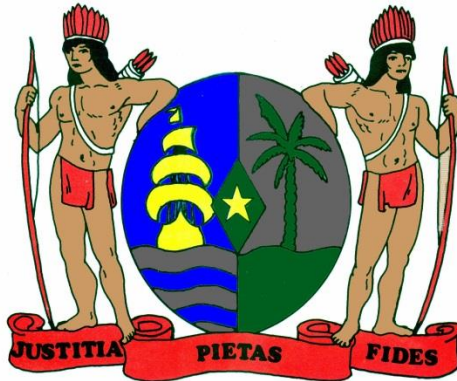


REPUBLIC OF SURINAME



NATIONAL REPORT SITUATION ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND MEN IN SURINAME

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
PARAMARIBO, 14 MARCH 2018

Supported by:



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
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List of Abbreviations

ABS	General Bureau of Statistics
AdeKus	Anton de Kom University of Suriname
AHKCO	Academy for Higher Education for Arts and Culture
ASFA	Association of Surinamese Manufacturers
BEIP	Basic Education Improvement Program
BGA	Bureau of Gender Affairs
BIZA	Ministry of Home Affairs
BOG	Bureau of Public Health
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CAO	Collective Labour Agreement
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBB	Central Bureau for Civil Registration
CBvS	Central Bank of Suriname
CEBUMA	Central Bureau for Mechanized Administration
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
DCIV	Criminal Information Department
DNA	The National Assembly
DU	Democracy Unit of the ADEK University of Suriname
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEI	Gender Equality Indicators
GFP	Gender Focal Point

GLO	Primary Education
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HBO	Higher Vocational Education
HG	Domestic Violence
HI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOL	Institute for Advanced Teacher Training
IWGDS	Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies of the ADEK University of Suriname
JUSPOL	Ministry of Justice and Police
KKF	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KPS	Police Force of Suriname
LOBO	Training College for Teachers of Vocational Schools
LVV	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
MCO	Multi-Country Office
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MinOWC	Ministry of Education, Sciences and Culture
MULO	Junior Secondary General Education
MZ	Medical Mission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NH	Ministry of Natural Resources
NVB	National Women's Movement

OAS	Organization of American States
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PTC	Poly-Technic College
RGD	Regional Health Services
ROGB	Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management
SB	State Decree
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEH	Emergency Assistance Department of the Academic Hospital of Paramaribo
STATIN	Statistical Institute of Jamaica
SURALCO	Suriname Aluminium Company
SWIFT	Study of Women, Infant Feeding and Type 2 diabetes
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VES	Association of Economists in Suriname
VG	Ministry of Health
VOJ	Junior Secondary Education
VOS	Senior Secondary Education
VPF	Women's Parliamentary Forum
VSB	Suriname Business Association
WHO	World Health Organization
WRC	Women's Rights Centre

1. Introduction

Against the background of the difficulties that occur when collecting gender disaggregated data, the CARICOM Secretariat Regional Statistics Programme (RSP), in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean (UN Women MCO-Caribbean), developed a set of indicators - the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model (CARICOM GEI) - parallel to the Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators to identify, assess, measure and track the persistent gender equality concerns and disparities across the CARICOM Region, in accordance with the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The remaining SDGs, where gender plays an important role, have also been included in this study.

A related initiative launched by CARICOM and the UN Women MCO - Caribbean, with the support of the Government of Canada and in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is the development of a CARICOM Survey Model to measure the Prevalence of Gender-Based Violence. This model, a household-based survey, was agreed by the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development in May 2014 to be piloted in the region with a view to further revising the model for formal adoption by CARICOM.

Under the overall framework of monitoring the SDGs, the CARICOM GEI Model supports countries in addressing key policy concerns identified in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international commitments that cover national norms and laws on gender equality across 5 domains: economic activity, education, health, public participation, and human rights. These indicators provide a strong tool for monitoring national gender equality commitments to be realized through policy and programme formulation and implementation.

Suriname is one of the CARICOM countries that agreed to piloting the GEIs. This was done in view of the government's policy on gender equality. In the Development Plan 2012-2016, gender was identified as one of the key themes for attention. The government admits that there is a lack of gender specialists, which is one of the obstacles in developing gender-related policy (Development Plan, 2012-2016). This lack of gender specialists, and thus limited available expertise, results in difficulties when collecting gender-disaggregated data in Suriname. The shortage of gender-disaggregated data is not beneficial to developing policy that focuses on gender equality, for effects of interventions cannot be measured, and this makes it difficult to determine gender inequalities.

This Situational Analysis can be seen as a way for the national government to draw attention to gender relations in the country. Guiding the study's approach, is the assessment of progress on gender equality and specifically in the areas of economic activity, education, health, public participation and human rights, using the CARICOM GEI as an analytical tool. Consequently, the Situational Analysis can help assess changes in economic and social institutions, laws and practices.

1.1 Methodology

The following methods for data gathering and data analyses were used for this study:

- Desk study: from January through April 2017 relevant documents and available literature were reviewed with the aim of collecting insights into gender and gender-related data in Suriname. For the major part, data made available by the ABS, also a partner in this project, was used.
- Users-producers dialogues: dialogues were held on 21 and 28 April and 4 May, guided by a program compiled with BGA. To gain an overview of available data, a questionnaire was designed and sent to the users and producers prior to the dialogues. The objective of these dialogues was to not only assess available data, but also to identify data gaps, how dissemination of data takes place, and how the collaboration between users and producers could be improved to support evidence-based policies and programmes which could eliminate discrimination against women and gender inequality.
- Field research: in order to obtain information on constraints in data collection in Suriname, interviews were conducted with experts and managers from different institutions.

1.2 Data Collection in Suriname

According to the Statistics Act (2002)¹ the General Bureau for Statistics (ABS) is primarily responsible for collecting, processing and publishing data that provide an insight into the social, economic, cultural and demographic situation and development of Suriname. Another of its tasks is to coordinate and encourage all statistical activities taking place in Suriname, mainly among the various government agencies that carry out statistical activities. There are several other organizations and institutions in Suriname, in addition to the ABS, which collect data by virtue of their function and/or tasks.

Data collection, processing and dissemination can be a challenge in Suriname. Mostly government agencies do not seem to be able to process and analyse collected data. This is often a result of a lack of (financial and human) resources, and knowledge about processing raw data into useful statistics. The absence of a clear goal when collecting also leads to important data not being collected at all or not collected efficiently. Besides this, data are not always used to formulate policies and/or policy goals. This might be a consequence of a lack of understanding of the importance of statistics. Additionally, data collection is not always nationally representative. For example, the continuous household surveys conducted by the ABS are restricted to four districts, namely Paramaribo, Wanica, Commewijne and Nickerie. The remaining 6 districts - including the interior - are not surveyed because they are not visited regularly.

1.2.1 Gender and Data Collection

Data gathered in Suriname are generally not based on gender but are sex-disaggregated. Most agencies lack the commitment and - as noted above – the knowledge and resources to collect gender-related data. The difference between sex-disaggregated data and gender-related data is not clear to all agencies. Sex-disaggregated data collection produces quantifiable results, such as the number or percentage of men and women in parliament. Gender-related data captures people's experiences, opinions, attitudes and feelings; for example, the reasons why, women and girls face domestic violence the most.

Every two years, the publication 'Selected Gender Statistics' is issued by the ABS. The latest publication dates from November 2017.

¹ Act of 3 December 2002, concerning provisions relating to the General Statistics Office of Suriname (2002 Statistics Act) (SB 2002 No. 97), with amendments thereto made by SB 2004 No. 43.

Most gender-related data are generated from the census data. It is a challenge for the ABS to collect gender-related data from the various ministries, since certain data are just not available or not collected systematically. As a result, no conclusions can be drawn from trends over longer periods of time.

1.3 Report Structure

This report commences with the current chapter, which gives an introduction into the methodology and data collection. Chapter 2 describes gender equality in Suriname. In chapters 3 through 7 the results per sector are presented. Conclusions and recommendations are given in chapter 8.

2. Gender Equality in Suriname

Although progress has been made in Suriname to close the inequality gap between men and women, more effort is needed to achieve gender equality. According to statistics of the Global Gender Gap Index of the World Economic Forum in 2016, Suriname is ranked 95 out of 144 countries. Compared to 2014, the country has dropped 16 places on this index. The Global Gender Gap Index, introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006, is a framework for capturing the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress. The Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria, and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups, and over time. The rankings are designed to create greater awareness among a global audience of the challenges posed by gender gaps and the opportunities created by reducing them (World Economic Forum, 2012, p. 3).

Throughout the years, the government of Suriname has committed itself internationally, regionally and nationally to eliminate gender inequalities. At the international level, the country became party to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993; ratified the treaty of Belém do Pará in 2002, known as the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Eradication, and Punishment of Violence against Women; signed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995 which focuses primarily on gender mainstreaming; and has committed itself to achieving the 2030 Development Agenda (SDGs). At the regional level, Suriname supports the action plans of the Organization of the American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as the action programme of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC).

At the national level, several mechanisms have been put in place for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. Efforts are being made by abovementioned national mechanisms to set their goals in line with the SDGs, including goal number five (5), namely gender equality and women's empowerment. However, cooperation among all stakeholders is a precondition to achieve SDG goal number 5 and all other commitments made at the international and regional levels to attain gender equality.

2.1 National Mechanisms for Women

The Bureau for Gender Policy was established in 1997 and became officially operational in 1998. In 2015 the name of the bureau was changed to the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA). The goal of the BGA is to be the central cog of the national machinery for gender policy, with the objective to develop, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and disseminate a national gender policy that will create a balanced development with equal opportunities for men and women. Since it was set up, the Bureau has developed two Integrated Gender Plans of Action (IGAP 2000-2005 and IGAP 2006-2010) and installed Gender Focal Points (GFPs) in various ministries as part of the government's Gender Management System. Suriname's Multi-Annual Development Plan 2001-2005 was led by a rights-based approach to development, and identified gender as a cross-cutting issue across all programs, projects and activities. The development of gender policies for rural areas was emphasized in that plan. In the Development Plan 2012-2016, gender was classified as a multidisciplinary policy field that requires specific attention. Through the BGA the Government of Suriname is implementing its gender policy in specific thematic areas.

