

# SURINAME SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

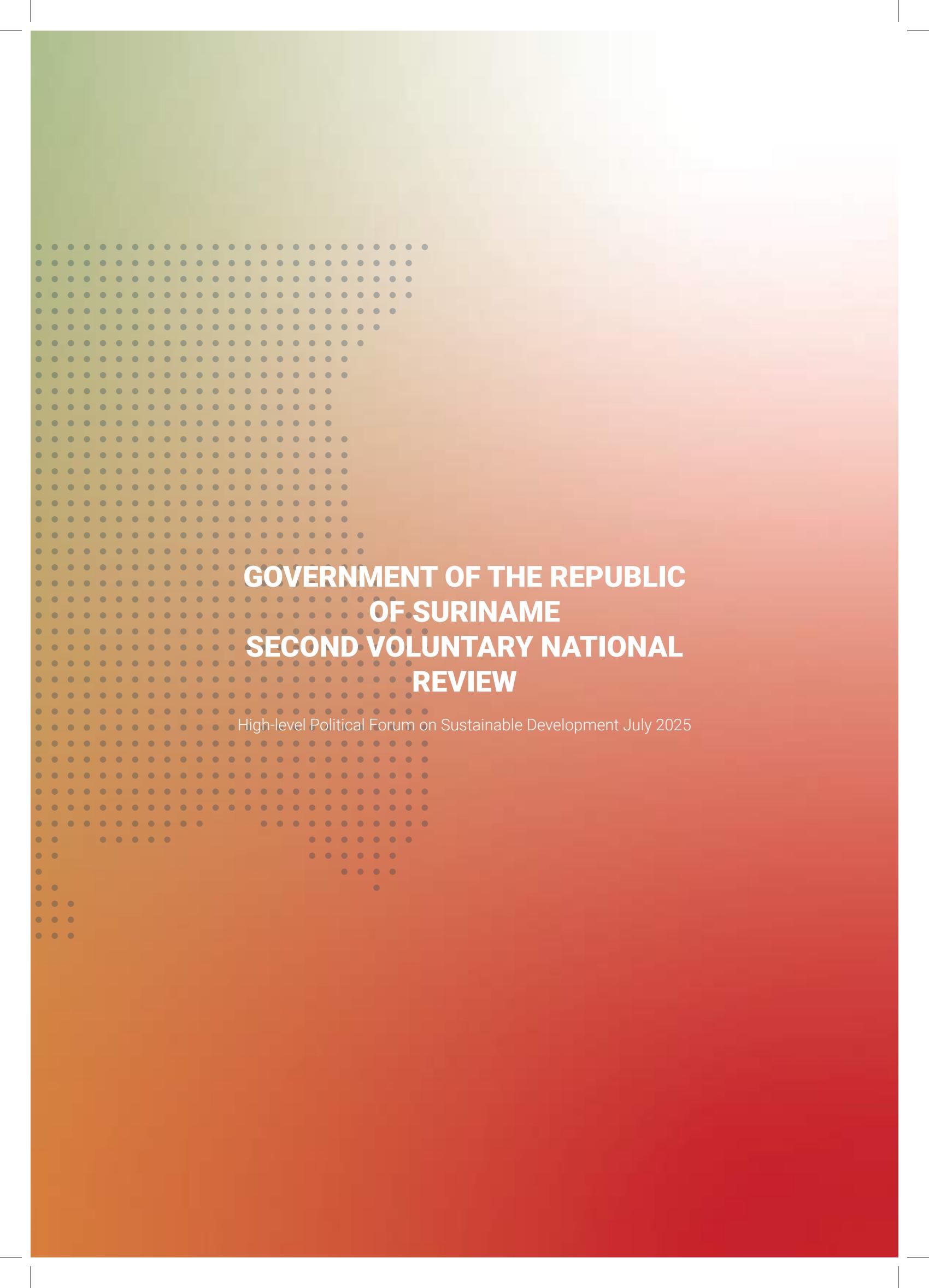


**July  
2025**

Government of the  
**Republic of Suriname**  
High-level Political Forum on  
**Sustainable Development**



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# **GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW**

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development July 2025

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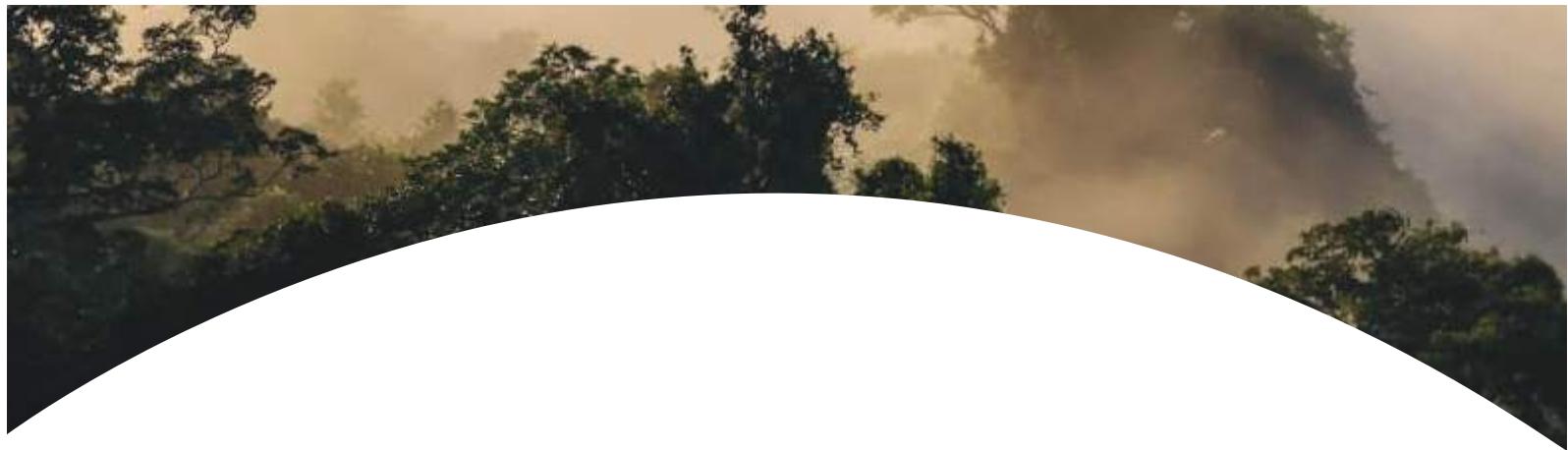
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# STATEMENT

## From the President of the Republic of Suriname, His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi

At this pivotal moment in our development journey, I am honoured to feature in the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Republic of Suriname. This report shows the country's continued commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and more importantly, to our people - who remain at the heart of all our efforts. Suriname has been navigating through a very difficult time. We encountered the following:

1. The global COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak, our health system was under immense pressure, and our economy faced unprecedented challenges.
2. Suriname was grappling with soaring inflation - reaching as high as 66%, high public debt, less fiscal space, and weakened institutions.

Despite these circumstances, we took the difficult but necessary decision to restore macroeconomic stability by entering into an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This process required the implementation of tough reforms, including the rationalization of subsidies, which, while economically necessary, placed significant strain on households already under pressure. We acknowledge the discomfort felt by many citizens. At the same time, we made every effort to cushion the impact

- by expanding social assistance programmes,
- increasing cash transfers,
- and launching targeted relief for vulnerable groups.

Throughout this journey, we also remained focused on long-term transformation. We have prioritized the revitalization of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and invested in the development of Suriname's emerging oil and gas sector. In our foreign policy, we worked to position our country as a partner of choice in the region. Given our HFLD status, we

worked on strengthening environmental governance, including the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment - demonstrating our intent to place greater emphasis on sustainable development and climate action.

In collaboration with partners such as the United Nations, including through SDG Fund-supported initiatives, we launched projects aimed at improving the lives and resilience of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, developing a financial environmental roadmap and strengthening sustainable agricultural value chains, such as for the pineapple sector. Other development partners have supported efforts in agriculture and rural livelihoods, helping to foster greater food security and economic diversification.

Access to quality education and health services remained priority policy areas to foster development opportunities and the well-being of society.

Accelerated digitalization of public services improved access and transparency, enhancing the country's digital readiness and laying the groundwork for more efficient, responsive governance.

Infrastructural projects in the Interior brought electricity and clean water to villages long underserved, and a food basket programme was established to support food security.

The resilience and ingenuity of our Indigenous and Tribal peoples continue to inspire us, even as we recognize the urgent and unfinished work regarding their collective land rights and the need to restore trust through meaningful dialogue and legislative action.

Suriname has endured a difficult adjustment period, and the costs have been and are visible, such as poverty, although declining, frustration, and a notable brain drain of our professionals.

However, we are rebuilding institutions, restoring fiscal credibility, realizing economic growth from -16% to



3% and laying the foundation for inclusive, sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda provides both a compass and a mirror - guiding us forward -, while reflecting the reality of where we stand as a nation. This VNR captures our collective journey - our achievements, setbacks, and aspirations. It is a testament to the efforts of the Government, the private sector, civil society, and the people of Suriname.

On behalf of the Government, I reaffirm our firm commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and to leaving no one behind. Let us use this moment not only to take stock, but to renew our resolve to build Suriname into a nation that is fair, prosperous, and inclusive for all.



**Chandrikapersad Santokhi**  
**President of the Republic of Suriname**

# List of Abbreviations

<b>ASGM</b>	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
<b>ASRHR</b>	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>ASTA</b>	Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator
<b>AWJ</b>	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs
<b>BEIP</b>	Basic Education Improvement Programme
<b>BIBIS</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation
<b>CATF</b>	Caribbean Financial Action Task Force
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CDEMA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DWCP</b>	Decent Work Country Programme
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council of the United Nation
<b>ETVET</b>	Enhancement of the Technical & Vocational Education and Trainin
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EZOTI</b>	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation
<b>FATF</b>	Financial Action Task Force
<b>FIBOS</b>	Federation of Special Education Institutions Suriname
<b>FREL</b>	Forest Reference Emission Level
<b>FGRM</b>	Feedback, Grievance and Redress Mechanism
<b>GBS</b>	General Bureau of Statistics
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GHGI</b>	Greenhouse Gas Inventory
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>HFLD</b>	High-Forest/Low-Deforestation
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>ITPs</b>	Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
<b>KAMPOS</b>	Association of the six tribes of the Tribal Peoples
<b>LAPOP</b>	Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)
<b>LMIS</b>	Labour Market Information System
<b>LOBO</b>	National Teacher Training Institute for Vocational and Technical Education
<b>LSAR</b>	Land Search and Rescue
<b>NAMAs</b>	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MOP</b>	Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NC</b>	National Communication (NC)
<b>NCCPSAP</b>	National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Suriname
<b>NCCR</b>	National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management
<b>NDA</b>	National Delegated Authority
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NRTM</b>	Near Real Time Monitoring
<b>PES</b>	Public Employment Service Unit
<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>REDD+</b>	Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>SAO</b>	Foundation for Labour Mobilization and Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SFISS</b>	Sustainable Forestry Information System Suriname
<b>SHTT</b>	Suriname Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre

<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>SMIN</b>	Suriname Climate Milieu Information Network
<b>SNTA</b>	Suriname National Training Authority
<b>SPWE</b>	Foundation Productive Work Units
<b>SSLC</b>	Suriname Survey of Living Conditions
<b>STREAM</b>	Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
<b>TVET</b>	Technical & Vocational Education and Training
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>VAT</b>	Value Added Tax
<b>VIDS</b>	Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>VSB</b>	Suriname Business Association
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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# 1.

# Introduction



The Government of the Republic of Suriname is pleased to present its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This report reflects our national commitment to sustainable development and our dedication to leaving no one behind. Building upon the foundation laid in the first VNR presented in 2022 - which focused on SDG 4, 8, 13 and 17 - , this review offers a comprehensive overview of progress made across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The preparation of this report was coordinated by the Directorate of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation (BIBIS), which serves as the lead agency and chair of the National SDG Committee. The report represents a collaborative, inclusive, and evidence-based process, engaging national institutions and stakeholders from across society.

The methodology used in drafting the VNR combined multiple approaches to ensure the information provided is as accurate, representative, and participatory as possible. A mix of desk reviews, meetings, one-on-one consultations, and multi-stakeholder dialogues guided the data collection and analysis basis. The National SDG Committee - comprising representatives of all ministries, the Parliament, the General Bureau of Statistics and the Planning Office Suriname - were instrumental in the information provision.

In parallel, the SDG Platform, a multi-stakeholder body consisting of thirteen key societal groups - including women, youth, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, farmers, academia, and the private sector - provided valuable input, capturing the voices of communities from across the country. This inclusive approach ensured that diverse perspectives were incorporated, both in identifying progress and in acknowledging persistent gaps and challenges. Additionally, the perspectives of civil society organizations and the UN organizations working in Suriname were gathered.

A team of four national consultants compiled the final report, assisting in harmonizing inputs and aligning the findings with global reporting guidelines. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) supported the process of drafting the second VNR.

The VNR's structure follows the 17 Goals' thematic sequencing while highlighting interlinkages and cross-cutting issues such as climate resilience, gender equality, human rights, and institutional capacity. Each SDG chapter presents an overview of policy initiatives, statistical trends, stakeholder insights, key lessons learned, and opportunities.

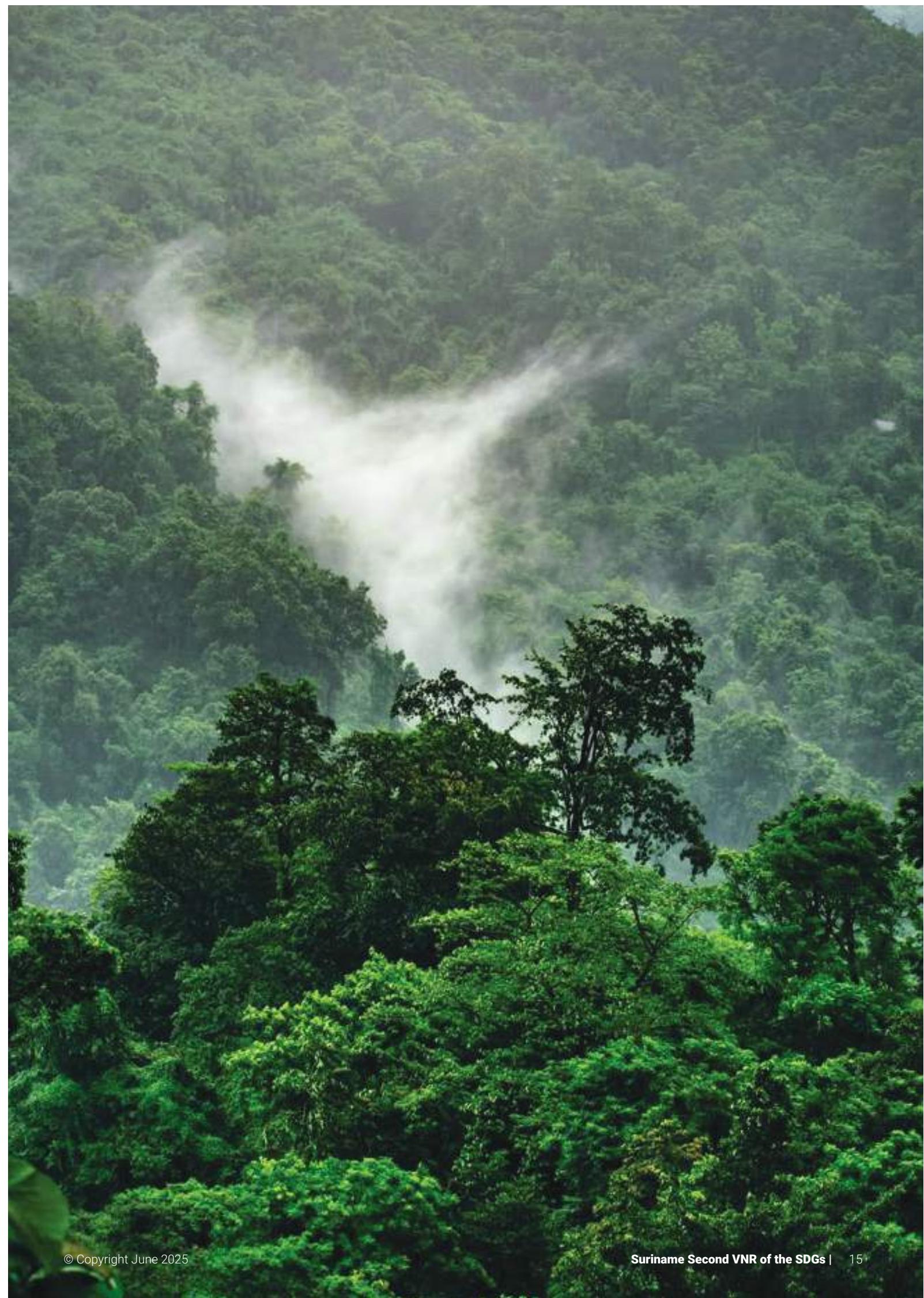
This second VNR comes as Suriname navigates both domestic development challenges and global transitions. While significant strides have been made - particularly in economic stabilization and social inclusion - the process has also reaffirmed the need for greater resilience, equity, and partnership.

