re-formalized.

The MDSR (maternal death surveillance and response system) working group looked into improvements in surveillance and maternal death audit, dissemination of recommendations, and delineation of roles for response by specifying specific tasks and responsibilities. The COVID-19 pandemic impeded the work of this working group and this group needs to be re-established.

In 2013, the renovated neonatal intensive care unit which was completed at the Academic Hospital in Paramaribo was equipped with the necessary equipment. This provided enhanced specialized care that was urgently needed. To increase access to information to parents, the baby and toddler book was evaluated and rewritten and is used by both parents and health professionals.

The policy and revised guidelines for health workers regarding PMTCT were finalized and implemented. Also, the quality of care group set up and training programme was established. Also, breastfeeding and complimentary feeding training to parents/mothers is and the development of educational material will be re-initiated.

The continued efforts will be on (i) health education and community engagement; (ii) develop and implement national guidelines and protocols for maternal and neonatal care with the aim of providing uniform and tailor-made maternal and neonatal care, leading to safe pregnancies and deliveries and neonatal care; (iii) implementation of perinatal information system; (iv) integrated management of pregnancy and childbirth protocols; (v) integrated management of childhood illness protocols to be applied to all primary outpatient clinics; (vi) implementing the Code of Marketing for Breastfeeding Substitutes (legislation has been drafted and needs approval and promulgation); and (vii) promoting breastfeeding by developing a national breastfeeding policy.

Between 2017-2019, the Sint Vincentius Hospital in Paramaribo and the Dutch Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) implemented the Perinatal Interventions Suriname (Perisur) project, through which the development and execution of an educational programme aimed at informing the society about adverse birth outcomes was done. In this regard a pregnancy book for pregnant women has been developed with information about safe/healthy pregnancy. The project focus is on the promotion of healthy pregnancies and a healthy start for newborn 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.

### **3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases**

The Malaria Programme in Suriname is coordinating the implementation of the policy. In the last decade with support from the Global Fund and applying the best practices generated by the AMI-RAVREDA network, (USAID-PAHO) Suriname has reached the Roll Back Malaria and the Millennium Development Goals for Malaria. Malaria has practically been eliminated in Suriname. The positive impact has been accomplished due to:

1. The national ownership and leadership
2. The Malaria information system adequate for the analysis, monitoring, evaluation and planning
3. Test Treat and Track (T3) approach
4. Distribution of LLINs (long-lasting Insecticide treated nets) for the high-risk populations
5. Operational research
6. Integrated health services for the vulnerable migrant populations in the mining areas.

The crosscutting areas are: (i) information, education and communication (IEC) and (ii) regional collaboration to expand the elimination efforts to French Guiana, Brazil and Guyana.

The principles for the implementation of the policy strategies are:

1. Maintain Malaria high in the national development agenda and articulate the inclusion of elimination
2. Adopt evidence-based norms, standards, policies, guidelines and innovative technologies for malaria control and elimination
3. Intensify and accelerate malaria control to reach universal coverage especially in the high-risk migrant populations
4. Keep diagnosis and treatment of malaria (including hospitalization) free of charge with special attention for undocumented persons
5. Allow free access to LLINs for selected vulnerable populations
6. Incorporate the ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity among the target populations into the malaria programme's activities
7. Integrate as much as possible the malaria programme's activities into existing primary health care services.

For the period 2021-2025, the National Malaria Strategic Plan contains the following main objectives:

1. Sustain the required financial resources, national management capacity, and structures to effectively and efficiently deliver the interventions needed to achieve and maintain elimination.
2. Decrease the number of imported cases working towards elimination in the Guyana Shield through an active campaign of advocacy with the neighboring countries, at the regional, and international level, to convince the health authorities of the need to provide free malaria diagnosis, treatment, and prevention in the mining areas.
3. Preventive measures, early, free diagnosis, free treatment, and follow up of all cases to avoid reintroduction of malaria.

4. Immediate containment of outbreaks that includes using novel strategies to control *P. vivax* relapses.

The main strategies of implementation for 2021-2025 are:

1. Intensify the current commitment and the national and regional coordination of the malaria elimination effort in the country and also work with the partners to the extent of the elimination of Malaria to the whole of the Guyana Shield.
2. Maintain an information system adequate for the analysis, monitoring, evaluation, and planning.
3. Expand the T3 (Test Treat and Track) as DTIR (Diagnosis, Treatment, Investigation, and Response).
4. Maintain the capacity of the Medical Mission in the Interior areas of Suriname to deliver malaria services in the villages of the interior.
5. Maintain the integrated health services for vulnerable migrant populations.
6. Maintain and expand with task shifting, towards the provision of more integrated health services, the clinics and posts for migrants.
7. Strengthen the entomological component to improve vector management.
8. Execute key operational research to generate evidence for accelerating the impact towards elimination.

The National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) in Suriname has registered 93 tuberculosis cases in 2021. This is a decrease of 16% the year before (110 cases in 2020 and 139 in 2019). The percentage of successfully treated cases in 2020 is 74% and 15% have died. 10% of the cases are lost to follow up (withdrew from care and could no longer be contacted). This is a decline compared to 2019 where 78% were treated successfully and in 2018 it was still 87%.

The NTP tries to contribute to the fight against Tuberculosis (TB) by training relevant stakeholders. Work is also underway to raise TB awareness among both health professionals and the general public. The NTP will further promote the early detection of tuberculosis in mainly high-risk groups and ensure that the percentage of successfully treated patients improves further.

### **3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being**

The policy framework for Suriname have been the following documents:

1. National Mental Health Plan 2015-2020
2. National Plan Suicide Prevention 2015-2020
3. National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2015-2020

The evaluation and update of these documents is currently in progress.

With regard to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), the emphasis has been on (i) developing public education programmes on health and healthy lifestyle; (ii) developing guidelines and protocols related to the prevention, measurement and management of NCDs; (iii) implementing physical activity strategies through intersectoral collaboration; (iv) conducting health education through education and the mass media about dietary guidelines; and with regard to cancer in particular, increase the access to cervical screening and a change in the law regarding the availability of oncological drugs.

Suriname is committed to the implementation of the HEARTS model, which will be the model for the cardiovascular disease risk management, including hypertension, diabetes, and dyslipidemia in primary health care.

The preparations for implementing this model are in progress. The treatment and counseling system will be improved. Specific protocols are in development and will also take into account healthy lifestyle. Within the implementation of HEARTS there will be a monitoring and evaluation system, since data collection will also be important.

A national mental health and psychosocial support plan and risk communication strategic plan have been developed and are awaiting approval.

In the coming period, the policy focus will be on:

1. Promoting health literacy and early learning of a healthy lifestyle, through, among other things, the implementation of health education in the curriculum from primary schools;
2. Adaptation and implementation of the "Health Promoting School" concept;
3. More health education to the population;
4. Promoting accessibility of sports (safe exercise areas) and good nutrition;
5. Bringing care for chronic conditions closer to the care recipient through integration in primary care;
6. Improving and expanding the registration and surveillance of chronic non-communicable diseases in primary and secondary care;
7. Inventory of prevalence of risk factors for chronic NCDs (execute STEPS 2 survey);
8. Drafting and implementation of a salt reduction plan.

### **3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol**

Within the Government structure, the National Anti-drug Council has the objective to take measures to effectively reduce the demand for drugs, in which drug prevention and treatment play an important role.

The prevention focuses on increasing the awareness of the community in general and the young people in particular with regard to alcohol and drug prevention. The Council is also involved in the development and implementation of a national anti-drug awareness campaigns aimed at the community in general and in particular young people aged 11 to 21 years with the aim of providing the Surinamese youth with information about the risks of alcohol and drug use/abuse.

People living with substance abuse are treated in the following rehabilitation and aftercare centers: the Psychiatric Hospital (Unit Detoxification and Addiction Clinic for Ambulant Services) and non-governmental organizations such as Foundation De Stem; Foundation Geloof en Nieuw Leven; Foundation Victory Outreach and Foundation Liefdevolle Handen.

The policy implementation in the past period looked into (i) strengthening non-governmental organizations in addiction care by recruiting staff; (ii) training of stakeholders' employees in Low-threshold Guidance; and (iii) supporting the Surinamese community with regard to prevention

The policy focus for the coming period will be on:

1. Conducting a Youth alcohol survey
2. Together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and the Ministry of Justice and Police, mapping and undertaking short-term actions on the smoking and alcohol use of adolescents
3. Installation of new Council members to strengthen the policy
4. Execution of national prevention awareness campaign regarding substance use, gambling and gaming
5. Further strengthening the treatment centers to implement the standards.

### **3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents**

The data of the Ministry of Justice and Police indicate an average number of approximately 80 road traffic fatalities. The Strategic Plan for Road Safety 2018 – 2021 has been approved and the priority areas that have been addressed are:

1. The adaptation of the layout of roads
2. Redesigning of intersections
3. Improved enforcement (lighting, speed, wearing a helmet or seatbelt)
4. Ban on handheld calling when driving a car and vehicles
5. Tightening of the mandatory vehicle inspection and
6. Adaptation of vehicle lighting regulations.

### **3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes**

The National Policy Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2019-2025 is the guiding policy document.

The majority of sexual and reproductive services offered in healthcare centers are primarily focused on services related to maternal health and HIV related services, with most emphasize on pre-natal, deliveries and post-natal control, and HIV testing. Relatively limited attention is given to preventive sexual health, such as sexuality education, awareness raising and counseling.

Most of these health clinics are basic health care clinics or larger community health centers and spread along the coast and throughout the Interior. Forty-three (43) health care facilities in the Coastal area operate under the responsibility of the Regional Health Service and fifty-six (56) health clinics and health posts are operated by the Medical Mission who is operating in the Interior. Apart from these government subsidized clinics, there are 146 (approximately) private clinics, of which the majority offers mainly curative services, and maternal and child health services with emphasis on prenatal guidance and after-delivery care.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in particular the department for vocational education on secondary level, collaborated with Belgian counterparts, the Anton de Kom University of Suriname and a local NGOs, with financial support of the European Union, to implement a three year pilot programme (2017-2019) “iGROW - Initiative for Gender-Responsive Education” 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 programme, 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 programme, and education and awareness raising materials were developed.

The whole school approach has 3 dimensions: (i) improved knowledge, policy, and practice of lower secondary vocational teachers and school directors for addressing ASRHR (adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights) and GBV (gender-based violence); (ii) creation of safe spaces for secondary vocational students to critically reflect on and speak openly about ASRHR and GBV; (iii) appropriate outreach to lower secondary vocational students’ parents or caregivers, through positive school-parent/caregiver relations and support for parents or caregivers in addressing adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights and gender based violence. Within this whole school approach, collaboration between lower secondary schools and civil society organizations (CSOs) plays a central role.

The Government is receiving support from UNFPA 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. Due to the decentralization, at district level plans are being developed wherein aspects of emergency preparedness need to be incorporated. SPRINT 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, coordinates 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.

There is ongoing review and improvement of the structure of the EMTCT programme aimed at strengthening the link with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programme 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) programme 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 the urban city of Paramaribo, one in the urban city of Lelydorp and one in the rural city of Nieuw Nickerie.

### **3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all**

From the entry into force of the National Basic Health Insurance Act in 2014, Surinamese residents in the age groups 16 years and younger and older than 60 years are entitled to a free basic package of health care services, which is paid for from the government budget.

Also, persons in the age-group 17-59 years can get the basic health insurance subsidized by the Government.

There are however financial challenges in the financing of the primary and secondary health care services which have high priority for the Government. Due to the budget and difficult macro-economic situation in Suriname, the access to health services is challenging. The Government is making all efforts to tackle these challenges.

### **3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

### **3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate**

Suriname endorsed the WHO FCTC (Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) in 2008. The country has one of the most comprehensive tobacco control laws in the Caribbean. The Tobacco law of 2013 commits the country to implement important effective measures as set out in 'The Strategy and Plan of Action to strengthen tobacco control in the Americas 2018-2022'.

Suriname is participating in the FCTC 2030 project which offers the opportunity to access technical support for better enforcement of the Tobacco Control Act, the development of a comprehensive national strategy for tobacco control and support in the development of national guidelines for smoking cessation. The project also includes a needs assessment and an "investment case" to demonstrate the social and economic benefits of a comprehensive implementation of the WHO FCTC in Suriname

The following activities have been implemented or are ongoing:

1. Four-year tobacco control strategy and costed action plan developed and adopted.
2. Expansion of multisectoral collaboration for tobacco control (National Coordinating Mechanism on Enforcement)
3. Protect tobacco control policies from tobacco industry interference
4. Strengthen tobacco excise taxes
5. Strengthen enforcement of smoke free policies
6. Draft legislation requiring plain packaging and amendments in the Tobacco law
7. Strengthen legislative provisions governing tobacco control in Suriname
8. Execute Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2022 (among 13-15 year old students)
9. Establishment of the Tobacco Bureau for the enforcement of the Tobacco law

### **3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

### **3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

### **3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

## **Implementation of the Recovery Plan Health Care Suriname 2025**

An important policy initiative is the drafting and approval of the “National Plan for the Renewal of Healthcare 2025” (Recovery Plan Health Care 2025), with an implementation period of 2022-2025. Nine (9) priority policy areas have been identified, namely:

### **1. MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME NATIONAL BASIC HEALTH INSURANCE ACT (BAZO) 2014**

The aim of this programme is to organize the healthcare system in such a way that it becomes and remains financially healthy, so that healthcare costs can be paid for everyone. The policy themes for this programme are: (i) revision of BAZO Act 2014; (ii) review of compensation package and premium structure; and (iii) proposal management structure for a Healthcare Authority. In the revision of the BAZO Act, the transition of the management of this Act from the Ministry of the Home Affairs to the Ministry of Health has been proposed as an important intervention. In addition, an integral evaluation of the legal text of the BAZO Act is carried out, in which recommendations are made for adjustments. Based on an evaluation of the existing reimbursement packages at the health insurers and the premium structures used, recommendations will follow that should ensure that every citizen in Suriname is guaranteed a minimum package of healthcare. With the establishment of a Healthcare Authority, an effective operational body will be set up that will provide policy support for the performance of public health tasks, tasks in the field of the insurance system and the collection and analysis of health data.

### **2. INTEGRAL PAYMENT PROGRAMME & EFFICIENCY INTRAMURAL CARE**

The first policy priority that has been identified for this programme is (i) integral funding to arrive at a single rate for all care activities for all care providers. At this stage, the focus is on efficiency of intramural care, among other things by developing a new financing model for hospitals to guarantee sustainable earning capacity. In consultation with the hospitals, the bottlenecks will be inventoried in the context of efficiency and quality improvement. The next policy theme is (ii) the efficient outlining of the patient's care path, whereby primary care providers will fulfill a coordinating role.

### **3. PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME**

This programme provides policy support for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 3 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'. The focus will be on executing plans to reduce risk factors for chronic conditions, promote healthy lifestyles, improve maternal & childcare and mental health care. The main policy themes are: (i) prevention & promotion of healthy lifestyles (hypertension, diabetes, malignancies and COPD); (ii) mother and child care including vaccinations and (iii) mental health (suicide and extramuralization of mental health care). In recent years, policy plans and action plans have been developed for the aforementioned policy themes, and it is important to take up the effective implementation of these plans.

### **4. MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME REMUNERATION STRUCTURE & HEALTH CARE TRAINING**

Within this programme, the first policy theme (i) is to develop a balanced and motivating remuneration structure for all employees in the health sector. The proposal is to arrive at a sector-wide Healthcare Collective Labor Agreement. In the context of continuous quality improvement within the healthcare sector, the second policy theme (ii) is to draw up a plan for the training courses in the healthcare sector, the starting point of which will be an assessment of needs in the short and long term. The aim of this training plan is to offer healthcare workers a better career perspective and to remove the barriers to further training as much as possible.

### **5. MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME FOR MEDICAL INSPECTION AND CONTINUITY OF CARE**

The following policy themes have been established for this programme: (i) a properly functioning Health Care Inspectorate is necessary to oversee and guarantee quality in health care.



Through an exchange of knowledge and experience with, among others, the Netherlands, the contours for a modern Inspectorate will be drawn up, whereby the staffing of this body will be taken in hand. (ii) The continuity of care for citizens is currently one of the biggest challenges in Suriname. The availability of medical consumables, medication and reagents is very dire, as a result of which the Government has approved an Emergency Fund of SRD 100 million to allow the most urgent items and medication to be purchased by the health care institutions. For a longer-term solution, a proposal to establish a Central Purchasing Center for medical consumables including reagents, lenses, cardiac catheterization materials, orthopedic prostheses and dialysis fluids will be elaborated. This in the context of the efficiency and effectiveness of purchasing.

#### 6. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME

Access to primary health care will have to be guaranteed and optimized for every Surinamese. Therefore, under this programme, the following aspects have been set out as policy themes: (i) Emergency primary health facilities at Limesgracht, Meerzorg and Latour. The reason for the Emergency facilities is to offer a spread of emergency care and thus reduce the pressure on the Emergency Department of the Academic Hospital Paramaribo; (ii) optimizing the monitoring of chronic diseases in particular hypertension and diabetes by general practitioners with an emphasis on a healthy lifestyle and minimizing risk factors through the implementation of the HEARTS model; (iii) setting up a General Practitioner Information System, with technical and financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank; (iv) make protocols immediately available to the general practitioners so that continuous training is optimized; (v) start of general practitioners training via the Medical Faculty planned for October 2023; (vi) improve care for people with disabilities by registering this target group, identifying the service providers and establishing a basic package of care for this target group; (vii) making proposals for the licensing and establishment policy for general practitioners.

#### 7. PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Primary in this programme is the availability of essential medicines and medical aids for all who are covered by the health insurance. There are challenges with regard to optimal availability, especially among insured persons of the State Health Insurance Fund. Interventions will be prepared in consultation with the State Health Insurance Fund and the care actors directly involved. In addition, this programme will develop a system for monitoring the prescribing behavior of doctors. By exchanging experiences, the prescribing quality will be improved.

#### 8. PROGRAMME MODERNIZATION OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY

Modern healthcare is partly dependent on well-functioning devices in hospitals, among others. In this programme an inventory is made of the existing devices and a plan for their renewal is developed. A system is also being set up to make better choices when investing in new technology.

#### 9. ESTABLISH PROGRAMME PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY SURINAME (PHAS)

The aim of this programme is to transform the current Public Health Office into the Public Health Authority Suriname (PHAS). Among other things, this institute will (i) provide the Ministry of Health with strategic information; (ii) implement effective health programmes; (iii) partnering with international scientists and (iv) mapping, protecting and improving general health through proactive approach, data collection and analysis and the establishment of preventive health programmes.

## Chapter IV Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### Status of the Targets

SDG 5 Targets		Status
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere		
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation		
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation		
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate		
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life		
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences		
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws		
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women		
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels		
On track	Moderate improvements	Not on track
Not monitored yet/Not applicable		

## **Policy context and Progress**

In 2019 the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) launched its Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035. 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 Gender Vision Policy Document is developed in close collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Within the policy document the national framework has been set for the upcoming 15 years and it gives direction to the path towards achieving gender equality and equity in Suriname within the 7 identified priority areas:

1. Labor, income and poverty reduction
2. Education
3. Health
4. Power and decision-making
5. Gender-based violence
6. Legal and regulatory framework
7. Environment and climate change

### **5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere**

The Constitution of the Republic of Suriname respects and guarantees the fundamental rights and liberties of every citizen in Suriname. Article 8 of the Constitution indicates that 'no one shall be discriminated against on the basis of birth, sex, race, language, religion, descent, education, political opinion, economic position or social circumstances or any other status.' In addition, article 35 of the Constitution also stipulates that men and women are equal before the law.

### **5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation**

In recent years, the Government has laid emphasis on combating all forms of gender-based violence, as well as preventing this through policy and legislation, increased information and awareness, and through cooperation with organizations, institutions and other bodies that aim to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

With regard to legislation, the following laws have been approved:

- i. Review and adjustment of the Penal Code with regard to trafficking in women and minors in 2006 and 2015.
- ii. Review and adjustment of the Penal Code on Sexual Offenses in 2009.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Revision of the Penal Code with regard to trafficking in persons in 2015. The legislation 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.

- v. The Revision of the Penal Code also 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 18 years is involved or apparently involved, or acquires himself through an automated work or provides access to it, using a communication service.
- vi. Approval of the law Combating Domestic Violence in 2009 and since 2012, it has been possible to submit applications for protection orders to the courts.
- vii. Harassment law (Belaging) in 2012.

To date, there is no specific policy or legislation regarding sexual harassment or intimidation in the workplace. However, there are legal provisions that can be related to this and on which an employee could invoke. These are laid down in the Constitution, the Surinamese Civil Code and the Criminal Code.