In collaboration with other stakeholders, including civil society and the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, and in particular the Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS), the government promotes gender equality, implements initiatives, and is trying to achieve gender equality through policy and planning.

One of the policy instruments developed in the year 2013 was the Gender Work Plan, in which the priority areas identified were: education and training; labour, income and poverty reduction; violence against women; health; governance and decision-making. The Gender Work Plan was developed in consultation with several stakeholders, and aimed at mainstreaming gender in planning and policy in order to eliminate gender inequality. The Government Budget of 2013 was screened, and activities were identified and analysed through a gender lens. Several components were added to the actual activities of various ministries to make them more gender-oriented (Gender Work Plan 2013). Recently, the plan was evaluated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and will form the basis for developing a further gender policy for the upcoming 3 years.

After ratification of the different international conventions and agreements, such as CEDAW and Belém do Pará, Suriname has adjusted its national legislation. In the chapters describing the current situation, the new laws are further mentioned.

The following are some of the mechanisms that were put in place by the government at the national level to promote gender equality and empower women:

1. A Gender Management System, established in 2001 with Gender Focal Points (GFPs) at several ministries in order to contribute to gender mainstreaming, planning and policy at the national level.
2. Bureau for Women and Children's Policy, established within the Ministry of Justice and Police (JusPol).

Other mechanisms outside of government were also set up to promote gender equality and improve the position of girls and women, namely:

1. The IWGDS, established in 2006 at the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) for scientific research and education in women's and gender studies and for knowledge sharing with stakeholders.
2. Several NGOs, such as the Women's Rights Centre, the Ilse Henar Hewitt Foundation, the Stop Violence against Women Foundation, the Projekta Foundation, the National Women's Movement, and the Women's Parliamentary Forum, play a pivotal role in gender equality, gender awareness, and the elimination of violence against women.

3. Economics

KEY GEI ECONOMIC MESSAGES

- Labour force data show that men are more represented on the labour market. The majority of jobseekers are women. The industrial sector shows more men than women active, while in the service sector, women are the main workers. Recent sex-disaggregated data in the agriculture sector do not exist, since these are not collected.
- There are no recent data on informal employment. The most recent data produced by the ABS are from 2006, when the informal sector was estimated to be 18.5% of the gross domestic national product. A field research conducted in the same year showed that in the coastal area about 51 percent of employment in non-agricultural sectors could be called 'informal'². In 2013, the Suriname Business Association estimated that 20% of the economic sector is informal.
- The census data of 2004 and 2012 showed no data by sex on the proportion of population with access to credit by sex, and the gender gap in wages. It is not clear whether the data on the proportion of people owning land are collected by sex and size of land parcel. In Suriname, land and parcel are often placed under the name of an organization with a board. It is difficult to determine whether the owner is a male or female, since the organization owns the land. The same thing more or less applies to the number of female firm owners. Often the company is registered as a limited liability company or has another management structure, which makes it difficult to figure out who the actual owner is. No data are available on the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.
- The legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal right to land ownership and/or control. Fundamentally, women and men have equal rights regarding land ownership. Although customary law also guarantees men and women equal rights to land, in practice it is a challenge for tribal groups to actually claim land ownership. Their communal land rights are not yet legally recognized by the state, thus making them vulnerable to economic activities carried out in their living areas by outsiders who have acquired a legal mandate (logging and goldmining concessions).

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, labour is one of the most important human rights. This right includes adequate opportunities for every individual to be economically active and have access to a fair income, social security, and protection against unemployment. The Constitution of Suriname (Articles 24 through 28) emphasizes the right to employment and states that everyone is entitled to any kind of work on the basis of their possibilities - both men and women. It also emphasizes that the government is responsible for creating and giving access to employment opportunities in society.

Suriname is currently struggling with an economic crisis. According to the Government (Stabilization and Recovery Plan 2016-2018), the reason for this crisis is the global decline of gold and petroleum prices and the closure of the bauxite and aluminium company, the Suriname Aluminium Company (SURALCO) in 2015. According to figures of the Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS) the average annual inflation rate was 52.4 percent in December 2016, compared with 25.1% in the same period in 2015.

A poor macroeconomic development has its impact on both male and female income: jobs are lost due to the decline in the economy, more people become unemployed, and access to employment is limited. Due to a lack of data, the income of men and women cannot be presented and analysed.

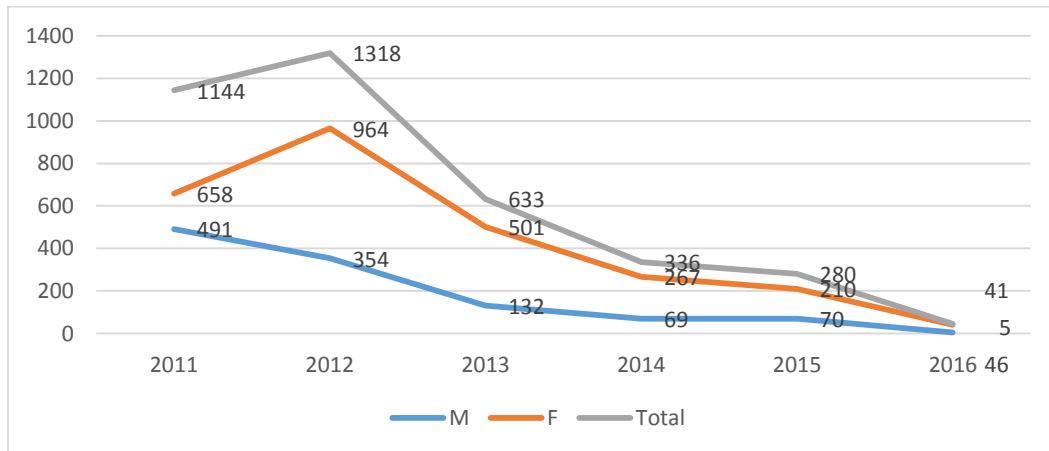
² www.dwtonline.com, accessed 7 August 2017

3.1 The Labour Market

Outdated, limited or absent data of the labour force and employment vacancies hinder a complete, representative description and analysis of the labour market. The Labour Statistics Division of the Ministry of Labour collects and analyzes data based on the registration of jobseekers, who have registered at the department for Direct Mediation in that Ministry. The Statistics Division cannot yet access data from, for example, private employment agencies. With the approval by the National Assembly on 23 August 2017 of the Employment Provisions Act by Intermediaries³, this will change. In addition, the General Bureau for Statistics (ABS) collects data on the work force during regular household surveys, as well as the population census carried out every 10 years. The most recent nationwide data are from the population census of 2012. More recent data are available until 2016, derived from the household survey. As mentioned earlier, data from the household surveys are only gathered for the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica, Commewijne and Nickerie. The data collected during the census are sex-disaggregated. Thus, no analysis based on gender in the labour market can be made.

Data from the Labour Statistics department show that there is a declining trend in the number of jobseekers (Figure 1). However, the figures presented here are based on the number of registered jobseekers, and are not representative for the total Surinamese population, since the data are collected only in two districts, Paramaribo, the capital and Nickerie. Moreover, not all jobseekers are registered. Paramaribo's Labour Office also registered jobseekers from other districts. An interview with staff members of the Labour Statistics Department⁴ shows that the placement of jobseekers is low (Figure 2).

Figure 1 Jobseekers in Paramaribo by sex



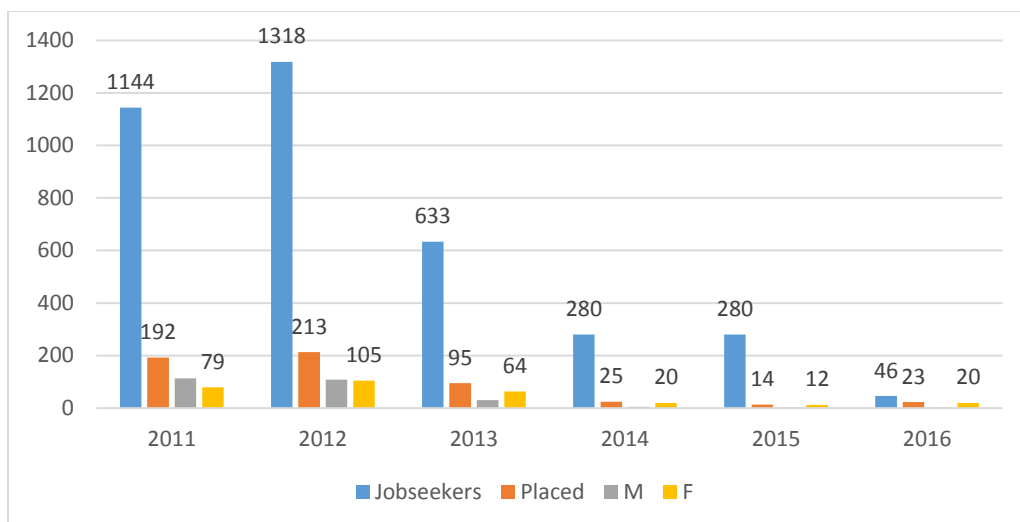
Source: Labour Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour

It is noteworthy that more women than men are placed (Figure 2). The reason for this is that many of the vacancies are related to household jobs (maids and/or nannies), which specify women or for which jobs women are usually interested. Further, more than 70% of the jobseekers have a low level of education, usually lower than junior secondary school.