Suriname reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and expresses its sincere gratitude to all contributors to this review. The VNR not only serves as a tool for accountability but also as a platform for reflection and renewal of our collective resolve to build a more just, sustainable, and inclusive future for all.



# 2.

# Methodology and preparation of review



To prepare the underlying VNR, the focus has been on identifying policy programmes and initiatives, as well as developments and achievements since the first reporting. The first VNR was well received by stakeholders, and the drafting process contributed to building knowledge and awareness about the SDGs, as well as creating mechanisms for coordination and monitoring of the SDGs and sensitizing the stakeholders about the inter-linkages of the SDGs to national policy programmes, government budgets, research reports, and survey data.

## 2.1 General approach and coordination

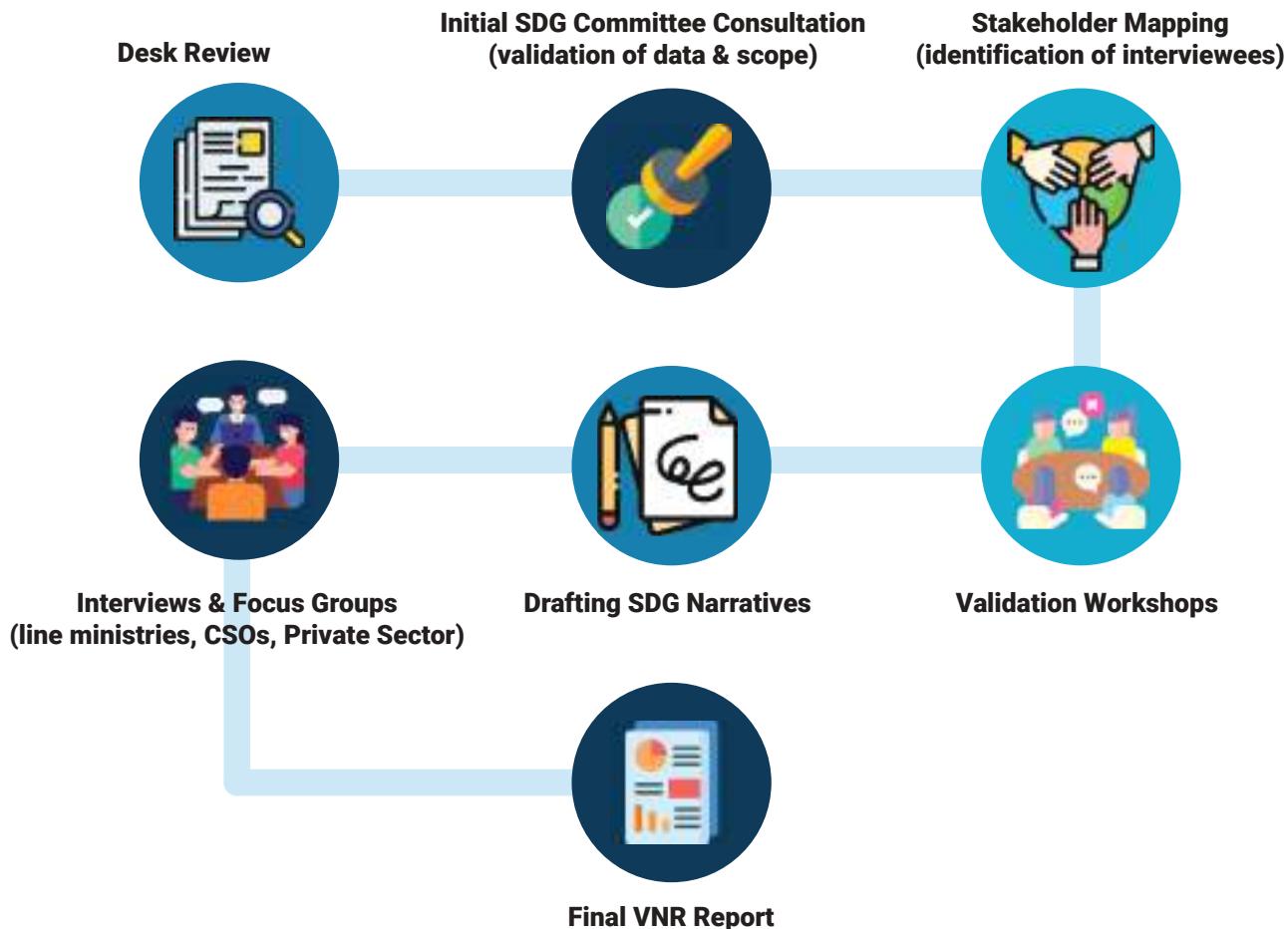
To assess Suriname's progress on the implementation of the SDG targets and indicators, including the update the SDG Data and Analysis Repository developed in 2022, input was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation (BIBIS) - the lead government counterpart - and the National SDG Committee regarding alignment on the review's structure, scope, and approach. The methodology used for this second VNR follows the United Nations guideline and handbook for SDG country reporting, serving as the foundation for the analytical framework. The review provides updates on the progress made regarding the SDGs, including challenges and opportunities. The review also looks into developments in the policy and enabling environment after the review of 2022. Consultations with the SDG National Committee, SDG Public-Private Platform representatives, civil society, youth and private sector stakeholder, and international partners

were held. To facilitate the data analysis and review of indicators, the technical input from the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) and the Planning Office Suriname, was instrumental. These institutions provided access to national data systems and surveys, offering insights into how the SDGs are incorporated into national policy frameworks, including ministerial yearly plans and budgets and the Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026. The stakeholders' contributions ensured an inclusive approach in drafting the VNR. The Suriname VNR 2025 includes a thematic paragraph with the perception of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples on the SDGs in Suriname, and a paragraph on 'Suriname's Oil and Gas sector in the context of the SDGs'.

The methodology employed a structured, participatory, and evidence-based approach, incorporating desk research, stakeholders' workshops, interviews, and qualitative and quantitative data analysis as part of a mixed-methods assessment. Input from line ministries, development partners, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, youth organizations and ITP organizations was incorporated into the inclusive and accurate review process (see figure 1).



**Figure 1 Methodological process**



## 2.2 Overview of activities and deliverables

In the first phase of writing the VNR, an in-depth desk review of Suriname's first VNR (2022), in combination with national policy plans and programmes, including research and survey, was carried out. This analysis provided essential context for the second Voluntary National Review. It formed the basis for assessing the alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Suriname's national policy and programmatic frameworks. An essential component of the assignment was updating the SDG Data and Analysis Repository, developed in 2022 and included the baseline national data available per SDG indicator.

The availability and quality of data for each SDG indicator has been updated by identifying what data are being collected and where significant data gaps remain. Sources used in this stage are international and national surveys and administrative data. Where national statistics were lacking, supplementary information from academic research and qualitative sources was examined.

Consultations were conducted with the different stakeholders to evaluate priority goals, targets, and indicators. This process followed the selection criteria for the 2022 Repository and incorporated newly suggested criteria to reflect evolving national priorities. Key national institutions were identified and mapped according to their roles for specific SDG indicators, including data ownership, coordination responsibilities, and technical contributions.

## 2.3 Desk review of key documents and data sources

Policy documents, government budget frameworks, national policy plans, programme documents, sectoral strategies, and recent research and survey findings were reviewed. The following sources were included:

1. The Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026;
2. Ministerial annual plans and budgets;
3. Sectoral strategies, for example, from health, education, water, and labour;
4. Administrative and statistical data and reports from the General Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Ministry of Health and other relevant line ministries were utilized to track SDG indicators and assess socio-economic trends.
5. National surveys, such as the Suriname Survey of Living Conditions (SSLC, 2017 and 2022), the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2018), the Population Census 2012, the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP, 2023) and Labour market datasets processed by the General Bureau of Statistics.
6. Research reports social protection studies and institutional assessments from partners including UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and national academic institutions.

Furthermore, during the desk research, the 2022 SDG Data and Analysis Repository was also reviewed and updated to reflect the current state of SDG implementation.

## 2.4 Consultation with the SDG National Committee

To examine the preliminary data and policy information and to confirm the scope and direction of the VNR process, the first official consultation meeting was held with the SDG National Committee. To guarantee national ownership and alignment of the review with Suriname's priorities, this meeting included:

- Agreement on the overall structure of the VNR report.
- Validation of key data sources and policy documents.
- Identify cross-cutting themes, such as climate resilience, gender equality, and institutional

capacity and human rights, to be mainstreamed across chapters.

- Initial feedback on draft SDG narratives and suggestions for stakeholder interviews.

This meeting also emphasized the commitment to an inclusive review process incorporating both government and non-governmental perspectives.

## 2.5 Stakeholder engagement

A stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to ensure inclusivity, resulting in a detailed schedule of interviews and (validation) workshops. The aim was to gather diverse views and experiences from stakeholders across all sectors and groups in Suriname.

The stakeholder engagement included the following three main phases:

1. Initial consultations with line ministries and technical focal points to validate baseline data and ongoing policies and programmes related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. Comprehensive thematic interviews with government, youth, non-government actors, international partners and sector experts to review progress and explore gaps, innovations, challenges and opportunities.
3. (Validation) workshops, including with the SDG National Committee, the SDG Platform and the key stakeholder groups mentioned earlier, to validate findings and ensure consensus on conclusions and recommendations.

The main stakeholders consulted included:

- All 17 government ministries
- Civil Society and Community Development organizations
- Private sector representatives
- Youth representatives
- Women's organizations, LGBTQ organizations, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' associations (e.g., VIDS, KAMPOS).
- UN agencies

## 2.6 Limitations and data gaps

Despite significant efforts to collect and analyze data, several limitations and data gaps were identified during the VNR process. Recent and disaggregated data were either limited or unavailable for some SDG targets (SDG 9, 11, and 14). Some national surveys were not updated, and administrative data systems remain fragmented across ministries.

In some cases, data gathering methods are not yet aligned with international SDG criteria, making it challenging to track progress accurately. Furthermore, gender-specific, youth-specific, and geographically disaggregated information is limited, reducing the ability to conduct in-depth analyses of discrepancies. Capacity barriers within key institutions also impact the regular collection, analysis, and distribution of SDG-related data. Addressing these gaps will be critical for future evidence-based policymaking and effective SDG monitoring.



3.

# Policy and enabling environment



## 3.1 National policy frameworks

The Government of Suriname has aligned its national development strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through various planning instruments and policy initiatives. The Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026 (MOP) serves as the primary framework guiding national priorities, emphasizing poverty reduction, economic resilience, climate adaptation, and human capital development, and supports the principle of 'Leave No One Behind.' The MOP explicitly mentions the SDGs and incorporates primary targets within sectoral policies, such as education, health, labour, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The MOP focuses on eight key policy areas directly linked to the SDGs: (1) production, entrepreneurship, employment and export; (2) land and housing; (3) social protection; (4) education and healthcare; (5) transport and infrastructure; (6) livable environment, nature, and safety; (7) efficient and effective government; and (8) sustainable energy. These priorities provide the foundation for a long-term development vision toward 2050. Furthermore, efforts have been made to strengthen budgetary alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly by identifying key funding sources that support the SDGs and collaborating with international development partners to enhance results-based financing systems.

Additionally, several sectoral reports and strategies were drafted to support policy implementation. These include:

- the comprehensive review of the Social Protection

System of Suriname 2024

- a Deep dive into the Social Protection system in Suriname for children, adolescents, and adults 2015-2023
- the Suriname Decent Work Country Programme 2023-2026
- the Suriname Mid-Term Labour Market Policy 2022-2025
- the Suriname Green Development Strategy 2025-2050
- the National Social Protection Strategy of Suriname 2024-2030
- the National Education Policy Plan Suriname 2024-2031
- the Water Supply Master Plan 2011-2024
- the National Migration Policy Suriname 2024-2030
- the National Policy Plan for Persons with a Disability 2025-2030
- the Suriname Sexual Reproductive Health Policy 2020-2030
- the Policy Plan for Health 2021-2025
- the Suriname National Adaptation Plan 2019-2029
- Suriname's National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2021
- the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Suriname 2024-2030
- the Suriname National Communication 2023
- the Fisheries Management Plan 2021-2025
- the Suriname Survey of Living Conditions 2016 and 2022
- the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018
- the Latin American Public Opinion Project 2023
- Programme and project documents with regional and international development partners
- Publications of the General Bureau of Statistics and the Planning Office Suriname.

and international partners.

- place strong emphasis on facilitating stakeholder consultations and preparing national reports, such as the Voluntary National Review (VNR), recognizing the invaluable input and perspectives of all stakeholders in the collective journey towards the SDGs.

In the past few years, the members have received training and capacity strengthening to perform their responsibilities in the Committee. Their main focus has been incorporating the SDG framework into national policy and identifying the interlinkages between the SDGs and the Government's policy priorities. In preparation for the Suriname VNR 2025, their policy and data inputs as well as feedback were essential and valuable to draft the VNR.

Another key institution is the General Bureau of Statistics, which is crucial in generating and disseminating data for SDG monitoring. The SDGs are a core element of their annual and periodic reports

## 3.2 Institutional mechanisms

### 3.2.1 National coordination of the SDGs

The Government has established the National SDG Committee with representatives of all 17 ministries, the Parliament, the Planning Office Suriname, and the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the SDGs. This Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation, and is mainly responsible for:

- mainstreaming the SDGs across ministerial plans and monitoring frameworks, ensuring that all aspects of national development are aligned with the SDGs.
- coordinating data collection and analysis through partnerships with the General Bureau of Statistics

and publications.

The Planning Office Suriname supports the integration of SDG targets into planning instruments, including its analytical contributions to planning documents and monitoring reports. Currently, the Planning Office works closely with the Planning Units of the line ministries to identify how national policies contribute to the SDGs or how the SDGs framework serves to develop national policies and programmes. Efforts have been made to enhance inter-institutional coordination and monitoring frameworks and decentralize SDG coordination to local governments.

The current mechanism is indispensable for the coordination and oversight of the SDG implementation in Suriname, but needs to be strengthened and institutionalized in the ministries through a synergy of the Planning units of the ministries, the General Bureau of Statistics and the Planning Office Suriname. Although policy objectives of the MOP are aligned with the SDGs, the operationalization should be effectively structured and integrated in the national policies implemented by the line ministries. The planning and coordination mechanism should streamline the operationalization of the SDGs in national policy more efficiently, with the aim to gather and analyze data that supports tracking of the SDG indicators. Institutional and capacity strengthening are inevitable to build a performance driven coordination and oversight mechanism.

The Government also established the SDG Platform in 2022, which is a forum for civil society organizations, the private sector, and the government, which has as its main objectives:

1. Effective monitoring of national policies regarding the realization of the SDGs, in particular from the perspective of the civil society and private sector;
2. Strengthening of the accountability of all actors, in particular the Government, about their responsibilities, accountability and transparency in their efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs; and where appropriate, to appreciate those efforts;
3. Strengthening effective mechanisms for participation and dialogue, as well as constructive interaction (mutual learning) between the Government, and civil society and private sector, in efforts to realize the SDGs.

To sensitize stakeholders about the SDGs, the Platform organized a multi-stakeholder workshop which brought together government representatives,

major groups, civil society organizations, and representatives from the United Nations. This objectives of the workshop was to inform the stakeholders about the objectives and tasks of the Platform, discuss the indicators of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 13, and gather input from the major groups on (i) how the organizations would like to be involved by the SDG Platform; (ii) whether the SDG indicators were considered measurable and applicable to Suriname; and (iii) what challenges the stakeholders anticipated to come across in regard to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Suriname and how these challenges could be addressed. The session emphasized the value of inclusive partnerships and the necessity for coordinated, evidence-based actions that accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

A session was also held with representatives of political parties to engage with them on the essence of the SDGs and the importance of incorporating the SDGs in the party document put forward by political parties (given the elections in May 2025), but also policy in general. During the session, the role of the Parliament to oversee the Government's policy and draft legislation, thus, to ensure that these policies and draft laws take the implementation of the SDGs into account, was emphasized. This session was the first step towards establishing a structural partnership between the Platform and the Parliament.