For the specific regulation of sexual harassment and intimidation, several initiatives have been taken to draft legislation. The first draft legislation was formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and reformulated by the civil society organization Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation, with the provision that the legislation applies to both the public and private sectors. As a result, a 3-year programme (2008 - 2011) on the prevention and elimination of sexual harassment at the workplace, was implemented by the Foundation. However, the draft legislation was not approved by Parliament. The Ministry of Labour drafted a bill on Violence and Sexual Harassment on the Workplace, which is submitted in 2019 at the Parliament for adoption and is currently being discussed.

The Ministry of Justice and Police has installed a Steering Committee Domestic Violence in 2008 which consists of representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Police, Home Affairs, Health, Education, Social Affairs and Housing, and Regional Development. Another mechanism that has been established is the Platform to combat domestic violence. This Platform consists of NGOs and other government institutions. The main task of these mechanisms is to develop an integral policy plan to combat domestic violence. A policy plan 'National Policy Plan Structural Approach Domestic Violence 2014-2017' was 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), check-in points for domestic violence, and monitoring and evaluation. As part of the implementation of the Plan, awareness and information campaigns have been held and a standard intake form for all service providers that provide services to victims have been developed.

After the expiration of the term of the Steering Committee and the Domestic Violence Platform, the National Council for Domestic Violence (NRHG) was established in 2017 for a period of three years.

The NRHG's task was to formulate an integrated policy plan and work plans for tackling domestic violence and to monitor the implementation of the activities referred to in the above-mentioned plans. Members of the NRHG are representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Police (the Public Prosecution Service, the Women's and Children's Policy Office, the Victim Care Bureau and the Suriname Police Force), Home Affairs, Social Affairs and Housing, Education, Science and Culture, Public Health, Regional Development and Sports and Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs and the civil society organizations 'Stop Violence against Women' and 'De Stem'.

The term of the NRHG has now expired. The Ministry of Justice and Police is working on re-establishing the NRHG in the very near future. The NRHG has updated the National Policy Plan Structural Approach to Domestic Violence, formulated by the Domestic Violence Steering Group.

The focus/priority areas mentioned in the above policy plan are:

- 1) Legislation (designing new and/or amending existing legislation);
- 2) Research and data collection;
- 3) Assistance;
- 4) Setting up hotlines (national);
- 5) Training and Education (training) of different target groups and
- 6) Education and Information sharing.

There is good cooperation between the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) within the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Council for Domestic Violence. A policy document was drafted, namely the Gender Policy Vision Document 2021 – 2035, which supports the vision and policies of the National Council, since the interventions proposed to tackle and reduce domestic violence also contribute to achieving the long-term goals of the Gender Policy Vision Document. In the coming years, the activities of the Domestic Violence work plan and the Gender Action plans of the different Ministries will be constantly aligned.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, special attention has been given to domestic violence. Worth mentioning in this regard is the implementation of the project “Gender Based Violence (GBV) interventions in response to COVID-19 measures”. This project has been carried out in the period June 2020 – January 2021 and is a joint effort of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Police, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Program together with civil society organizations and government institutions. This project consists of three components, namely: communication campaign, capacity building and establishment of referral pathways with the following objectives:

- a. Ensure continuation of essential Gender Based Violence (GBV)/Domestic Violence (DV) services including through remote service provision;
- b. Increased knowledge on GBV/DV and the available support services;
- c. Increased knowledge of stress coping mechanism to prevent violence; and
- d. Establishment of GBV/DV referral pathways for improved access to services

The project produced the following results:

- i. Video communication material has been developed and broadcasted in various languages through television from December 2020 to January 2021. In general, the message was that gender-based violence is condemned and that services for survivors are available.
- ii. A number of trainers from different organizations have been virtually trained during three to four months in remote GBV case management service provision. During all training sessions the gender and survivor-centred approached perspective was constantly emphasized. The survivor approach involves; respect, non-discrimination, safety and confidentiality. These trainers are intended to train other service providers.
- iii. A mapping of available GBV service providers has been done and referral pathways have been developed in booklet form, as well as a poster, containing information about various GBV services. Hard copies of the booklet and poster have been disseminated nationwide and is also available in digital format. The GBV services are available in Paramaribo, Nickerie, and several others areas outside the capital Paramaribo.

Within the framework of the GBV/DV referral pathways, information programmes on gender and domestic violence have been developed, online training courses (train the trainers) and webinars have been provided for various stakeholders, and referral processes have been mapped and recorded in posters and booklets, so that assistance to victims and offenders can take place efficiently and effectively. This initiative has also supported the training and capacity building of first responders, duty bearers and other relevant service providers on GBV, through workshops on best practices and life-saving services during emergencies. The GBV Referral Pathway provides critical support to key service providers who respond to GBV cases, assist impacted persons and guide them to needed services. The follow-up of this Initiative (continuation of the information programme, keeping and updating the referral processes, establishing protocols) will also be carried out in the coming period.

Research, data gathering and -analysis regarding gender based and domestic violence have been taken up through the Government with support of multilateral partners.

In 2018 a study to measure the existence of violence against women has been conducted. Also on behalf of the Parliament of Suriname, 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. 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 programmes on identified vulnerable groups.

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. Training has been provided to the personnel involved to secure the management of the system through the Ministry of Justice and Police.

The Government of Suriname received technical support from UNICEF to establish a child protection case management and referral system and strengthening the capacities of social workers to respond effectively to cases of abuse and gender-based violence. Training was provided to a first cohort of 29 social workers from the Government namely the Ministries of Justice and Police; Social Affairs and Housing; Health and Education, Science and Culture in case management, child protection legislation and psychosocial support and mental care for children. The recommendation is to have a second cohort of social workers to be trained also. These training sessions were based on the recommendations of the child protection mapping and assessment.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government also received support from UNICEF for online learning and coaching of 100 social workers and correction officers in gender-based violence and case management in emergency situations, to ensure the protection of women, girls, children, and vulnerable social groups including the COVID-19 recovered children, against violence's, through technical assistance and direct support to the victims.

More specifically, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (MSAH) in the development and dissemination of messages on the prevention of violence against children and positive parenting programme in emergency. About 571 people (207 children/364 adults) received mental health and psychosocial support through a combination of online learning, and online counseling support services (1-2-3 helpline).

In 2015 – 2016, training courses on gender based and domestic violence were provided for employees of the police force, the public prosecution office and the court of justice.

In order to increase awareness on gender and domestic violence, the Bureau Gender Affairs 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 non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau Gender Affairs collaborated with civil society, UN organizations and the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) and 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 the 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.

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.

Under coordination of the Ministry of Justice and Police, the establishment of three (3) ‘Meldpunten Kindermishandeling’ (centers for reporting of child abuse) in one community in the interior district of Sipaliwini namely Apoera, in the rural district of Coronie and in the Latour community in the urban district of Paramaribo.

The aim of the ‘Meldpunten’ is to increase access to services for child victims of violence in the communities. The ‘Meldpunten’ have been set up in the areas, in such a way that is easier for citizens to reach and the threshold (the fear) of citizens is avoided. Currently, the ‘Meldpunten’ provide services of the Bureau for Family Law Affairs (BUFAZ), the Bureau Legal Care (Bureau Rechtszorg) and the Bureau for Victim Aid (Bureau Slachtofferzorg). 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.

There is 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 of the Ministry of Justice and Police. The services provided by the shelter are evaluated regularly for improvement. It should be noted that at least two civil society organizations also operate victim shelters for women and their children.

There are also 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.

Furthermore a Child Help Line 123 was also set up for children and youth to provide guidance and support if they are confronted among others with violence.

In close cooperation with civil society organizations, the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) of the Ministry of Home Affairs has carried out several campaigns regarding violence against women, including: ‘HeForShe awareness raising campaign’, ‘Orange Day’ and ‘Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence’ that was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2015. As of 2015 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month the BGA organizes activities on Orange Day to raise awareness and to take action to combat violence against women and girls. 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, religious leaders and youngsters from different denominations, civil servants, high level government officials and community based organizations. The activities were not only carried out in the capital, but also in the rural and urban districts.

The Government of Suriname acknowledges the importance of engaging boys and men in the elimination of violence against women. In this regard in the period 2015-2019 eleven (11) members of Parliament and other prominent men were installed as HeforShe agent and a masculinity training has been carried out.

There are several civil society organizations in Suriname that are actively engaged in building capacity, raising awareness, lobby and advocacy and supporting policy development regarding gender based and domestic violence, but also providing psycho-social assistance and guidance for victims and perpetrators and guidance when applying for and obtaining legal protection through protection orders. Some of these organizations are the foundation Stop Violence against Women, Women Rights Center, Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation, Projekta Foundation and the National Women Movement.

The Anton de Kom University of Suriname has - over the course of the years - developed the following branch of studies related to violence against women and children:

1. Branch of Study Psychology: in the subject “developmental psychology”, “children as witness of domestic violence” is addressed.
2. Branch of Study Law: in the subject “human rights”
3. Branch of Study Master in Law: in the subject “Capita Selecta” domestic violence and the procedure to judicial process is addressed.

The Government provides legal assistance and legal aid free of charge to the financially weak irrespective of sex, through the Legal Aid Bureau 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 the urban district of 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 rural 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.

For addressing sexual harassment at the workplace, the Ministry of Justice and Police has developed a policy memorandum and a complaint mechanism. In the Ministry, a complaints committee for sexual harassment in the workplace was established in October 2020 for a period of three years. The complaints committee includes representatives of the Public Prosecution office, the Suriname Police Force, the Suriname Fire Brigade, the Security and Assistance Service Suriname, the Corps Penitentiary Officials and the Bureau for Women and Children; all departments of the Ministry of Justice and Police. In the coming period, the committee will work on, among other things, updating the complaints procedure for the approach to sexual harassment in the workplace, implementation of the complaints procedure, formulating/finalizing the code of conduct for the Ministry, providing information and developing information material and training.



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.

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 programmes 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 into policies and programmes (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).

### **5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation**

According to the current Surinamese Civil Code, the legal age for marriage for women is 15 years and for men is 17 years. Suriname still has marriages in the age group 15-19 years registered at the Civil Registry Office. 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. It should be noted that broad consultations among government stakeholders as well as between government and non-government organizations were held, which led to a proposal to amend the legal age for marriage through the revision of the Civil Code. The minimum age to enter into marriage for both boys and girls has been recommended at 18 years for both women and men.

### 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Percentage of women age 15-49 years who first married or entered a marital union before their 15th birthday, percentages of women age 20-49 and 20-24 years who first married or entered a marital union before their 15th and 18th birthdays, percentage of women age 15-19 years currently married or in union, and the percentage of women who are in a polygynous marriage or union, Suriname MICS, 2018

	Women age 15-49 years		Women age 20-49 years			Women age 20-24 years			Women age 15-19 years		Women age 15-49 years	
	Percentage married before age 15	Number of women age 15-49 years	Percentage married before age 15	Percentage married before age 18	Number of women age 20-49 years	Percentage married before age 15 <sup>1</sup>	Percentage married before age 18 <sup>2</sup>	Number of women age 20-24 years	Percentage currently married/in union	Number of women age 15-19 years	Percentage in polygynous marriage/ in union	Number of women age 15-49 years currently married/in union
<b>Total</b>	8.2	7000	6.4	28.5	5647	8.8	36.0	1012	34.6	1353	5.5	4789
<b>Area</b>												
<b>Urban</b>	7.0	5287	5.4	26.1	4286	7.9	32.7	761	32.1	1001	4.4	3542
<b>Rural Coastal</b>	10.0	1178	7.8	33.9	944	8.8	41.9	183	36.0	233	3.7	857
<b>Rural Interior</b>	15.7	535	12.9	41.0	417	18.7	57.1	68	53.6	118	19.8	390

Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2018

### Annual number of married couples by age group and sex, 2018 – 2020

Age group	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
15-19	24	160	14	148	24	135	15	108	15	87	6	66
20-24	323	542	323	546	274	485	282	475	238	426	181	343
25-29	530	466	548	459	524	498	484	454	406	410	353	318

Source: Suriname Civil Registry Office

#### **5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate**

The Government of Suriname has ratified the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration, 1951 (No. 100) and the ILO Convention against Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111) in 2017 and the ILO Convention of the 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.

The Government has prepared a draft law on Equal Pay which has been submitted to the Parliament for approval. The Parliament has the intention to adopt this legislation in 2022.

The Government has implemented a National Social Security System in 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. 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.

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 labour productivity.

This is replaced with the 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 within the period 2015-2022.

The Civil Servants Pension Fund ('Pensioenfonds Suriname') is managed by the Government and is a pension system granting a pension to Surinamese civil servants and employees of State-owned enterprises. The Widows Pension system is for widows of civil servants and employees of State-owned enterprises.

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:

i. 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.

ii. Child allowance

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

iii. 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.

<b>Total population by activity status and sex</b>						
<b>Activity status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Employed	119,889	69722	189,611	68%	39%	54%
Unemployed	8633	13003	21,636	5%	7%	6%
Discourage worker	2084	3990	6,074	1%	2%	2%
Pensioner	5918	7341	13,259	3%	4%	4%
Student	19800	24868	44,668	11%	14%	13%
Home maker	889	37000	37,889	1%	21%	11%
Disabled	3999	3269	7,268	2%	2%	2%
Other eco. Non- active	7261	10834	18,095	4%	6%	5%
Unknown	7138	7325	14,463	4%	4%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,611</b>	<b>177352</b>	<b>352,963</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: General Bureau of Statistics, Census 2012 (modified by author)

### 5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

With regard to women’s participation in politics, during the 2015 elections the project “More Women in Decision-making 2015” was implemented by the Parliament. Activities were carried out to increase the number of women in the Parliament, 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. Another campaign that was launched in 2014-2015, was the “OokZij” (AlsoShe) campaign by the organization ‘Stas International’ which was partially funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The purpose of this campaign, which included promotion materials, mass media profiling of female parliament candidates as well as 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%.

Awareness raising activities were also done by civil society to emphasize 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.

Towards the elections in 2020, the non-governmental organization Stas International also implemented a campaign with support from the UNDP office in Suriname and the Dutch Embassy, titled "Balance 2020" to promote the participation of more women in politics and in decision-making positions, targeting first time voters. Leadership programmes, communication and awareness campaigns and materials were developed and workshops were held. Live television debates with political organizations were also part of this awareness campaign.

In addition, it can be noted that the media (in this case more specifically the daily newspaper De Ware Tijd) and other women's organizations such as the Women's Right Centre Suriname also paid attention to introducing new and young candidates including women to the public by inter alia publishing written articles in that regard.

As conducted after the elections of May 2015, the Bureau Gender Affairs has also sent an open letter to the new government, through mass media, calling upon the new government to nominate and appoint women on equal terms with men to various public decision-making positions.

It should be noted that the percentage of women in the Parliament who gained seats in Parliament after the 2020 elections was 29.41 percent, compared to 25.4 percent in 2015 (31 percent of 51 seats).

Number of members of the Cabinet of the Republic of Suriname by sex in the Election Years as of 1987 as well as the most recent state in the year 2021				
	Male	Female	Total	Ratio
1987	16	1	17	5.88
1991	18	0	18	0.00
1996	16	2	18	11.11
2000	17	3	20	15.00
2005	17	2	19	10.53
2010	15	2	17	11.76
2015	13	4	17	23.53
2020	11	6	17	35.29
2021	11	6	17	35.29

Source: Parliament of Suriname

Number of members in the Parliament of Suriname by sex in the Election years as of 1987 as well as the most recent state in the year 2021				
Year	Male	Female	Total	Ratio
1987	47	4	51	7.84
1991	48	3	51	5.88
1996	43	8	51	15.69
2000	42	9	51	17.65
2005	38	13	51	25.49
2010	43	8	51	15.69
2015	37	14	51	27.45
2020	35	16	51	31.37
2021	36	15	51	29.41

<b>Total employed population in managerial positions (institutional and partly specialized groups 15-64 years)</b>				
<b>Managerial positions</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
2004	6768	3331	10101	32.98
2012	6079	4721	10800	43.71
<b>Source: General Bureau of Statistics, Census 2012 (author's calculation)</b>				
<a href="https://statistics-suriname.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Publicatie-Census-8-Volume-2-Onderwijs-Werkgelegenheid-en-Vervoer-Vruchtbaarheid-en-Sterfte-Gezondheid-en-Sport.pdf">https://statistics-suriname.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Publicatie-Census-8-Volume-2-Onderwijs-Werkgelegenheid-en-Vervoer-Vruchtbaarheid-en-Sterfte-Gezondheid-en-Sport.pdf</a>				

## **5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences**

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. These include:

1. National Mental Health Plan 2015-2020
2. National Plan Suicide Prevention 2015-2020
3. National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2015-2020
4. National Maternal Health and Mortality Reduction Priority Plan July 2019-September 2020
5. National Policy Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2019-2025
6. National Strategic Health Plan 2018-2028
7. National Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health Action plan 2013-2016
8. National Strategic Plan for HIV 2021-2027
9. National Adolescent Health Strategy 2018- 2025
10. Ministry of Health National Policy Document 2021- 2025

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 donot 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.

There is ongoing review and improvement of the structure of the EMTCT programme aimed at strengthening the link with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programme 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) programme 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 the urban city of Paramaribo, one in the urban city of Lelydorp and one in the rural city of Nieuw Nickerie.

In the past 5 years accelerated efforts have been made to reactivate the Basic Life Skills (BLS) programme (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 of primary education. It will also be included as a course in the new curriculum of the lower secondary vocational education.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in particular the department for vocational education on secondary level, collaborated with Belgian counterparts, the Anton de Kom University of Suriname and a local NGOs, with financial support of the European Union, to implement a three year pilot programme (2017-2019) “iGROW - Initiative for Gender-Responsive Education” 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 programme, 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 programme, and education and awareness raising materials were developed.

The whole school approach has 3 dimensions: (i) improved knowledge, policy, and practice of lower secondary vocational teachers and school directors for addressing ASRHR and GBV; (ii) creation of safe spaces for secondary vocational students to critically reflect on and speak openly about ASRHR and GBV; (iii) appropriate outreach to lower secondary vocational students’ parents or caregivers, through positive school-parent/caregiver relations and support for parents or caregivers in addressing adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights and gender based violence.

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

The UNFPA has been 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 trainings provided at the district level. Due to the decentralization, at district level plans are being developed wherein aspects of emergency preparedness need to be incorporated. SPRINT 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 National Strategic Plan (NSP) for a multi-sectoral approach to HIV in Suriname 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 have been developed to focus 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.

Since 2016, a pregnancy protocol has been established by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture 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 student 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 Labour and NGOs.

The majority of sexual and reproductive services offered in healthcare centers are primary focused on services related to maternal health and HIV related services, with most emphasize on pre-natal, deliveries and post-natal control, and HIV testing. Relatively limited attention is given to preventive sexual health, such as sexuality education, awareness raising and counseling.

Most of these health clinics are basic health care clinics or larger community health centers, and spread along the coast and throughout the interior. Forty-three (43) health care facilities in the coastal area operate under the responsibility of the Regional Health Service and fifty-six (56) health clinics and health posts are operated by the Medical Mission who is operating in the Interior. Apart from these government subsidized clinics, there are 146 (approximately) private clinics, of which the majority offers mainly curative services, and maternal and child health services with emphasis on prenatal guidance and after-delivery care.

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 audits every maternal death and advises the Government on priority measures to prevent and reduce maternal mortality.

The Perinatal Interventions Suriname (Perisur) project works on the development and execution of an educational programme 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.

### **COVID 19 pandemic**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic/lockdowns the Government has also taken special measures to guarantee access to health services. Some of these measures include:

- The limited availability of services taking into account the safety measures. Some of the sexual and reproductive services can be reached through different social media platforms for e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram. Special phone numbers have been made available through which the services could be reached.
- The Stichting Lobi Health Center provided online counseling and guidance, advice and psycho-social aid via appointments or phone.
- Pharmacies that women can use for, among other things, contraceptives are categorized by the COVID-19 Crisis Management Team as essential services and were open to clients during the lockdown. Women could have access to pre- and post-natal care offered by medical institutions.
- With regard to mental health, the Ministry of Health Suriname/Bureau Public Health facilitated a specific hotline for providing psychological assistance for persons in isolation and quarantine. The psychologists from the Bureau for Public Health/Medical Educational Bureau managed the hotline. Through online platforms, different topics are also discussed such as how to deal with stress during COVID-19, how to keep children occupied during lockdown etc.
- In order to provide information with regard to the impact of COVID-19 measures and how to deal with it, the Ministry of Health/Bureau Public Health and PAHO took the initiative to broadcast a television programme "Je bent niet alleen" (You are not alone). In this one-hour programme, a panel consisting of experts answered the questions of citizens. The purpose of the television programme was to raise awareness with regard to (mental) health issues/ topics related to COVID-19, and which organizations to contact if citizens have (mental) health questions.

### **5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national law**

The Constitution of Suriname provides that both men and women have the right to economic resources and ownership over land. Inheritance rights are the same for men and women.