Figure 2 Overview of placed jobseekers by sex in Paramaribo 2011-2016

³This law has already been approved by the National Assembly. See <http://www.dna.sr/wetgeving/ontwerp-wetten-bij-dna/goedgekeurd/ontwerp-wet-terbeschikkingstelling-arbeidskrachten-door-intermediairs/>, accessed, 10 August 2017

⁴ Interview 10 July 2017



Source: Labour Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour

3.2 Labour Statistics Employed and Unemployed Workers

As in previously presented employment statistics, data in different economic sectors are not collected nationally and if data are collected these are usually sex-disaggregated. During the census and the household surveys⁵, labour statistics are collected. The census data are collected nationwide, while the household surveys are only conducted in the districts of Paramaribo, Wanica, and Nickerie, and only the results of Paramaribo and Wanica are available.

Comparison with the census statistics of the employed and unemployed⁶ by sex show that in 2004 and 2012 men were more represented in labour force participation, respectively 70.8% and 73.4%. The percentage of women is much lower: 41.2 % in 2004 and 46.8 % in 2012 (ABS in Keenswijk-Fung A Loi; Nankoe and Sobhie, 2016, p. 334). It also appears that the majority of jobseekers are women.

3.3 Youth Employment

⁵ ABS's household surveys are continuous and have two objectives, namely: measuring supply and utilization of labour (measuring and collecting labour statistics) and collecting basic demographic statistics of households. Each quarter a round of interviews is held in different selected households. ABS presents the annual data after the quarterly data have been processed.

⁶ The working population include persons in the Economically Active Age (EAP) 15-64 years, who performed work during the reference period for which they received a reward in cash or other services (e.g. products), or as self-employed entrepreneurs, who derived profits or income from the sale of products. The unemployed in the EAP are persons who were not employed during the reference period but were available to perform a job and were actively seeking employment or developing an economic activity independently (Keenswijk-Fung A Loi, Nankoe and Sobhie, 2016).

The total youth unemployment rates are based on the census results of 2004 and 2012. In 2004, the unemployment rate for the age group 15-19 was 26.7% and 19.3% for the age-group 20-24 years. For 2012, these rates were, respectively, 33.9% for 15-19 years and 21% for the age-group 20-24 years (ABS in Keenswijk-Fung A Loi; Nankoe and Sobhie, 2016, p. 341).

3.4 Gender Data and the Economy

Most economic data are not gender-based and, in general, most available data are from registration. According to representatives of the Labour Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour the data are used to formulate policies, for example, the recruitment of employment agencies and other formulated projects to facilitate jobseekers. Some of the listed projects include: placing of 100 academics, rural registration of the unemployed and a large-scale vacancy recruitment (Labour Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour).⁷

Most registration data are sex-disaggregated. However, it also appears that some institutions are not aware of gender and do not take that into account. For example, the last sex-disaggregated agriculture data were collected in 2004. The regular data of the ministry are not sex-disaggregated. An attempt to introduce gender-responsive policy within the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery was not followed through. Information about women in the private sector is also scarce. The private companies' organizations, both the Association of Surinamese Companies (VSB) and the Association of Surinamese Manufacturers (ASFA), as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF), indicate that they do not collect sex-disaggregated and gender-related data. For information, they depend on the ABS. However, the ABS also needs data from these organizations and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

There are no data available on the indicators access to credit, owners of land, business owners, and gender wages. With regard to access to credit, both men and women can take out a loan if they meet the conditions (e.g. hold a permanent job and / or collateral). It should be noted that this does not apply to residents of the interior. Often, they do not have a permanent job (informal sector, or self-sufficient agriculture, small-scale goldmining, or self-employed e.g. boatsman), They do not have access to loans because they do not hold rights to the land where they live, and thus cannot provide collateral. Access to loans for these residents is therefore limited. However, there are banking institutions such as Godo Bank and the Women in Business Group, which provide microcredits to these persons.

The heads of 125,594 of the total number of 140,367 households in Paramaribo and Wanica own a mobile phone, while 11,124 do not have a mobile phone. 67.6% of these owners are men and 32.4% are women. (ABS, *Census 8 - Huishoudens, Woonverblijven en Gezinnen, Milieu, Criminaliteit*).

The proportion of employed persons who are own account workers in 2014 was 8% for men and 2.7% for women. In 2015 this number slightly declined for men to 7.7% and slightly increased for women to 3%. In 2016 the opposite occurred, when the proportion for men was 8.2% and for women 2.5%.

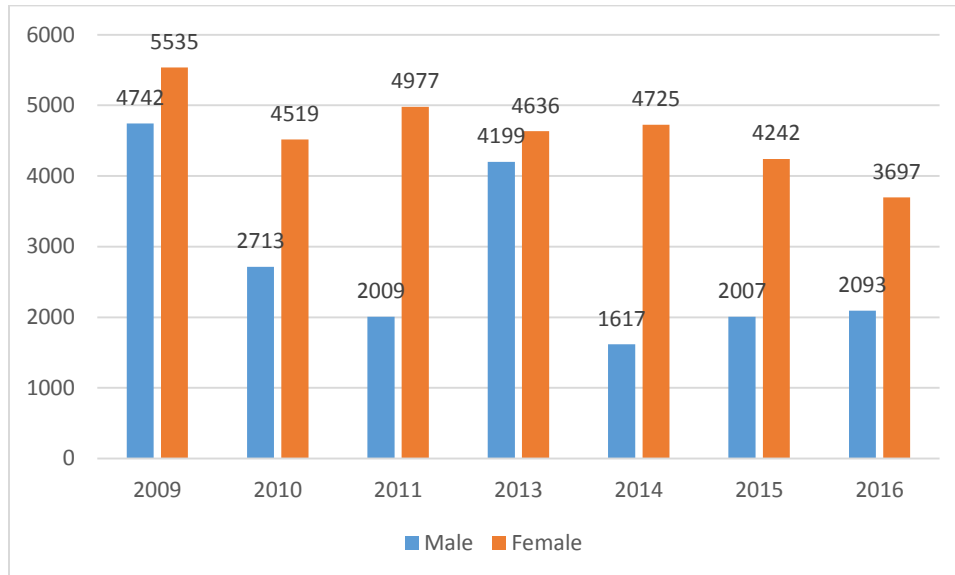
Of the total working population in 2014, 0.4% men were unpaid family workers in comparison with 0.7% women. In 2015, 0.7% were men and 0.9% women; in 2016 this percentage declined for men to 0.4% and increased for women to 1.1%.

In 2014, 2.1% of the total working population is a male employer/entrepreneur in comparison with 0.7% female. In 2015, 1.6% were male employers/entrepreneurs and 0.3% were female. In 2016, 1.9% were male and 0.5% were female.

⁷ Interview 10 July 2017

More women than men work part-time, based on 20 hours a week. These data are only available for the districts of Paramaribo and Wanica. The figure below shows the number of part-time workers by sex in the period 2009-2016. There are no data available for 2012.

Figure 3 Overview part-time workers in Paramaribo and Wanica by sex, 2009-2016



Source: General Bureau for Statistics, Households in Suriname

Overall, the data on part-time workers from 2009 -2016 shows that mostly women hold a part-time job.

Workforce

Data from the 2012 census imply that the total workforce in the age-group 15-64 years, is 188,229. Of this total, 63.1% are men and 36.9% women.

The number of men working in industry according to 2012 census is 7,013 (74.1%), and the number of women is 2,451 (25.9%). In the service sector more women than men are employed: respectively 3,259 (63%) and 1,913 (37%).

The data of the economic sector have been presented in this chapter on the basis of indicators related to the CARICOM GEI. The information shows that data collected by the Ministry of Labour are incomplete. Some of the factors underlying this are:

- The most recent data are not available nationally, but are limited to information from 2-3 districts. Data from the Labour Statistics Department are collected only in the districts of Paramaribo and Nickerie. It should be noted, however, that since jobseekers from surrounding districts are registered in Paramaribo, not only information of Paramaribo is included. For this reason as well, the data are not representative for this district.
- The registration of jobseekers is aimed at policymaking to reduce the unemployment rate, but since data are not collected nationally, it is difficult to come up with policies that are effective in solving unemployment.
- Limited human resources and knowledge. The purpose of the data collection is policymaking to eliminate or minimize unemployment. However, it is not clear whether the data are used effectively to attain the policy goals.
- Limited cooperation among potential data providers. For example, there are no data available from private employment agencies where jobseekers also register.

- Stagnation of further implementation of the Labour Market Information System project. This project aims at improving the recording and tracking of labour statistics, which will allow labour market analyses that present the actual situation of the labour market in Suriname.

4. Education

KEY GEI EDUCATION MESSAGES

- In primary education the enrolment rate for boys is higher than the rate for girls. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is a little below 1.
- The higher the educational level, the fewer boys are enrolled in comparison with girls. The GPI for secondary education at junior secondary level is 1.2. The GPI for senior secondary level and tertiary education has not recently been updated. For senior secondary level the most recent GPI is 1.76 in the school-year 2011-2012. For the tertiary level the GPI is 1.93 for the school year 2010-2011.
- A higher percentage of boys in comparison to girls are due to repeaters at the junior secondary level.
- Recent repeater rates are not yet available. MINOWC has the data, but has not yet calculated the rates.
- Depending on the department at University, more women than men are enrolled. When more women are enrolled more women graduate. When more men are enrolled more men graduate. An exception is the Faculty for Medical Sciences of ADEKUS where more women than men are enrolled. However, the graduation percentage is higher for men than women.

The Surinamese educational system consists of primary education (GLO), secondary education for juniors (VOJ), secondary education for seniors (VOS), and tertiary education including the university and other tertiary education institutions such as Higher Vocational Education (HBO). According to the Constitution of Suriname (Article 39), every citizen has the right to equal access to quality education.

The Basic Education Improvement Program (BEIP) is an important program aimed at improving the quality of education. This program started in 2004 and was extended in 2012. It is expected to contribute to the reduction of the number of drop-outs and repeaters.