It should be noted that the Platform faces challenges in the realization of its objectives. Sufficient funding and the institutional position of the Platform are key challenges identified by the Platform to become an effective forum for networking, dialogue and monitoring. The Platform continues its lobby to become a strong forum among state and non-state actors. An additional challenge is the establishment of a solid and structured collaboration with relevant partners, including knowledge institutions and government agencies, particularly in the area of data provision and data collection.

Reliable and timely data is the cornerstone of effective SDG monitoring and evaluation. Without comprehensive data, the Platform cannot accurately assess progress or identify gaps in implementation. The SDG Platform has identified data-gathering and capacity development as preconditions to monitor the progress made towards realization of the SDGs. In order to address this challenge a concept-note was prepared by the SDG-Platform, for establishing a robust monitoring-mechanism for the SDGs, and funding options have been explored; however not been secured yet.

### 3.2.2 Localizing the SDGs

The Ministry of Regional Development and Sport (ROS) is an important player in supporting sustainable development across the different regions in Suriname. It is working on several projects closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on strengthening urban, rural and interior communities, reducing inequality, and protecting the rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Within its structures, the Ministry has embedded an institutional mechanism through specific directorates that coordinate the policy for the sustainable development of the Indigenous and the Afro-Surinamese (Tribal Peoples) living in the Interior. A specific directorate responsible for sustainable agriculture development in the Interior was established several years ago.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Sport has committed itself to achieving the SDG goals through various initiatives and strategies, emphasizing a participatory and integrated approach. An important method in this was to organize consultations, such as krutu's, in which the needs of communities are central. These krutu's provide a platform for dialogue, allowing for better insight into the specific needs of the communities. This has led to a development policy that is adhering a bottom-up approach. Through these consultations, the communities' voice is strengthened, resulting in policies that better align with the actual needs of them. Additionally, there is a strong focus on an integrated approach, which utilizes the capacities of all involved actors and ensures that, where necessary, these capacities are strengthened.

To support the development of the ITPs, the Ministry's broader goal of creating human rights-based policies that improves the lives and resilience of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Suriname has been operationalized through the 'Leave No One Behind, Building Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Suriname' joint programme in cooperation with the UN system in Suriname. The objective is to work on integrated policy solutions to enable inclusion, build resilience, and improve livelihoods among Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) in Suriname.

This has been realized through:

1. Strengthened policy and regulatory framework to improve inclusion and resilience of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs);
2. Improved coverage of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and
3. Improved livelihood, enhanced food security, and establishment of female farmer networks in targeted ITP communities.

For the policy and regulatory framework, the following documents have been drafted and guide the policy implementation, focusing on ITPs:

1. The Blueprint and Integrated Policy Framework for Improving the Livelihoods of ITPs, including an Addendum which provides a strategic guideline and integrated approach for the development and execution of policy towards realizing the SDG goals. The Addendum includes additional guidelines and clarifications for implementing the policy.
2. Manual for an Inclusive, Human Rights-Based Government Policy for Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Peoples: this document emphasizes the importance of Free Prior Informed Consent.

The human rights approach plays a decisive role in this, and the recognition of collective rights of ITPs has been continuously on the development agenda. Efforts to draft legislation to guarantee these rights have been taken, but not finalized yet. Dialogue and consensus on securing the rights need to be continued to have an acceptable result for all parties. At the community level, some key actions of the Ministry include building roads and infrastructure (SDG 9), improving access to water and sanitation facilities (SDG 6), and supporting farmers to strengthen food security (SDG 2). The Ministry also works on improving access to education (SDG 4) and healthcare (SDG 3), as well as promoting equal rights for women and girls (SDG 5). Sports programmes are utilized to engage youth and build community unity.

Additionally, the Ministry collaborates with District Commissioners to initiate community-level projects. The table below provides an overview of some of the projects that have been undertaken:

**Table 1: Projects by the Ministry of ROS**

SDG	Projects by District Commissioners	Projects by the Ministry of ROS
1 NO POVERTY	Backyard/community farming, social support, shelter construction	Agricultural revitalization, youth/women entrepreneurship, access to infrastructure
2 ZERO HUNGER	Food security programmes; cooperatives support	Local food production programmes, agricultural development
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Mobile clinics, hygiene education	Water and sanitation access, outreach and awareness, health via sports
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	School renovations, transport (boats/buses)	Youth leadership, life skills training, and education for girls
5 GENDER EQUALITY	Women's training; gender planning	Women's empowerment, leadership, and inclusive sports
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Drinking water systems, latrines	Village water systems, sanitation, and hygiene projects
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	Solar panels for remote areas	
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	Jobs through local works, vocational training	Employment for youth; enterprise development
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Road/bridge construction; office upgrades	Infrastructure for trade, renovations, and access
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Services and inclusion for ITPs	Empowerment and planning for marginalized communities
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Zoning: sports/community centers	Recreational facilities; spatial planning
13 CLIMATE ACTION	Environmental awareness, flood control	Hygiene and environmental safety awareness
15 LIFE ON LAND	Reforestation and conservation	
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	Security programmes, legal access	Training local governance, community monitoring
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	NGOs and ministry collaboration	Civil society partnerships; coordination mechanism

Source: Ministry of ROS, 2025

Although all measures are taken to enhance development, there are some persistent challenges such as:  
Insufficient resources

1. Inadequate institutional and human capacity
2. Financial decentralization has not been fully implemented
3. Cooperation between the District Commissioners and the local businesses needs to be more structured



### 3.2.3 Youth engagement

A Suriname Youth Council has been established to give the youth of all the districts in Suriname a fair voice and facilitate their involvement. This was established to encourage a national representation and advisory role for youth in policy and administrative affairs. The Suriname Youth Council encourages young people to develop a vision on various development issues to benefit the well-being of young people and the realization of youth policy and youth affairs. After adopting the SDGs, Suriname has taken the initiative to implement the SDGs Youth Ambassadors Programme. Every two years, two ambassadors and ten youth officers are chosen through an election process. Their primary responsibility is to raise awareness and sensitize youth about the SDGs. These youth ambassadors represent Suriname at international youth forums where they can voice the thoughts and priorities of their peers in Suriname. At national level, several activities are being held related to educating youth about the SDGs using social media platforms; actively engage in discussions about the education system in Suriname; information sessions about mental health and healthy lifestyles; promoting human rights; raising awareness on climate change; clean-up actions; information sessions about clean water and adequate sanitary facilities and much more. The ambassadors collaborate with other organizations and utilize funds from the Government, other organizations or their own funds to execute the activities. The positive aspects of the programme are that the ambassadors can network with both state and non-state stakeholders, as well as lobby and advocate for the interests of youth. This also provides the possibility to engage with and mobilize youth to be actively involved in the developments that concern them. For the way forward, the current SDG youth ambassadors will develop a more effective structure

for the programme and a framework and blueprint that will guide the work that needs to be done by the SDG youth ambassadors' programme.

## 3.3 Private sector: working towards integrating the SDGs in business management

In October 2021, an initiative group of private sector companies supported by the Suriname Business Association (Vereniging Surinaamse Bedrijfsleven - VSB) reached out to the Government of Suriname to cooperate with the private sector on the SDGs, and raise awareness among the private sector companies to incorporate the principles of the SDGs in the business management.

In 2022, SDG awareness sessions were held with representatives of different private companies to educate and inform these representatives about the core elements of the SDGs, ultimately creating a corps of approximately 200 private sector SDG ambassadors.

The Suriname Business Association developed a framework for companies as a guide to integrate the SDGs into their daily practice. This framework considers the following three dimensions:

1. Link the SDGs to the Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Strategy of the company (Generic Dimension)
2. Link the SDGs to the core business activities and the value chain of the company and assess the contribution made by the company (Specific Dimension)
3. Link the SDGs to the company's corporate social responsibility (Social Dimension).

### In practical terms, companies can implement the SDGs through the 4A-model:



The private sector believes that the SDGs can serve as a source of inspiration, innovation, and business development. After all, the SDGs are the building blocks for sustainable development, and the private sector's (commercial) contribution is evident. The Association is part of the SDG Platform, and has initiated the CEO breakfast meetings twice a year since 2024. At every meeting, two companies share their experiences on how they have incorporated the SDGs into their business management. This is an opportunity to network and exchange experiences among the participating companies.

Under the auspices of the Suriname Business Association, a private sector SDG congress was held in November 2024. The SDG congress brought the private sector community together to share thoughts on how this sector should deal with the concept of sustainability and enhance the private sector's engagement. At the end of the congress, the SDG pledge was signed by the Association and eight other industry organizations that have given their commitment to continue working on the SDGs implementation. The pledge emphasizes the responsibility of the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic, social, and ecological development, with actions aimed at, among other things, decent work, innovation, climate actions, and corporate social responsibility. Consequently, the SDG private sector committee was established in May 2025. This committee will work on strategies such as (i) awareness, (ii) leading by example, (iii) business policies based on the SDGs, and (iv) defining key performance indicators to measure the contribution to the SDGs.

The challenges in the process for the private sector are to:

1. Trigger companies to not only look at the SDGs but also at the indicators. To enhance the understanding of the indicators, key performance indicators based on each SDG have been drafted based on the three dimensions mentioned earlier;
2. Many companies associate SDGs more with the 'green', so they look more towards climate and environment; however, there are more themes covered by the SDGs
3. Companies have limited awareness that SDGs can also generate income, and the 17 SDGs should be a source for business development and innovation and a tool for international benchmarking (e.g. UN Global Compact, ISO certifications).

The Suriname Business Association has initiated its engagement with the UN Global Compact. The UN Global Compact is a voluntary United Nations initiative encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable and ethical practices aligned with the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). Participating in the UN Global Compact will provide opportunities for Suriname's companies to understand and learn from the experiences of other companies at the regional and international levels on how to materialize the SDGs.

For the private sector, the opportunities for the future are:

1. Continue the work through the SDG private sector committee,
2. Educate companies to determine the key performance indicators (KPIs) and make the KPIs measurable,
3. Active collaboration of the Suriname Business Association with the 8 industry organizations to broaden the support base for SDG implementation among private sector companies, and develop a long-term vision for institutionalization of the SDGs implementation,
4. Actively participate in the global discussion about the new goals that will be set after 2030,
5. Effective engagement and involvement of the private sector in national development of the country, while taking the SDGs into account,
6. Integrate the SDGs in Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy,
7. Promoting the UN Global Compact and the SDG compass.



**Baitali Group of Companies** recognizes that the private sector plays a critical role in fostering positive change and is committed to aligning our operations with the principles of sustainable growth, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. By integrating the SDGs into our daily practices, we aim to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society while addressing global challenges, including poverty, inequality, and climate change. We acknowledge that our success as a business is closely tied to the prosperity and well-being of the communities and environments in which we operate.

### **Farsi Khudabux, General Manager**

At **Kersten Group of Companies**, we support SDGs 9, 12, and 17 by investing in our human capital, constant innovation, and renewable energy. Through responsible practices and our Green Partnership Program involvement, we promote and protect our biodiversity. Our ESG approach and sustainability-driven initiatives strengthen this progress in fully scaling these efforts company-wide

### **Kurt van Essen, Chief Commercial Officer**

### 3.3 Awareness and sensitization on the SDGs implementation

Raising awareness and improving public understanding of the SDGs have been key priorities. In partnership with the United Nations system and civil society, the government has conducted multiple sensitization activities that have improved public understanding of sustainable development and encouraged community-driven action, particularly among young people and marginalized groups.

The main activities included:

1. National SDG awareness campaigns through radio, television, social media, and community events.
2. Workshops and training sessions for public officials, youth groups, teachers, politicians, civil society, and media personnel to build capacity on the SDG framework.
3. Integrating the SDG content into school curricula and university courses to increase youth engagement.

Additionally, the private sector in Suriname has been a key partner in supporting and advocating for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Various initiatives have been launched to foster business engagement in sustainable

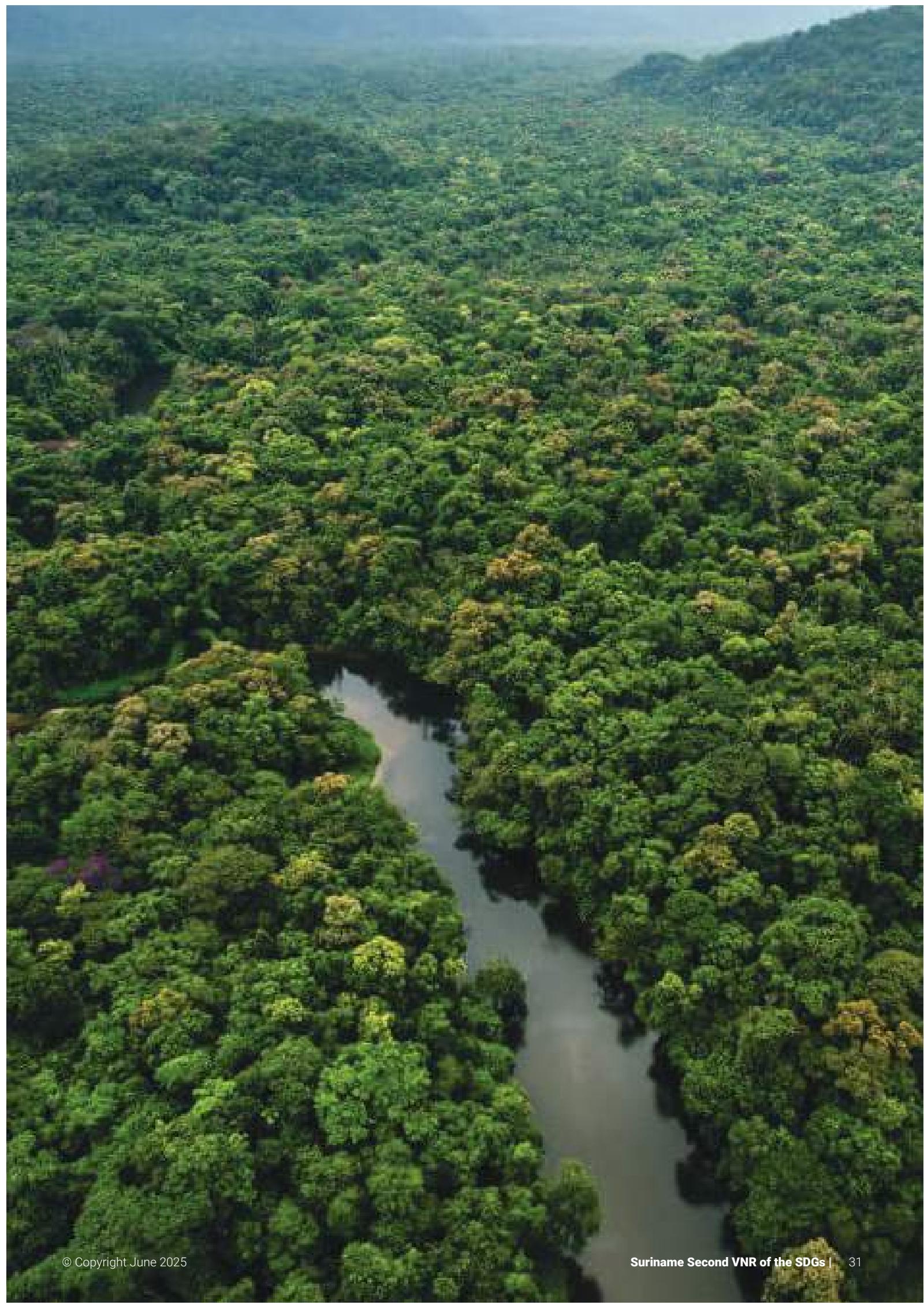
development, such as:

1. The Suriname Business Forum and Chamber of Commerce have been mobilized to promote corporate social responsibility and inclusive business models.
2. Partnerships between the government and private companies have been established to support skills development, job creation, and sustainable production in key sectors, including mining, agriculture, and tourism.
3. Some firms have begun aligning their practices with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria and exploring green finance opportunities.
4. The Government is also facilitating the development of business support infrastructure, such as Fab Labs and innovation funds. Public-private partnerships have been encouraged in areas such as renewable energy, information and communication technology, agribusiness, and technical education.
5. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation also promotes inclusive industrial development through programmes such as the Suriname Growth Enterprise (SURGE) and the SME Fund, which support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with access to finance, innovation facilities, and digital tools. The NOFA Fund encourages agricultural businesses' competitive position and earning capacity by improving access to credit.