With regard to natural resource management, the Ministry of Regional Development implemented in early 2017 a project titled 'enhancing access to drinking water for the Maroon community of Asigron in Brokopondo'. Forty-two percent (42%) of the persons that 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 Government has prepared a draft law on Equal Pay which has been submitted to the Parliament for approval. The Parliament has the intention to adopt this legislation in 2022.

### **Rural women, maroon women and indigenous women living in the interior**

Through a partnership between the Ministry of Home Affairs and UN Women in response to COVID- 19, several organizations have been supported to carry out projects during June - September 2021. The UJEMA foundation was able to purchase two brush cutters and train twenty women of Indigenous village Apoera within the district of Sipaliwini and surroundings in how to use the brush cutters for maintaining their farmlands. The Kooperatie van Groentverbouwers van Pettenpolder-KGVP (Cooperative of vegetable growers of Pettenpolder) of the rural district of Nickerie was able to purchase seeds and distributing these among its 164 members (140 men and 24 women) and necessary maintenance equipment (two brush cutters and four spray tanks) for its farmland.

The Moederhart foundation of Nickerie also provided twenty persons (four men and sixteen women) with agriculture training and purchased plant material, seeds and equipment and handed these over to ten women. Further twenty-two government and non-government organizations from the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica, and Nickerie dealing with gender-based violence and vulnerable groups were provided with PPEs. The Bureau Gender Affairs has also been supported with office appliances.

### **5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women**

Since April 2011, the "Girls in ICT Day" is commemorated in Suriname every year on the fourth Thursday in the month April. Activities in the past years included 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 has been organized by the Telecommunication Authority Suriname (TAS), in collaboration with the ICT association.

The Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018 shows that almost every household has at least a member with a mobile phone, about one third has a computer at home and about half of the households has internet at home. These possession rates decrease gradually for districts in the rural coastal areas and even more for households in the interior. Internet use (79%), mobile use (96%) and computer use (40-42%) is equally among men and women. Internet use is highest among women and men living in the urban area and belonging to the richest quintile or those with the highest educational level. There is almost no difference in ICT skills among men and women age 15-49 years. 33% of men (or women) is able to carry out at least one of the listed ICT related activities.

### **5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels**

In the past five years, two national development plans were developed and (being) implemented: Development Plan 2017-2021 and the Mulit-Annul Development Plan 2022-2026. 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 (2019-2025), National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2015-2020), National Strategic Plan for HIV (2014-2020 and 2021-2017), National Maternal Health and Mortality Reduction Plan (2019-2020), National Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health Action Plan (2013-2016), National Policy for a Structural approach of Domestic Violence (2014-2017), National Action plan Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour (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) and the, Decent work country programme (2014-2016).

### **Emerging opportunities to accelerate achieving SDG 5**

In the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021-2035, formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Bureau Gender Affairs, the SDG targets are also included. This Policy Document is the framework for further implementation of the Gender policy. It should also be noted that the SDGs are integrated in the Multi-annual Development Plan 2022-2026. The Planning Office of Suriname is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Plan. All Ministries are responsible for aligning their strategic planning to national policies as well as to international agreements, including the SDGs.

## Chapter V Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### Status of the Targets

SDG 6 Targets		Status
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all		
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations		
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally		
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity		
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate		
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes		
6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies		
6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management		
On track	Moderate improvements	Not on track
		Not monitored yet/Not applicable

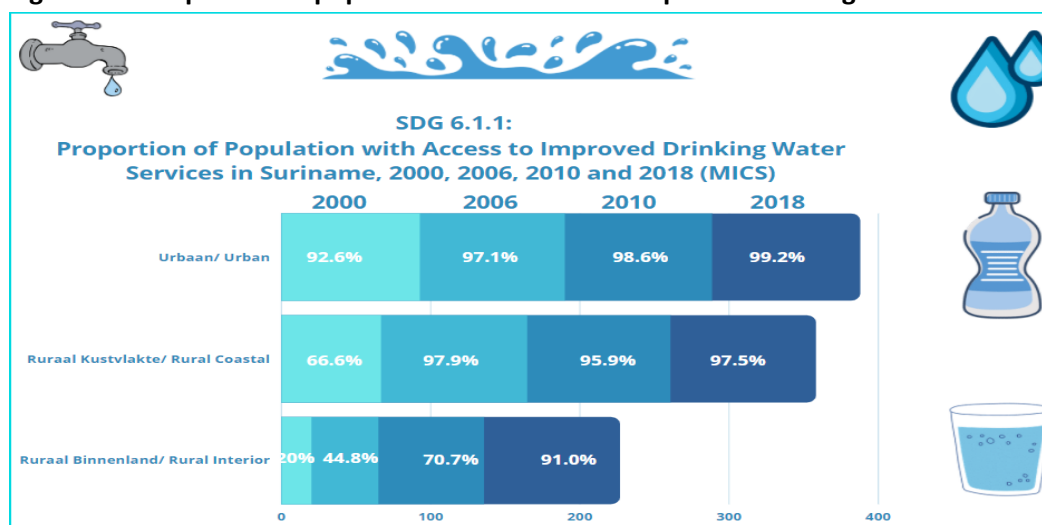
### 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

#### Definition:

Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services is currently being measured by the proportion of population using an improved basic drinking water source which is located on premises, available when needed and free of fecal (and priority chemical) contamination. **'Improved' drinking water sources** include: piped water into dwelling, yard or plot; public taps or standpipes; boreholes or tube wells; protected dug wells; protected springs; packaged water; delivered water and rainwater.

Figure 6.1 shows that in 2018 98.2% of the population in Suriname has access to improved drinking water sources: 99% in urban region, 98% in rural coastal and 91% in the rural interior areas. In the period 2010 - 2018 there was an increase of 3.2 percentage points for households who used an improved drinking water source. Suriname is good on its way to achieve the SDG target regarding access to improved water sources. Tables 6.1 and 6.2 and figure 6.1 illustrate Suriname's position regarding safe drinking water.

**Figure 6.1: Proportion of population with access to improved drinking water services in Suriname**



Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2018

**Table 6.1: Proportion of population with access to improved drinking water services in Suriname**

Population	2000	2006	2010	2018
Urban	92.6	97.1	98.6	99.2
Rural Coastal	66.6	97.9	95.9	97.5
Rural Interior	20.0	44.8	70.7	91.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>98.2</b>

Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2018

**Table 6.2: Proportion of population with access to improved drinking water services per district**

Population	2010	2018	Change
Paramaribo	99.1	99.6	0.5
Wanica	97.4	98.7	1.3
Nickerie	97.9	99.3	1.4
Coronie	100	100	0.0
Saramacca	96.7	97.9	1.2
Commewijne	96.7	97.9	1.2
Marowijne	91.1	95.7	5.0
Para	96.5	97.3	0.8
Brokopondo	89.4	97.4	8.9
Sipaliwini	64.5	84.5	31.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2018

The distribution of water to households in Suriname is the responsibility of the Suriname Water Company (SWM) and the Water Supply Service (DWV) of the Ministry of Natural Resources. In May 2022, the pipeline of SWM was 4,875,580 meters. The SWM covers the entire coastal plain and parts of the Interior. The SWM's distribution area concerns the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica, Para, Nickerie, Commewijne, Saramacca and parts of the rural district of Marowijne and the Interior districts of Brokopondo and Sipaliwini. The areas of the Interior districts that are not within the SWM network are provided with water through the Water Supply Service of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the foundation Funding Development Interior (FOB), which is a technical arm of the Ministry of Regional Development and Sport. The number of SWM connections increased by 16.2% in the period 2017-2021. The reason for this increase is also related to the takeover of the water connections from the DWV of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Most connections occur in Paramaribo, Wanica and Para.

**Table 6.3: Number of SWM connections by service area**

District	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Paramaribo, Wanica & Para	102,201	104,218	107,990	111,850	114,052
Nickerie	7,569	8,485	10,538	10,733	10,839
Coronie	1,041	1,051	1,125	1,154	1,163
Saramacca	2,984	2,995	3,100	3,253	3,305
Commewijne	3,891	4,716	5,856	6,751	7,128
Marowijne	2,557	2,701	2,949	3,078	3,210
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,243</b>	<b>124,166</b>	<b>131,558</b>	<b>136,819</b>	<b>139,697</b>

Source: Suriname Water Company (SWM)

The policy of the Government is aimed at ensuring the availability of good, healthy and affordable drinking water. The Suriname Water Supply Master Plan 2011 – 2024 has been the guiding policy framework and this policy document is continuously updated, based on the development in society.

Important policy interventions are exploring new water resources, expanding the water supply and distribution network, renewing and rehabilitating existing infrastructure, expanding the connections to meet household demands, expansion of the supply area and set up a water production station in the rural district of Commewijne.

In March 2020, the Government signed a project with the Inter-American Development Bank for the amount of USD 25 million, which will improve the efficiency and quality of the services provided by the Suriname Water Company, benefitting over 3,700 households which will connect to the potable water network for the first time. The project will also improve the quality of the water service for more than 33,000 households, including new and existing customers. The SWM will upgrade its environmental and financial sustainability, which includes reducing its levels of non-revenue water, investments in infrastructure and modernization of operations and management.

The project will take six years to be completed and will have three main components.

1. The first component will focus on reducing the levels on non-revenue water by adopting smart water technologies that will replace outdated meters to reduce losses throughout the network in the Central Region.
2. The second component will focus on upgrading the water production infrastructure by increasing the capacity of the Helena Christina pump station. This will expand the water treatment capacity

to meet projected demands. The works will include drilling four new wells and rehabilitating two currently in operation, and the installation of 21 kilometers of transmission and distribution pipelines.

3. The third component includes a programme of institutional strengthening and modernization of SWM's operations and management.

The CIF water supply and sanitation project was executed in the period 2017-2021. The objective of this project was to expand and reinforce the public operator for urban water supply systems in the coastal area of Suriname. The existing water system in the urban areas of Greater Paramaribo and the rural area of Moengo in the district of Marowijne was improved and shifted to sustainable resources.

The Ministry of Natural Resources also executed a project in one interior area (Boslanti) with the Belgian company BOSAQ, in the period 2019-2020. Through this project a container system was set up to purify river water. After this pilot, the project was expanded, and five water purification systems were set up in total in the interior areas. The costs for maintenance, distribution and peripheral facilities are paid for by the Surinamese Government. The Government will review the effectiveness of this system and will consider having more of these systems installed.

The development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for Suriname and the updating of the Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) are considered important foundations for the implementation of actions related to water management as it will provide the Ministry of National Resources with relevant recommendations to improve the sustainable management of the water resources.

A situational analysis of the Integrated Water Resource Management in Suriname was conducted as part of a comprehensive report for implementing Integrated Water Resource Management; this included an Action plan, Monitoring and Evaluation plan. The development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for Suriname will improve the sustainable management of the water resources and secure water resources given the changed climate conditions. The Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) web portal has been rebuilt and gives access to information and documents on water resources in Suriname (<http://www.swris.sr/>).

The Government also has been working on revising legislation regarding water namely:

1. The law Supervision of Drinking Water Quality (with Explanatory Memorandum);
2. The Groundwater law (with Explanatory Memorandum);
3. The law Groundwater Protection Areas (with Explanatory Memorandum);

These three laws will be the first steps towards a better management structure of the water resources in Suriname.

**6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations**

**Definition:** The Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water is currently being measured by the proportion of the population using a basic sanitation facility which is not shared with other households and where excreta is safely disposed in situ or treated off-site.

**Improved sanitation facilities include:** flush or pour flush toilets to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with a slab, and composting toilets. The tables 6.4, 6.5 and figure 6.2 show that in 2018, 94.5% of the households in Suriname had access to an improved sanitation facility, with 98.7% in the urban area, 93.7% in the rural coastal area and 61.4% in the rural interior. In the period 2010-2018 the access of households who used an improved sanitation facility increased with 7.4%. This indicates that Suriname is well on its way to SDG target 6.2 by 2030.

**Table 6.4: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation facilities in Suriname**

Population	2000	2006	2010	2018
Urban	99.1	97.9	97.8	98.7
Rural Coastal	98.3	91.6	94.1	93.7
Rural Interior	30.5	33.0	41.5	61.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>94.5</b>

Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2018

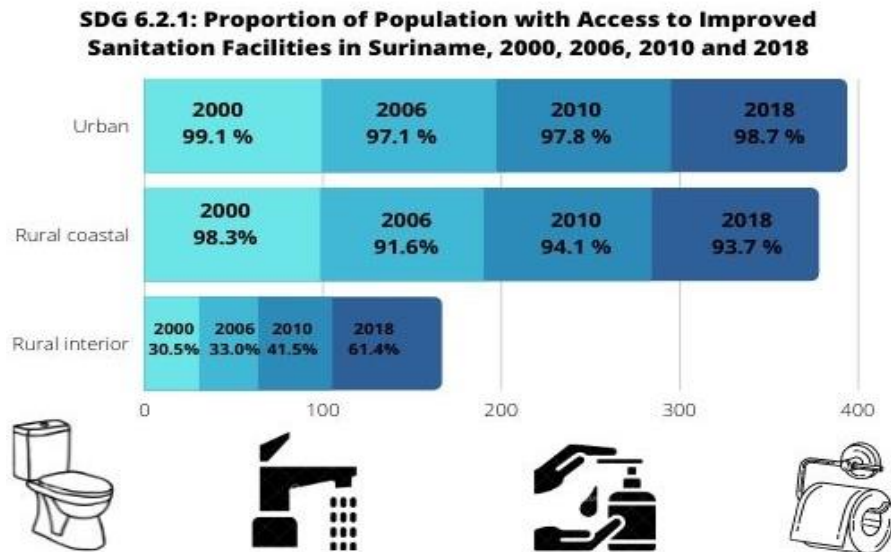
**Table 6.5: Proportion of population that does not share improved toilet facilities with other households per district**

Population	2010	2018	Change
Paramaribo	87.1	92.4	6.1
Wanica	87.8	94.7	7.9
Nickerie	95.3	96.6	1.4
Coronie	95.6	96.7	1.2
Saramacca	83.5	92.9	11.3
Commewijne	90.1	95.2	5.7
Marowijne	72.2	78.6	8.9
Para	74.6	82.3	10.3
Brokopondo	32.0	52.4	63.8
Sipaliwini	24.8	41.9	69.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>

Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2018



**Figure 6.2: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation facilities in Suriname**



The WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) programme works on long-term prevention and control measures for improving health, reducing poverty, and improving socio-economic development as well as responding to global emergencies and outbreaks of life-threatening illnesses.

In Suriname, the initial WASH-in-School interventions were conducted in five locations in the Interior through Medical Mission (responsible for primary health care in the Interior) ensuring safe hygiene practices in four (pre)-primary schools and one secondary school and reaching 750 children through peer-to-peer WASH hygiene promotion awareness interventions. These were undertaken by 47 trained ‘WASH change’ pupils to ensure sustainability. Contributing to support girls surviving and learning in secondary schools included WASH efforts to provide information on hygiene practices, including menstrual health and basic sanitation at school to 120 adolescent girls in five pilot’s schools.

The WASH-in-School programme was subsequently expanded in 13 schools in the Interior covering the need of 2,444 students (1,282 boys and 1,162 girls). Within the schools, the baseline assessment of the school was carried out, basic upgrading of WASH facilities took place and further WASH awareness activities were implemented. The baseline assessment determined if each school has healthy drinking water, good toilets and facilities for washing hands. The number of schools participating currently in the WASH programme is 16 schools.

COVID-19 provided an opportunity to leverage Governments’ commitment to WASH services. A WASH coordination and planning unit was established to ensure coordination of WASH programmes and activities among the WASH partners for appropriate and timely WASH responses in humanitarian crisis situations, addressing both the immediate needs of the affected populations as well as planning for future needs and improved disaster resilience. Gender responsive WASH in Emergencies guidelines were implemented by partners and the National Disaster Management Authority. Also 15 drinking water supply schemes in health care facilities benefitting 87,699 people were rehabilitated.

**6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally**

The Surinamese Water Company executes tests on their water supply to determine if Fecal Coliform (F-coli) bacteria can be found. Below table provides an indication of what can be found. The Surinamese Water Company (SWM) laboratory and the Environmental Control Division of the Bureau for Public Health (BOG) carry out daily water quality testing at the various distribution points.

**Table 6.6: Number of samples taken at SWM water stations that were tested for F-coli, 2015-2021**

Data from SWM (Surinamese Water Company)														
Area	2017		2018		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Samples	F-coli	Samples	F-coli	F-coli	Samples	F-coli	Samples	F-coli	Samples	F-coli	Samples	F-coli	
Central	513	49	801	46	33	480	42	480	37	365	21	790	117	
West	167	10	144	2	9	144	10	192	13	319	12	375	22	
East	144	16	144	11	18	144	40	144	28	212	76	207	80	
Saramacca	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172	36	196	18	199	16	
Commewijne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	2	47	1	49	4	

The SWM continues to invests in its infrastructure, especially the pipelines to minimize water pollution. Due to the goldmining activities in the Interior, the river and creek water is contaminated with mercury. With the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM), the Government is looking into executing interventions to reduce the use of mercury and increase incomes in the ASGM sector in the participating countries through a holistic, multi-sectoral integrated formalization approach, and increasing access to finance leading to adoption of sustainable mercury free technologies and access to traceable gold supply chains.

**6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity**

In general, the water quality is good, but the quality of surface water in both urban and rural areas is under severe pressure by mining and industrial activities, poor waste processing and insufficient sanitation facilities.

Suriname has seven major rivers and various freshwater and saltwater areas which contribute to the surface hydrology. These rivers have important functions for agriculture, the environment and the society in general. The seven main rivers from east to west are: the Marowijne river, the Commewijne river, the Suriname river, the Saramacca river, the Coppename river, the Nickerie river and the Corantijn river.

In terms of catchment area, discharge and overall width, the Marowijne river and the Corantijn river are considered the largest rivers in Suriname. The Nickerie river and other rivers in the west of the country have important irrigation and drainage functions, especially for rice production. Water areas in the coastal zone cover an area of approximately 12,000 square kilometers, of which a third is permanently under water and the remainder seasonal.

The average annual river flow of the seven main rivers of Suriname combined is approximately 4,800 m<sup>3</sup>/s (Naipal & Amatali 1999a); this is the equivalent of 2.3 percent of the total annual flow of the Amazon River.

Suriname mainly processes groundwater and has two freshwater stations. The Surinamese Water Company has groundwater purification systems. Als the Government has been executing pilots for the purification of river water to drinking water. The model of rainwater harvesting has been implemented in villages in the Interior and could be utilized as a model for the different Interior areas to guarantee basic water provision.

**Table 6.7: Characteristics of Suriname’s rivers, 2021**

<i>River Catchment</i>	<i>Total Catchment area</i> <i>Estimated value, till river mouth)</i>	<i>Catchment area in Coastal Plain/Zanderij Belt (% of catchment)</i>	<i>Mean discharge at river mouth</i>	<i>Tidal volume</i>
	km <sup>2</sup>	%	m <sup>3</sup> /s	Million m <sup>3</sup>
<i>Corantijn river</i>	67,600*#	5.4/4.6	1,579	300
<i>Nickerie river</i>	10,100	34.1/23.6	174	10
<i>Coppename river</i>	21,700	26.3/9.2	565	75
<i>Saramacca river</i>	9,000	22.8/3.1	257	50
<i>Suriname river</i>	16,500	10.7/4.5	422	125
<i>Commewijne river</i>	6,600	52.1/11.5	169	40
<i>Marowijne river</i>	68,700*#	0./0.1	1,791	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,200</b>		<b>4,957</b>	

*Source: Natural History and Ecology of Suriname/Climate and Hydrology, Bart De Dijn, LM Publishers, 2018*

*Source: The Environmental Atlas of Suriname, NIMOS, 2019*

### **6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate**

A situational analysis of the Integrated Water Resource Management in Suriname was conducted as part of a comprehensive report for implementing Integrated Water Resource Management; this included an Action plan, Monitoring and Evaluation plan. The development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for Suriname will improve the sustainable management of the water resources and secure water resources given the changed climate conditions.

The situation analysis revealed the weaknesses in the water management system in Suriname, and pointed out the aspects that should be addressed in order to improve the situation.

Suriname faces the same problems every year, namely lack of access to safe and available drinking water in many regions in the country:

- a. in the rural areas, flooding of agricultural land due to excessive rainfall and/or high sea
- b. water levels cause losses of harvest and damage to public space, houses, transportation means
- c. droughts in agricultural areas lead to loss of harvest, especially since irrigation is not present
- d. flooding of urban areas due to excessive rainfall and/or high sea water levels causes
- e. urban flooding increases the risk of waterborne diseases
- f. in the Interior, high river levels cause flooding of villages

- g. droughts in the Interior lead to limited availability of good quality water for domestic/drinking water use.