Access to education for both boys and girls is important for the development of a country. Education is compulsory for every child in the age-group 7 through 12 years. In the framework of the BEIP, the government has expressed its intention to amend the age of compulsory education to 4 through 16 years. The required law is in draft for primary education and is currently with the minister of Education, Science and Culture (MinOWC).

This study shows that the data are not available for all indicators. The drop-out and repeaters' rates for the secondary level of education are not available. The data for GEI indicator 24d are not available. Indicators 24e (Proportion of students who complete secondary school at Form 5 with passes in at least two subjects English (or official language of country) and Mathematics by sex) and 24f (Proportion of students who take Mathematics and at least one of the Sciences in examinations (CXC or equivalent) at 5th Form by sex) do not apply in Suriname.

4.1 Enrolment Ratio/Gender Parity Index (GPI)

Like the rest of the Caribbean region, the enrolment ratio for boys and girls in Suriname is almost the same in primary education, although a little higher for boys (CEDAW report, 2016). But if the Gender Parity Index⁸ (GPI) is calculated, it is approximately 1. This means that equality for enrolment of boys and girls in primary education has almost been accomplished (Table 1).

The GPI in secondary education at VOJ and VOS level is different from primary education. At this level the percentage of enrolled students is higher for girls than boys for both VOJ and VOS levels. The GPI for secondary education for school-years 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 is higher than 1 for both VOJ and VOS level. The GPI for the VOS level is higher than for the VOJ level (see Table 1). For the VOS level, the GPI is not known for the school-years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

There are several tertiary educational institutions in Suriname. Data for AdeKUS, Institute for Advanced Teacher Training, Training College for Teachers of Vocational Schools (LOBO), Poly- Technic College (PTC) and Academy for Higher Education in Arts and Culture (AHKCO) are available. The GPI for the tertiary level is approximately 2 for the college years 2009 to 2011 (MDG Progress Report, 2014). The GPI for the following years is unknown (Table 1). The higher the level of education the more women are participating in education compared to men. At the VOS level, as well as the tertiary level, there is a clear over-representation of women.

Table 1 GPI by education level, 2009-2014

Education level	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
GLO (primary education)	0.93	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.96
VOJ (junior secondary education)	1.09	1.07	1.2	1.2	1.2
VOS (senior secondary education)	1.67	1.71	1.76	NA	NA
Tertiary	1.93	1.93	NA	NA	NA

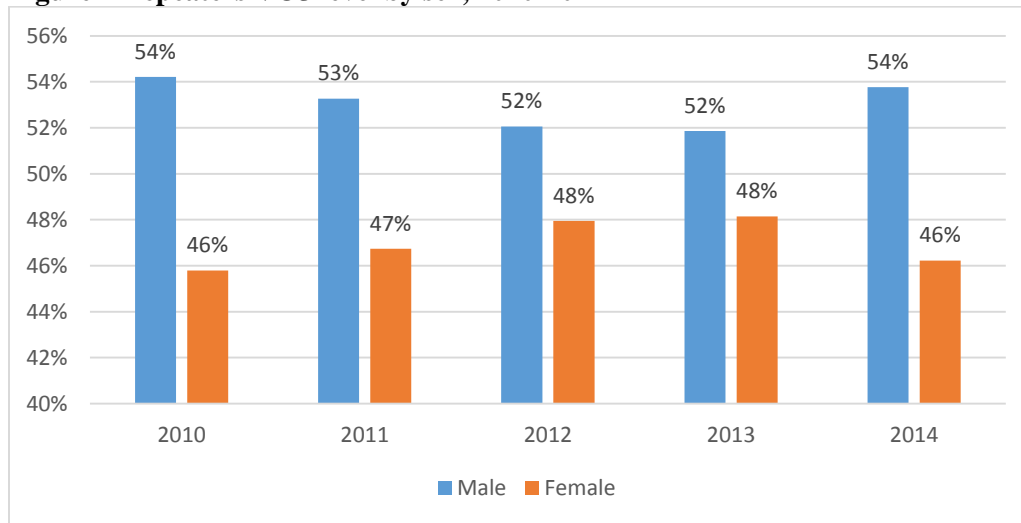
Source: MDG Progress Report 2014 and MinOWC dep. Research and Planning, 2017

⁸ GPI= Gross enrolment ratio girls/gross enrolment ratio boys. When GPI is 1 it means that parity between men and women has been accomplished.

4.2 Repeaters and Drop-outs

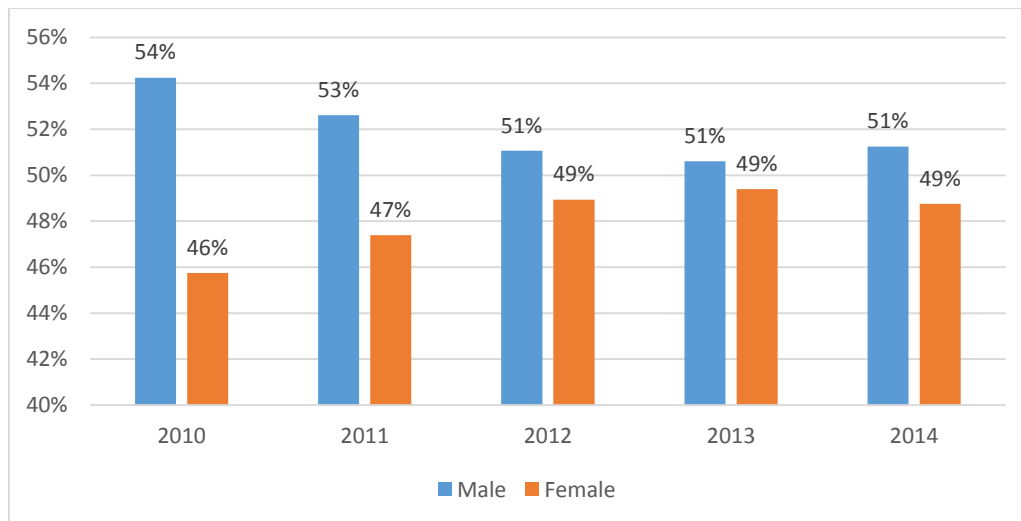
The number of repeaters at VOJ level (junior secondary education) is higher for boys than for girls. For every following year, almost the same picture can be drawn. The percentage presented is calculated based on the total number of students enrolled in a specific year. Recent repeater rates are not available. The same applies more or less to the drop-outs. No recent drop-out rates are available either. It may be noted that the number of repeaters for boys slightly decreased in years 2011-2013, although there was again an increase in 2014. For girls, the number of repeaters increased in the years 2011-2013 and decreased in 2014 (Figure 4). Figure 5 shows a decrease of drop-outs for boys and an increase for girls. The figures for VOS level are not yet available.

Figure 4 Repeaters VOJ level by sex, 2010-2014



Source: MinOWC, July 2017

Figure 5 Drop-outs VOJ level by sex, 2010-2014



Source: MinOWC, July 2017

4.3 Graduates at Tertiary Level

The graduate percentage shows that especially at the Technical Faculty of AdeKUS (FTeW), which is known to be a male dominated faculty, women surpassed men in the year 2014. The graduation percentage in 2014 was 74% for men and 26% for women; in the year 2013 the graduation percentage was 45% for women and 55% for men. In the academic years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, however, more women than men graduated (Table 2). There is no logical pattern.

Graduates of the Faculty for Social Sciences (FMijW) are female-dominated. In 2014, 80% of the graduates were female and 20% male. This is an increase for the women in comparison with 2013 and a decrease for men (Table 2).

At the Medical Faculty (FMedW), 60% of the graduates were men and 40% women in the year 2013. It is noteworthy that there was a huge drop of female graduates and a huge increase for male graduates in the year 2014: only 11% female versus 89% male. Only in the year 2011 the percentage of female graduates was higher than male graduates, 65% versus 35% (Table 2).

For IOL the same trend can be seen in both years. As the numbers show, this institute is female- dominated (Table 2).

The AHKCO is also a female-dominated institute. In 2013, the percentage of graduated women is 93%, versus 7% men. In 2014 a decrease is noticed for women (74%) and an increase for men (26%) (Table 2).

PTC, on the other hand, is a male-dominated. In 2013, the graduation percentage was 68% men and 32% women, in comparison with 2014 where the graduate percentage was 54% men and 46% women. This means an increase for women and a decrease for men (Table 2).

LOBO has had different graduation percentages for men and women throughout the years. In 2013, men dominated graduation with 85%. In 2014, a huge drop can be noticed, to as low as 24% (Table 2). Data for the years 2010 through 2012 for IOL, AHKCO, PTC and LOBO are not fully available.

Table 2 Graduation percentage by educational level by sex, 2010-2015

Type of Education	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
FTeW	55	45	40	60	47	53	55	45	26	74
FMijW	24	76	25	75	20	80	23	77	20	80
FMedW	67	33	35	65	71	29	60	40	89	11
IOL	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	16	84	13	87
AHKCO	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7	93	26	74
PTC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	68	32	54	46
LOBO	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	85	15	24	76

Source: ABS, Statistical Yearbook, 2017 and MDG Progress Report 2014

In the above-mentioned college years for all five institutions together, almost two-thirds of the total number of enrolled students are women and one-third are men (Statistical Yearbook, 2014 & 2017). When these data are analysed by type of education, there is a different picture. In table 3 the percentages of enrolled women and men are presented. This is in line with table 2: when more women are enrolled the graduation percentage is also higher for women.

This is also the case for institutions where more men are enrolled. The graduation percentage is then higher for men. This applies to all institutions except for the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The cause for this should be studied.