# 4.

# Country profile and recent socio- economic developments

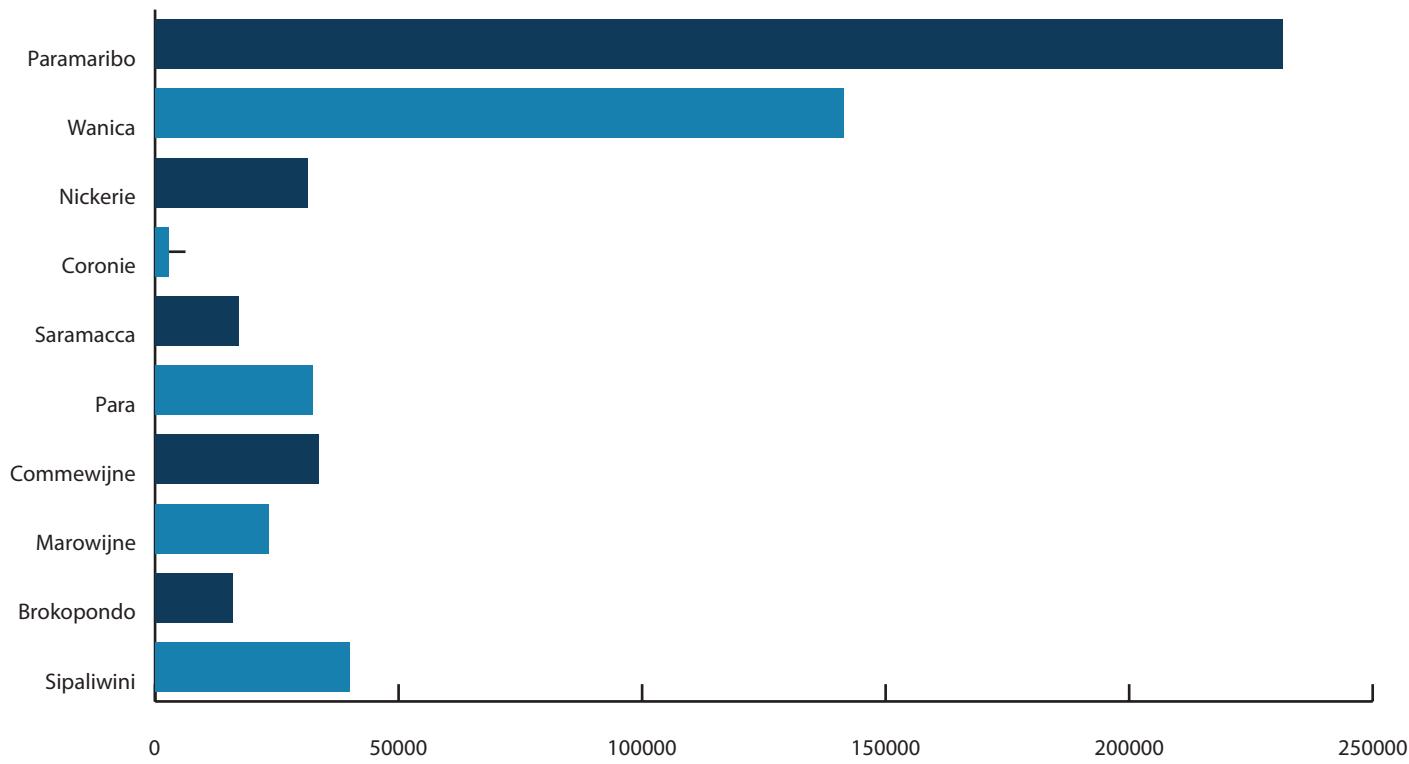


## 4.1 Population demographics

Suriname has an estimated mid-year population of 616,501 (GBS, 2023). Approximately 14% of its population resides in the Interior, which comprises 90% of the total land area and is internationally recognized as part of the Amazon Rainforest. The nation is divided into 10 districts. The urban region, comprising the two central districts of Wanica and Paramaribo, is home to most of the population, accounting for approximately 66% of the total population, according to the latest published administrative data from the Civil Registry Office. Figure 3 presents an overview by age and gender. With only 14% of the population, the Interior is home to a sizable tropical rainforest. Due to its colonial heritage, Dutch is the official language of Suriname and the most widely spoken language, with Sranan Tongo as the lingua franca. Approximately 25

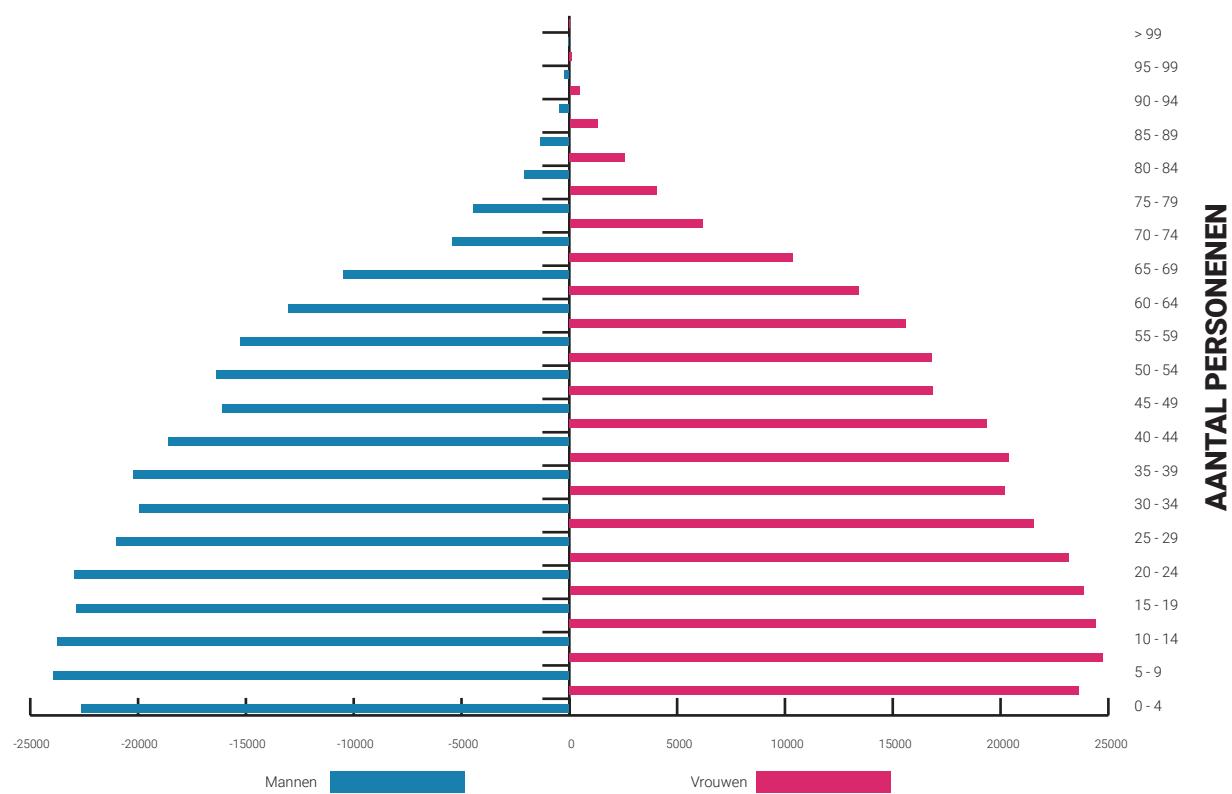
more languages or dialects, primarily associated with the population's ethnic origin, are spoken nationwide, including Sarnami, Javanese, Aukan, Saramaccan, and Warau, among others. Figure 4 presents an overview of the educational attainment level by gender, using SSLC 2022 data. The educational inequalities by gender are also observed for labour market engagement, where women are in a relatively disadvantaged position. Although the World Bank classifies Suriname as a high-middle-income country, the standard of living of approximately half of the population does not reflect this level of welfare. The population suffers from deprivation in the most basic needs, primarily due to poor infrastructure and underdeveloped areas, as well as the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crises that have repeatedly affected the country over the past decade.

**Figure 2 Chart of Suriname with estimated population by region/district**



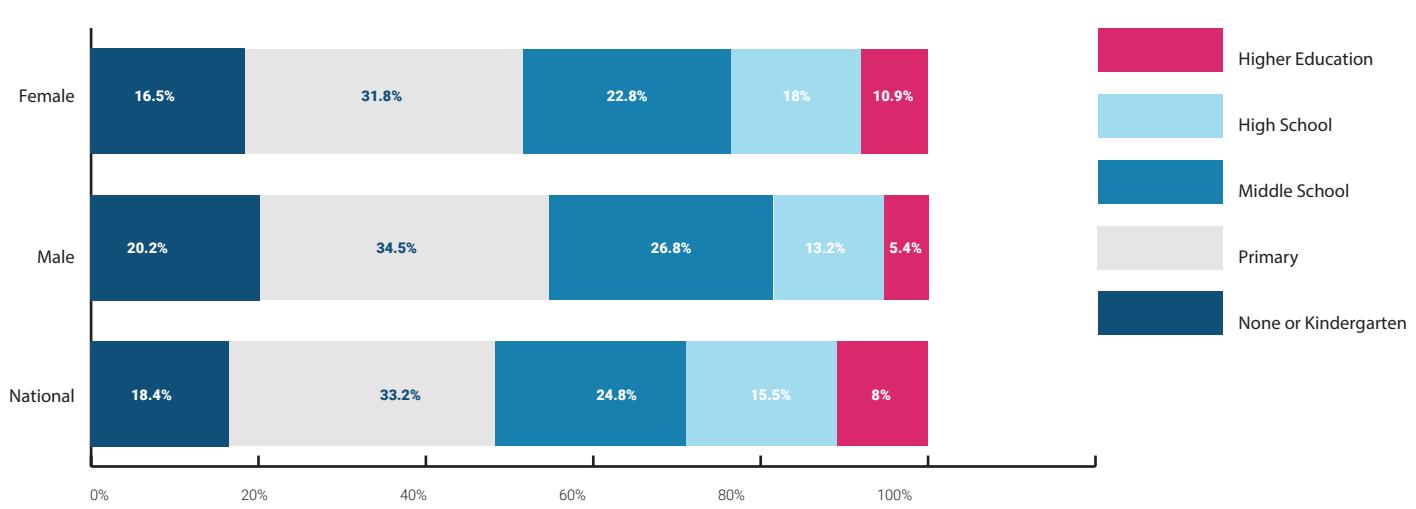
Source: Civil Registry Office Suriname, 2025

**Figure 3 Population distribution by age and gender**



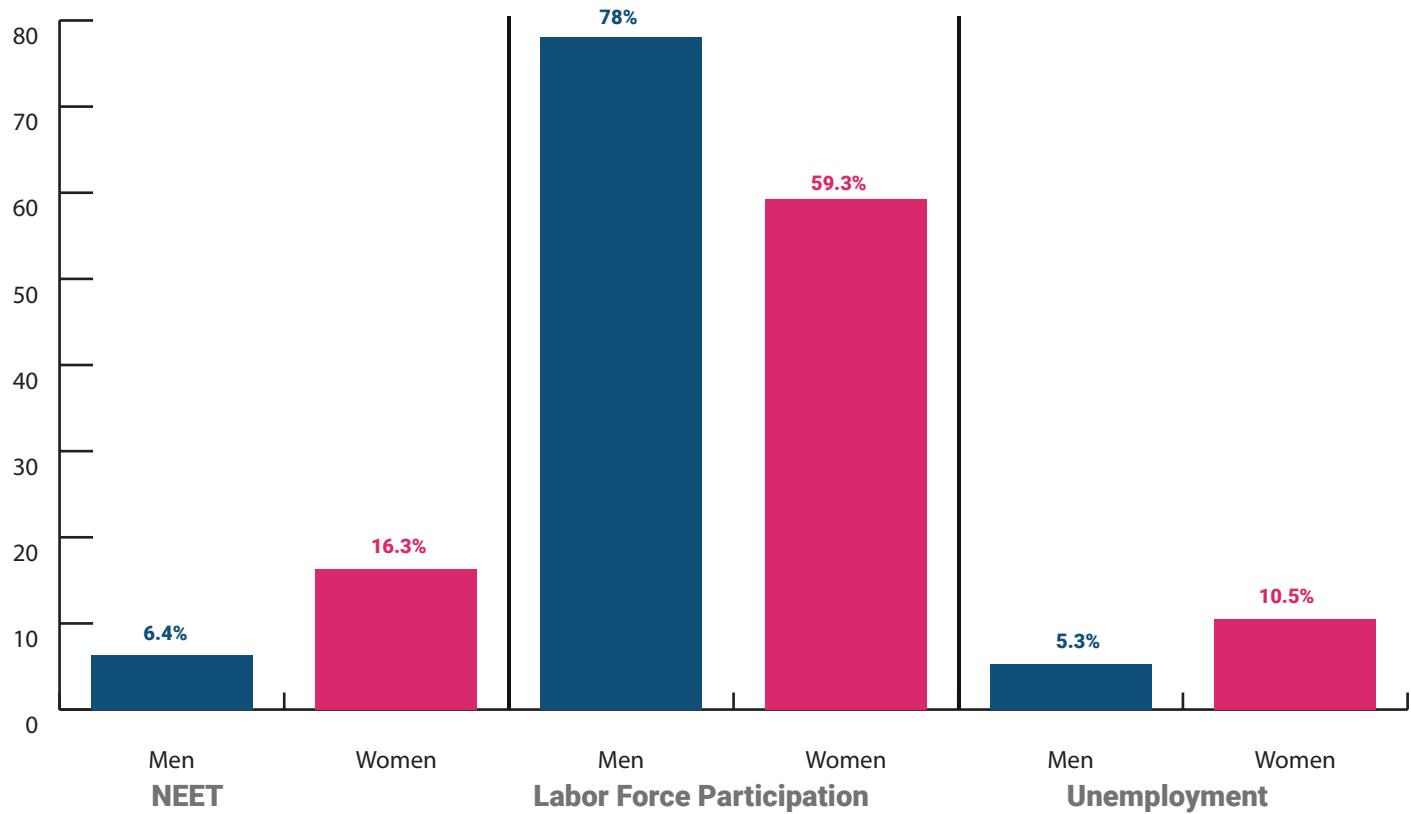
Source: Civil Registry Office Suriname, 2025

**Figure 4 Educational attainment level by gender**



Source: SSLC 2022

**Figure 5 Gender disparities in the labour market outcomes of women and men (percent)**



Source: SSLC 2022

## 4.2 Economic developments

In 2020, the newly elected Government initiated a Recovery Plan 2020-2022, supported by a Stand-By Agreement with the IMF (International Monetary Fund), to address the ongoing economic crisis. The Government gradually enhanced the country's macroeconomic situation by implementing the required measures, resulting in GDP growth of around 2-3.5% from 2022 to 2024 (Planning Office Suriname, 2024). Between 2015 and 2022, the country experienced major economic crises, reflected in a decline of 8% and 16% in real GDP, resulting in a significant decrease in the purchasing power of households. Due to the revolving economic crisis, the implementation of the SDGs stagnated. Figures

6-8 illustrate the distribution or trend regarding debt ratios, price developments, and growth.

The key indicators in Table 2 illustrate the changes before and after the 2020 crisis, during which the country transitioned from sluggish to steadier growth. Considerable income inequality exists among households in different geographical areas, and the economic downturns in 2015 and 2022 affected all households nationwide, particularly those with low or no income (World Bank, 2024). Significant progress has been observed since 2023, for which civil society organizations and the private sector support was crucial. The Government has joined hands with these stakeholders to accelerate progress and promote a whole-of-community approach

**Table 2. Macro-economic statistics, 2019-2024**

Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GDPmp per capita (US\$)	<b>7,175</b>	<b>6,828</b>	<b>5,238</b>	<b>5,827</b>	<b>5,953</b>	<b>6,481</b>
GDP mp (bn. SRD)	<b>31,732</b>	<b>38,719</b>	<b>61,226</b>	<b>93,687</b>	<b>127,066</b>	<b>155,720</b>
Exchange rate SRD/USD	<b>7.52</b>	<b>14.29</b>	<b>21.30</b>	<b>31.85</b>	<b>37.20</b>	<b>3235.36</b>
Total debt in % of GDP (Int'l def)	<b>70.9</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>110.8</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>83.1</b>
Real GDP growth %	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-16.0</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Annual inflation (%) year average	<b>4.4</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>

Source: Central Bank of Suriname, update May 9, 2025; Jaarcijfers voor SDMO website.