Furthermore, the quality of water in Suriname is threatened by inadequate waste disposal which compromises surface and groundwater:

- a. inadequate waste water management: there are no wastewater treatment plants
- b. very few industries have some kind of wastewater treatment; most of the industrial waste water is discharged directly in surface water
- c. small scale (illegal) gold mining in the interior causes several water quality problems, especially use of mercury is a big problem, polluting the rivers and fish and making the surface water unsuitable for drinking water and eating fish
- d. increasing use of pesticides for agricultural use has serious health effects on people and other organisms

In the near future, climate change may worsen these water-related problems. Sea level rise threatens the low-lying areas of the coastal region and enhances salt intrusion.

Therefore, the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for Suriname and the updating of the Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) are considered important foundations for the implementation of actions related to water management as it will provide the Ministry of National Resources with relevant recommendations to improve the sustainable management of the water resources.

The Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) web portal has been rebuilt and gives access to information and documents on water resources in Suriname (<http://www.swris.sr/>).

#### **6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes**

To promote environmentally responsible practices in the mining sector, in particular Artisanal and Small-Scale Goldmining, the Government has conducted a Mercury Initial Assessment and prepared for the ratification and subsequent implementation of the Minamata convention. The draft National Action Plan (NAP) on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold-mining (ASGM) was prepared and the formal approval by the Government is pending. The NAP provides a longer-term strategy and policy, whilst supporting medium term policy enhancements and building capacity for improving monitoring and enforcement of the regulations in Artisanal and Small-Scale Goldmining. A project is in preparation namely 'Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM Sector Plus - GEF GOLD', through which GEF funding will be utilized to develop a full project document for Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon. The goal is to secure equitable management of Suriname's protected and productive landscapes through integrated approaches that deliver mutually supportive conservation and sustainable livelihood benefits.

**6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies**

With the support of among others the United Nations, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility and bilateral agreements, projects are being executed related to rainwater harvesting, water supply and water efficiency.

**6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management**

Through the projects that the Government is executing in the rural, urban and interior areas, local communities are actively engaged in the initiatives to promote and increase access to water supply.

## Chapter VI Sustainable Development Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### Status of the Targets

SDG 7 Targets			Status
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services			
7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix			
7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency			
7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology			
7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support			
On track	Moderate improvements	Not on track	Not monitored yet/Not applicable

### Policy context and Progress

#### Energy in Suriname

Energy is used in different sectors of the economy and is indispensable for the modern economy. The availability of (cheap) energy such as oil and gas has contributed greatly to the growth of the global economy since the industrial revolution. But the consumption of fossil fuels also has adverse effects on the environment by emissions such as greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other harmful substances. How the Government manages its valuable energy resources, has serious implications for the sustainable development of the country. The prime objective of sustainable development is to ensure that future generations can enjoy quality energy services similar to those we enjoy today. In Suriname, the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the administration, regulation, monitoring and development of the energy policy in Suriname. The energy generators of the country are the state-owned Surinamese Energy Company (EBS) and State Oil Company Suriname (Staatsolie). The overall distribution of energy is the responsibility of the EBS.

#### Available and Installed Capacity

Suriname's energy mix comes from hydro and thermal generation. The Energy Supply Paramaribo (EPAR) provides the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica, Para, Commewijne and Saramacca with electrical energy. The electrical energy needs are covered by four generating plants, two of which are managed by the EBS. The two thermal power plants have a generating capacity of 133 MW. The other two generating plants (Suralco and State Oil Company Suriname) are managed through PPAs (Power Purchase Agreement). In the districts of Marowijne, Coronie and Nickerie, thermal generating plants have been installed. The country mostly depends on energy generated by hydro power (Afobakadam) and diesel generated power. Power generation is performed by EBS, State Oil Company Suriname and Suralco LLC and the transmission and distribution are performed by EBS.

In January 2020, Staatsolie received the management of the Afobaka Power Plant and the reservoir, which was previously in the hands of Suralco LLC. The energy generated by the State Oil Company is produced by the State Oil Power Company Suriname (SPCS).

In 2021 the energy production (backup production in Saramacca) was 334 MWh. The energy production of Tout Lui Faut Thermal Power Plant for EBS was 260 GWh and the production of the Afobaka Hydro Operations for EPAR (EBS) was 847 GWh. In contrast to the diesel generated power, energy generated by hydro power reduces the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the atmosphere, since no fossil fuels are consumed.

### Electricity distribution

EBS provides the coastal area with electricity, while the Department of Electrification Services (DES) of the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the energy supply of approximately 135 villages in the Interior, in the form of diesel electricity generators.

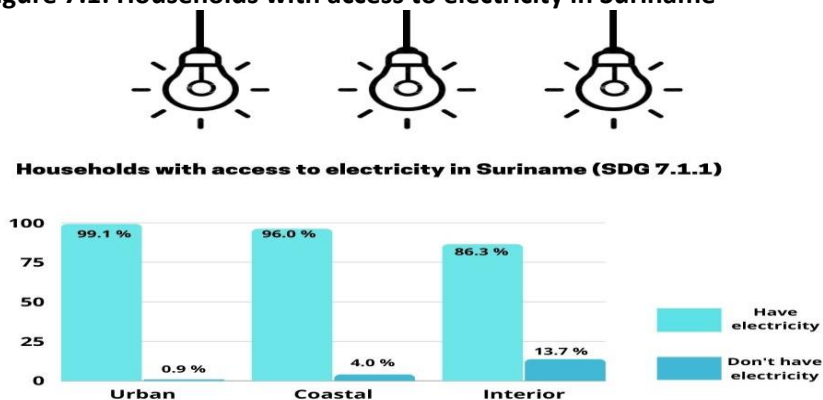
### 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

**Table 7.1: Number of dwellings by type of electricity supply**

Type of electricity	Number		Percentage	
	2004	2012	2004	2012
Direct through EBS	94,451	111,699	78.6	83.2
Direct through ministry of NH and RO	3,205	8,143	2.7	6.1
Electricity through neighbors	4,158	4,330	3.5	3.2
Own Generator	1,058	2,282	0.9	1.7
Petroleum / candle / slide /	-	3,770	-	2.8
Solar energy	-	196	-	0.14
Other	4,170	725	3.5	0.5
Access to electricity	107,042	131,145	89	98
No Electricity	10,248	1,083	8.5	0.8
Unknown	2,867	2,101	2.4	1.6
Total	120,157	134,329	100	100

Source: Census Country results 2004 and 2012: Households, Dwellings and Families

**Figure 7.1: Households with access to electricity in Suriname**



Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018

The EBS has been collaborating with several International Financial Institutions to upgrade some of the network's critical transmission and distribution infrastructures. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loan financed the upgrade of five substations and the construction of two new substations in rural areas. This upgrade led to significant improvement of the quality of service, reducing the frequency of interruption by around 65% and the duration of these by approximately 75%, in the last decade. Due to the upgrade, villages in the Interior of Suriname have been provided with electricity.

Through the IDB loan, the first solar mini grid in Suriname to provide 24/7 electricity to the isolated villages of Pokigron and Atjoni was established. This project has been replicated in other villages in the Interior, namely setting up a solar mini grid in the Interior village of Godo Olo, providing approximately 450 households in this area with 1x24 hours. In the Upper Suriname river area (Interior), a hybrid solar energy project is being executed to provide electricity for surrounding villages such as Futunakaba, Dan, Kambaloea, Manloi, Massiakreek, Dawme, Heikununu, Toemaipa, Padalafanti, Semoisi, Gran Slee, Bofo Koele, Godo, Kampoe and Soolang.

The official opening in July 2022 of the 300 KW Solar Farm in the rural district of Coronie has been carried out. This solar power plant is part of the expansion and upgrade project which is being carried out under a loan agreement in progress between the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Also, in the rural district of Marowijne, electrification has been provided to households of certain communities such as Papatam. In the rural district of Commewijne, a solar mini grid has also been established. The purpose of the mini grids is to improve the quality of supply in the areas, to meet the growing energy demand, defer future investment in the distribution and transmission infrastructure, reduce the losses in the transport of the electricity and reduce the use of fossil fuels in the main thermal power plants.

The Energy Authority of Suriname (EAS) is an autonomous institution, established by the Act of March 10, 2016 (State decree 2016 no. 41). The EAS performs supervisory and steering tasks and duties aimed at establishing and promoting optimal availability, affordability and sustainability in the energy sector of Suriname. Furthermore, the EAS derives its duties and powers from various relevant laws and regulations, including the Electricity Act 2016 and derived State Decrees.

The activities of the EAS are aimed at regulating, monitoring, informing and advising the energy sector in order for the generation, transmission and distribution of energy-related products and services to be guaranteed in favor of sustainable social and economic growth and development of Suriname. The EAS started its operations in August 2020 after the appointment of a managing director and is currently fulfilling its duties in accordance with the Electricity Act of 2016.

The EAS is currently preparing the Electricity Sector Plan, which will use the Integrated Resource and Resilience Planning model to which Suriname has committed itself in the CARICOM, in order to carry out the electricity supply planning, all this related to SDG7. The collection of the necessary data is currently undertaken. The EAS is also undertaking activities on a strategic, technical and regulatory level - as required by law -, since full electrification will play an important role by 2030, as will the increase in the percentage of renewable energy (solar) as a whole. In this regard, the EAS is working with the Ministry of Natural Resources on the composition of a Rural Electrification Plan. Together with key stakeholders, the EAS is discussing on how the Energy sector will develop in the next 20 years. One of the realistic options is the development of a combination of renewable energy and natural gas.



The necessary studies in this regard will start shortly, and one of them has to do with a floating solar project on the Afobaka Lake.

### Overview of projects implemented or in implementation by the EBS

Financierder	Projectnaam	Projectdoel	Looptijd	Status
IDB	SU-L1009 Support to Improve Sustainability of the Electricity Service	To contribute to the sustainability of the power sector by Strengthening EBS' operational procedures, corporate performance, and improve the sustainability of rural electricity supply.	2013 - 2020	Completed
IDB	SU-L1039 Support for the Implementation of the EBS Investment Plan	To contribute to the sustainability of the power sector in Suriname by: (i) strengthening EBS's operational procedures and corporate performance; and (ii) upgrading critical infrastructure in the National Power System.	2015 – 2021	Ongoing
EU	EU-CIF PARALLEL FINANCING FED/2015/362-010 Support to Improve Sustainability of the Electricity Service	To provide electricity based on Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) to rural communities in the hinterland.	2015 - 2022	Ongoing
CDB	2SFR-OR-SUR Power Project Suriname - Electricity System Upgrade and Expansion	Improved reliability, increased capability and operational flexibility of EBS' sub-transmission and distribution network on the EPAR and the ENIC power systems, in the delivery of quality power supply to customers in an efficient manner. Additionally, the Project will result in the utilisation by EBS of self-owned renewable energy (RE) plants for electricity production.	2017 - 2021	Ongoing
AFD	CSR 1008 01E Detailed Feasibility study for the Integration of Moengo, Albina, and villages along the East-West Corridor into the Paramaribo electricity network	To provide NV EBS with analyses and recommendations on the technical design that will support its decision-making with regard to implementation of the project.	2018 - 2020	Ongoing
CDB	GA 8/SUR; Enhancing Access through Stakeholders Engagement GA 8	Strengthened capacity of EBS to implement and monitor gender- and culturally- responsive stakeholder engagement strategies, such that beneficiaries' or communities' are engaged throughout project implementation.	2018 - 2021	Ongoing
IDB	SU-L1055 Consolidating a Sustainable Energy Sector	To improve rural economic development, by ensuring adequate and modern access to sustainable electricity to enhance the living conditions for the rural population while improving the rural business environment with better provision of electricity as a public service.	2020 - 2025	Ongoing

With regard to the proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology, the Suriname 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey included a module with questions to assess the main technologies and fuels used for cooking and lighting. Information was also collected about the use of technologies with chimneys or other venting mechanisms which can improve indoor air quality through moving a fraction of the pollutants outdoors.

Households that use clean fuels and technologies for cooking are those mainly using electric stove, solar cooker, LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)/cooking gas stove, biogas stove, or a liquid fuel stove burning ethanol/alcohol only.

Table 7.2 presents the percent distribution of household members according to type of cookstove mainly used by the household and percentage of household members living in households using clean fuels and technologies for cooking. Households that use clean fuels and technologies for lighting are those mainly using electricity, solar lantern, rechargeable or battery powered flashlight, torch or lantern, or biogas lamp.

**Table 7.2: Population with access to cooking fuel**

Cooking Fuel	Number		%	
	2004	2012	2004	2012
Propane Gas	97,166	115,488	78.7	82.3
Wood/Charcoal	19,941	15,999	16.2	11.4
Petroleum	916	922	0.7	0.7
Electricity	993	2,066	0.8	1.5
Solar energy		106	-	0.1
Biogas		473	-	0.3
Other	181	305	0.1	0.2
Doesn't cook	937	1,047	0.8	0.7
Unknown	3,329	3,961	2.7	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,463</b>	<b>140,367</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Suriname Census 2021

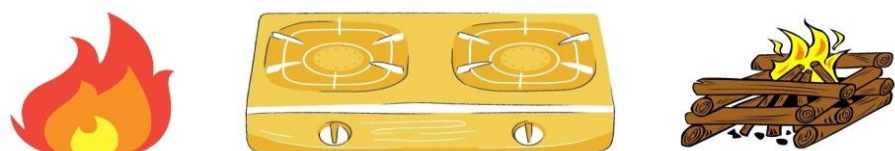
**Table 7.3: Households Using Clean Fuels and Technologies for Cooking and Lighting (percentages)**

Area	Cooking	Lighting	Cooking and lighting
Urban	96.4	99.2	95.7
Rural Coastal	92.7	96.2	90.1
Rural Interior	78.1	87.3	69.3
<b>Suriname</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>92.4</b>

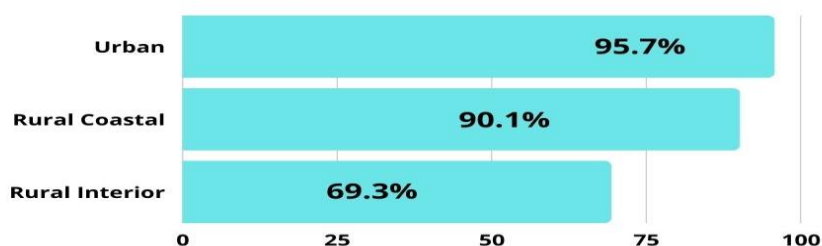
District	Cooking	Lighting	Cooking and Lighting
Paramaribo	97.9	99.2	97.2
Wanica	94.6	99.2	93.9
Nickerie	93.2	99.2	92.5
Coronie	99.0	98.6	98.1
Saramacca	87.3	98.9	87.0
Commewijne	95.4	98.7	94.4
Marowijne	97.4	94.6	93.4
Para	92.8	92.8	87.9
Brokopondo	89.2	92.3	84.4
Sipaliwini	66.7	82.3	54.2

Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018

**Figure 7.2: Households who use clean fuels and technologies for cooking and lighting in Suriname**



**Households using clean fuels and technologies for cooking and lighting (SDG 7.1.2)**



Source: Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018

Figures 7.1 and 7.2 show that on average 94.2% of households have access to electricity and on average 92.4% of households use clean fuels and technologies for cooking and lighting. This indicates that Suriname can achieve SDG 7.2 by 2030.

## 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

## 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

- 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Electricity, Gas, Steam and Cooled Air</b>	553,399	765,821	539,728	561,782	No data available
<b>GDP at market prices</b>	26,893,278	29,821,678	31,482,516	38,353,279	
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Table 7.4: Solar Energy projects in Suriname

	Solar Energy projects	Area	Year	Kwh	Solar panels (Number)
1	Atjoni solar power plant	Sipaliwini district: Upper Suriname areas of Atjoni & Pokigron	2018	500 kWp	1,680
2	Nickerie solar power plant	Nickerie district: Clarapolder	2022	2.3 MWp and a back-up capacity of 1000 kWh	6,080
3	Coronie Solar panels central	Coronie district			

## Chapter VII Sustainable Development Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

### Status of the Targets

SDG 9 Targets		Status
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all		
9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries		
9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets		
9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities		
9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending		
9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing State		
9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities		
9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## Policy context and Progress

### **9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all**

In the past years, investments have been made in infrastructure expansion and rehabilitation namely to the roads and different connecting bridges in both urban and rural areas. One of the major infrastructural projects that have been implemented is the rehabilitation and asphaltting of the East-West connecting road, which is the most important connecting road in the coastal area of Suriname. The rehabilitation took into account the International Initiative Regional Infrastructure South America (IIRSA), that should lead to the physical integration of the South American mainland and efficient transport. In order to increase road safety and reduce congestion in traffic, various access roads in the urban and rural areas have been rehabilitated. The Government also invested in building connecting bridges in different urban and rural areas. The nationwide road rehabilitation programme has been executed with pavement of access roads and area access roads in different residential areas, including sewage works.

The 'improving transport logistics and competitiveness in Suriname project', financed by the Inter-American Development Bank concerns the reconstruction works to increase accessibility of the Harbour and reconstruction of the current main road (van 't Hogerhuysstraat), will be important for facilitating export and container transportation.

With regard to the threat and consequences of sea level rise, coastal protection has received particular attention to the construction of river bank protection and defenses. The drainage of various residential areas has been improved, with particular attention being paid to tackling flooding in urban and rural areas.

The Government with support of the World Bank has prepared the 'Saramacca Canal System (SCS) Rehabilitation Project for Suriname', with the objective to reduce flood risk for the people and assets in the greater Paramaribo (urban) area and improve the operation of the Saramacca Canal System. The project has four components. (1) Improving the drainage infrastructure component will finance (a) rehabilitation of the sluices and locks and canal re-profiling and clearing and (b) pilot interventions on selected critical secondary and tertiary canals. (2) Strengthening the Saramacca Canal System component will finance TA for updating of norms and guidelines for drainage management, drainage infrastructure asset management platform, and institutional support for a possible SCS platform. (3) Providing a contingent emergency response component will finance the implementation of emergency works, rehabilitation, and associated assessments in the event of a natural disaster. (4) Supporting project management and implementation component will finance the costs related to the overall project management and implementation support.

The Government has been able to dredge the Suriname River to a depth of 4.5 meters through public and private partnership. In March 2022, this depth was reached and work will start in December 2022 to reach a depth of 5.5 meters. Dredging will sustainably stimulate the economy of Suriname in the import and export of goods and serve as a precondition for attracting more investors to Suriname, for example due to the need of the companies that are active in the oil and gas industry in Suriname, which will need a deeper channel for their ships.

To increase the international road connection of Suriname, the preparations are undertaken for the design and construction of bridges over the Corantijn river (border with Guyana), the Suriname river and the Marowijne river (border with French Guyana).

**9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities**

With the name change from the Ministry to Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, the Technological Innovation Directorate has been established. To set up Fab Labs to provide access to the tools, knowledge and financial resources to educate, innovate and invent through technology and digital fabrication, a financial plan has been made for the establishment and operationalization of the Fab Lab Foundation and the possibilities for project financing from the Programme for Suriname's Growth Enterprises (SURGE) of the World Bank are examined. Other policy interventions concern:

1. Solar adoption: promoting households to make the switch from traditional energy to renewable energy;
2. Private sector initiatives that stimulate "hands on innovation" and can be characterized as business support organizations. In collaboration with these organizations, which are often enough sector organizations and networks, among others, in the agricultural processing, ICT, furniture sector according to needs or identified opportunities. Furthermore, training courses, international participation and programmes in development that increase the innovative capacity for private sector development;
3. Innovation fund: there is a financing need for innovation that is not always recognized by the financial sector. Ranging from product development, IP financing and purchase of new technology for business operations. In addition to the SME fund, an innovation fund is considered, as well as the stimulation of forms of financing such as crowdfunding, angel investment and private equity. The startup environment must be favorable and developed.
4. Establishment of an Industry Service Center as a center for innovation and Industry. A strong connection will be made with the private sector and with higher education institutions in the design of this.

**9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020**

The Government will take initiatives together with the Telecommunications Authority Suriname (TAS) to provide broadband and computer labs in schools. The TAS will adjust laws and regulations to enable new technological developments.

## Chapter VIII Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Status of the Targets

SDG 10 Targets		Status
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average		
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status		
10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard		
10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality		
10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations		
10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institution		
10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies		
10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements		
10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes		
10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>



## **Policy context and Progress**

### **10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average**

The Government takes all efforts to target the bottom 40 percent of the population through its social protection system, through which the targeted population receives financial social provisions. Over time the level of these provisions has been raised. The Government has revised the National Social Security System in 2014 and introduced 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). The Government is also working on employment programmes for the population to facilitate independent income generation and self-sufficiency. The government and the social partners (private sector and trade unions) have agreed on a Tripartite Agreement in 2021, with the aim to achieve a financially and economically stable situation, in which economic activity can recover. Conditions must be created for structural strengthening of the economy and employment opportunities, in particular by promoting and diversifying production and exports, with a focus on social support and income policies.

### **10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status**

### **10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard**

### **10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality**

The prohibition of discrimination is stated in the Constitution. There are also provisions in several other laws which prohibit discrimination such as in the Penal Code of the Republic of Suriname, specifically the articles 126 sub a, 175, 175 sub a, 176, 176 sub b, 176 sub c and 500 sub a.