Table 3 Percentage enrolled students by institution, 2010-2015

College year	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015	
Institution/ Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
FTeW	50	50	47	53	44	56	42	58	41	59
FMijW	26	74	26	74	25	75	25	75	26	74
FMedW	44	56	43	57	32	68	34	66	33	67
IOL	19	81	18	82	17	83	14	86	16	84
AHKCO	19	81	18	82	23	77	20	80	21	79
PTC	73	27	76	24	67	33	70	30	68	32
LOBO	80	20	50	50	51	49	51	49	46	54

Source: Statistical Yearbook, 2017, 2014

5. Health

KEY GEI HEALTH MESSAGES

- Most of the health data derive from MICS 2010 and are therefore not recent. MICS 2017 recently started.
- An increase of the use of contraception was reported in 2010 (48%), in comparison to the year 2000 (42%). The use is highest in urban and rural districts and the lowest in the interior.
- In Suriname, 67% of pregnant women received antenatal care at least four times, irrespective of the provider. The percentage in the urban (68%) and rural areas (71.9%) is higher than in the interior, where it is 57.8%.
- The number of persons living with HIV/AIDS is not available. The number of persons who died of HIV/AIDS is available.
- The number of persons who have access to ART has increased from 62% in 2008 to 82% in 2012. The data are not sex-disaggregated.
- Data on the causes of death are not updated. The reporting of causes of death to the BOG by the hospitals has some obstacles, including lack of personnel.
- There is a decline in the birth-rate for women aged 15-19 years. In 2011, 58.0 births were noted and in 2012 this had dropped to 51.9.

Good healthcare is important for a healthy population to contribute to the development of a country. The Ministry of Health's priority is to make good quality healthcare accessible for everyone and to prevent and reduce diseases.

The Basic Health Insurance Act was enacted in 2014 (SB no. 114). This law makes insurance for a basic healthcare package compulsory for all Surinamese residents. This package includes medicines, treatment by general practitioners and selected specialized and paramedical treatment. All children aged 0-16 and senior citizens from 60 years of age and older have access to free healthcare. This new care system has improved access to healthcare.

In addition to the basic healthcare package, there are also private health insurance possibilities. For that type of insurance, individuals pay for their own insurance.

The Medical Mission delivers healthcare to the people in the hinterland in accordance with the principles of primary healthcare. The Regional Health Services (RGD) provide the same in the entire coastal area through their more than 50 RGD clinics.

The data for the healthcare indicators are mostly derived from the MICS survey conducted in 2010. The MICS 2017 survey is currently in progress. Data on the SDG 72 (Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care), SDG 73 (Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and education) and GEI 36a (Out-of-pocket health expenditures by sex) are not readily available.

5.1 Maternal Health

There is an increase in the use of contraception among women who are married in the age group 15-49 years. In 2010, 48% of women used contraception compared to 42% in 2000. Use of contraception was highest in rural areas (51%): Nickerie (not including Nieuw-Nickerie), Commewijne (except Tamanredjo and Meerzorg), Coronie, Marowijne, Para and Saramacca. It was low in the interior areas: Brokopondo (26%) and Sipaliwini (25%). However, in the interior areas, contraception use in 2010 was 7 times higher than in the year 2000 (MICS 2010). In 2010, the 'unmet need for family planning' was 16.9% for all of Suriname. This was the highest in the interior (Brokopondo (33%) and Sipaliwini (34%)) (MICS 2010).

Antenatal care is important not only for the health of the unborn baby, but also for the mother. In Suriname, antenatal care is provided by general practitioners, hospitals, RGD and MZ. However, for the CARICOM GEI antenatal care is measured by four or more numbers of antenatal care visits regardless of the provider. In general, 67% of women received antenatal care in Suriname (MICS 2010). This varies in the different areas of Suriname. In the interior, antenatal care is lower (57.8%) than in urban (68%) and rural areas (71.9%) (MICS 2010).

The Ministry of Health is currently engaged in a Study of Women, Infant Feeding and Type 2 diabetes (SWIFT), in collaboration with the hospitals and other institutions with the focus on pregnancies. The study requires a card to be filled out at birth. Much information is also gathered during the prenatal visits. The information will be kept digitally and will could contribute to improved data availability.

5.2 HIV/AIDS and Mortality

The data available in the ABS publications and from the BOG were used in this study.

The registration of the number of people infected with HIV/AIDS now takes place in a more structured manner. The screening of pregnant women for HIV/AIDS has also been standardized since 2003. Thus, an infected pregnant woman can receive information on how to protect her unborn child and prevent infection. The woman receives Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) during pregnancy and after giving birth.

By 2013, the number of women in the age group 15-34 years who died from HIV/AIDS was 1.8%, and 2.6% for women in the age-group 35-59 years. For men this was 0.9% for the age-group 15-34 and 4.7% for the age-group 35-59 years (BOG, 2013). These age-groups of the Bureau for Public Health (BOG) do not match the age range of the GEI indicator, which is 15-49 years. Moreover, the data cover persons who have died. The CEDAW report (2016) states that more women than men are registered as HIV positive. This could be due to the fact that men are less likely than women to seek healthcare.

The number of people who have access to ART has risen. In 2008, this was 62% of persons infected with HIV/AIDS. In 2012, this percentage was 82% (CEDAW report, 2016). Recent data are not available and the data are not sex-disaggregated.

The most common cause of death in the year 2013 is generally cardiovascular diseases (Statistical Yearbook, 2017). This also applies to 2010, 2011 and 2012. For the age-group 15-34 years, the most common cause of death is 'deaths by external causes' for both women and men, respectively 13.4% and 4.1% (BOG, 2013). For the age-group 35-59 years, the most common cause of death is cardiovascular diseases for men (20.8%) and women (7.6%) (BOG, 2013).

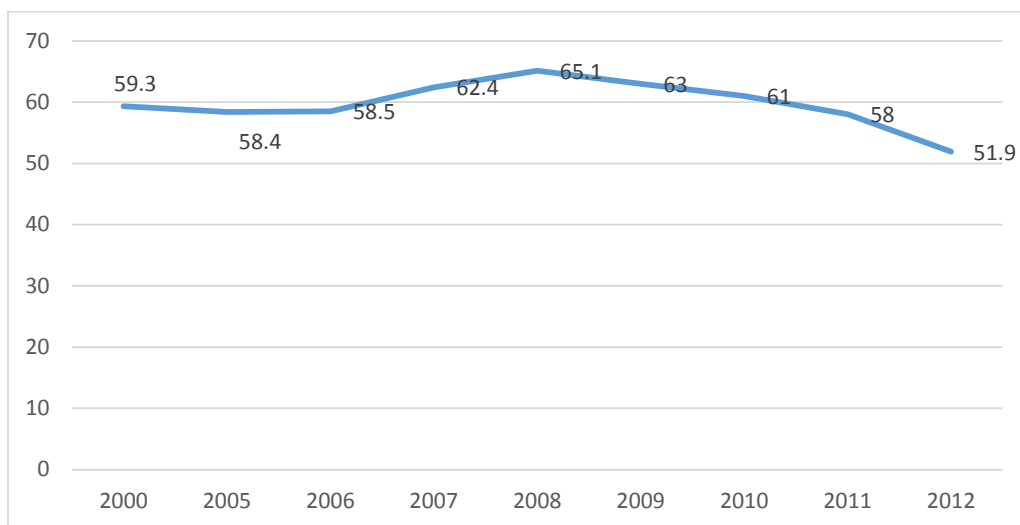
In 2013, the second most common cause of death was cancer and the third cause accidents and violence. This also applies for the period 2010-2012. HIV/AIDS was ranked 8th in 2013. Compared with previous years, this

is an improvement, where HIV/AIDS was ranked 7th (Statistical Yearbook, 2017). These data are not disaggregated by sex and not by age.

5.3 Adolescent Pregnancies

Adolescent pregnancies have profound consequences for the young mother and also for the child, for example, education of the young mother is often discontinued. The figures show a decline of 58.0 births for women 15-19 years in 2011 to 51.9 births for this same age-group in 2012 (CEDAW report, 2016).

Figure 6 Adolescent Birth Rate, 2000-2012



Source: MDG Progress Report 2014

6. Public Participation

KEY GEI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MESSAGES

- Rankings for Suriname with respect to participation of women in political and decision-making positions are very low. Data from the General Statistics Bureau indicate that ministerial positions between 1987 and 2015 were on average 11%.
- In comparison with the council of ministers, the participation of women in national parliament is higher. Several programs have been initiated and implemented in recent years in order to encourage more women to partake in political and decision-making positions. Political parties have been encouraged to nominate more candidates on their lists.
- Although women are in majority at tertiary education level, namely 70%, data still show that women are underrepresented in management positions. A growth of women in management positions in the public sector is observed, particularly in constitutional bodies such as the State Advisory Council, the Independent Electoral Office and National Polling Office. Within the Court of Justice, a rising trend has been observed since 2008: data of 2016 indicate that 73% of the Court of Justice are women.
- The share of male police officers in Suriname is four times higher than female police officers. Unfortunately, there are no data available of the grades in which these female police officers are positioned.