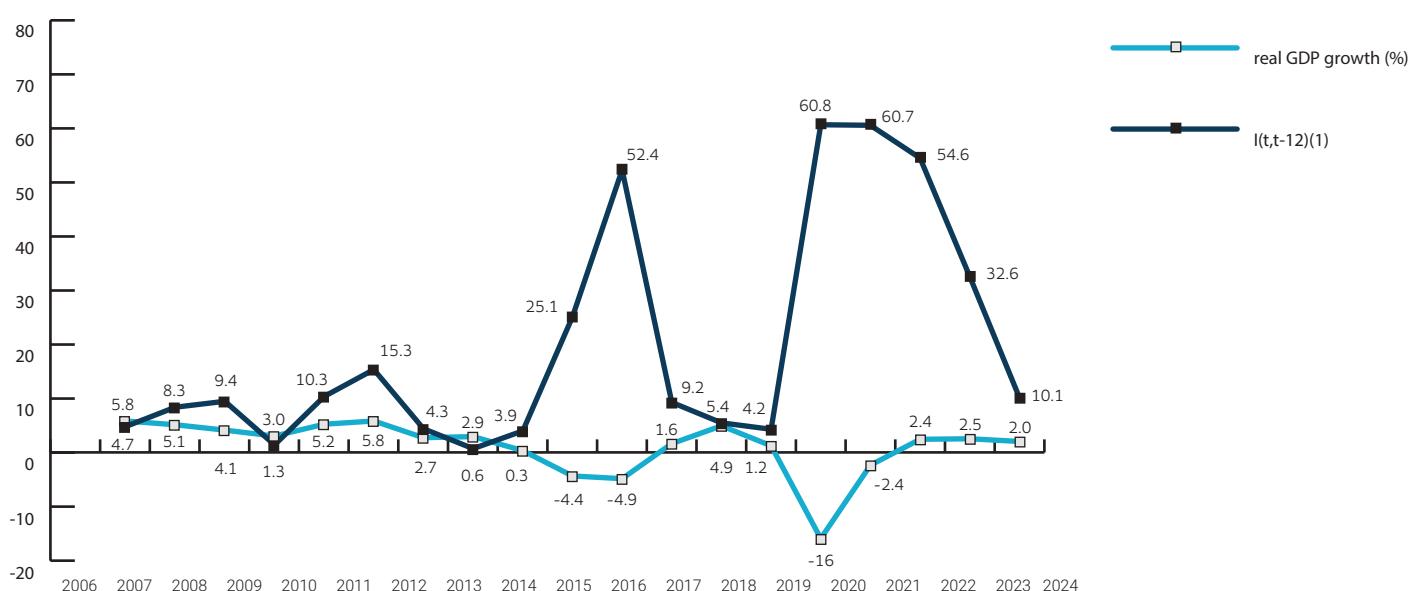
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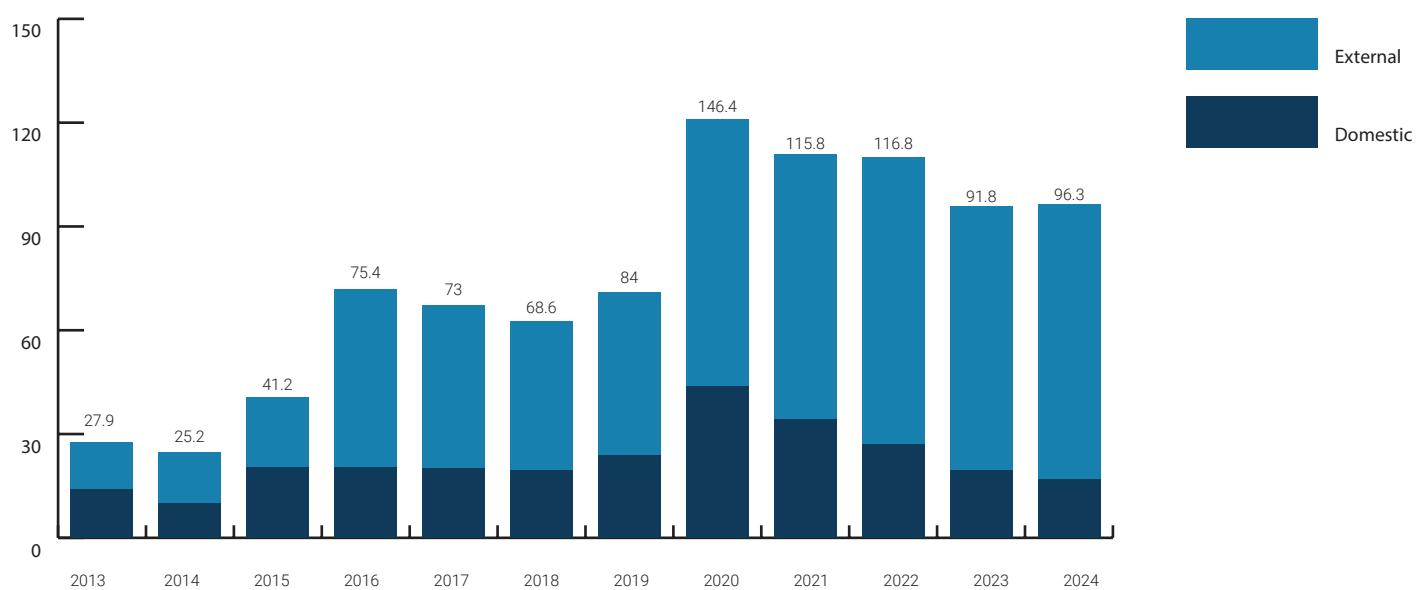
The figures in this table illustrate sluggish economic growth in recent years, followed by a significant contraction in 2021 and steady growth from 2022 onwards. The development of total debt in recent years, as well as the debt ratio, illustrates the economy's vulnerability.

**Figure 6 Growth and Inflation trends**



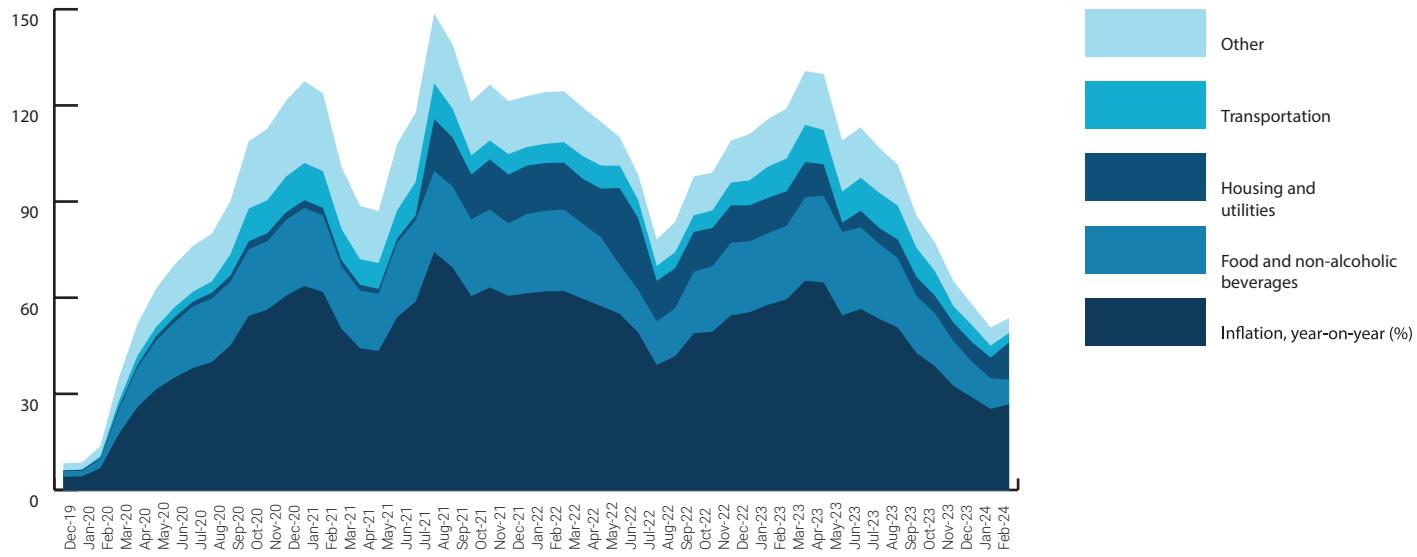
Source: Source: Central Bank of Suriname, update May 9, 2025;

**Figure 7 Public debt as a share of GDP**



Source: World Bank, 2024

**Figure 8 CPI trend (percentage change, year on year)**



Source: World Bank, 2024

## 4.3 Social Policy context and progress related to SDGs

Progress in achieving the 2030 targets is observed for SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and environment-related SDGs 13 and 15. Sustainable Goal 8, which focuses on economic growth and employment, presents developments that support the achievement of other SDGs. The estimated GDP per capita in 2024 is USD 6481 (Planning Office Suriname, 2024), and the

estimated GDP growth rate is 3.6%, a considerable achievement, considering the decline of 16% in 2020. As the figures presented in Table 2 show, Suriname is heading towards stability and steady growth, mainly contributing to its emerging mining sector. As medium- to long-term projections indicate, the upcoming oil and gas explorations in Suriname are expected to accelerate economic growth. A series of significant commercial offshore oil discoveries in recent years holds the prospect of substantial increases in Suriname's oil production, starting in 2028.

Poverty in Suriname is defined as a lack of income and/or the ability to get basic food and other necessities for a decent living. The Government's main priorities are poverty targeting, guaranteeing food security, and enhancing social assistance programmes nationwide, which are key topics of SDGs 1 and 2. To measure poverty in Suriname, the National Committee for Poverty Measurement and Targeting Strategies employs basic needs and multidimensional methods. According to recent results from the Suriname Poverty and Equity Assessment (World Bank, 2024), 17.5% of Suriname's population was categorized as poor in 2022, falling below the poverty line.

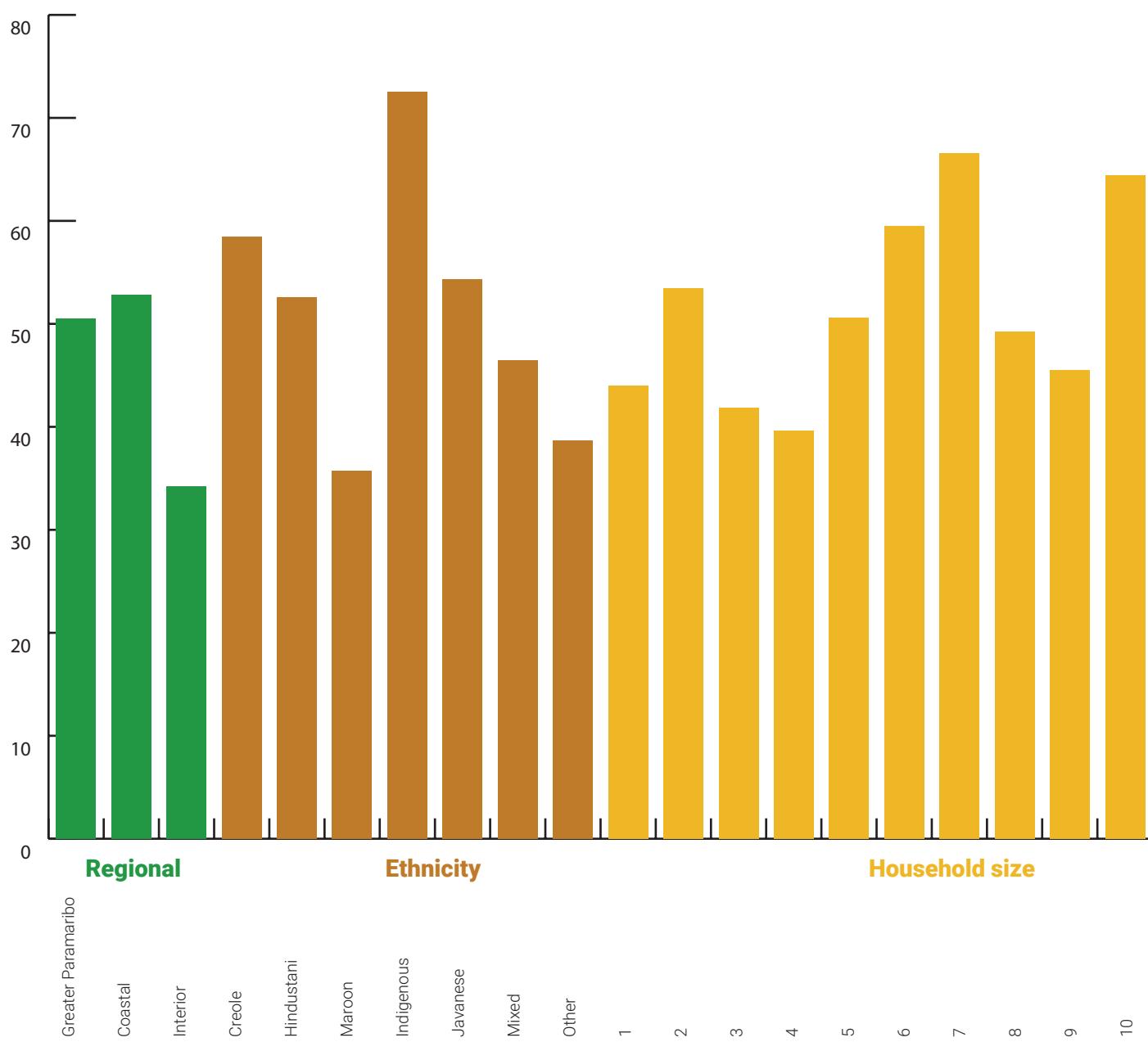
Approximately 4.6 out of every ten Surinamese were considered multidimensionally poor, with chronic illness, disability, a lack of health insurance, a low education level, and insufficient information and communications technology skills contributing to this status.

Along with measures under the Recovery Plan 2020-2022, decisions were made to support affected, vulnerable and economically weak households. The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement with the IMF included social targeting as prior action to ensure that poor and vulnerable/near-poor households were taken care of since they were affected by the crises

and the reform measures taken. The Government expanded its social assistance programmes and introduced new social targeting programmes and initiatives.

Several initiatives and additional short- and long-term projects and social targeting programmes were executed or adjusted. Financial inclusion, assistance in purchasing power strengthening programmes, affordable housing, and medical-based insurance programmes have been some of the primary social targeting programmes since 2022. Although progress was made by enhancing the social scheme, it has not reached the expected satisfactory level (World Bank, 2024). As reflected in the World Bank study (2024), there is a mismatch between the allocated social budget and budgets received by low-income households and vulnerable individuals. Figure 9 illustrates the distribution of transfers received by respondents of the SSLC 2022 study. The allocated social budget was approximately 2.2% of the GDP, aligning with the average of the LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) region. Still, all vulnerable households and persons with a disability receive cash transfer/social fees under the poverty line, or are not receiving any social assistance.

**Figure 9 Share of the population in households receiving at least one social assistance benefit (percent)**



The SSLC 2022 used a stratification that consisted of Greater Paramaribo for the population of Paramaribo plus part of the population in contiguous districts Wanica, Commewijne and Saramacca. The coastal region consisted of the remaining rural districts, and the Interior was represented by Marowijne, Brokopondo and Sipaliwini (see SSLC 2022 Methodology report, IDB 2023). Source: World Bank, 2024; SSLC, 2022

The in-cash transfers have been channeled through bank cards (Moni Karta), and the levels of elderly allowance, households in need of financial assistance, as well as financial assistance to persons with a disability, have been increased by more than 50%, but are still below the poverty line. About US\$ 4.3 billion in 2023 and US\$ 5.3 billion in 2024 were allocated under the EFF (Extended Fund Facility) of the IMF specifically for social assistance. The various social assistance programmes will continue in 2025. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing's budget concerns the general elderly allowance (AOV), general child

allowance (AKB), financial assistance for persons with a disability (FBMMeB), and financial assistance for poor households (FBZwHH), which are estimated at SRD 2,213 million. The process of digitizing these benefits will continue through the financial inclusion programme, with an allocation of SRD 20 million in 2025. The programmes mentioned earlier and the assistance programmes also contributed to eliminating inequalities and enhancing the standard of living for vulnerable groups, such as single parents, women, children, and the elderly, which is the primary focus of SDG 10.



# 5.

# Suriname's implemen- tation of the SDGs







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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 people with low incomes 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, 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	●

## Policy context and Progress

As Suriname is at a crucial moment of its economic development path, it can be said that the country has made progress on SDG 1. Although Suriname has faced years of macroeconomic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recessions, the Government is implementing a systematic recovery programme that promotes eliminating poverty.