Suriname has ratified a number of international conventions that concern the social, economic and political protection and inclusion:

1. The Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
3. The Inter American Convention on the Prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women (Belem do Para Convention)
4. The Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC)
5. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
6. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
7. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
8. The Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
9. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
10. The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
11. The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child Pornography

With regard to the social protection system, the Government of Suriname is providing social provisions to citizens based on certain criteria to determine eligibility. These benefits are (i) the old age allowance which is a universal provision for persons of 60 years and older; (ii) financial assistance for persons with disabilities; (iii) financial assistance for poor households and (iv) the general child allowance for persons

who do not receive child allowance through their employer. The estimated poverty lines can provide poverty profiles which can serve as a base to decide upon eligibility of households and individuals for specific poverty programs.

Before 2014, the Government implemented a health-card system operated through a Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing, through which persons who were categorized as low income received a health card which provided access to primary and secondary health care. In 2014, the Government adopted the National Basic Health Insurance Act. Through this Act, children in the age-group 0-16 years and persons of 60 years and older are automatically eligible for the basic health insurance. For persons in the age group 17-59 years, there are criteria to determine whether they can receive a health card subsidized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing. Major beneficiaries of these social provisions are women, considering their overrepresentation in lower income groups and the growing number of female heads of households.

By using basic health-card insurance, persons insured are guaranteed a basic health care package: medicines, doctor's treatment and selected specialist and paramedical treatments.

About 11% of the population receives the elderly allowance. In Suriname every person aged 60 years and older received by administrative regulation an old age pension. The percentage of the number of registered persons that receives financial assistance is about 2 % of the population. Also, about 2% of the population receives financial support for having a disability. Due to improved health security care system, there is an increase from 10% around 2015 to 35% in 2021 in health insurance coverage for those in need and not being able to pay for their health insurance.

Continued efforts are made to strengthen the social protection programmes for those in need namely subsidies for utilities, subsidies for fuel, subsidized transportation for citizens and more specifically for persons with a disability and elderly, financial assistance programmes, subsidized school fees and grants, vocational training and employment programmes for adolescents and persons with a disability, subsidies and provision of food and milk to care institutions for elderly, children and persons with a disability, affordable housing programmes for those with no or low-income, providing food packages to families in need, school transportation for children from all levels of school and the baby feeding programme. With both national and international partners, financial resources are being mobilized for the investments in social protection.

In recent years, the Government has laid emphasis on combating all forms of gender-based violence, as well as preventing this through policy and legislation, increased information and awareness, and through cooperation with organizations, institutions and other bodies that aim to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

With regard to legislation, the following laws have been approved:

- a) Review and adjustment of the Penal Code with regard to trafficking in women and minors in 2006 and 2015
- b) Review and adjustment of the Penal Code on Sexual Offenses in 2009
- c) 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.
- d) Revision of the Penal Code with regard to trafficking in persons in 2015. The legislation 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.

- e) The Revision of the Penal Code also 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.
- f) Approval of the Act Combating Domestic Violence in 2009 and since 2012, it has been possible to submit applications for protection orders to the courts
- g) Harassment Act (Belaging) in 2012
- h) In the Penal Code, sexual violence/rape within marriage is now recognized and punishable (2015). Also, sexual abuse of minors (age has been raised to 16 years) as a form of sexual intimidation has been defined as a criminal offence and the definition of sexual harassment has been expanded.

To date, there is no specific policy or legislation regarding sexual harassment or intimidation in the workplace. However, there are legal provisions that can be related to this and on which an employee could invoke. These are laid down in the Constitution, the Surinamese Civil Code and the Criminal Code. For the specific regulation of sexual harassment and intimidation, several initiatives have been taken to draft legislation. The first draft legislation was formulated by the Ministry of the Home Affairs and reformulated by the civil society organization Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation, with the provision that the legislation applies to both the public and private sectors. As a result, a 3-year programme (2008-2011) on the prevention and elimination of sexual harassment at the workplace was implemented by the Foundation. However, the draft legislation was not approved by Parliament. The Ministry of Labour drafted a bill on Violence and Sexual Harassment on the Workplace which is submitted in 2019 at the Parliament for adoption and is currently being discussed.

In article 82 of the Surinamese Civil Code, the minimum age for marriage for boys has been established to 17 years and for girls to 15 years. Consultations between Government and NGOs resulted in the amendment of the law on child marriage in the draft revised Civil Code. Consequently, the minimum age to enter into marriage for both boys and girls is raised to 18 years in the draft revised Civil Code. Additionally, the possibility for parents to request dispensation for child marriage is repealed. The draft Civil Code has not been approved yet, but will be submitted for discussion in the Parliament.

To eradicate child labour and to harmonize the Surinamese labour law concerning child labour with ILO standards (ILO-conventions 138 and 182), the legislation on Labour of Children and Youth was adopted in 2018. This law aims to eradicate child labour and to harmonize the Surinamese labour law concerning child labour with ILO standards. In order to secure the effectiveness of this Act in practice, training courses for relevant stakeholders such as social workers and police officers are ongoing.

The President of the Republic of Suriname established a presidential working group 'Conditions and Implementation Children's Ombudsbureau Suriname', and this working group has been working on the revision of the draft legislation for the establishment of the Children's Ombudsbureau according to the Paris Principles, that was developed earlier. Consultations with stakeholders have been held for their inputs. The working group is working on the finalization of the draft legislation.

The government provides legal assistance and legal aid free of charge to the financially weak irrespective of sex, through the Legal Aid Bureau 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 the urban district of 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 rural district of Nickerie, one judge has similarly been appointed.

The Government of Suriname has ratified the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration, 1951 (No. 100) and the ILO Convention against Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111) in 2017 and the ILO Convention of the 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.

The Government has prepared a draft law on Equal Pay which has been submitted to the Parliament for approval. The Parliament has the intention to adopt this legislation in 2022.

The Government has revised the National Social Security System in 2014 and introduced 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).

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 labour productivity.

This is replaced with the 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 within the period 2015-2022.

#### **10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

#### **10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institution**

Over the years, Suriname has built and intensified various strategic partnerships at bilateral, regional and multilateral level to stimulate development and complement domestic resources. Technical assistance, small grants and credit lines have been provided by development partners for various sectors including amongst others, natural resources, agriculture, environment, health, education, community development, poverty alleviation, and infrastructure. The cooperation with neighboring and adjacent countries and the strategic partnerships with countries in the Caribbean, the America's, Europe, and within South-South cooperation are promising and International Organizations, including the United Nations, CARICOM, European Union and the Bretton Woods Institutions are and remain instrumental for Suriname.

### **10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies**

The Immigration department of the Government is responsible for the policy with regard to the admission, settlement, deportation and extradition of foreigners. The law on Foreigners 1991 and the decree on Foreigners 1995, the Nationality and Residence law and other related legislation on foreigners, serve as a basis for the performance of its duties. The UNHCR has a liaison in Suriname and keeps track of asylum seekers and refugees by country of origin and supports the Government with technical policy advice. With the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Migration Needs Assessment was finalized in 2021. In addition, the Migration Governance Indicator Assessment will be finalized in 2022. The Government is preparing a feasible National Migration Policy Plan.

Through the implementation of the National Migration Policy Plan, Suriname will respond to the opportunities and challenges of migration at national, regional and global level, taking into account Suriname's sustainable development agenda.

### **10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements**

Suriname is also engaged in various major external trade negotiations on a multilateral level as well as on a regional level such as the multilateral Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the negotiations with the CARICOM, CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Trade Preferential System-Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC), and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

The CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (CARIFORUM-EU-EPA) manages the trade exports to and from Europe and safeguards almost 120 million Euro on import duties in the pocket of the government.

Suriname has signed this Agreement and preparations for ratification are being made. It should be noted that Suriname already uses the duty and quota free market access conditions of the CARIFORUM-EU-EPA.

As a result of meeting the requirements resulting from the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the government installed a Trade Facilitation Committee, responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement. In this regard, the Suriname Electronic Single Window (SESW) is in preparation for efficient and effective handling of the digitization of the procedures for import, export and transit.

In the context of further promoting production as well as exports, measures are taken to establish a Market Access Unit. This Unit will be charged with providing the specific technical information necessary to participate in trade in goods and services in a globalizing world.

**10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes**

In light of economic diversification and Suriname's history on dependency on extractive industries, the government is fully aware that it should explore other economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism and services delivery, taking into account efforts that have already been initiated and possibilities that are forecasted based on negotiations with development partners.

To facilitate foreign direct investment, and increase trade and export, the government established in November 2021 the Suriname Investment Trade Export Agency (SITA) under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation. In this regard, a five-year programme with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is currently being implemented. To support policy, the government is in the process of revisiting the Investment law and the preparation of legislation to establish a Co-Investment Fund. The drafting of a Transfer Pricing Regulation law is also high priority.

**10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

## Chapter IX Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### Status of the Targets

SDG 10 Targets		Status
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums		
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons		
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries		
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage		
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations		
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management		
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities		
11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning		
11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels		
11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## **Policy context and Progress**

### **11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums**

The Government drafted the Housing plan 2012-2017 which described the restructuring of the housing sector and where the government takes on another new role. In the he method of executing housing projects, the focus has been on realizing Public Private Partnership (PPP), where the main idea has been an FBOT (Finance, Build, Operate & Transfer) model. Based on this concept, a number of houses have been built.

With regard to legislation, the legislation for a National Guarantee Fund for Housing was approved in 2019. The intention of this law is to establish the Housing Guarantee Fund. Despite having an income, people belonging to the low and middle income classes are not sufficiently bankable to qualify for financing because, for example, there is insufficient certainty that the credit recipient will be able to repay the credit. The Fund can provide guarantees to lenders. Also the legislation for a National Housing Fund was approved in 2019. In the context of the restructuring of the housing policy and thereby significantly reducing the housing shortage, for example by creating conditions aimed at a sustainable approach to the housing issue faced by many house-seeking households, the establishment of a National Housing Fund was approved.

The Affordable Housing Program (AHP), which has a duration of five years, is now in preparation. The available resources of this program will be used to provide national subsidies to lower-income groups for the build, extend or renovate their houses. There will be more than 4,000 households targeted and the focus is not only on areas in the coastal plain, but also in the interior. The commercial housing financing program (self-build) based on an annual non-commercial mortgage rate of 6% for families buying a new home want to build or renovate an existing home, is continued.

When it comes to housing, the emphasis is now on making available residential lots. By acquiring a lot, citizen can also obtain financing more quickly to build their own house. This shift from government to private initiative is essential. It will bring growth and dynamism back to the construction industry and all adjacent sectors and supplier companies. In 2021, the Government provided citizens the opportunity to do an on-line registration for a lot.

Housing projects will be implemented in a PPP context (engage with land owners, construction and construction companies, and infrastructural companies) to start up on a small scale (tens of homes per year) and then expand after evaluation (prepared housing projects must be tested for feasibility, so that investments already made are not need to be lost). Expansion may include decentralization of the housing programme to address the construction of social housing in the different districts

### **11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons**

The Government drafted the National Strategic Plan for Road Safety 2018-2021 and has been implementing this Plan. Every year, in the period August-September, the road safety month is observed with the aim to make road users more aware of road safety during this period and to strive for zero road casualties. The Government has been rehabilitating and upgrading but also bituminizing the roads. Evaluating and adjusting the guidelines for road infrastructure has been prioritized.

With regard to accessibility to transportation, the Government facilitates public transportation in different residential areas nationwide. This transportation is subsidized and support citizens to have access to affordable and sustainable transportation. For children and adults with a disability as well as elderly persons, the Government has a care transportation system.



Over the years, the government has guaranteed school transportation for school children, students and teachers at all levels of education in the rural and interior areas, by providing school busses and school boats. The data of 2021 shows that approximately 21,130 school children and 1,618 teachers make use of the government provided transportation. In 2021, the government decided to expand the school transportation service for school children living in the urban district of Paramaribo.

**11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries**

**11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities**

**11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning**

In the period 2012-2014, the guidelines for allotment for residential areas that have been developed. However, in the context of an integrated spatial planning, land development standards should be developed and that has the primary focus of the Government. Zoning plans and structure plans need to be evaluated and updated or developed where these are currently lacking. Mobility and drainage plans for all districts need to be evaluated, adapted and developed. In all the planning, the impact of climate change should be highly considered. Possibilities for developing compact cities and enabling the effective and efficient distribution of services and facilities will be studied, especially in remote areas where there are very small settlements of people.

The National Spatial Planning for Suriname policy vision document is in preparation. The drafting of the Spatial Planning legislation and Land Development Standards are the highest priority. Also executing studies on spatial planning to determine land destination can be changed will be the focus. Digitizing spatial data is a continuous process. Assigning public areas and public open spaces is also one of the priority areas. It should be noted that the spatial planning policy also takes into consideration, the building legislation, environment legislation, the allocation of natural reserves and areas marked to be of historical and cultural value.

**11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage**

Suriname has inscribed two properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List, namely the historic inner city of its capital Paramaribo and the Central Suriname Nature Reserve, which is in the Interior of Suriname. Culture heritage care aiming at preservation and protection of cultural heritage is one of the policy interventions of the Government. The preservation of monuments means: the protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration of immovable property of general interest because of their historical, folklore, artistic, scientific, industrial-archaeological or other socio-cultural value. An evaluation of the application and effects of the Monuments Act of 2002 will be started. Also guidelines will be evaluated, adapted and developed to the general public and relevant government and private institutes regarding rules of conduct regarding the marking of the historic city center of Paramaribo on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2002. Protection of the about 250 listed monuments of Paramaribo was initially guaranteed under the 1963 Monuments Act. In 2002 this Act was replaced by the Monuments Act 2002 which provides for the designation of protected historic quarters with controls over interventions and provision for subsidies to owners for conservation works. The Management Authority (Surinam Built Heritage Foundation - SGES) was founded in 1997 and is responsible for the Surinamese monument care. SGES must ensure that the rules of the World Heritage Convention are complied with by Suriname. SGES has been responsible for the nomination and eventual placement on this famous list. Information and education are a large part of the tasks of SGES and an important target group are young people.

Furthermore, education and awareness projects are carried out aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of monuments among the population. The Paramaribo Plan guides the management of the site. The Inter-American Development Bank IADB-funds the 'Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme' (PURP). The general objective of PURP is to contribute to the socio-economic revitalization (reviving) of the historic center. The priorities are (i) the design and implementation of strategic urban interventions intended to reverse the physical decline of the historic center and initiate a sustainable revitalization process; (ii) contribute to the revitalization process - reviving it again - by turning the historic center into a vibrant part of the city that attracts new residents and businesses; (iii) establish and strengthen the institutions necessary to sustainably accompany the revitalization process of the historic center and enable the effective implementation of the activities of this program. A

number of actions have been completed or are being undertaken on issues such as a housing strategy for the historic city center, an inventory and manual on rehabilitation of historic buildings, urban mobility, a communication and social engagement plan, restoration of three government-owned historic buildings, reconstruction of the former Parliament of Suriname building. The Updated Paramaribo Management Plan 2020-2024 was completed in June 2019.

The Central Suriname Nature Reserve comprises 1.6 million ha of primary tropical forest of west-central Suriname. Its montane and lowland forests contain a high diversity of plant life with more than 5,000 vascular plant species collected to date. The Reserve's animals are typical of the region and include the jaguar, giant armadillo, giant river otter, tapir, sloths, eight species of primates and 400 bird species such as harpy eagle, Guiana cock-of-the-rock, and scarlet macaw.

**11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations**

**11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels**

**Table 11.1: Population affected by a disaster due to extreme weather per 100,000 populations**

Year	Type Disaster	Dead A <sub>2</sub>	Injured A <sub>3</sub>	Affected B <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub> + A <sub>3</sub> + B <sub>1</sub>	Estimated Population	Ratio per 100,000 people
2015	Floods, storms and heavy winds	1	3	790	794 <sup>1</sup>	567,291	<b>140</b>
2016	Floods, storms and heavy winds	-	2	36	38	575,700	<b>6.6</b>
2017	Floods, storms and heavy winds	-	-	109	109	583,400	<b>18.7</b>
2018	Floods, storms and heavy winds	-	-	22	22	590,100	<b>3.7</b>
2019	Floods, storms and heavy winds	-	-	74	74	598,000	<b>12.4</b>

Source: National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management

The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), responsible for coordination, prevention and/or management of crises and disasters, has trained disaster response teams in land search and rescue (LSAR). To be able to provide assistance on community level in all ten districts of Suriname, administrative officials of the respective District Commissioners' offices, staff of the Medical Services and other actors were trained in disaster risk management, and are part of the National Disaster Response Teams.

In the absence of disaster risk management legislation, NCCR in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), prepared Suriname's National Disaster Reduction Risk strategy, which is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Over the past years, early flood warning systems were installed at different locations and NCCR closely works with the response teams, other national institutes, and the communities before, during and after a disaster. An inventory will be carried out to assess what further investments need to take place with regard to early warning.

**11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management**

**11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials**

<sup>1</sup> In July 2015, Suriname faced extreme heavy winds and even whirlwinds in the coastal zone, as a result of which more persons were affected than in other years

## Chapter X Sustainable Development Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### Status of the Targets

SDG 12 Targets		Status
12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries		
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources		
12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses		
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment		
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse		
12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle		
12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities		
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature		
12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production		
12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products		
12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## **Policy context and Progress**

### **12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

### **12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources**

In recent decades, many developments have taken place in the field of natural resources, water, energy, minerals and the environment in Suriname. Recent years have seen an increase in the exploitation of gold and the significant oil and gas discoveries in the offshore area. These factors necessitated the adjustment of the structure of the Ministry of Natural Resources so that it is able to keep up with developments and to develop policy accordingly. Leading in the adjustment of the organization and management structure of the Ministry of Natural Resources has been the principles of: transparency, innovation, inclusion and sustainability in relation to the three main policy areas mining, water and energy. The Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) procedure, involving the freely established, prior and deliberate consent of the concerned community of indigenous people and/or other tribal Surinamese, are guiding principles within all policy areas (mining, water and energy).

The policy of the Mining sector focuses on legislation, institutional strengthening, transparency, inclusive, organization of the small-scale gold sector. The revision of the Mining legislation to take into account current developments, the environmental issue as well as rights of the indigenous and tribal peoples. Under the Suriname Competitiveness and Sector Diversification Project, the strengthening of the the mining sector governance, transparency, accountability and administration is an essential component, through which the Minerals Institute Suriname will be effectuated. The main purpose of this Institute is to promote, coordinate, regulate, monitor and inspect the activities in the mining sector. The activities should lead to the development of minerals in Suriname using less polluting mining techniques. An integral part of this process is the reorganization and capacity building of the current staff and equipment of the three institutions Geological Mining Service, the Bauxite Institute Suriname and the Unit Regulating Small-scale Gold Sector Suriname, which will be merged into the Institute.

Regulating the Small-scale Gold Sector has been ongoing and efforts are made to transform this sector into more sustainable and safe sources of income and employment, while the damage caused to the environment will have to be repaired. Regulation of illegal gold mining to a formal status is necessary to enforce environmentally responsible mining and processing activities and also to obtain an acceptable tax contribution. Efforts will also further focus on the implementation of the large-scale integrated mining project with the National Institute for Environment in Suriname, the UNDP, and other relevant actors, to continue the work on promoting the use of environmentally responsible and friendly methods and techniques. Suriname has ratified the Minamata Convention.

Continuation of mining policy transparency: this will be further tightened with the release of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) reports incorporating the mining, water and energy sectors.

With regard to Water, the policy of the Government is safeguarding the availability of good, healthy and affordable drinking water in the interest of healthy development of the community. Around 2030, the implementation of integral management of water resources should be a reality, as well as the accessibility of water for all Surinamese. As a result, the establishment of a directorate specifically focused on water policy, which goes beyond mere water supply, is of paramount importance. The guiding principle for the drinking water policy is the further realization of the recommendations as contained in the Suriname Water Supply Master Plan 2011 – 2024 and the updating thereof.

Legislation has been drafted to support effective water management:

1. The law 'Supervision of Drinking Water Quality' (with Explanatory Memorandum);
2. The 'Groundwater' law (with Explanatory Memorandum);
3. The law 'Groundwater Protection Areas' (with Explanatory Memorandum);

The Energy sector is very crucial in the period ahead in the context of new developments in oil and gas. The Government's policy is aimed at safeguarding the national energy supply in view of its importance for the socio-economic development of our country. This also includes developments in the field of oil and gas, partly due to the significant oil and gas discoveries in the offshore area.

The establishment of structures and institutions that will have to prepare and supervise the local content for the gas and oil sector are the highest priority. Therefore, a separate sub-directorate within the Energy Directorate has been institutionalized, in particular to study the development, policy, regulation and monitoring of the hydrocarbon sector (oil and gas).