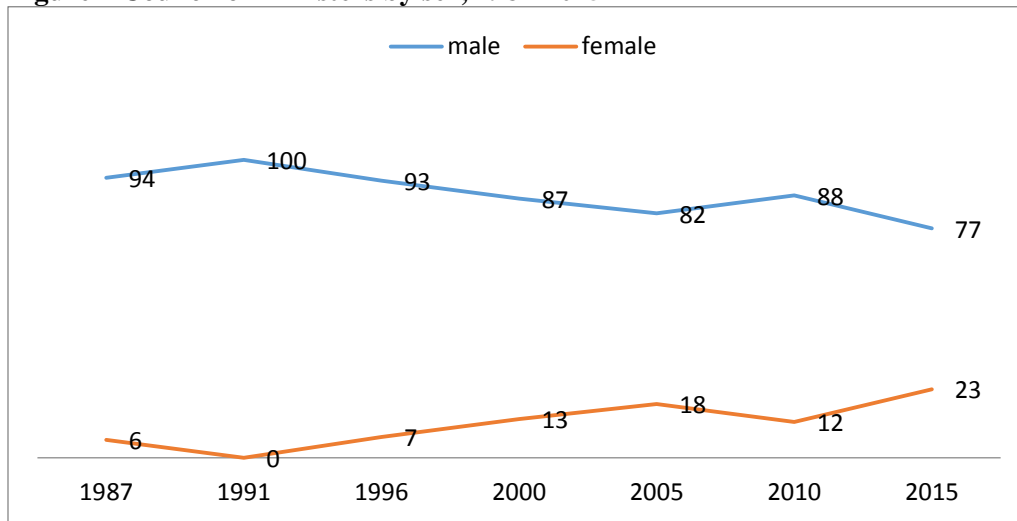
Although the constitution of Suriname and all other national legislation do not allow discrimination on the basis of sex with respect to public participation, national and international studies nevertheless reveal that Suriname has a gap when it comes to the participation of women in decision-making positions. In the Global Gender Gap Report 2016 of the World Economic Forum, Suriname is listed in 95th position out of 144 countries and ranked for gender disparity with a score of 0.679 (0.00= imparity and 1.00 = parity). Women's share in both government positions and private managerial positions is pivotal in order to eliminate the inequalities between men and women. By ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Suriname has committed itself to undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in both the public and private domains in line with the Convention. In 2005, some discriminatory articles in the General Elections Act, such as Articles 15, 41, 57 and 73, were revised. These Articles now give female candidates who are married or widowed the option, upon their written request, to register under their maiden name, adding the name of their husband or deceased husband (CEDAW Report, 2016).

6.1 Participation of Men and Women in Politics

In Suriname, elections are held every five (5) years and with reference to Articles 8, 52, and 53 of the Constitution (SB 1987 no. 117), men as well as women are free to participate in all political activities. In the Decree on Political Organization (SB 1987 no. 61) Article 2 states that all political organizations must be accessible to everyone. However, women in Suriname have been underrepresented in the Council of the Ministers in the past 30 years with an average of only 11%.

Figure 7 shows the structural underrepresentation of female ministerial positions since 1987 compared to their male colleagues. It is worth noting that in 1991 the cabinet of ministers consisted of only men. A slight increase of women in the cabinet has been observed since 2000, with a reversal in the year 2010 and an increase again in 2015, with 24% of cabinet being female ministers.

Figure 7 Council of Ministers by sex, 1987-2015



Source: The National Assembly, 2016

In comparison with the underrepresentation of women in the Council of the Ministers, a rising trend was observed for women in parliament since the ratification of the CEDAW Convention by Suriname in 1993. Suriname does not have a legal quota system for the political decision-making apparatus and in particular the National Assembly. In 1996, 16% of parliament consisted of women and increased in the year 2000 to 18%. After the elections of 2005, 22% of parliament were women. A drastic decline was noted after the elections of 2010, when only 10% of the members of parliament were female. Preparatory to the elections of 2015 a promotion campaign “More female leadership” was initiated by parliament in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs to promote more women in decision-making positions in both public and private spheres. This resulted in 27% of the seats in parliament coming to women after the 2015 elections. The initial goal of the campaign was to mobilize political parties to nominate more women on their lists of candidates. In 1996, a woman was elected as Speaker of Parliament for the first time in Surinamese history. The National Assembly has been chaired by a woman since 2010.

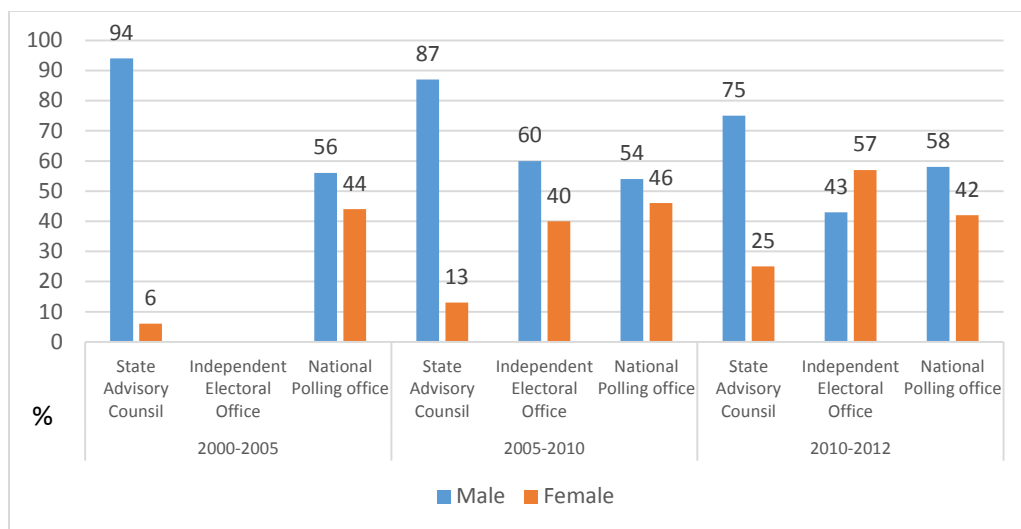
The slight increase of female participation in parliament indicates a possible change in Surinamese political culture, in which traditional gender roles are being discussed, as well as their access to the political arena. The Ministry of Home Affairs developed several activities to promote gender equality and women’s participation in politics since 2010 in collaboration with NGOs and international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In 2010, a panel discussion “Quota policy and promoting the participation of women in politics” was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 2012, the round table discussion “Gender and politics” was held in cooperation with UNDP. The focus of the round table discussion was on legalizing a gender quota for women in politics and resulted in an action plan for the upcoming years (CEDAW report, 2016).

6.2 Participation of Men and Women in Managerial and Decision-making Positions

Despite the fact that women are in the majority in higher education in Suriname, data indicate that gender inequality dominates in the private sector. Data with regards to Surinamese enterprises show that female participation in top management positions among private companies were lowest among Latin-American and Caribbean Countries (LAC) in 2010, namely 15% in comparison with the average of 40% for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) (CEDAW report, 2016).

Within the public sector and predominantly in specific public-sector institutions, an increasing trend of female participation has been observed. An overview is presented in figure 8, which depicts the female participation in constitutional bodies over the period 2000 -2012. For example, in the State Advisory Council female participation has grown from 6% to 25%; the Independent Electoral Office saw an increase in female participation from 0% to 57%.

Figure 8 Participation of women in Constitutional Bodies by sex 2000-2012



Source: (2010) Situation Analysis / Independent Electoral Bureau (CEDAW Report, 2016)

6.3 Female Judges in the Judiciary

The Court of Justice was a male-dominated institution until 2007. The increase of female judges began in 2008, and by 2009 there were equal numbers of male and female judges in Suriname. In 2013, the percentage of female judges was 63%, while in 2016 the percentage had further increased to 73%.

6.4 Government Policy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In Suriname, the Ministry of Home Affairs and specifically the BGA, is responsible for the formulation of the gender policy in line with the development plan of the Government. Gender was not mentioned in the Stabilization and Recovery Plan 2016-2018 of the Government of Suriname, but in the Development Plan 2012-2016 gender was mentioned as a policy priority. However, the Government has no specific budget for gender. The various ministries are jointly responsible for gender mainstreaming government policy through the GFPs, which were installed in 2002 as part of the Gender Management System.

7. Human Rights

KEY GEI HUMAN RIGHTS MESSAGES

- As Suriname has not conducted a national survey to measure the prevalence of violence against women, there are no data available to measure CARICOM GEI 48 and 49; or SDG indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.
- Data from the Department for Criminal Information Service (DCIV) between 2010-2015 show that reports received on gender-based violence and in particular domestic violence has not declined despite the ratification of the Belém do Pará Convention in 2002 and the adoption of the law with regard to controlling domestic violence in 2009. The majority persons who report as victims of domestic violence are still women. In particular reports on physical violence has increased in the age-group 21-40 years. Unfortunately, the registered data have not been specified to indicate intimate partner violence.
- Since the ratification of the CEDAW in 1993, Suriname has adopted several national laws in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The laws are listed in paragraph 7.2

The *Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism* of the Human Rights Council of the UN was enacted in March 2006 in order to monitor the human rights situation of the 193-member countries of the UN every 5 years. Suriname has taken concrete steps since 2008 to promote and protect human rights.

In 2008, the Ministry of Justice and Police established the Human Rights Bureau and judicial authorities have been trained in several human rights issues, such as the best interest of the child, and adequate implementation of the laws with regard to violence against women. There has also been awareness training for media, NGOs, religious organizations and organizations of Indigenous and Maroon peoples, while the capacity of the staff and management of the Legal Aid Bureau has been strengthened.

Several international conventions have been signed and ratified with respect to human rights in Suriname, both before and after 2008 (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2014):

- The Convention on all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993;
- Endorsement of the Program of Action of ICPD (International Conference on Population and Planning) in 1994;
- The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA, 1995);
- The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of all Forms of Violence against Women, also known as the Belém do Pará Convention, in 2002;
- The Palermo Protocol (2006) on the prevention and punishment of human trafficking, especially of women and children, in 2006;
- The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
- Optional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2011; and
- Commitment to the implementation of the SDGs 2015- 2030.