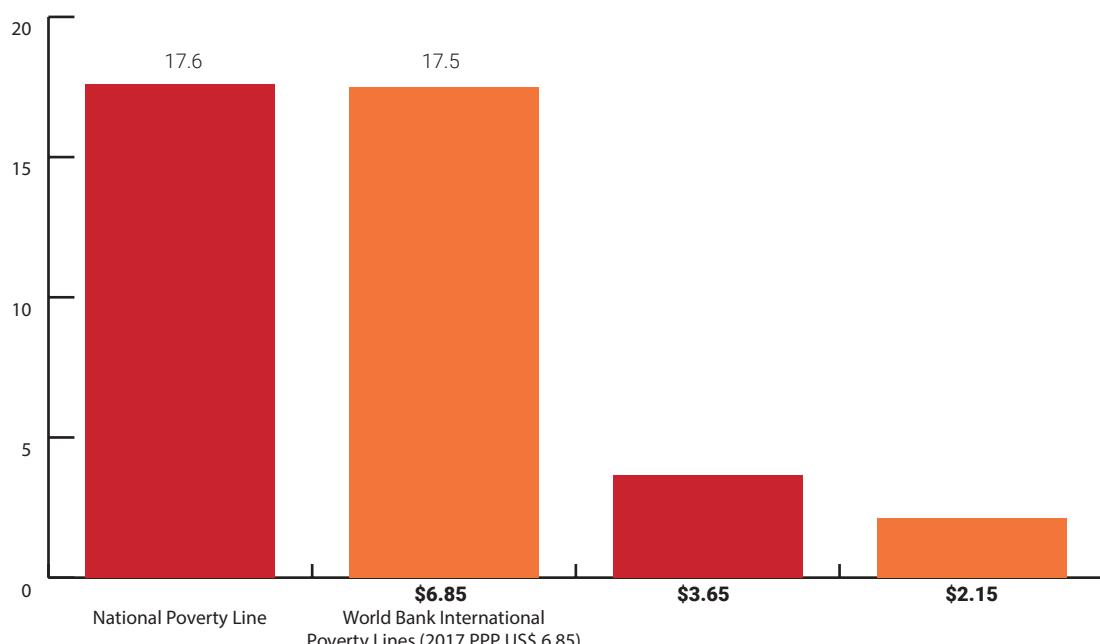
As mentioned earlier, poverty in Suriname is defined as a lack of income and/or the inability to access a basic package of food and other necessities for a decent standard of living. To measure poverty in Suriname, the National Committee for Poverty Measurement and Targeting Strategies, hereafter referred to as the National Poverty Commission, employs both the Basic Needs (Food Energy Intake Method) and the Multidimensional methods. The estimated poverty line for December 2024, as produced by the National Poverty Commission, is SRD 7,200 per month for a one-person household, equivalent to USD 6.14 per day for an adult.

According to poverty research findings (World Bank, 2024), approximately 17.5% of Suriname's population was categorized as poor in 2022, falling below both the previously mentioned national poverty line and the upper-middle-income poverty line from the World Bank (see Figure 10). Figures 11 and 12 illustrate the distribution of monetary poverty by region

and ethnicity using the World Bank poverty line. According to Figures 13 and 14, about 4 out of every ten Surinamese were considered multidimensionally poor, with deprivations at multiple domains, such as health, education and living standard. High prevalence of chronic illness, disability, a lack of health insurance, a lower level of required educational attainment, and insufficient access to and capacity of information and communications technology skills are contributing factors to poverty.

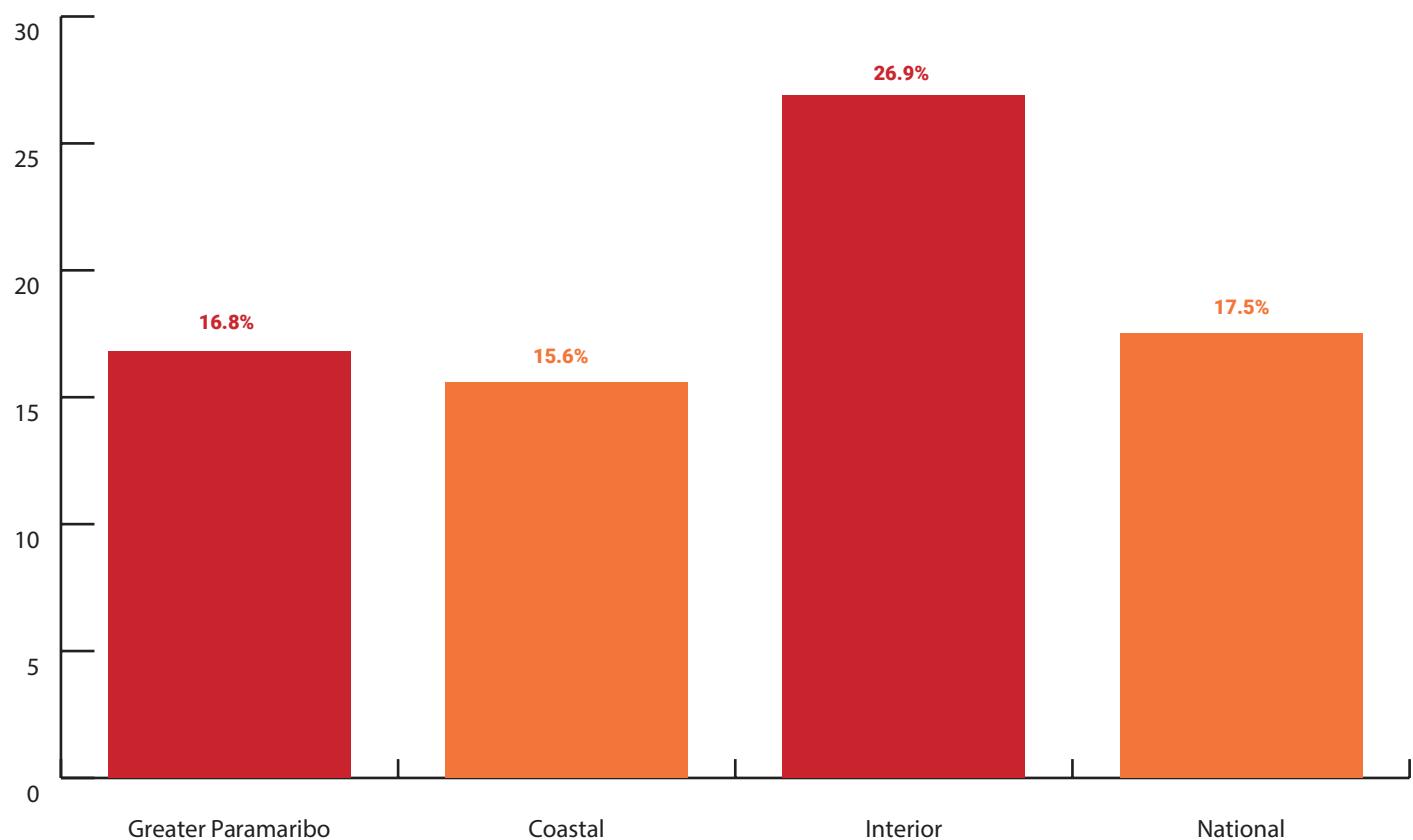
When comparing the SSLC 2016 and 2022 survey data responses with the World Bank poverty line of USD 6.78 for middle- and high-income countries, Suriname's poverty rate has decreased from 22% in 2016 to around 17.5% in 2022. This decrease is particularly due to the increase in the transfers for main social assistance programmes, such as the general elderly allowance, child allowance, and social benefits for low-income and vulnerable households. Additionally, the third round of the Government's Housing Programme contributes to reducing poverty by providing housing solutions to people with low incomes and those needing financial assistance to upgrade their housing accommodation. Collaboration with civil society organizations also supports targeted programmes to support poor households.

**Figure 10 Poverty lines and estimates (%)**



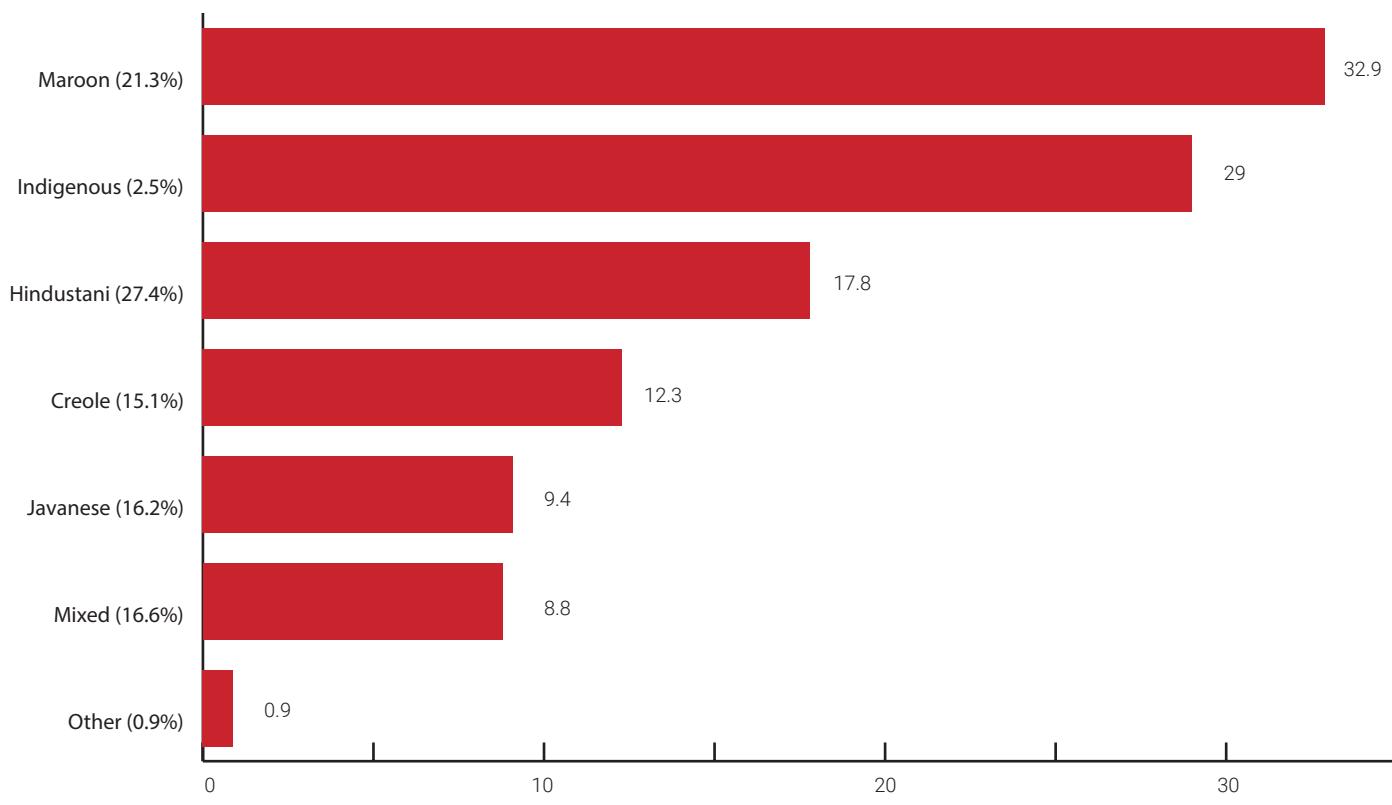
Source: World Bank 2024, SSLC 2022.

**Figure 11 Monetary poverty rate (based on the World Bank's US\$6.85 poverty line, percent)**



Source: SSLC, 2022

**Figure 12 Monetary poverty (PL US\$ 6,85) by ethnicity**

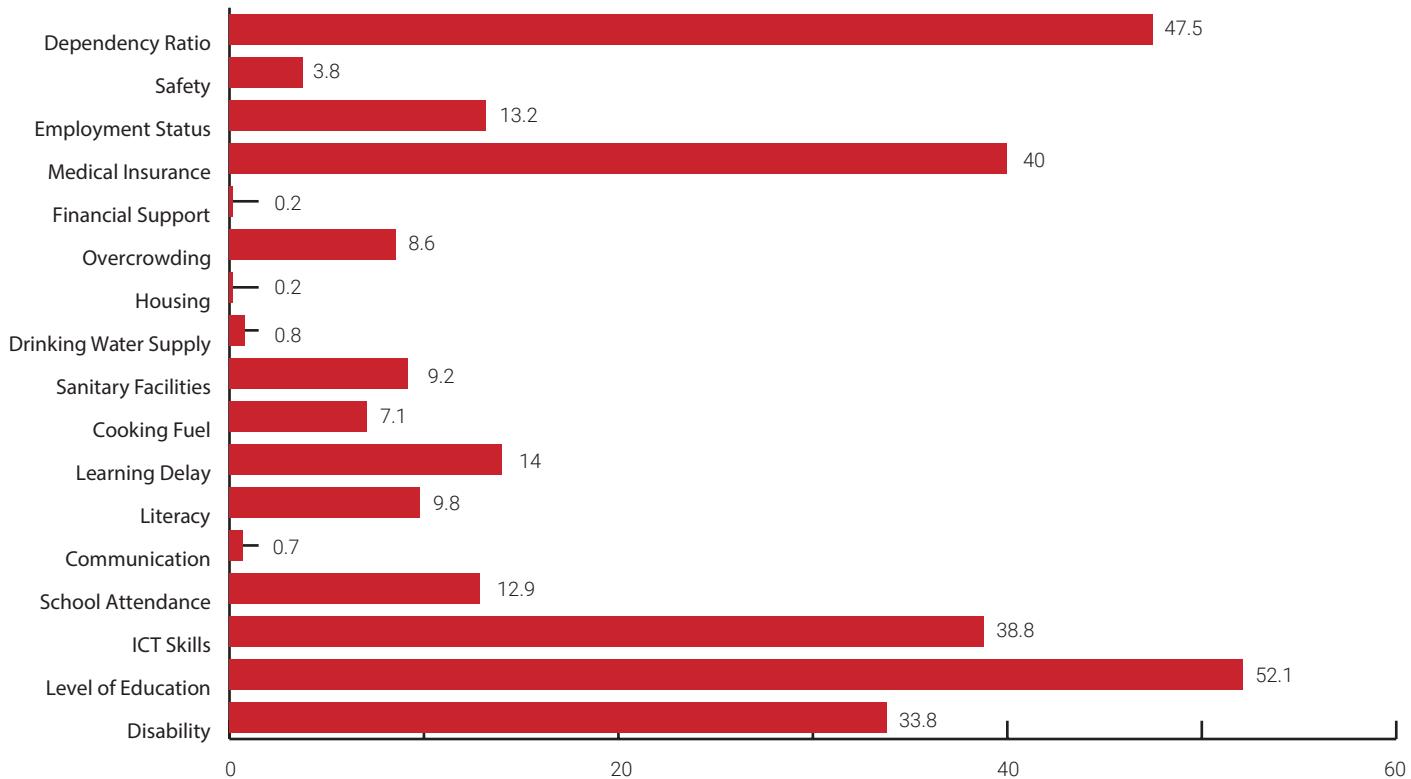


Source: SSLC, 2022

The Government prioritizes poverty reduction as one of its key policy goals, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of its citizens. The Surinamese Government has achieved significant improvements in poverty reduction, primarily through the introduction of several social programmes, with the largest being the general old-age allowance and the

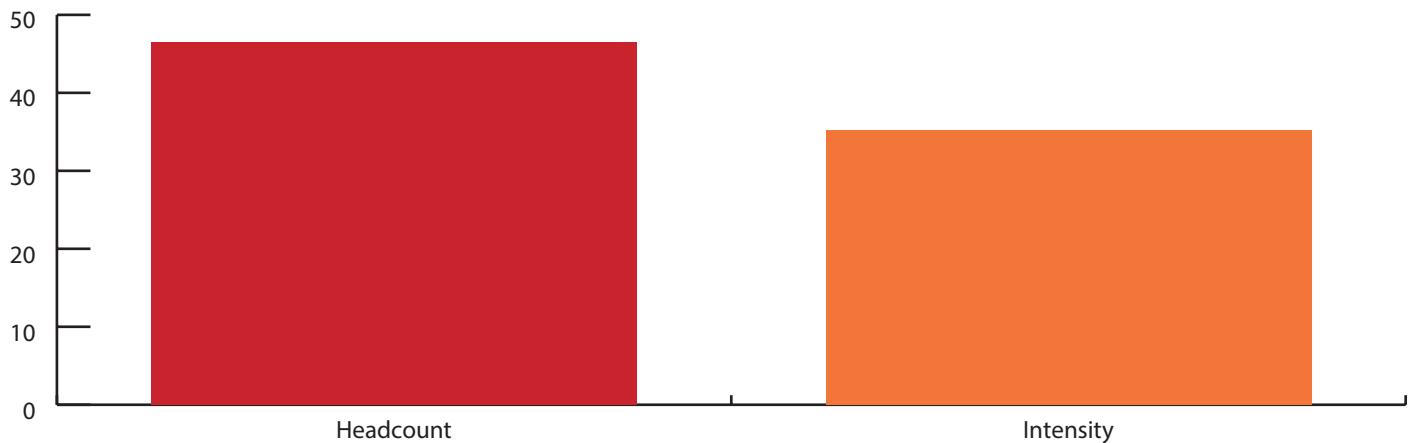
general child allowance (AKB). These programmes are governed by legislation and operational manuals. The other two programmes, financial assistance for persons with a disability (FBMMeB), and financial assistance for poor households (FBZwHH) are based on the ministerial orders issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing.