The renewal of the Petroleum legislation which dates from 1991, will be subject to a review and revised. In view of the international developments in the field of green energy, attention will also be paid to setting out and developing policy in the field of alternative renewable energy sources, in particular bioenergy.

The 'Sustainable Energy for All' (SE4ALL) pursues three (3) important goals towards 2030 namely:

1. Access to electricity and cooking gas for all
2. Doubling energy efficiency
3. Doubling of renewable energy sources in the overall energy consumption.

The development of the Energy Sector Plan has been initiated and the restructuring of the electricity supply sector is continued.

### **12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses**

The Caribbean Development Bank has supported Suriname's public and private sector with a training project titled 'Post-Harvest Handling of Fruits and Vegetables.' Seventy participants, made up of farmers, export company staff and airport cargo and handling personnel have been trained. An assessment of the country's agricultural sector in 2016 highlighted that major losses were being sustained due to a lack of knowledge about post-harvest practices and procedures. This project addressed the absence of best practices for post-harvest handling all along the export supply chain - from the farmers to the exporting firms' staff to the airport cargo and handling personnel. The goal was to build up the capacity at every stage and contribute to improved production, harvesting, handling, and transportation of fruits and vegetables.

The 'Enhancing Food Security in Response to COVID-19 by Improving Access to Locally Grown Food' programme's focus is on the reduction of post-harvest losses in the crops, cassava, mango and vegetables. A baseline survey of the crops was performed. Equipment for the Post-Harvest lab will also be delivered. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries received capacity strengthening support to reduce food losses and waste in selected crops. FAO supported with Training of Trainers in post-harvest technologies and officers (including extension officers, researchers and plant protection officers) are now equipped to train other stakeholders on suitable pre-and post-harvest techniques.

Moreover, farmers, exporters and fresh-cut producers were sensitized in post-harvest technologies and practices. Recipients have confirmed improvements to their post-harvest operations, and quality of products for specific markets, as well a reduction of losses. To sustain efforts, communication materials were also developed such as factsheets on post-harvest technologies and best practices to reduce loss and improve food quality. These materials were translated into Dutch for seven common commodities such as yard long beans, papaya, cassava, bitter gourd, African eggplant, mango, and açai.

**12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment**

The Government of Suriname has ratified the following Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

1. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)
2. The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade (Rotterdam Convention)
3. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention)
4. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol)
5. The Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention).

The policy regarding management of chemicals is within different departments of Government. The mandates of these departments concern the enforcement of legislation, rules and regulations for the different stages such as import, production, storage, use/handling and disposal. The management regards focus on the effect on human wellbeing, environmental protection, occupational health and industrial safety. There are several national laws that guide the management of chemicals and waste such as the 'Negative List', 'Import Tariffs law', 'Mining law', 'Petroleum law', 'Drilling law', 'Safety law', 'Labor Inspection law', 'Pesticide law', 'Environment Framework law' and the 'Penal Code'

Also, the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS) has been established to initiate the development of a national legal and institutional framework for environmental policy and management in the interest of sustainable development. The NIMOS also focuses on Environmental & Social Assessment, Environmental Monitoring & Enforcement, Environmental Education & Public Outreach, Environmental Planning & Information Management and Environmental Research.

In the mining sector, two specific initiatives can be highlighted namely the Mercury Initial Assessment, which supported the ratification of the Minamata convention and the drafting of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold-mining (ASGM). The Plan provides a longer-term strategy and policy, whilst supporting medium term policy enhancements and building capacity for improving monitoring and enforcement of the regulations in Artisanal and Small-Scale Goldmining. A draft guidance manual for pesticide contaminated soil characterization and remediation was prepared. Training was also provided on the Bioremediation of pesticide contaminated soils. As a follow-up, one site named Mariënborg, located in Suriname was selected for remediation activities. The contaminant levels are being monitored by collecting and analyzing the samples of the soil.

### **12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and re-use**

The Government has its institutional structures that coordinate the household and industrial waste management. There is only little waste being recycled or processed, so that new products can be made out of it. Some private companies started doing this such as: (i) Amazona Recycling Company N.V. (AmReCo) is an integrated recycling company that contributes to a sustainable and healthy environment in Suriname, through to industrial processing of used plastic (pet, hdpe), cardboard and paper and also sells these products to third parties; and (ii) Support Recycling Suriname Foundation (SuReSur) was founded in April 2015 with the aim of making the Surinamese population aware of the environment in the field of recycling and separating waste. Nationally, the foundation has placed more than 140 collection bins at strategic locations in seven districts of Suriname, where plastic bottles, plastic bags and aluminum cans are collected and transported to a recycling company. SuReSur works closely with AmReCo.

In Suriname, most waste is deposited into landfills. There is one large landfill and some small landfills in the country. Therefore, there is a need for an integrated approach for waste management. The Government aims to develop an integrated Waste Management Plan at the national level for all waste streams based on the 5R principle (Refuse), Reduce, Re-Use, Repurpose and Recycle. This is an important method of ensuring waste reduction and increasing recycling possibilities, ultimately also reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. The plan will serve as a roadmap for the development of an effective waste management system. The Government has been implementing a pilot project KONI DOTI (smart waste), with the aim to raise awareness of the importance of separating household waste in Suriname and the associated benefits in economic, social and environmental terms; contribute to the effective collection of separated household waste and stimulate local recycling. The Government is also participating in a regional project “E-waste management’.

Under this project, the following components will be implemented in the period 2022-2023:

1. Gathering information and data on E-waste production and composition, stakeholder identification and existing disposal pathways and market conditions for recovering recyclable materials;
2. Develop updated assessment reports
3. Designing a sub-regional management plan for E-waste, including training modules for the personnel who will implement the plan and a business plan for the proposed management solution.

The Government is also drafting a National Medical Waste Plan.

### **12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

### **12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.



## **12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature**

In this regard the initiatives of the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS) should be highlighted. Environmental Education & Public Outreach has been one of the key areas of intervention. Also, as part of the REDD+ preparation phase, education and information for the involved communities has been provided.

### **12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production**

In view of the international developments in the field of green energy, attention will also be paid to setting out and developing policy in the field of alternative renewable energy sources, in particular bioenergy. Suriname is actively pursuing setting up the solar energy plants.

### **12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products**

Suriname is high on the list of the most unknown tourism destinations. It goes without saying that our competitiveness will have to be increased. Visibility of Suriname on the tourism market is crucial if we want to transform the tourism sector into a fully-fledged tourism industry. Based on the formulated mission and vision, Suriname will be positioned as the top tourist untouched nature culture destination, where experiences range from the pure authentic culture and untouched nature to modern experiences of the times. The marketing of Suriname as a tourism destination will be thoroughly adjusted in the short term in close collaboration with the tourism sector and other interested stakeholders. The proposal is to establish Tourism Working Groups (public-private) in the districts to undertake further development in the district concerned. Work will be done on improved and new tourism products based on a value chain analysis and a tourism strategic plan for the relevant district, as part of the district development plan. Having a visitor/tourist information center in every district is a must.

Additionally, the adoption of the Tourism Authority law and the Tourism Framework law will provide clear mandates for the Authority to carry out inspections on compliance with norms and standards, with fines in cases of non-compliance.

Another recommendation that will be pursued is setting up a tourism cluster in a PPP context by creating high-quality accommodation capacity and other facilities at a strategic location in the interior of Suriname, which is ideal for all kinds of activities and is attractive because of the biodiversity present.

Regarding employment, it should be noted that the ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs has been actively organizing vocational training in tourism. The Suriname Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre (SHTTC), is a Foundation whose board is composed of both government and private sector institutions. The Foundation provides training and education at national level for those in the working class who want to build a career in the tourism and hospitality sector. The training programmes are at secondary level in the field of hotel, recreation, hospitality, housekeeping, tour guiding, entrepreneurship, and management.

### **12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

## Chapter XI Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

### Status of the Targets

SDG 14 Targets		Status
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution		
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans		
14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels		
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics		
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information		
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation		
14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism		
14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries		
14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets		
14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## Policy context and Progress

### **14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution**

Suriname is part of a unique marine ecosystem, referred to as the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem, which extends from Brazil's Parnaíba River to Venezuela's Orinoco River. Runoff from large rivers, such as the Orinoco and the Amazon, make this large marine ecosystem a nutrient-rich and highly productive ecosystem.<sup>2</sup>

In 2017 the civil society organization Green Heritage Fund Suriname, WWF Guianas, the Nature Conservation Division of the Ministry of Land and Forest Management and the Protected Areas Commission of Guyana started implementation of a four-year EU-financed project, 'Promoting Integrated Ocean and Participatory Governance in Guyana and Suriname: The Eastern Gate to the Caribbean'. The goal of this action is to bring about fair and sustainable use of marine resources and the empowerment of marine resource users in Suriname and Guyana through participatory marine spatial planning.<sup>3</sup>

The objective is to enhance and strengthen protection of Suriname's marine resources through participatory spatial planning, targeted capacity building, and compelling data to produce win-win outcomes that conserve biodiversity and enhance food security, and support socio-economic development compatible with ocean health. The results should be:

1. Safeguard biodiversity
2. Enhance knowledge of the marine environment
3. Fully engage with and empower marine resource users
4. Enhance food security
5. Protect livelihoods and support socio-economic development
6. Enhanced marine spatial planning.<sup>4</sup>

As part of this project, the following studies have been executed:<sup>5</sup>

- a. the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Gap Analysis Report on Suriname provides an assessment of the national legislation in Suriname, and the legislative review regarding marine management regulations and identifies gaps for meeting the 2020 CBD targets and provides initial recommendations on proposed amendments. Furthermore, it identifies barriers to the implementation of the 2020 CBD targets and provides concomitant recommendations for the removal of such barriers, and highlights positive and negative implications of any recommendations proposed.
- b. a Capacity engagement Needs Assessment (CNA) was performed to identify gaps in capacity (both from a technical, and standpoint), and also to highlight existing and latent capacity. The capacity needs assessment has been shared with the stakeholders through capacity building activities, such as workshops, training courses, and certificate program activities. One such activity is the Blue Solutions online training by the CBD that enables planners and decision makers to develop and engage in marine and coastal planning and implementation processes.
- c. the Equivalence Gap analysis for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Gender screens for the impacts on Indigenous Peoples and women to ensure that stakeholders from marginalized groups are enabled to participate actively, fully and fairly, and with an understanding of the different motivations, stakes, and constraints of an action/process. This equivalence gap analysis for IPs

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<sup>2</sup> <https://greenfundsuriname.org/nl/programs/dolphin-program/msp/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://project-msp.org/index.php/en/about-us-en>

<sup>4</sup> <https://greenfundsuriname.org/nl/programs/dolphin-program/msp/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://project-msp.org/index.php/en/project-results-en>

and gender allows implementers to take measures to ensure that the project outputs do not directly or indirectly result in adverse impacts on women and on the dignity, human rights, livelihood system or culture of IPs. Within the action, acceptable compromises (win/wins) and the mitigation of adverse impacts on the social economic conditions and the distribution of resources and benefits of IPs and women can be achieved through the equivalence gap analysis and its identification of the stakes, concerns, needs, motivations, and constraints of both marginalized groups.

- d. a major component of the project is Marine Participatory Three-Dimensional Modelling (P3DM), a community-based and stakeholder-based process, which integrates local spatial knowledge with topographic data to produce a physical 3-D model assembled by mapping participants. The value of a marine P3D Modelling process is grounded in the engagement of stakeholders from the beginning of the planning process, which may result in more effective, transparent and durable interventions and can foster a collective decision-making process that may engender ownership of spatial planning processes. A marine P3D Model may constitute a powerful communication and negotiation tool for an actor-led marine spatial planning. This approach will enable information that is only available with certain stakeholders to become available with everyone, greatly increasing the knowledge of all participating stakeholders, but also with the government and general public.
- e. A living GIS Marine Atlas will be created once the 3D models are completed. A series of processes will be performed to integrate all local knowledge, published/unpublished and satellite derived data into this atlas. The atlas will feature numerous layers of information which can continuously be updated. The data products, especially geospatial atlases, that are then produced will be important to inform decision-making and management actions related to the marine realm.

On a yearly basis, world ocean day is highlighted by organizing different activities to raise awareness. The civil society organization Green Heritage Fund Suriname in collaboration with other civil society organizations, the government, private sector and WWF Suriname are taking the lead in these activities.

#### **14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans**

With regard to using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas, the government has established a 'coastal protection and ocean management' committee and a National Action Plan 2021-2031 has been prepared with priorities and a timeline. One of the key activities will be to review and adapt the Coastal Protection national legislation.

Suriname has one of the most pristine mangrove forests in the world, and these are considered valuable coastal ecosystems. With regard to the mangrove conservation, the capacity and framework for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystems was strengthened and the key milestones were the development of the National Mangrove Strategy; the establishment of the National Mangrove Biodiversity Monitoring System along the coast of Suriname and the development of the National Mangrove Forest cover map, as part of the National Forest Inventory. Important has been the upgrade of the Mangrove Educational Center in the district Coronie including curriculum endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. This Center provides information and awareness among students and the general public about the value of mangrove forests.

In November, the Government launched two projects to protect the coastal area of Suriname, namely "Enhancing resilience of the coastal ecosystem using natural infrastructure" and "Advancing a 'Blue Forests for Blue Economy' approach in Suriname".

Both projects are carried out under the coordination of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and the Environment in collaboration with the Anton de Kom University of Suriname and financed by Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). These projects will be carried out on the coast of Paramaribo at Weg naar Zee and are complementary to each other.<sup>6</sup>

The first project “Enhancing resilience of the coastal ecosystem using natural infrastructure” will increase the resilience of coastal ecosystems by expanding the construction of sediment trapping units and rehabilitating mangrove forests over a length of 2 kilometers. The coastline has retreated by about 200 meters in the last decade due to erosion processes. The Amazon basin annually carries billions of cubic meters of silt into the Atlantic Ocean, part of which passes along the coast of Suriname. The construction of the sediment trapping units will promote sediment deposition and create better conditions for protection, restoration and growth of the mangrove forests.<sup>7</sup> This will increase biodiversity and improve the natural protection of the coast. Professor Sieuwnath Naipal, Chair of Water and Climate Change study of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname coordinates the mangrove rehabilitation process. The mangrove forest provides protection and food to many animals and promotes land acquisition and affects climate change.

The main objective of the second project is to design and implement a mechanism to restore, conserve and expand Suriname's existing mangrove forests. Furthermore, to promote socio-economic growth, according to the proven model of “Blue Forest for a Blue Economy” - as applied in Kenya.

The special feature of this model is that the local communities benefit as much as possible from the socio-economic activities that arise as a result. A total amount of USD 300,000 has been made available by ACTO for both projects.<sup>8</sup>

The civil society organization Green Heritage Fund helps local communities to collect mangrove data using simple observations of bio-indicators such as birds, crabs and vegetation (trees and roots). The purpose is to determine the health of the mangroves in a specific location. The organization also offers mangrove training for communities on topics such as (i) the importance of mangroves, (ii) threats to mangrove forests, (iii) healthy mangrove ecosystem and (iv) collecting information to determine how healthy a certain mangrove area is compared to another area.

Suriname participates in the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP) 2015-2025. Through the CLME+ SAP, priority strategies and actions required to improve the transboundary governance and management of shared living marine resources have been identified and agreed upon. The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was developed under the CLME project to provide a comprehensive roadmap towards sustainable living marine resources management through strengthened and consolidated regional cooperation. The SAP combines actions for structural change with capacity building at the regional, national and local levels, and high-priority management interventions and investments on the ground. It puts substantial focus on the strengthening of existing organizations and arrangements for the management of living marine resources, and on the coordination among the organizations and arrangements.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://gov.sr/ministerie-rom-lanceert-twee-projecten-ter-bescherming-kustgebied/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://gov.sr/ministerie-rom-lanceert-twee-projecten-ter-bescherming-kustgebied/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://gov.sr/ministerie-rom-lanceert-twee-projecten-ter-bescherming-kustgebied/>

Suriname also participates in the PROCARIBE+ project, which is a regional initiative for protecting and restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital, building resilience, and supporting region-wide investments for sustainable blue Socio-Economic development in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region).

This project aims at:

1. implementing integrated ocean management arrangements (regional and national) and
2. enabling and developing sustainable and resilient ocean-based (blue) economies (through Marine Spatial Planning, marine conservation, sustainable fisheries and addressing land-based sources of pollution); while taking into account cross-cutting issues such as climate change, gender and post COVID-19 recovery.

To preserve the biodiversity of Suriname in an adequate and effective national system of protected areas and in areas beyond this system, the desired actions that were identified were among others: (i) to identify species and areas that need effective protection urgently; (ii) to prepare or adjust management plans for nature reserves and vulnerable species; (iii) to implement the Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZM Plan); and (iv) to conduct Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for the establishment of new protected areas.

The following activities have been implemented:

1. Restructuring of the Nature Conservation Division of the Ministry of Land and Forest Management for effective control and enforcement and drafting proposals for the establishment of the Forest and Nature Authority (BOSNAS) for an integrated approach to biodiversity preservation.
2. Rewriting of 3 coastal management plans namely for the Bigi Pan, North Coronie and North Saramacca Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMAs). The focus will be on the regulations for hunting, fishing and tourism in specially appointed zones.<sup>9</sup>

#### **14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

#### **14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics**

The first Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) ran for the period 2014 – 2018 and the current Fisheries Management Plan regards the period 2021 to 2025. The Plan sets out general measures regarding the registration and licensing of fishing vessels and permit system, deciding on fisheries protected areas and fishing zones, the installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and the use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The Plan also looks into specific measures for the different fishing categories (such as reporting of fish species caught, shrimp and sea bob research, net and boat criteria and criteria per fishing zone).

Some of the key policy areas of the Fisheries Policy 2021 – 2025 are:

1. Active stakeholder participation in fisheries policy implementation and monitoring
2. Limiting fishing effort by 'freezing' the number of licenses at the 2020 level, setting provisional ceilings and drawing up reduction plans
3. Increased transparency in the licensing process

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<sup>9</sup> Suriname's Sixth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, April 2019

4. Intensification of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in collaboration with other authorities
5. Reduction of ecosystem impacts of fisheries, including through increased implementation of TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices) and BRDs (Bycatch Reduction Devices)
6. Improving fisheries data collection and research to perform stock estimates to advise fisheries policy
7. Intensive regional and international cooperation

The FMP is an important instrument for developing various types of fisheries and for achieving sustainable fisheries. The Coast Guard works closely with the Navy (Marines). With the adoption of the Coast Guard Establishment legislation (S.B. 2017 no. 32), the Coast Guard is fully operational and enhancing safety at sea. To reduce 'bycatch and discard', measures are taken to improve fishing techniques, use of BRDs and discourage non-selective fishing methods. Research will be conducted into possibilities to make better use of landed bycatch.

The fisheries sector is regulated by the following national laws:

1. The Fish Stocks Protection Act 1961 (Visstandbeschermingswet),
2. The Sea Fisheries Act 1980 (Zeevisserijwet) and
3. The Fish Inspection Act 2000 (Viskeuringswet).

The Sea Fisheries Act has been adjusted in 2017 (SB 2017 no. 41), which relates to aligning the definition of the fishing zones in the Sea Fisheries Act with the definitions used in the Maritime Zones Act 2017 (Wet Maritieme Zones).

Through the Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Trawl Fisheries (REBYC-II-LAC) project), data collection at sea has started to obtain an overview of the catch composition, bycatch and discards in the finfish fishery. This information is used for bycatch reduction and gear improvements, a prerequisite for the introduction of effective bycatch reduction measures in fishery. Within this project, a flexible Turtle Exclusion Device (TED) for finfish trawlers has been developed and tested. The flexible TEDs have proven very effective in reducing unsustainable bycatch, reducing the discard rates for rays by up to 95%. This also has a positive effect on the quality of the fish and the catch sorting process. The TEDs are continuously being tested for further improvements.

With regard to the Licensing policy, a maximum numbers of licenses per category have been established for coastal and sea fishing and have been provided with an improved serial number system. Reduction plans have been drawn up for certain fisheries categories. Agreements have been made with the Maritime Authority Suriname in the context of improved procedures with regard to the registration and inspection of fishing vessels.

A new software platform has been developed for collecting and managing fisheries data. A national survey was carried out in which all landing and mooring places have been mapped and described. Responsible staff has been trained in using the new data collection system to make reliable estimates of our fish stocks.

The Government has a Fish Inspection Institute, which works with the Fisheries Inspection Act and is among others responsible for:

1. setting quality standards with regard to fishery products;
2. carrying out the necessary inspections and checks to ensure the quality of fishery products;
3. registering supply centers and farms of aquaculture products, as well as the approval of establishments;
4. providing inspection and health certificates;

5. training or having trained quality managers, their assistants and other personnel
6. establishing and implementing the necessary monitoring programs at national level, covering all possible causes that could endanger the quality of fishery product

Other Government interventions are (i) tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities by setting up IUU task force units at strategic locations; (ii) intensify regional and international cooperation on straddling fish stocks and fisheries control; (iii) applying modern fishing technologies and methods; and (iv) establishing a fish disease monitoring laboratory.