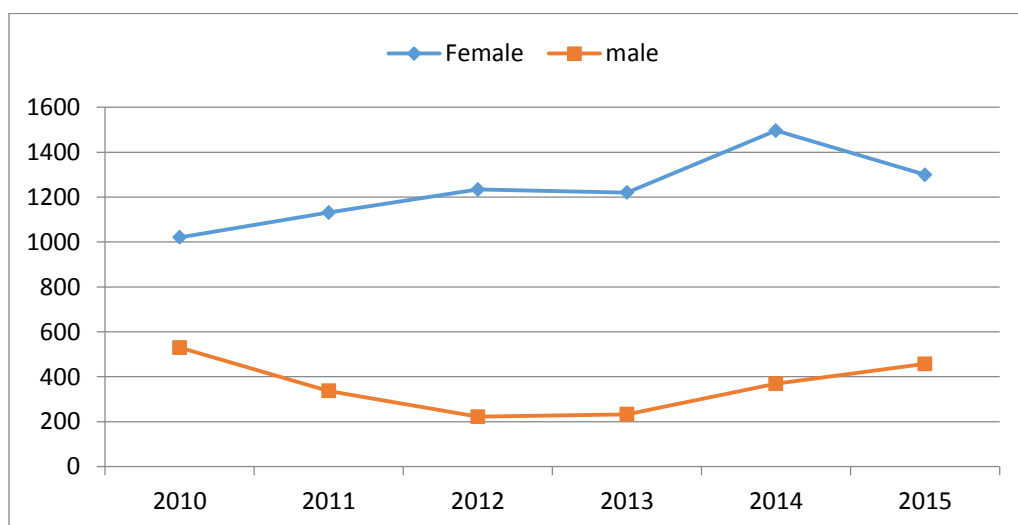
Implementation of the different conventions takes place through national legislation, policy and programs. The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for the formulation of the gender policy which is in line with the international conventions, in order to promote and monitor gender equality and women's rights and the obligation to evaluate.

7.1 Violence against Women

Violence against women remains a sensitive issue in Suriname in both public and private spheres. Data of the Department for Criminal Information Service (DCIV) indicate that the majority of persons who report as victims of violence are women. After ratifying the Belém do Pará Convention in 2002, the law to combat, punish and eliminate violence against women was enacted in 2009 at the national level. Data from DCIV from 2010 through 2014 show a growth in reports of physical violence against women, particularly battery/maltreatment of women in the age-group 21- 40 years. It has also been shown that sexual harassment such as assault, sexual abuse, rape and attempt to rape is the most common among girls in the age-group 11-20 years.

Figure 9 shows the registered cases of domestic violence in the period 2010-2015 in the age group 0-80 years and older. The increased number of domestic violence from 2013 for both men and women is striking. In 2015, the number of registered cases of domestic violence against women decreased, but that does not necessarily mean that violence itself has declined.

Figure 9 Victims of Domestic Violence by sex, 2010-2015 (Reported Cases)



Source: KPS dep. DCIV, July 2016

7.2 Discrimination against Women

By ratifying CEDAW, Suriname has the obligation to take measures against all forms of discrimination against women and thus, all discriminatory rules in both public and private sectors must be removed by adjusting national legislation. During the dialogues that were held, participants noted that private firms are unable to present an overview of the application of implemented legislation due to the lack of data. Government and NGOs are working together at the national level to tailor the legislation as much as possible. The Ministry of Home Affairs, and in particular the BGA, is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of CEDAW. Suriname has worked or adjusted the following national legislation since the ratification of the CEDAW (CEDAW report, 2014):

- Revision of the Criminal Code with regard to the trade in women and minors in 2006.
- Revision of the Criminal Code with regard to sexual crimes in 2009.
- Bill against Stalking in 2012: according to this law preventive measures can be taken by the public prosecutor to protect a possible victim.

- Adoption of the law on National Basic Health Insurance (2014).
- Adoption of the law on Minimum Hourly Wage (2014).
- Adoption of the law on General Pension (2014).
- ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers of Equal Value (Equal Remuneration Convention), 1951 no. 100, Geneva, 01 June 1951 (2016): equal pay for men and women.
- Law approving the accession of the Republic of Suriname to the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers of Equal Value (Equal Remuneration Convention), 1951 no. 100, Geneva, 01 June 1951 (2016): equal wages for men and women.
- Law approving accession of the Republic of Suriname to the Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, (Discrimination Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 no. 111, Geneva, 25 June 1958 (2016): policy for equal opportunities to prevent discrimination concerning labour.
- Law on Labour Mediation (2016).

At present, the Law on Sexual Harassment, is being finalized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Ilse Henar Hewitt Foundation for Legal Assistance for Women.

There is also a draft bill on paid maternity leave, prepared by the Ministry of Labour, which has been submitted for review to the Labour Advisory Board and the Ministry of Justice and Police (Gender Focal Point Ministry of Labour, Sept 2017).

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusions

The study on gender gaps and the situation of men and women in Suriname was conducted between January and July 2017. The aim was to identify shortcomings in the collection of gender-related data based on pre-established indicators. The survey shows that data collection in general is already a challenge. The data collection has the characteristics of registration of information without a clear purpose.

The collection, processing and presentation of data is legally assigned to the ABS. However, other agencies, including ministries and research institutions, are also registering and collecting data which they report to the ABS. Due to a lack of financial and human resources, expertise and clear goals for data collection, the data are not collected and maintained in specified periods. As a result, data are often outdated and do not meet requirements. One example is the collection of job seekers data. The Labour Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour registers job seekers in the districts of Paramaribo and Nickerie. The department does not receive information from other agencies/organizations such as private employment agencies, which also register job seekers. In addition, job seekers from other districts also register in Paramaribo.

At the DCIV, the data provided do not give a complete representation of partner violence in Suriname. During the dialogues, it emerged that there is uncertainty within the Police Corps about the definition of domestic violence, which make the data difficult to categorize. It was also found that the data are not streamlined with data recorded by other agencies within the Ministry of Justice and Police, such as the court where direct protection orders are requested by victims of domestic violence or their family. It is reported that there are few people at the Ministry of Justice and Police who are able to work with a computer and standard software programs. The current data of DCIV are registered by sex. It appears that many agencies are not aware of collecting gender-related data. In this case, there is simply a lack of knowhow.

Prior to the user-producer dialogues (which were organised by sectors), a questionnaire was developed to identify which data were already available. Since only 18 out of 100 questionnaires were answered and returned, it was decided to combine the sectors during the dialogues. Nevertheless, participation was poor. For example, of the 50 invitees for the human rights and public participation dialogue, only 4 were present. It was remarkable that even the invited GFPs of the ministries did not attend the dialogues. The study shows that certain GFPs are not motivated or they have been replaced by people with little interest in gender equality. Further discussions with the GFPs revealed that it is often unclear what their tasks are, which makes the implementation capacity of the Gender Work Plan relatively low. It also appears that the GFPs often do not know what data are available and cannot share data with other organizations.

There is a need for continuous training to mainstream gender in the relevant ministries. The Ministry of Home Affairs formulates, implements and evaluates gender policy together with the GFPs. The Development Plan is the guide for this, together with the international treaties that have been signed and ratified by Suriname. In the Multiannual Development Plan 2001-2005, gender was included as a cross cutting issue; in the 2012-2016 development plan gender was classified as a multidisciplinary policy that needs specific attention. In the Stabilization and Recovery Plan 2016-2018, on the other hand, gender was not included.

In the draft of the Development Plan 2017-2021 gender has again been specified as a multidisciplinary policy area, which indicates that its outcomes will be further elaborated in the policies and action programs of the relevant ministries.

Based on the available data, it is very difficult to make statements about the actual and current situation of men and women. This is mainly due to the availability of data. The data are usually outdated, unstructured or not present, not always sex-disaggregated and especially not gender-related. Based on this, general findings are presented regarding gender gaps in data collection and the situation of women and men in Suriname.

Conclusions in short:

- Many more women than men are registered as jobseekers at the Ministry of Labour, but the practical situation may differ because the data are incomplete. In addition, the most recent available data are not collected nationally, but only for the districts of Paramaribo and Wanica.
- In 2014, a Law for Minimum Hourly Wage was approved by the National Assembly and came into force on 1 January 2015.
- Data on education are gathered but not immediately available.
- Data on dropouts and repeaters are available, but the rates are not calculated.
- The number of women registered at the various levels of education increases as the education levels get higher.
- Good progress seems to have been made in the area of healthcare for women.
- Not all data are available on healthcare. If the data are available, they are not recent. The most recent data are from MICS 2010. Certain data are present, but due to privacy laws, they cannot be made available.
- Data from DCIV do not provide total representation of partner violence in Suriname. Moreover, data are not streamlined with data recorded by other agencies within the Ministry of Justice and Police. Nor is there structure in collecting, recording and keeping the data.
- Legislation on discrimination against women at work (ILO Convention 100 and 111) has been approved in DNA, but not yet published and announced.
- No data are available with respect to sexual harassment at the workplace. The legislation on Sexual Harassment at the Workplace has not yet been approved.

8.2 General Recommendations

- Awareness programs and training are required on the importance of collecting, maintaining and processing data (statistics) across different sectors in Suriname. Special attention should be paid to collecting gender-related data. The participation of policymakers and politicians is furthermore of utmost importance, because they are often the ones who determine and influence policies and provide direction.
- Training is required on the importance and purpose of collecting gender-related data. When necessary, assistance should be given in gathering such data by introducing methods and techniques for adequate data collection.
- GFPs must receive continuous training and guidance in mainstreaming gender (gender incorporation into policy programs, plans and projects), creating gender awareness, watching over gender sensitivity of the budgets of respective ministries. Furthermore, the GFPs and the BGA should develop and maintain a regular collaboration system.
- Ministries should have a Gender Responsive Budget, so that gender projects/action plans can actually be costed and implemented.
- The Labour Market Information System should be implemented for the appropriate collection, processing, maintenance and updating of labour statistics. This will result in gaining a reliable picture of the labour market and tailoring the necessary policies thereto.

- A platform of users and producers of data should be established to present data collection, analysis and improvement, and thus create collaboration among stakeholders.
- A central place for digitally storing data should be created, so that they are available and easily accessible, especially for policymaking. For example, for healthcare, the gender-related data should be centralized together with other health statistics within the Ministry of Health.
- The required information, in particular on health, should be made available with due account for privacy and ethical requirements.
- A fixed format to collect specific data should be developed and used, which will facilitate national and international reporting.

8.3 Recommendations for the GEI Indicators

All SDG indicators have been studied to show whether indicators have to be added to the GEI indicators list. Although this study showed that the SDG indicators are well represented in the GEI indicators, SDG indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural) and SDG indicator 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable should be added.