**Figure 13 Multidimensional poverty by domain and deprivation indicators**



Source: SSLC, 2022

**Figure 14 Multidimensional poverty in Suriname**



Source: SSLC, 2022

According to the government decree (S.B. 1991, No. 58), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing plays a crucial role in implementing non-contributory social assistance programmes. The Ministry offers three categories of services: cash transfers to households, in-kind services to families, and cash transfers to organizations that provide social assistance services, such as daycare centers, centers for the elderly and persons with a disability, and orphanages.

Since 2020, the Government has been under an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to enhance social assistance programmes while also implementing fiscal recovery measures. When the Government began implementing reforms under its recovery programme, with assistance from the IMF, the Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026 and the Recovery Plan 2020-2022 were drafted in response to the severe macro-fiscal crisis. Using the Surinamese Constitution and the Multi-Annual Development Plan (2022–2026) as the guiding frameworks, the national policy emphasizes fiscal sustainability, social protection and sustainable economic diversification.

As indicated in the EFF agreement, social assistance programmes would receive 2.3% of GDP (about SRD 4.3 billion). However, the first three to four evaluations showed that implementation was insufficient. In response, the Government expanded the Purchasing Power Enhancement Programme (Koopkracht Versterking - KKV) programme, initially distributing SRD 1,800 per month to all poor households. This effort quickly expanded to include 120,000 individuals, increasing support beyond households and including those with low incomes. Furthermore, AOV (elderly allowance) beneficiaries, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations now also receive the KKV. Government spending on social programmes, including regular programmes (AOV, AKB, and associated benefits), has increased to nearly 4.3% of GDP.

From 2020 to the present, both targeting subsidies and the number of registered beneficiaries have increased by more than 50%. To improve financial inclusion, the Moni Karta (bank card) payment system was implemented in conjunction with traditional payment systems, streamlining procedures for beneficiaries. However, challenges remain in ensuring accessibility, particularly in the interior regions. It has been observed that poverty rates are about 50% higher in Suriname's Interior (see Figure 11), especially among single-parent households, less-educated heads of household, and big households. Food insecurity is prevalent, but it is most significant in low-income families. Poor households often lack access to income-generating assets, characterized by lower education levels among their heads and a higher prevalence of informal sector

jobs. They also have limited access to physical assets and essential services.

Suriname's social assistance programme 2023-2025 was expanded to include targeted financial assistance for vulnerable households - the KKV - to help mitigate the impact of the gradual phase-out of object subsidies for electricity, gas, fuel, water, food, and medicines. In line with fiscal sustainability measures, the Government has moved to a consumption-based subject subsidy model for electricity, ensuring a more equitable distribution of Government assistance while encouraging energy efficiency and responsible consumption.

Some measures taken in 2023-2024 aimed at targeting the population in general were (i) the increase in tax-free limit from SRD 7,500 to SRD 9,000; (ii) an increase in purchasing power for national public employees; (iii) one-time bonus for national public employees; and (iv) suspension of VAT on utilities and cooking gas for six months.

The Government executed a 'Comprehensive review of the Social Protection System of Suriname' and a 'Deep dive into the Social Protection System for children, adolescents, and adults in Suriname' with support from the UN system in Suriname. The findings of these studies resulted in the drafting of the National Social Protection Strategy for Suriname 2024-2030 which includes recommendations for institutional and programme reforms. This Strategy aims to enhance and modernize the social protection system, providing comprehensive, inclusive, and long-term social support to all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable.

The reform's primary outcomes are institutional and programme reform, as well as transition support. Institutional reform encompasses establishing comprehensive legislation, enhancing coordination among ministries, developing robust monitoring and evaluation systems, promoting transparency and accountability, and implementing integrated information management systems. Programme reform involves expanding non-contributory programmes, improving lifecycle coverage, ensuring benefit adequacy, implementing automatic adjustments, implementing pension reforms, and facilitating the transition of civil servants to the private sector.

In 2024, Suriname's Parliament amended the Minimum Wage Act of 2019 to increase the minimum standard of living, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations can meet their basic needs. Regarding poverty targeting, the Government raised the budget to SRD 32.5 million and allocated a budget of SRD 26.7 million for the 2023 service year.

## Challenges

Despite significant progress, Suriname faces critical challenges that require targeted interventions. Meeting social assistance targets has been challenging and was evident during the execution of the IMF programme. These challenges relate to an inadequate social beneficiaries' registry, insufficient information and communication technology infrastructure, government employees' capacity, and programmes not managed through accountable systems (see Figure 15). These factors hinder the country's ability to meet its social assistance targets, which proved to be a significant challenge to the IMF programme.

The 'Deep dive into the Social Protection System of Suriname for children, adolescents, and adults in Suriname' (Government of Suriname and UNICEF, 2024) study reveals that elderly individuals, children,

adolescents, adults, and vulnerable households in Suriname face various challenges in accessing financial assistance. Elderly allowances are not always received on time, and obtaining them is difficult due to high transportation costs. Furthermore, there is a high demand for healthcare, medicines, affordable elderly care, medical transportation, risk management, food security, and clean drinking water.

The Moni Karta system is not working in the Interior due to insufficient ATMs, and there are complaints about the transparency and approval of some systems, such as KKV and basic health care coverage. Food security and food package programmes are not easily available in all districts.

<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing

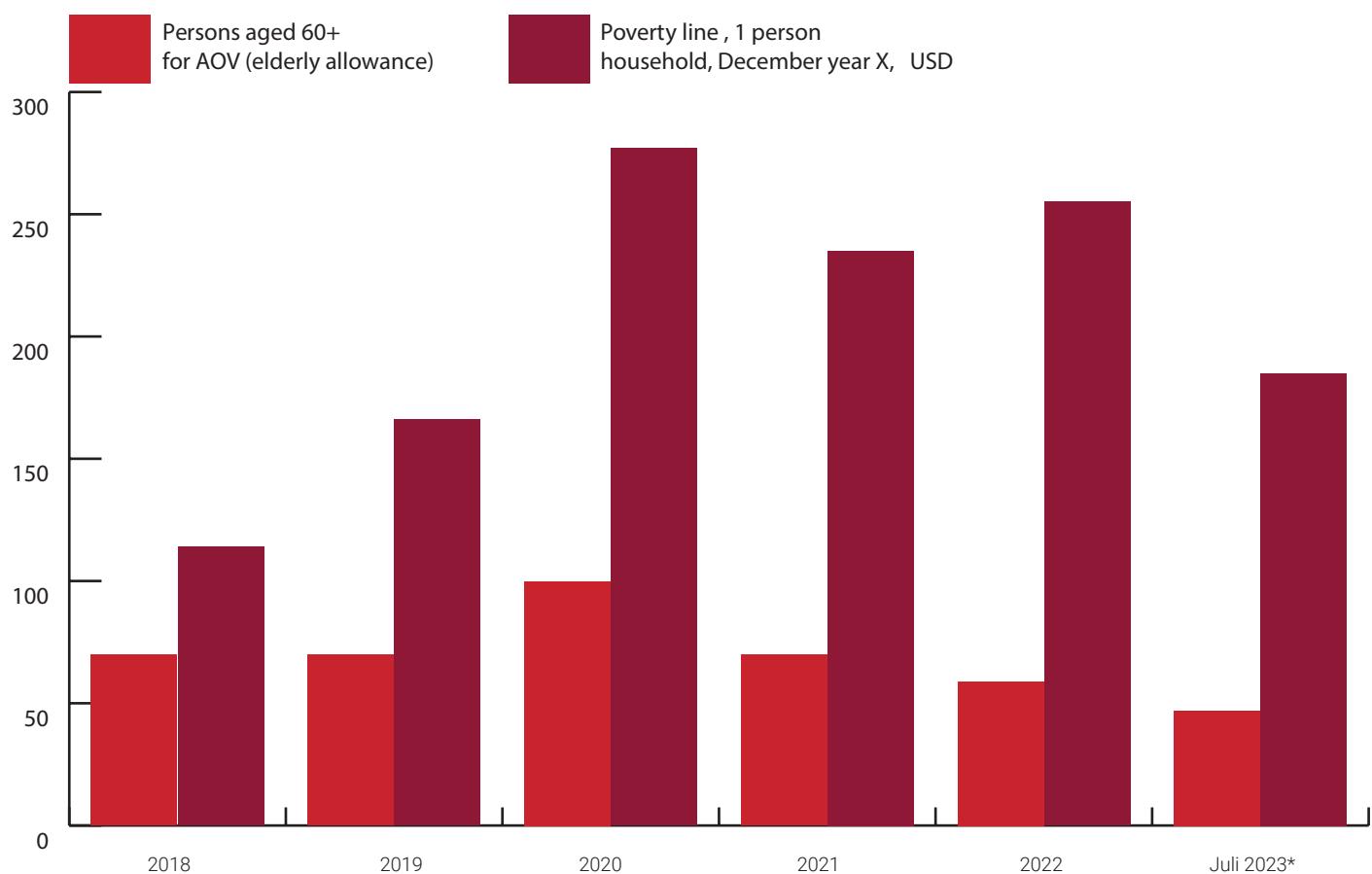
<sup>2</sup>Deep dive into the Social Protection System of Suriname (2024)

**In March 2024, the IMF (2024) concluded that “all quantitative performance criteria and indicative targets under the programme were met, except for the spending floor on social assistance.”**

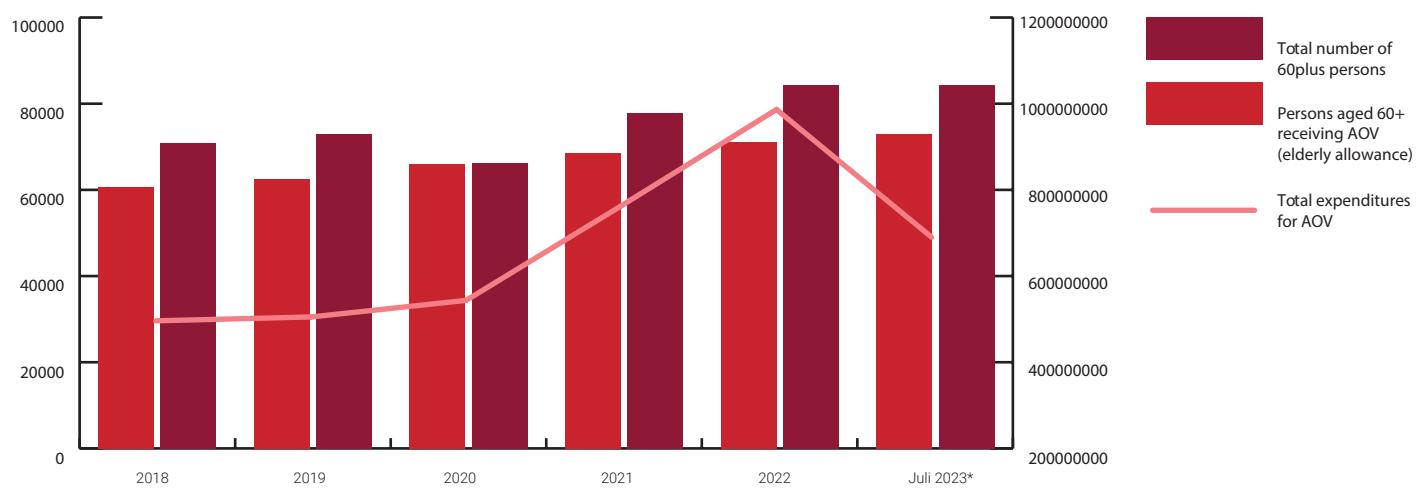


**Figure 15 Social assistance participation and poverty figures 2022**

**Development in level of social assistance for Elderly compared with national poverty line, 2018-2023**



**Coverage of Elderly Allowance and Total Expenditures, 2019-2023**

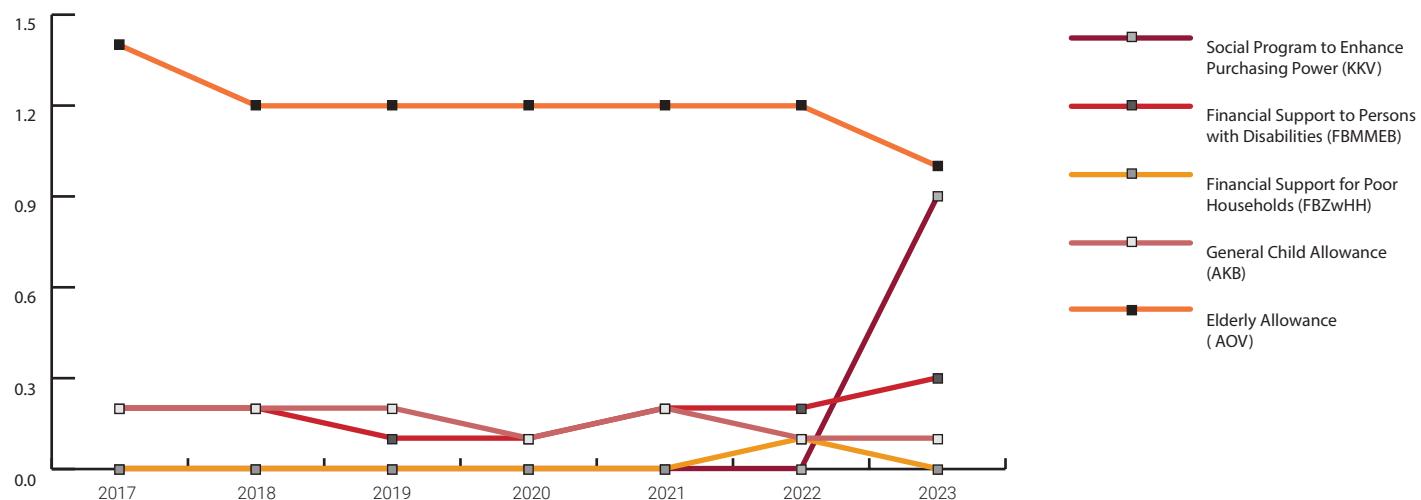


Source: Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing,  
calculations made by author

The main challenges of Suriname's social protection system are:

- Social assistance is inefficient and only partially inclusive due to outdated social protection policy frameworks and delivery methods (see Figure 16).
- Particularly in the Interior, there are still gaps in reaching marginalized populations. The absence of a comprehensive beneficiaries' registry and outdated delivery mechanisms limits efficiency and impact. Inadequate infrastructure and limited access to necessities, such as electricity, clean drinking water, sanitary facilities, and quality healthcare, may all contribute to higher poverty rates in rural and interior areas compared to urban areas. Furthermore, living costs in the Interior are higher than in urban areas, primarily because of the high cost of transportation. Chronic illnesses, residential status, and educational attainment are three indicators of deprivation that are more prevalent in urban areas.
- Due to targeting based primarily on demographic characteristics, coverage is sub-optimal among socio-economic groups with high poverty rates and low education. Main programmes do not benefit more than 37% of households in the lowest consumption quintile.
- Households with children receive only limited benefits, making coverage notably insufficient. The general child allowance for example is low and limited to a maximum of four children per household.
- The leading causes of poverty and inequality are a lack of human capital, low educational attainment, and a lack of skills. To match workforce skills with market demands, reforms are necessary in technical education.
- Strong fiscal policies are necessary to manage expected oil and gas revenues in a way that promotes long-term, inclusive development and reduces financial weaknesses.