**Table 14.1 Fish Catches by Type of Fishery (in tons), 2015-2019**

Year	Sea-Shrimp	Seabob Shrimp	Total shrimp	Fish	Total Shrimp and Fish#
2015	511	6,310	6,821	31,852	38,673
2016	377	7,674	8,051	34,147	42,197
2017	315	8,272	8,587	39,993	48,580
2018	379	8,996	9,375	28,184	37,558
2019	305	6,456	6,760	23,777	30,537
2020	221	5,950	6,171	31,168	37,340
2021	239	1,957	2,196	25,292	27,488

*Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, sub-directorate Fisheries*

**14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information**

**Table 14.2 Protected Terrestrial and Marine Areas (including Proposed Protected Areas) as a % of the Total Land Area**

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Protected area as a % of total Area	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Terrestrial and Marine Areas protected (%)	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2

*Source: Division of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Land and Forest Management*

Up until now, 14% of Suriname's land surface has been declared as protected area, which can be categorized under different degrees of protection, i.e. Nature Reserves, MUMAs, Nature Park, etc.



Figure 14.1 Overview of protected and proposed protected areas in Suriname



Figure 3. Overview of protected and proposed protected areas in Suriname

In Suriname, 16 protected areas (PAs) have been established, consisting of 11 Nature Reserves, 4 Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMAs) and 1 Nature Park. Together they make up about 2.3 million hectares or 14% of the country's 163,800 km<sup>2</sup> of land surface. Additional Nature Reserves are proposed to be designated as PAs in the Northwestern area, including the Nani, Kaburi, Mac Clemen and Snake Nature Reserves. Kindly provided by SBB.

The coastal protected areas are managed by the Ministry of Land and Forest Management. The legislation namely the Nature Conservation Law (1954) is applicable. In the past years, much effort has been placed on the updates of three Management Plans of Coastal Multiple Use Management (MUMA), specifically for the Bigi Pan area, North Coronie area and the North Saramacca area. The updated MUMA's cover the period 2019-2023.

According to the IUCN guidelines for applying protected area management categories, the MUMA's belongs to Category VI "Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources". The primary goal of this category is to protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainable, making conservation and wise use mutually beneficial. Wise use of a wetland is related to the concept of the 'Ramsar Convention on Wetlands' and is defined as *the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development.*

Wise use is the international approach of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands which also has been applied by Suriname for the sustainable use of the MUMA's, together with the mangrove forests.

Various laws that are applicable to the management of the Bigi Pan MUMA include the Nature Conservation Law (1954), Game Law (1954), Game Resolution (2002), Law on Forest Management (1992), Fish Protection Act (1961, updated in 1981) and the Fisheries Act (1980, updated in 2017). Other rules and regulations related to MUMAs can be found in Mining Decree (1986), Petroleum Act (1991), the Agricultural Act (1937), Pesticide Law (1972) and the Ministerial Decree on Guidelines Issuance of Land in Estuarine Management Areas (2005).

It should be noted that the Government through its Land Registration and Land Information System (GLIS) is currently developing a more accurate map regarding the protected areas.

The Act on Maritime Zones 2017 delineates Suriname's maritime zones. Suriname's territorial sea is up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline. Nearly the entire coastline of Suriname falls within the country's protected area system. Only a section near the eastern coast border and the highly urbanized central coastal area surrounding Paramaribo are excluded. Three MUMA's and six Nature Reserves are situated along Suriname's coastal zone. Each protected area is roughly divided between terrestrial and marine systems, extending approximately five kilometers inland and two kilometers into the sea. Bigi Pan, North Coronie and North Saramacca are on the Western coast. Bigi-Pan is a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site and a proposed RAMSAR site. Coppename-Monding Nature Reserve, located within North Saramacca, is an important RAMSAR and WHSRN site. As of yet, there are no full Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), meaning areas that are fully situated within the territorial waters of Suriname. Although Suriname has no full MPAs, there is a system of protected zones in the ocean in place. In the Fisheries Management Plan, different zones have been identified with zone 1 being a breeding zone. This means that there are no trawler activities allowed in this zone. Also, the waters off the beaches of Galibi (in the Marowijne River Estuary) are declared a no-fishing zone because of its function as breeding ground for sea turtles.

It should be noted that some proposals have been made to update the Nature Conservation Act 1954, but more review is needed to cover all the necessary adaptations.

In addition to the national legislation and the CBD, numerous other conventions have been ratified by Suriname, which also support the protection of the marine areas. These have also been analyzed. They concern conventions aimed at attempting to regulate various aspects of marine biodiversity such as pollution (MARPOL, London Dumping), protection of water areas (Ramsar Convention), conservation of flora and fauna in the Western Hemisphere, the trade in wild animals and plants (CITES), climate change (UNFCCC) and whales (Whales Convention). Furthermore, there is an important regional convention specifically aimed at the protection of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, namely the IV Cartagena Convention. This Convention seeks to protect the marine environment by obliging the parties to take the necessary measures to prevent, control and reduce pollution caused by ships, by dumping, from the land, by seabed exploration or exploitation and also by atmospheric discharges. Suriname is not yet a party to this convention.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2012 is the policy framework for Suriname and has the following objectives:

1. protection and enhancement of habitats and species at local, regional and national scales;
2. enact sustainable uses for biological resources in local and national economies;
3. access to genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge and fair and equitable benefit sharing;
4. enhance institutional capacity to sustainably manage and monitor biodiversity;

5. strengthen education and communication opportunities to improve the awareness of biodiversity conservation planning, management and monitoring at local and national levels; and
6. enhance local participation by communities, scientific community and business in biodiversity planning, management and monitoring.

**14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation<sup>4</sup>**

The Fisheries Management Plan and the legislation are the instruments that are being utilized by the Government.

**14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism**

**Table 14.3 Gross Value Added at Basic Prices (x 1,000 SRD) by kind of Economic Activity at Current Prices**

Businesses and Households	2015	2016	2017*	2018*	2019*
Fishery	553,669	564,908	940,657	871,114	735,495
GDP Market prices	16,357,181	19,489,360	24,081,641	25,854,568	27,574,565
%	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>

*Source: General Bureau of Statistics, National Accounts Section*

**14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries**

The research budget is allocated through projects that the Government is executing with international partners. For example, the 'Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of sharing living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+)', where the budget for Suriname was around USD 50,000.

**14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets**

With regard to the legal and policy framework to recognize and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries, the Fisheries Management Plan and the legislation such as (i) the Fish Stocks Protection Act 1961, (ii) the Sea Fisheries Act 1980, updated in 2017, (iii) the Fish Inspection Act 2000 and (iv) the Maritime Zone Act 2017 are leading.

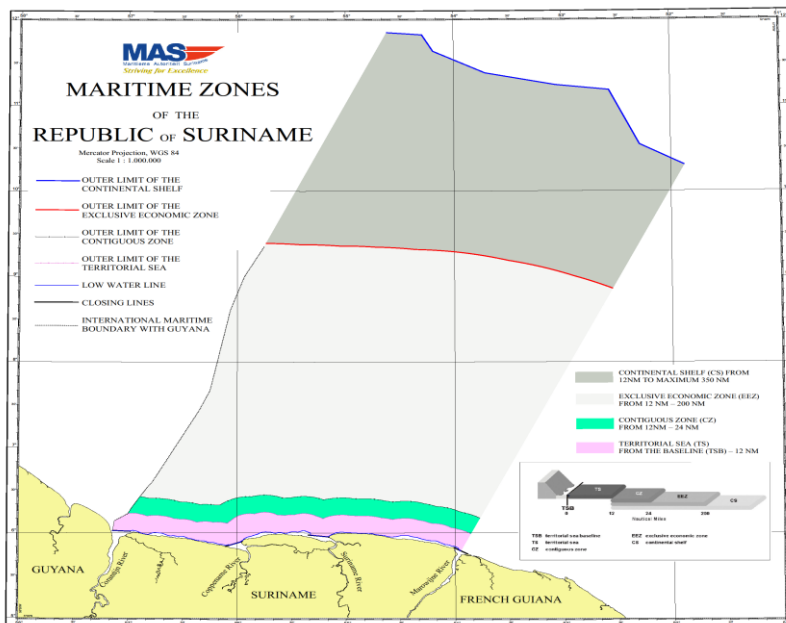
Also, projects have been executed with the FAO on 'fish disease monitoring', with GEF on 'sustainable management of by-catch in Latin America and the Caribbean trawl fishers' and with WWF on 'training on cooperative management skills and methodology; value chain analysis and development; business development and food safety for the small fisheries sector in Suriname.

In recent years, five fisherfolk organizations have been established in the different fishing communities, which are bundled in the Suriname National Fisherfolk Organization (SUNFO).

**14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”**

Suriname ratified the UNCLOS in 1998.

**Figure 14.2: Maritime Zones of the Republic of Suriname**



Also, Suriname is currently working on becoming a party to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) under the International Maritime Organization (IMO). This is the first binding international agreement to specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing by preventing vessels, engaged in IUU fishing, from using ports and landing their catches.

## Chapter XII Sustainable Development Goal 15:

### Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

#### Status of the Targets

SDG 15 Targets		Status
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements		
15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally		
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world		
15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development		
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species		
15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed		
15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products		
15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species		
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts		
15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems		
15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation		
15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## **Policy context and Progress**

**15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements**

**15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally**

Suriname's forests are of global importance, both as a biodiversity hotspot and a carbon sink. The efforts to protect this natural resource are key to the country's commitment. Suriname maintains its contribution as a high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) country committed to maintaining 93% forest cover. Significant international support is needed for the conservation of this valuable resource in perpetuity.

Suriname's Second National Communication states that, considering all sources, the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector accounts for 40% of the total emissions. Suriname submitted its Forest Reference Emission Level report to the UNFCCC in January 2018 to assess the quantitative emissions contribution of the sector. Suriname has identified mining (71%), infrastructure (15%), urbanization (4%), agriculture and pasture (4%) and burning (3%) as the main drivers of deforestation in the country. Logging is the only source of forest degradation included in the FREL. Forest clearance due to shifting cultivation is not defined as deforestation, as in most cases this is a sustainable practice used by indigenous and tribal communities.

Suriname's forests act as a carbon sink of global significance, making it a carbon-negative country. Intact tropical forests, free from substantial anthropogenic influence, store and sequester large amounts of atmospheric carbon. Suriname's primary old-growth tropical forests are of global importance, not only in terms of forest carbon, but also because of the interconnectedness of biodiversity, forest conservation and climate change. The indigenous peoples and tribal communities play an important role in the sustainable management and maintenance of the integrity of these forests.

The Government has stated its conditional contribution to maintain its high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) status while, side by side with other HFLD nations as reflected in the February 2019 Krutu of Paramaribo Joint Declaration on HFLD Climate Finance Mobilization, pledging to raise international recognition of the significant contribution that HFLD developing countries provide to the global response to climate change by enabling their forests to serve as vital carbon sinks. Suriname intends to increase efforts at sustainable forest and ecosystem management and stabilizing and minimizing deforestation and forest degradation unconditionally.

This will lead to the expansion of the national network of legally protected areas to accomplish 100% representation of all ecosystems and biological species.

Sixteen (16) protected areas have been established, consisting of 11 Nature Reserves, 4 Multiple Use Management Areas and 1 Nature Park. Together they make up 2,293,200 hectares of the country's land surface. Suriname is currently drafting a new Nature Conservation Law in a participatory process, to enable improved management of its protected areas. This law will replace the Nature Conservation Law of 1954.

The 2022-2026 Multi-Annual Development Plan's aim for the forest sector is to increase its contribution to the economy and the welfare of this and future generations, including through biodiversity preservation. This will be achieved by increasing the income from timber production, but also by stimulating the markets for non-timber forest products and ecosystem services.

The strategic goal for the forestry sector has been formulated as follows: 'the compensation for the conservation of Suriname's pristine tropical forest which is necessary for a better world environment, contributes to the national growth and development as well as the income of village communities, competitive small, medium-sized and large companies that increase and diversify the national production and export through forestry and wood processing.'

To maximize the status of an HFLD country, the Government engaged into a national REDD+ (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Readiness Preparation process. In the past years, Suriname finalized the REDD+ readiness phase and is preparing for the implementation of REDD+ as a tool for sustainable development, while remaining an HFLD country and actively pursuing national development goals. Much effort has gone into setting up the framework for Suriname to reduce emission and enhance the carbon stock in the forest sector and participate in the REDD+ process. This resulted in the draft National REDD+ strategy outlining Suriname's mitigation actions, formulated in its REDD+ vision and the policies and measures necessary to achieve that. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is key component, with investments made to gain detailed information on the forest resource, carbon stocks and activity data. The Government of Suriname enters as a conditional contribution the REDD+ Investment Strategy with a 10-year timeframe. The Strategy covers five main programs aiming at attracting and guiding the allocation of international and national funding.

The preservation of forests must provide payment for ecosystem services and opportunities for development, especially for indigenous and tribal peoples (ITPs) living in and depending on these forests. In line with the Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022-2026, Suriname wants to increase the contribution of forests to the economy. Alternative livelihoods for forest-dependent communities adds to the diversification of the economy, by using the opportunities provided by nature while protecting the environment. This includes promotion of non-timber forest products (NTFP), nature tourism, medicinal plants and agroforestry. Strengthening of forest institutions to facilitate the ability to govern and maintain proper control over the forest resource is challenged by low monitoring capacity and limited enforcement. Additional resources are needed. The Government policy anticipates the phased elimination of round wood exports and the increase of national value added to forest products. This would promote economic diversification and benefit local and national employment. Support is needed to promote sustainable forest management practices (in process and size) and increasing value and efficiency in the forestry sector. The main drivers of deforestation are mining, road infrastructure, urban development and agriculture. Poor management practices and lack of integrated land use planning are proving challenges. Improved legislation and capacity for enforcement can improve sustainability.

Within the Government structure, the Nature Conservation Division (LBB) of ministry of Land and Forest Management and the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control are key players in the protection and conservation of the forest.

The Nature Conservation Division is among others responsible for (i) forest use regulation; (ii) research (wood cultivation, wood technical, forest formations); (iii) forest development; (iv) reforestation, forest improvement and forest rejuvenation; (v) nature management and conservation; and (vi) education and information. The legislation that serves as the framework for the responsibilities of this Division are the (i) Nature Conservation Law (1954); (ii) Law on Forest Management (1992) and the (iii) Game Law (1954). The Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) is responsible for the implementation of the Law on Forest Management (1992), for compliance with this law and for ensuring that sustainable forest management is carried out. Furthermore, SBB contributes to further sustainable development of the forestry sector, including sustainable local wood processing.

SBB has coordinated the process of determining the emissions from the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors.

SBB has also developed the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) for Suriname and submitted it to the UNFCCC. The aim is to keep the reported statistics/parameters consistent with the various reports. Hence our statistical platform Kopi. <https://kopi.sbb.sr/>.

The policy of the SBB aims to maintain the 93% forest cover and sustainable forest management to minimize forest degradation. Sustainable forest management is based on the following policy documents:

1. National Forest Policy of Suriname 2005
2. Interim Strategic Action plan for the Forest sector 2009 - 2013
3. National REDD+ strategy of Suriname
4. Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022 - 2026

The data on protected areas can be found on the Gonini Geoportal: [www.gonini.org](http://www.gonini.org).

An information system 'Sustainable Forest Information System Suriname' (SFISS) has been established. SFISS is intended for stakeholders working in the forestry sector. With the help of SFISS, stakeholders gain access to a digital platform, where they can provide their own wood production and planning data digitally. The basis of SFISS is planned logging, which makes it possible to 'follow' a log from felling to final destination via the system.

The annual deforestation rate is monitored by the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS-National Forest Monitoring System) to which SBB indicates.

Furthermore, the SBB is responsible for Annual Deforestation maps and Land Use and Land Cover maps available; Annual reports on timber production, timber exports, timber prices; Research reports related to the timber sector. The SBB continuously works on its own institutional strengthening and capacity building, but also on that of Indigenous and Tribal communities and the private timber sector.

Projects that are currently being executed or in preparation with regard forest conservation are:

1. Early Warning System; World Wild Life Fund supported pilot project.
2. Piloting RIL-C (reduced-impact logging for climate) in Suriname, Climate Smart Forestry (CSF) project for achieving carbon credit, in collaboration with Conservation International Suriname
3. Forest Product Value Chain Analysis in Suriname; EU/FAO supported project.
4. Strengthening management of protected and productive landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon; GEF 7 supported project.
5. Training in safety in the forestry sector for in particular the forest-based communities; FAO supported project.
6. Promoting Sustainable Forest Management: Strengthening technology within the Sustainable Forestry Information System Suriname - updating Code of Practice, incorporating processed wood into SFISS (Sustainable Forest Information System Suriname) and consolidating SFISS; Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supported project.
7. An EU-Suriname Forest Partnership for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Suriname's rainforests and mangroves.
8. ASL project: Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscape in the Suriname Amazon (Duration of 5 years); GEF 7 supported project.
9. Third National Communication (NC3) whereby SBB is responsible for the determination of the GHG inventory and the Mitigation Assessment of the forest sector (end year of project 2023).
10. EU medium term development program (MIP) focuses on forest conservation and sustainable forest management. Status: preparation phase and first phase will last 7 years
11. Promoting Sustainable Forest Management project aims to improve sustainable forest management in Suriname, by promoting Reduced Impact Logging (cfr.greenhouse gas reducing wood extraction methods) among forest concession holders and community forests and



improved forest management information systems. The project begins its implementation in 2021 and it is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2023. This is a IDB supported project.

12. Services to conduct practical training on work safety and occupational health in logging operations for forest-based communities in Suriname project; FAO supported.

**15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world**

SBB produces land use and land cover data (LULC data). This data is used to perform analysis to determine, among other things, the status of land degradation.

**15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development**

**15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species**

**15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species**

**15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts**

The long history of protecting Suriname's biodiversity dates back to 1954. Suriname committed itself to multilateral environmental agreements regarding biodiversity, such as:

1. 1977 – International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
2. 1980 – Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT)
3. 1981 – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
4. 1985 – Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Western Hemisphere)
5. 1985 – RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of international importance, in particular as habitat for waterfowl (RAMSAR).
6. 1996 – Convention on Biological Diversity. A National Biodiversity Strategy (2006) and a National Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2016 (2013) have been developed.
7. 1997 – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
8. 1997 – Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural & Natural Heritage (UNESCO)
9. 1998 – International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)
10. 2000 – Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade.
11. 2004 – International Whaling Commission
12. 2006 – Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
13. 2008 – Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. A National Framework for Biosafety has been drawn up
14. 2011 – Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. A National Implementation Plan has been drawn up, as well as a National Waste Chemical Profile (2006), which was updated in 2010
15. 2011 – Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposals
16. 2018 – Minamata Convention on Mercury

On a national level, actions, policies, strategies and legislations have been implemented in the past period to protect, conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

2015:

- Enactment of a new Energy Act, opening the way to produce renewable energy by private companies.
- Endorsement of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME)+ project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Development of a National Master Plan for Agricultural Development.
- Development of a Fisheries Management Plan.
- Establishment of a Mangrove Education Center.
- Commencement of initiatives for a new Mining Decree and a draft finalized in 2018.
- Establishment of a 'coastal protection and ocean management' committee and a national action plan 2021-2031 has been prepared with priorities and a timeline. One of the key activities will be to review and adapt the Coastal Protection national legislation. –
- Execution of a pre-inventory of Invasive Alien Species management in Suriname.
- Implementation of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining project to develop a National Action Plan - to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate mercury use in Artisanal and Small- Scale Gold Mining (ASGM).
- Approval of the Environmental Framework legislation.
- Execution of a Mercury Initial Assessment project.
- Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- Setting up a mangrove biodiversity monitoring system.
- Strengthening and improving of the existing Mangrove Monitoring System.

Currently, the major direct threats to biodiversity that Suriname is experiencing are mining (mined ore has traditionally been a major commodity in the national economy), infrastructure, agriculture, logging, energy and housing, as reported in 2016. Indirectly, Suriname is threatened by the presence of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), the import of exotic animal and plant species that may become pests, illegal hunting and fisheries, the poaching of sea turtle eggs, the overharvesting of fish brood and the illegal trade in biological diversity. More recently, the increased frequency of natural disasters and climate change also pose threats to biodiversity.

Following Suriname's tradition of nature conservation, the National Biodiversity Action Plan for Suriname was developed and consists of eight objectives, each with its own set of sub-objectives and desired actions:

1. Conservation of biodiversity;
2. Sustainable use of biodiversity;
3. Access to genetic material and related knowledge, with equitable benefit sharing;
4. Acquisition of knowledge through research and monitoring;
5. Capacity building;
6. Enhancement of awareness and empowerment, through education and communication;
7. Cooperation at local and international levels;
8. Sustainable financing.