Another important issue that presented itself was the extent to what information on some of the GEI indicators are collected or can be collected in Suriname, and to what extent the indicators apply to the Surinamese situation. These indicators are listed and described below.

Economy

Indicator GEI 8a (Percentage distribution of employed population in agricultural sector, by sex) is difficult to determine. In the interior, agriculture is very important, not only for own use but also as a source of income. Therefore, it is advisable to define what agriculture entails. It should be limited to small, medium-sized and large agriculture companies.

The data collection for GEI 13 (Gender gap in wages) will be very difficult because salaries in general differ widely by function, education, department and place of employment (Government or private companies). Moreover: in both household surveys and establishment surveys, it has proven difficult to obtain adequate responses on the income questions.

For indicator GEI 7 (Percentage of firms owned by women, by size) it might be better to check how many women have executive positions (indicate which positions) and then distinguish between government and private companies and size of the enterprise (small, medium and large).

Education

GEI indicators 24e (Proportion of students who complete secondary school at Form 5 with passes in at least two subjects English (or official language of country) and Mathematics by sex) and 24f (Proportion of students who take Mathematics and at least one of the Sciences in examinations (CXC or equivalent) at 5th Form by sex) do not apply for Suriname. The education system is different from the other Caribbean countries. Secondary education in Suriname comprises a junior and a senior level. Indicator 24e could be replaced with ‘number of students in the second year of junior secondary level who advanced to the next year with economic subjects or mathematics and physics, and by sex’. In addition, the following indicator could be added: ‘the number of students enrolled at senior secondary level by type of subject (economic or mathematics and physics) and by sex’.

The SDG indicators 4.2.2 (Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex), 4.3.1 (Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex) and 4.4.1 (Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill) can be added to the GEI list for education.

Health

For the health sector, the following GEI indicators can be replaced:

- 32a (Unmet need for family planning)
- 36a (Out of Pocket Health Expenditures by sex)
- 39 (Women’s share of population aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS)
- 40 (Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex)

These GEI indicators can be replaced by SDG 3.3.1 (Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations), SDG 3.7.1 (Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods) and SDG indicator 5.6.1 (Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care). The SDGs give more insight in these issues. GEI 36a is very difficult to measure.

Public Participation

A more structured registration of indicator GEI 46 should be available in order to get a better insight of gender inequality in the police corps, which is male-dominated. With regard to SDG 77, it should be noted that the government does not have a specific system to track or make a public allocation for gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is advisable to develop specific indicators to measure the allocation of all forms of funding for gender inequality and the empowerment of women.

Human Rights

Data with regard to GEI indicator 48 should be made more specific to register ‘intimate partner violence’ or ‘other’. The location of the violence also needs to be registered. During the user-producer dialogues police officers who are responsible for the registration of data, seemed to be insufficiently aware about the category of intimate partner violence, as stated in the Law on Domestic Violence. This makes the exact registration of data difficult.

This GEI indicator can be replaced by SDG indicators 5.2.1 (Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age) and 5.2.2. (Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence). The SDG’s indicators also cover women older than 49.

Annex 1 List of indicators

This list of indicators shows which data are available or not for the different indicators per subject area. The 'X' indicates that the data are not available for a particular indicator.

Economy

GEI/SDG	Indicator #	Indicator	Most recent data	Data Sources	Type of data
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	3a.	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15-24, by sex	2012	Ministry of Labour/ Labour Statistics and ABS	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	3b.	Labour force participation rate for persons aged 15+, by sex	2012	Ministry of Labour/ Labour Statistics and ABS	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	4	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex	2016	ABS	Survey
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	8a.	Percentage distribution of employed population in agricultural sector, by sex	2008	Ministry of LVV	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	8b.	Percentage distribution of employed population in industrial sector, by sex	2012	ABS	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	8c.	Percentage distribution of employed population in service sector, by sex	2016		Survey
GEI(CARICOM GEI)	9	Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment by sex and age	X		NA
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	10	Youth employment rate for persons aged 15-24, by sex	2016	ABS	Survey
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	11	Proportion of Population with access to credit by sex	X	Women in Business (WOBUS) Micro Credits	NA
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	12	Proportion of Population owning land, by sex, by size of land parcel	X	Land Registration and - Information System	NA

GEI (CARICOM GEI)	13	Gender gap in wages	X	Ministry of Home Affairs/ Central Bureau Mechanized Administration (CEBUMA)	NA
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	14	Proportion of employed working part-time, by sex	ABS. Available for the districts Paramaribo and Wanica (2014 & 2016, Household Survey) and the other districts (2012 Census data)		Survey data (Household Survey)
GEI NOT in CARICOM GEI	5	Proportion of employed who are contributing family workers, by sex	2016		Survey
GEI NOT IN CARICOM GEI	6	Proportion of employed who are employers, by sex	2016		Survey
GEI NOT IN CARICOM GEI	7	Percentage of firms owned by women, by size	X	WOBUS/ KKF/ ASFA	NA
SDG (PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN CARICOM GEI)	69	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	X		NA
SDG(NOT PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN CARICOM GEI)	74/5.a.1 (a)	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	X	GLIS/ LVV	NA
SDG NOT PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN CARICOM GEI)	76/ 5.b.1.	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	2014	ABS	Survey

Education

GEI/SDG	Indicator #	Indicator	Most recent data	Data Sources	Type of data
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	24a.	Gender parity index of the gross enrolment ratio in primary education	2013-2014	MinOWC (dep. Research & Planning)	Administrative
GEI(CARICOM GEI)	24b.	Gender parity index of the gross enrolment ratio in secondary education	2013-2014 for VOJ and 2011-2012 for VOS	MinOWC (dep. Research & Planning)	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	24c.	Gender parity index of the gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education	2010-2011	MinOWC (dep. Research & Planning)	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)		- <i>Sub-indicator on drop-out rates by sex:</i> <i>Proportion of students starting Form 1 who reach Form 5 in secondary school by sex</i> - <i>Sub-indicator on repetition rates by sex:</i> <i>Proportion of students who have repeated at least one Form, starting from Form 1 through Form 5 in secondary school by sex</i>	X	MinOWC (dep. Research & Planning)	NA (drop-out percentages are available but not the rates. This also counts for repetition rates)
GEI(CARICOM GEI)	24d.	Proportion of students in secondary schools in 5 th Form enrolled in science and technical subjects by sex	X	MinOWC (dep. Research & Planning)	NA
GEI(CARICOM GEI)	24e.	Proportion of students who complete secondary school at Form 5 with passes in at least two subjects English (or official language of country) and Mathematics by sex	Not applicable		

GEI(CARICOM GEI)	24f.	Proportion of students who take Mathematics and at least one of the Sciences in examinations (CXC or equivalent) at 5 th Form by sex	Not applicable		
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	25	Share of female science, engineering, manufacturing and construction graduates at tertiary level	2014- 2015	ABS	Administrative

Health

GEI/SDG	Indicator #	Indicator	Most recent data	Data Sources	Type of data
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	32	Contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in a union, aged 15-49	2010	MICS/ SoZaVo	Survey
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	32a.	Unmet need for family planning	2010	MICS/SoZaVo	Survey
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	35b.	Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits	2010	MICS/ SoZaVo	Survey
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	36a.	Out of Pocket Health Expenditures by sex	X	Hospitals	NA
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	39	Women's share of population aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	X	Hospitals/ RGD/BOG/ Ministry of Health	NA
GEI(CARICOM GEI)	40	Access to anti-retroviral drug, by sex	X	Pharmacies	NA
GEI (NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	42a.	Adult mortality 15-34 years by cause	2011	BOG/ABS	Administrative
GEI (NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	42b.	Adult mortality 35-59 years by cause	2011	BOG/ABS	Administrative
GEI(NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	52	Adolescent Birth Rate	2010	MICS/SoZaVo	Survey
SDG (PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION CARICOM GEI)	72	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health	2010	MICS/ SoZaVo	Survey

SDG (NOT INCLUDED IN CARICOM GEI)	73	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	X		NA
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Public Participation

GEI/SDG	Indicator #	Indicator	Most recent data	Data Sources	Type of data
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	43	Women's share of government ministerial positions	2015	ABS Gender Publication BGA (Ministry of Home Affairs)	Administrative
GEI + SDG (CARICOM GEI)	44 + 70	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	2015	ABS Gender Publication BGA (Ministry of Home Affairs)	Administrative
GEI + SDG (CARICOM GEI)	45 + 71	Women's share of managerial positions	Census 2012 Household Survey 2016	ABS	Survey
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	46	Share of female police officers	2016	ABS HRM Ministry of Justice and Police	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	47	Share of Female Judges	X	Court of Justice	Administrative
SDG (NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	77	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	X		NA

Human Rights

GEI/SDG	Indicator #	Indicator	Most recent data	Data Sources	Type of data
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	48	Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner	From 2005	Criminal Information Service (DCIV) Bureau Victim Support Magistrates Court	Administrative
GEI (CARICOM GEI)	49	Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner	From 2005	Criminal Information Service (DCIV) Bureau Victim Service Magistrates Court	Administrative
GEI + SDG (NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	51 + 67	Percentage of Women Aged 20 -24 years old who were married or in a union before age 18	Publication Demographic data Central Bureau for Civil Affairs age 15 -19 till 2015 (published in 2016)	ABS Central Bureau for Civil Registration (CBB) demographic data	Administrative
SDG (NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	64	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	ILO conventions 100 and 111 approved in Parliament 2016	Ministry of Labour	Administrative

SDG (PROPOSED AS REPLACEMENT FOR GEI 48)	65	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	From 2015	Criminal Information Service (DCIV), OpaDoeli	Administrative
SDG (PROPOSED AS REPLACEMENT FOR GEI 48)	66	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	From 2015	Criminal Information Service (DCIV) OpaDoeli	Administrative
SDG (NOT IN CARICOM GEI)	68	5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	X	X	NA

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