The first three objectives of the Plan are considered core goals, i.e. essential goals that need to be achieved, while the remaining goals are supporting goals, i.e. goals to be achieved to facilitate the core goals. In this regard, due to time constraints, the first three objectives were selected to be assessed during this reporting period, as these also correspond to the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

**15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

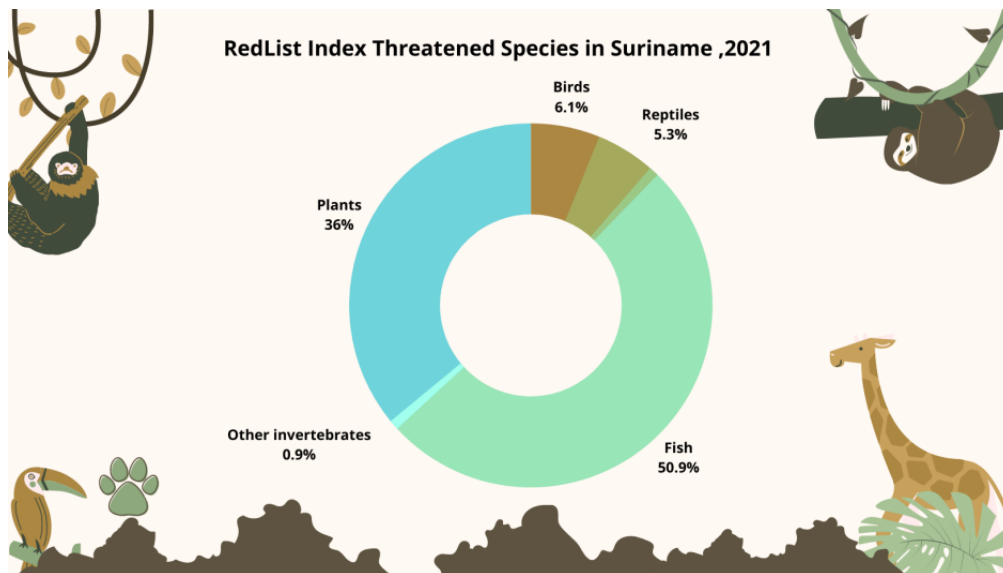
**15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products**

The Red List Index measures change in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species. It is based on genuine changes in the number of species in each category of extinction risk on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2015) is expressed as changes in an index ranging from 0 to 1.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species uses the following classifications

- Extinct (EX)
- Extinct in the Wild (EW)
- Critically Endangered (CR)
- Endangered (EN)
- Vulnerable (VU)
- Near Threatened (NT)
- Least Concern (LC)
- Data Deficient (DD)
- Not Evaluated (NE)

According to the IUCN list Suriname does not have any “Extinct” and “extinct in Wild species”, but there are critically endangered and endangered species. In the period 2017-2021 the number of endangered species increased by 44.7%.



The Game Act is a law designed to protect animals living in the wild by regulating hunting. According to the 1954 Game Law there are four categories of wild animals, namely protected animals, game species, cage species and predominantly harmful species.

All mammals and reptiles that are not on the hunting calendar are fully protected. In total there are 47 animals on the Wild Animal list and 60 animals on the cage animal list. Most animals are bird species.

The 4 category Wild are included in the hunting calendar:

1. Hunting Game species: animal species on which one can hunt with a valid hunting certificate.
2. Cage species: animal species that can be captured with a special permit.
3. Mostly harmful animal species: animal species on which one can hunt that cause damage to have and good.
4. Protected animal species: Animals that should not be hunted, attempted hunting, catching or attempting to catch. Of these animal species, one may not arrive and whether parts of them are with them.

The hunt is adequately regulated, but in practice it is difficult to enforce the regulations.

**15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems**

**15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation**

The Government has engaged with several international partners such as the United Nations, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank, World Wild Life Fund and others to seek funding and technical support.

**15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities**

## Chapter XIII Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### Status of the Targets

SDG 16 Targets		Status
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere		
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children		
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all		
16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime		
16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms		
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels		
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels		
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance		
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration		
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements		
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development		
<b>On track</b>	<b>Moderate improvements</b>	<b>Not on track</b>
		<b>Not monitored yet/Not applicable</b>

## **Policy context and Progress**

### **16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere**

Working on strengthening the Suriname police force and the public prosecution have been the main areas of intervention to combat different forms of crime and violence. In this regard, the police surveillance has been increased, specific approach towards multiple offenders, (re)-assigning and improving the deployment of neighbourhood managers and bikers' unit of the police, improving police reporting, developing a method for structural feedback with those filing a report and/or victims, and scientific crime studies. The police actively engages with communities and civil society organizations to understand circumstances related to violence and work on an improved support system to manage or at least timely intervene to prevent (domestic) violence and other related crimes.

A Safe City project has been carried out by the Government, in which cameras have been installed in the city and some districts. The aim of this project is to sustainably maintain overall security in Suriname. A command center has also been delivered from which the monitoring of all images takes place. The center has been operational for several years and has proven its worth. However, some recommendations have been made for upgrade and maintenance.

### **16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children**

Between 2015 up till now Suriname made major steps forward in reducing child labour or at least bring the necessary legal framework in place, considering international standards. In 2016, with support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs conducted a survey on child labour. The assessment pointed out that about 6% of the school aged children were engaged in child labour, however about 75% of this number was related to children involved in longer hours doing chores in their household. Early school leavers also contributed to the number of early aged employed children. The Ministry set up a program to engage these early school leavers in second chance trainings programs. Children in Suriname are protected implicitly and explicitly by the following laws: (i) the Constitution, (ii) the Penal Code, (iii) the Civil Code, (iv) the law on Combating Domestic Violence, (v) the law on Care Institutions, and (vi) the Child and Young Persons Employment law. In 2015, the State revised its Penal Code with regard to Trafficking in Persons (TIP). This revision is aligned 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. With this amendment, both sexes are protected against trafficking and the penalties have been extended, especially when under-aged victims are involved. In addition to sexual exploitation other purposes of trafficking are included in the law, such as labour or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery and removal of organs. In the amended Penal Code, it is stated that; 'Any of the crimes described in the articles 292 until 305 and article 339, insofar as the offense was committed against a person who has not yet reached the age of eighteen years is punishable.

The Government enhanced the protection of children in general, in particular against sexual abuse through social media. The Penal Code was adjusted in this context, to prevent the publication and display of shocking images. The distribution of fake news and the production of fake accounts is also covered by the amendment of the Penal Code.

To eradicate child labour and to harmonize the Surinamese labour law concerning child labour with ILO standards (ILO convention 138 and 182), the Child and Young Persons Employment law was adopted in 2018. The Government is also working on legislation regarding foster care.

Article 9 of the Compulsory Military Service law states that as far as the law provides otherwise, all males, holders of the Surinamese nationality, residing in Suriname and between the ages of 18 and 35 years, are obliged to serve in the armed forces. According to this law, Suriname is in compliance with the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

The National Action Plan on prevention and reduction of Child Labour 2019 – 2024 entered into force. Suriname is committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In article 82 of the Civil Code, the minimum age for marriage for boys has been established to 17 years and for girls to 15 years. Consultations between government and non-governmental organizations resulted in the amendment of the law on child marriage in the draft revised Civil Code. Consequently, the minimum age to enter into marriage for both boys and girls is raised to 18 years in the draft revised Civil Code. Additionally, the possibility for parents to request dispensation for child marriage is repealed.

Furthermore, in the Penal Code sexual violence/rape within marriage is now recognized and punishable (2015). Also, sexual abuse of minors (age has been raised to 16 years) as a form of sexual intimidation has been defined as a criminal offence and the definition of sexual harassment has been expanded.

When a child has become a victim of human trafficking or kidnapping and its identity is questioned, the Bureau for Family Law Affairs will intervene when it is within its target group, often prompted by the Youth Police and the Public Prosecutor for Youth Affairs. The judges working in the family unit of the Cantonal Court (court of first instance) and the Court of Justice (court of appeal) implement the principle of best interest of the child when handling cases where the guardianship and alimony of the child needs to be decided upon. The child is heard by the court when older than 10 years and if necessary, age < 10. This is being done to ensure that the opinion of the child is also taken into account. The Court always asks for the opinion of social services and very often the psychologist is also involved before taking a decision on which parent is awarded guardianship. The interest of the child is also taken into account when having to decide whether or not the father can obtain permission to recognize a child as his own. A similar methodology is used with children in conflict with the law.

In judicial proceedings a child is heard as long as he or she can formulate their own will and can state where they would like to stay or where they are most comfortable. The child is heard without the adults present so that he or she is not intimidated or feels pressured to answer in a certain way.

In addition to the implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal and administrative proceedings, the Government trains social workers and police officers on a regular basis. In legal proceedings related to sexual abuse, children under 12 years of age are heard in Chambers.

In December 2021, in the context of suicide prevention among the youth, two experts were commissioned to carry out a study into the causes of suicidal thoughts and acts among the youths and identify social and psycho-social service providers. Furthermore, an Action Plan will be developed to take up prevention.

To increase access to services for child victims of violence, the ministry of Justice and Police further established 'Meldpunten Kindermishandeling' (Centers for Reporting Child Abuse) in communities with relatively high prevalence of child maltreatment. In 2019 several actions were implemented to further strengthen the delivery of services at the afore-mentioned Centers, such as development of operational plans, capacity building of service providers and establishment of case management teams for enhancing an integrated approach in supporting child victims of domestic violence.

The following child protection measures are available in the Civil Code:

1. Placement of the child under supervision of a guardian (Article 372 SBW)
2. Removal from Parental Supervision (Article 371 en 372 of the SBW)
3. Provisional entrustment to the Office for Family Law Affairs (art 371f SBW)

With the aim to accommodate children in reporting domestic abuse and other abusive situations, the Child Helpline 123 was set up in 2007 and is now available 24/7. In 2021, the group of beneficiaries was also extended to adults who fall victim to abuse; the name of the Child Helpline was changed to 'Mi Lijn', which literally translates to "My Line" but in figurative speech means as much as "my friend, my support". The Republic of Suriname is in the process of examining the possibility of ratifying The Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in respect of parental responsibility and Measures for the protection of children. This Convention improves the protection of children in international situations.

In instances where counseling is needed within the family nucleus, the Bureau for Family Law Affairs has a referral role to other national aid agencies. The Bureau also assists in preparing the case file for the legal hearings as it relates to alimony and custody arrangements.

The legislation on Care Institutions establishes the quality standards for care institutions. These standards serve as measurement tools to ensure the quality of care provided in care institutions. The standards relate to:

- a. early child development (standards for early childhood development institutions)
- b. care facilities for elderly persons
- c. care facilities for persons with disabilities
- d. general and residential childcare.

Based on this legislation, inspection in the care institutions takes place. In this regard, the quality standards are the measuring tool to ensure the quality of care offered in the institution. The non-discrimination principle, privacy, development and participation, nutrition, safety and hygiene are central to this.

When irregularities or other matters that pose a threat to the rights and freedoms of children are discovered, this is communicated to the management of the institution and interventions are done.

Suriname has also established a procedure and guidelines for reporting suspected cases of Trafficking in Persons by order of the Minister of Justice and Police. A 'first response trafficking in persons protocol' is in place. Officials were trained and refresher courses were provided on how to identify and handle victims of trafficking in persons. Investigating, prosecuting and convicting traffickers remain a challenge in the interior of Suriname.

In 2019, the Government renewed the mandate of the inter-ministerial Trafficking in Persons Working Group for three years and 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'.

In 2022 the inter-ministerial Trafficking in Persons Working Group was renewed. The Working group is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the TIP strategy, reporting to the Minister of Justice and Police on its effectiveness, and ensuring that emerging issues are addressed on a whole-of-government basis.

The National Plan of Action to combat Trafficking in Persons in Suriname was enacted in 2019 and updated in 2020. This Plan has four core elements:

- Prevention
- Detection and investigation
- Criminal prosecution
- Victim support and rehabilitation.

The TIP Plan of Action is commendable for addressing both cross-border and internal trafficking, and for its prioritization of specific goals.



Its five highest priorities are:

- Strengthening of the borders;
- Awareness-raising with regard to criminal activities;
- The creation of a victim identification procedure;
- Promotion of safe return of victims to their country of origin;
- Provision of adequate medical treatment shelter to victims with legal status in Suriname.

The ministry of Justice and Police and the Interdepartmental Working Group ensure that the national action plan sets out guidelines, priority actions and specific objectives to be executed by relevant ministries, as well as targets for implementation.

### **16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all**

The Ministry of Justice and Police was further empowered to respond effectively, due to their increased capacity for evidence-based policymaking. The UNDP supported the Government to improve their capacity to tackle crime, violence and insecurity. This was executed by: (1) entering in the next stage of digitalization of the police data into the Police Records Management Information systems (PRMIS), and (2) providing capacity training in ICCS (international Classification of Crime and Statistics). These developments enhance the Ministry of Justice and Police's ability to prevent and reduce crime by using measures such as geo-mapping, and victim and offender profiling. It is important to note that the mapping of the national Penal Code to the ICCS was completed by the Ministry of Justice and Police. In addition, the Court of Justice was reinforced to continue court cases and hearings and audio and video system have been set up to the Court of Justice. This system made it possible for the Court of Justice to provide services again, taking the COVID-19 social distancing measures into consideration and allowing for the hearings to be conducted in a COVID-19 safe fashion. In that manner the justice process was able to cope with the abrupt effects of the pandemic. Further support was also provided to the police and prison system.

Expansion of bilateral legal assistance relationships for information exchange to reduce cross-border crime, including the extradition of suspects (e.g. cybercrime, terrorist financing), has also been one of the policy priorities.

### **16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime**

The Government conducted the national risk assessment on money laundry and terrorism financing and corruption. The Government presented an in-depth analysis of the threats and vulnerabilities for the public and private sector as well as an in-depth analysis how well the legislation is in place to combat crimes related to these areas.

Based on the findings of the assessment and the following assessment of the CFATF, the country started with an action plan to adjust legislation and embed more intelligence unit in its police and justice system to follow up on the high risks that were identified for corruption, bribery and quality of the police force. The assessment show that due to weak institutional capacity illicit financial flows are not captured and the risk for money laundering is there for relatively high.

Cross-border subversive crime poses a major threat to society. High Impact Crimes have a major impact on the feeling of security among citizens. Society counts on protection and longs for decisive action by the services; in satisfaction, retaliation, indemnification and deterrence. This requires rapid and effective investigation, increasing the chance of being caught, expeditious handling of cases, demanding long custodial sentences and a proactive communication strategy.

At the same time, investments are made 'at the front' in an integrated prevention approach and the prevention of recidivism, especially among youth and young adults. The strategy is aimed at early intervention and the prevention of escalation. Frequent crime causes nuisance in society, especially at the neighborhood level. Although not one of the most serious crime phenomena, it is precisely because of the frequent public confrontations in the immediate living environment that this is a source of much unrest and unease among citizens and entrepreneurs. It affects the quality of life and that is why tackling this has priority. The focus areas are prevention and a close-knit policy. The services are visibly present, know what is going on in the neighborhoods and who the key figures are.

The confiscation of criminal assets will be a spearhead in the coming years. Given the fact that virtually all crime revolves around monetary gain, and based on the conviction that crime should not pay, criminals are hit at their most vulnerable spot, their wallets. By confiscating illegally acquired assets, not only is the financial advantage taken away in an alternative manner and in favor of the country, relatively quickly and easily. Above all, an important signal is sent to perpetrators, victims and society as a whole. A status or exemplary role built up with criminal money is publicly broken down and collective feelings of injustice, insecurity and insecurity are reduced. Visible action is taken and society sees that no one is untouchable. Seizures are not an ancillary task but a core task of the Public Prosecution Office, which should ideally be performed in an integrated approach with many different partners.

According to the Unusual Transactions Reporting Point (MOT) legislation, the Financial Intelligence Unit Suriname (FIU Suriname) is responsible for collecting, registering, processing and analyzing data it obtains from financial and non-financial service providers, in order to prevent and combat money laundering and terrorist financing. Its activities concern activities that must guarantee financial-economic integrity. In that context, the FIU is charged with providing information, which should lead to the actors within the reporting chain providing interactive support to each other. At the same time, the FIU contributes to strengthening the investigation, prosecution and trial of organized financial crime. Due to the cross-border nature of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, an international approach is of paramount importance. The FIU must comply with various requirements established by international organizations Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF).

In order to be able to better monitor the policy with regard to unusual money flows, structures have been developed in which there is consultation with the monetary authorities, namely the Minister of Finance and Planning and the Central Bank of Suriname.

### **16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms**

The Anti-Corruption legislation was adopted by Parliament in 2018. In 2020, the President installed the Anti-Corruption Law Commission and this Commission presented the preconditions for the implementation of the Anti-Corruption legislation. The Commission also made an inventory of all implementing decrees. It will also be examined which mechanisms must be ready for staffing at the various ministries and agencies. In order to prevent a violation of integrity among public officials, it will be examined which reporting obligations there are. The Commission must also work out what is expected of officials in the performance of their duties.

Given the current crime picture, the Public Prosecution Office will focus in both its case-oriented role and its new, environment-oriented role in the coming years on tackling four types of crime: corruption cases, cross-border undermined crime, High Impact Crime and frequently occurring crime. In addition, the Public Prosecution Office wants to make serious efforts to seize criminal assets.

Over the past year, corrupt actions by officials have seriously disrupted the belief in good governance. A unit has been set up especially for the prosecution of corruption cases, which operates under the supervision of several public prosecutors. The officers direct the investigation to prosecute the corruption cases.

However, there is no expert who can compare manuscripts, an indispensable expertise in corruption cases. Expertise in tackling corruption cases is highly desirable and we are looking forward to this guidance via the Public Prosecution Service of the Netherlands.

To promote transparency and remove corruption sensitivity, the establishment of an independent corruption hotline; prohibition of conflicts of interest, such as multiple government salaries, management positions of (top) officials in political parties; adoption and promulgation of the New Civil Code Act (already in draft); and the adoption and promulgation of the Government Information (Public Access) law, which regulates what the government must do in public, will be focused on.

#### **16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels**

In the process of achieving good public governance; anti-corruption; transparency; strong institutions (SDG 16), the Court will make its contribution through professional and qualitatively well-executed investigations based on international standards. In addition, Parliament and other stakeholders, among others, will increasingly and on a regular basis be provided with reports on the expenditure of state resources in order to increase insight into the legitimacy and efficiency of expenditure.

The establishment of the Office of the Court of Audit (Bureau) as an independent administrative body with legal personality has also become a reality with the entry into force of the new Court of Audit Suriname 2019 law, effective January 1, 2020, under which the Court of Audit will function as an independent state body. This necessitates a general reorganization and restructuring of the organization. It is of great importance to strengthen the processes of good internal governance, in which the introduction of the code of ethics plays an important role. For the coming years, the Court of Audit's spearhead is to serve as a model organization for the rest of Surinamese institutions in the public sector, and for the citizens of Suriname with regard to transparency and accountability. Its aim is to inspire and encourage a more accountable and transparent public sector that upholds democracy and trust in government. Another focus of the Court is to ensure better implementation of audit recommendations by auditees. It will achieve this by producing more reports of better quality and relevance, launching specialized audits and implementing performance studies

The ultimate goal of this will be that this will lead to better compliance with laws and regulations, resulting in a stronger system and practice for public finance management is achieved. This in turn will provide better public service. The Court of Auditors will also have to become more visible to society and more activities will have to be carried out with regard to communication with the relevant stakeholders. The Court of Audit aims to be an example of an externally oriented, open institution that maintains strong relationships with its key stakeholders and provides them with relevant services. Approach to financial crimes, including specific attention to money laundering and terrorist financing, combating the illegal arms trade, but also combating corruption.

Efforts will be made to set up an Anti-Corruption Unit. Attention will also be paid to tackling cybercrime and the staffing of the Human Rights Institute.

#### **16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

#### **16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

**16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration**

The requirement of every birth on Surinamese territory is the registration at the Civil Registry Office in the district of the birth irrespective of the status (Surinamese, foreigner or illegal person) or residence of the parents. Thereafter the birth of the child is confirmed in the Register of Birth of the Civil Registry of that district and the year of birth. Births within the capital, Paramaribo, have to be registered within three days at the Civil Registry, regardless of the status or residence of the parents. In the other districts the registration should be done within 16 days, not including the day of birth, Sundays and holidays. Besides the regular registration of birth, as in the ten districts by local registry offices, the Government continues to strengthen its efforts to ensure that children in the interior are also registered. This is conducted by mobile units, especially in the villages, and also with awareness

raising campaigns. The Civil Registry Office is raising awareness and reaching out on the importance of birth registration. The awareness raising is through the media and the outreach is by placing mobile units in the various districts and the interior. The Suriname birth registration is about 96%.

**16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

**16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.

**16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development**

No information has been retrieved in this regard yet.