**Figure 16 Social transfer programmes**



Source: Ministry of Finance and Planning, General Bureau of Statistics

## Opportunities

While significant progress has been achieved, ongoing economic, social, and institutional difficulties require organized policy interventions. Strategic investments in social protection, human capital development, and economic diversification will be critical to achieving long-term poverty reduction and prosperity. Suriname could achieve SDG 1 by 2030 if it implements reformed governance frameworks, enhances efficiency in social beneficiaries' registry, transparent oil income management, and enhanced effectiveness in social development plans.

The following opportunities are seen as the way forward to achieve the SDG 1 targets:

1. Implementing of the National Social Protection Strategy for Suriname 2024-2030.
2. Strengthening social protection systems, such as a national social beneficiaries' registry and digital payment systems, can improve targeting efficiency and reduce exclusion errors. Data-driven poverty targeting will ensure that assistance gets to the most vulnerable populations. In addition, upgrading the social protection system of Suriname should consider: (i) targeting tailored at district level with decision-making authority,

including timely distribution of cash transfers and enhanced use of digital systems and access to these related facilities; (ii) benefits based on the national poverty line and specific needs for vulnerable groups; (iii) addressing coverage and misinformation about programmes; (iv) improved transparency regarding selection criteria and system functioning; (v) increasing low-income groups' access to financial services and business development initiatives can promote entrepreneurship through continued investments in technical and vocational education (TVET); (vi) collaboration with international financial institutions, regional organizations, and development institutions can help raise funds for infrastructure development and social sector reforms.

3. The Government should use offshore oil revenues for social investments, including education, healthcare, social infrastructure and safety nets, promoting equitable growth.
4. Continued regular data-gathering at household level and the Census, which are valuable sources for insight in living situations of the population, social beneficiaries' registry, transparent oil income management, and enhanced effectiveness in social development plans.

Suriname has made substantial progress in reducing poverty; nevertheless, more effort is needed to target specific groups according to particular objectives. Research on poverty shows that those who live in the Interior, persons with a disability, single parents, or women are more likely to be poor. Therefore, more attention needs to be paid to these vulnerable groups. Following stringent reforms, the economy is showing signs of recovery, and Suriname looks forward to the medium term, when offshore oil revenues are expected to develop. Many believe these revenues will mark a turning point in the nation's well-being.







## 5.2 Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 live-stock gene banks 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, by 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, to help limit extreme food price volatility



### Policy context and Progress

Suriname recognizes SDG 2 as a priority for inclusive and sustainable development. Key national goals include ensuring food security, eliminating hunger, and promoting sustainable agriculture. However, the agricultural sector faces structural challenges that hinder progress, particularly underutilized land, inadequate institutional capacity, and limited access to modern technology.

Suriname's government took several actions that reflect a policy environment that promotes inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural development. These actions have tangible contributions to achieve SDG 2 targets such as ending hunger (2.1), improving nutrition (2.2), doubling smallholder productivity and income (2.3), and ensuring sustainable food production systems (2.4).

Some of these projects are part of multi-year policy programmes, including establishing a rice processing plant and establishing farmer cooperatives. The Government is prioritizing the stimulation of rice production, through a sustainable agricultural productivity programme with an initial investment of USD 30 million. Water boards have been elected, installed and activated in the rice district Nickerie. The Government has been working on identifying suitable agricultural land for increased production and export, e.g. in the districts of Saramacca and Wanica, where efforts are being made to improve agricultural infrastructure. A demonstration center has been set up through bilateral support, where various fruits and vegetables are cultivated in greenhouses and outdoors, including training for local youth and farmers. In October 2022, the law on Product Boards was approved in Parliament. With the establishment of commodity boards, the Government aims to serve the general interest of agricultural companies and entities involved in the production chain. Preparations are currently being made for the establishment of commodity boards for Rice, Fisheries, Milk, and Poultry.

In collaboration with international partners, the Government has prioritized improving food security, agricultural productivity, and climate resilience through a multifaceted policy agenda. The Suriname Agricultural Market Access Project (SAMAP) is one

of the key initiatives, providing infrastructure and technical assistance to over 155 farmers to improve market readiness and food safety. In addition, a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training programme was launched in all ten districts of Suriname and aims to improve production standards and quality.

The construction of four agricultural laboratories aims to enhance value chain efficiency, export readiness, and phytosanitary controls in response to climate vulnerabilities and the need for diversification. The new diagnostic training for plant health inspectors strengthens institutional capacity to manage plant health and biosecurity risks. Additionally, the Government has established a Food-Grade Markoesa Processing Facility to support agricultural industrialization initiatives.

The Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) programme in Suriname is a four-year joint initiative, funded by the UN SDG Fund and executed by the Government with the support of the UN system in Suriname.

The programme, developed in close collaboration with local pineapple farmers and stakeholders, aims to transform Suriname into an established producer and exporter of high-quality organic fresh and processed pineapples, with an inclusive and sustainable value chain approach. Interventions concern capacity building of pineapple farmers; establishing bio factories to empower women and youth farmers by promoting community-based production of organic inputs; field trials; establishing cooperative associations; and setting up a Horticulture Innovation HUB through a collaboration of the Government and the private sector to promote knowledge exchange for strengthening the pineapple value chain. The HUB works with Indigenous and Tribal farmers, supports them with digitization, and aims to achieve a competitive export position for Suriname by 2030.

Between 2019 and 2023, the agricultural sector contributed an average of 5.7% to the Gross Domestic Product (see Table 3 below). Despite a four-year decline in agricultural exports, an increase from USD 58 million to USD 69 million was expected in 2023. However, the export volume declined sharply, by 62.6% compared to 2019, primarily due to a decrease

in dry paddy production from a smaller planted area. The fisheries sector showed an upward trend in export value, from USD 32 million in 2021 and 2022 to USD 39 million in 2023. However, in volume, exports decreased from 34,016 tons in 2019 to 27,563 tons in 2023.

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**Table 3. Share of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing in % of GDP, 2015-2024<sup>1</sup>**

Sector	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Agriculture, forestry and fishing in % of GDP	11.3	11.4	11.2	10.3	8.8	8.4	9.9	7.5	7.8	7.2

Source: General Bureau of Statistics and Planning Office Suriname

\* Preliminary data.

1. Rebased Series (Base Year 2015, SNA 2008 compliant, ISIC rev 4).
2. The GDP figures for 2024 are the Planning Office Suriname estimates from October 2024, while the 2023 figures and before are from the General Bureau of Statistics.

According to survey data from the Suriname Survey of Living Conditions (2022), food insecurity is a significant concern (see Table 4). Nearly half of households were concerned about insufficient food, with 40% unable to eat healthy and nutritious meals. Over 34% had limited food options or ate less than necessary. Smaller groups reported more severe hardship: 20% skipped meals, 13% ran out of food, and 5% went without eating for an entire day.

**Table 4. Food insecurity in % of population**

In the past 12 months:	Yes	No	N/A
The household's worried about not having enough food	49.82	50.15	0.03
The household's unable to eat healthy and nutritious food	39.84	60.08	0.08
The household ate only a few kinds of foods	34.82	64.96	0.22
The household had to skip a meal because there was no money	20.46	79.39	0.16
The household ate less than they thought they should	34.67	65.33	
The household ran out of food because of a lack of money	12.76	87.23	0.01
The household was hungry, but did not eat	9.85	90.03	0.12
The household went without eating for a whole day	5.3	94.7	

Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022 (sample size: 7,713)

To support food security, the food basket programme was introduced countrywide. Individuals could purchase food and basic goods at low prices in special locations. Several school nutrition projects also started, where schoolchildren received a light, healthy breakfast.

The 'Prani yu djarie' school garden initiative and other school garden initiatives, outreach in Indigenous communities through demonstration farms, and strengthening agriculture cooperatives are all aimed at assisting vulnerable populations. The establishment of training centers and demonstration centers, such as the new dairy training center at Oryza, and community-based outreach initiatives like 'Meet the Farmers', which utilizes mechanized services to increase productivity, are examples of gender-sensitive and youth-inclusive programmes.

Sustainability and innovation are increasingly being integrated into Suriname's agricultural policy framework. This is also evident in initiatives from the FAO and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), which focus on reducing post-harvest losses. There have also been investments in improving data collection using digital tools such as the KoBo Toolbox and providing Statistical training programmes. At the same time, cross-sectoral collaboration strengthens institutional development, as seen in public-private

partnerships and food safety capacity-building workshops conducted in collaboration with Caribbean and UN organizations.

The Government and the United Nations (UN) system in Suriname also collaborated to implement the joint programme 'Leave No One Behind, Building Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Suriname' with funding of the Global Joint Sustainable Goals (SDG) Fund. With the ITP organizations VIDS and KAMPOS, different projects have been implemented in the respective communities to improve livelihood, enhance food security, and establish female farmer networks in targeted ITPs communities. At the local community level, the Government has been partnering with local community organizations to implement food security projects for self-sufficiency and enhance local ownership of food security.

The efforts of civil society organizations such as Amazon Conservation Team Suriname and Tropenbos Suriname - active in the Interior areas of Suriname - are pivotal in addressing food security and implementing agroforestry, through which ecological processes are applied to agricultural production systems.

**Tropenbos Suriname** is a knowledge-based civil society organization aiming to improve the sustainable use of tropical forests and trees for the benefit of healthy ecosystems, and the well-being of people. The focus is on capacity building, knowledge development, and collaborations with local and international partners. Its work contributes to generating and bringing together different types of knowledge on forests, climate change, ecosystem services, and users of the forest. They also explore and record traditional governance systems and how they are connected with the central management system of the government. Key areas of intervention are (i) training in agroforestry and sustainable forest management, (ii) collaboration with representative ITP organizations to strengthen local capacities, (iii) conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in rural and interior areas, and (iv) policy advice and collaboration with government, research institutes, and international organizations, including the Tropenbos International network.

In the communities of the upper Suriname river (Hinterland), strengthening the governance system has been executed. Women and youth are the specific target groups since the men migrate out of

the communities to seek employment elsewhere. This strengthening process prepares communities for the management of their territories, taking the traditional authority procedures into consideration. Tropenbos Suriname, together with the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) and other partners, have conducted research to introduce and implement agroforestry techniques as an ecologically sustainable alternative and more permanent form of agriculture in a few communities as a pilot, utilizing the principle of FPIC. The organization collaborates with local communities on a sustainable alternative, namely agriculture that works in harmony with the forest, based on agroforestry techniques. Consequently, an Agroforestry Farmer Field School was officially opened in the interior district of Brokopondo. This innovative training location brings together sustainable agricultural practices and traditional exchange of knowledge among farmers. Currently practiced shifting agriculture is, after gold mining, one of the main causes of deforestation in Suriname. Although the forest recovers over time, its burning leads to loss of biodiversity, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and soil degradation. With this school, Tropenbos Suriname

contributes to resilient communities, forest conservation, food security and a sustainable food system in Suriname. With these interventions, the organization raises interest in agroforestry as an alternative to gold mining.

Sustainable, community and urban forestry are also being promoted by Tropenbos Suriname. Usually forestry is linked with deforestation, however there are alternatives to harvest less timber but still generate income. ITP communities exercise alternatives for sustainable wood harvesting with positive results for the development of their communities.

It has been noted that the private sector is advocating for the SDGs and taking actions to integrated the SDGs in their business management. As a CSO, partnerships with the private sector can be utilized to benefit the own project execution.

A critical note of Tropenbos Suriname is that a national coherent policy towards the SDGs is not clear. The Government's Multi-Annual Development Plan has integrated the SDGs in the policy themes, yet the calculation of how much financial resources, human and institutional capacity are required was not sufficiently clear. The targets and indicators are not systematically monitored, making it challenging

to measure the impact of policy implementation towards 2030. There is a certain degree of progress, but how impactful this is, is not clear. Funding and human capacity are essential preconditions for success in the implementation of the SDGs.

Therefore, collaboration with different national and international stakeholders is a must. The drafting of the Green Development Strategy 2025-2050 is an opportunity; however, this needs to be implemented in coordination with other measures related to climate change, the conservation of water and marine resources, as well as biodiversity and ecosystems. The effective implementation of such a strategy will provide the civil society with a framework within which it can operate and contribute. Part of the upcoming earnings that may result from the oil and gas sector in Suriname should be invested in the green economy. There is an urgent need for a National Fund in which these earnings can be deposited and utilized for national and community development, and is accessible for civil society and community organizations.

**Rudi van Kanten, Director**

Suriname has been investing in agriculture production, technologies, cooperatives and demonstration hubs, as well as access to funding, institutional and production capacities. In terms of food security, food baskets and school nutrition programmes are being implemented, including school gardens and community food security programmes. However, there is a need to engage more effectively with local ITP communities and strategize on how to tackle climate change and livelihood developments within these communities. Opportunities lie in participatory and culturally grounded methods and community-led projects. At the policy level, Suriname can institutionalize more inclusive governance mechanisms, through a dedicated Food Security Action Plan, especially for vulnerable groups. A decentralized, participatory model for food governance, rooted in FPIC principles and district-level decision-making, can enhance programme responsiveness and promote local ownership.



A successful approach to agricultural production is closely tied to an increase in the degree of organization among producers. In the past year, 16 cooperatives have been established in one of the rural districts, and they have successfully commenced their activities, including the import of agricultural inputs and the establishment of their machinery facilities. Through established agricultural cooperatives, machines are purchased to replace older machines, utilizing public-private finance to improve efficiency in the farming sector.

To promote, enhance and increase the quality of agricultural production and export, providing employment, and improving the operational efficiency of agricultural businesses in Suriname, the Government established the National Development Fund Agribusiness (NOFA). The resources from this fund should ensure the strengthening of the competitive position and earning capacity of agricultural businesses by improving access to credit.

### **Challenges**

Despite progress, Suriname faces complex challenges in achieving SDG 2, particularly for its most vulnerable populations. Although Suriname possesses over 4.2 million hectares of arable land, only approximately 58,000 hectares (1.4%) are currently in productive use. This indicates a significant gap between potential and actual agricultural output. Geographic disparities in food security remain a key challenge, with remote and interior regions facing limited access to nutritious food, underdeveloped infrastructure, reduced economic opportunities, and the effects of climate change.

While national efforts have expanded agricultural programmes and food initiatives, persistent food insecurity remains a critical concern in remote and marginalized communities, especially among Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs). These challenges are compounded by geographical isolation, poor transportation infrastructure, and insufficient market access, collectively undermining local food systems and household resilience. National agricultural and food security programmes are frequently overly concentrated in coastal or urban areas, with little adaptation to the sociocultural and logistical realities of the Interior. For example, despite good intentions, many initiatives are developed without the Indigenous community's Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), resulting in reduced effectiveness and trust. Furthermore, poor institutional coordination and low participation from affected communities impede the successful implementation of these programmes. Climate change has contributed to structural limitations, with communities reporting increased

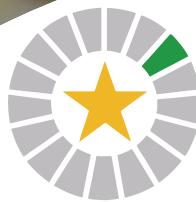
soil erosion, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and lower yields, particularly in traditional farming zones.

A significant gap remains in the systematic incorporation of ITP knowledge systems into national climate and food security policies. Infrastructure and supply chain bottlenecks persist, with rural communities lacking access to essential agricultural inputs, tools, machinery, and cold storage, leading to post-harvest losses and missed market opportunities. At the policy level, a district-level implementation plan or a formally published plan has not been developed, which renders its agricultural strategy insufficient. There is a need for updated farming methods and specialized agricultural education, as well as technical capacity and expertise necessary for agriculture. Due to its heavy reliance on food imports, Suriname is vulnerable to both inflation in food prices and disruptions to the global supply chain. Furthermore, there are institutional and regulatory gaps, as evidenced by the weakening of agricultural safety regulations and inadequate control over the use of pesticides.

### **Opportunities**

The opportunities to improve the achievement of SDG 2 targets lie in participatory and culturally grounded methods, as well as community-led projects such as localized food gardens and highland rice cultivation in the interior areas. Results can be achieved by expanding efforts through investment in climate-resilient, water-efficient agriculture and technical assistance. For programmes to be relevant, sustainable, and owned, ITP-led designs and governance must be incorporated. At the policy level, Suriname can institutionalize more inclusive governance mechanisms, through a dedicated Food Security Action Plan, especially for vulnerable groups. A decentralized, participatory model for food governance, rooted in FPIC principles and district-level decision-making, can enhance programme responsiveness and promote local ownership. Continued access to sustainable financing and investment facilities for small and medium-scale farmers and accelerating the development of agro-logistics and processing infrastructure have been identified as a means to strengthen the agriculture sector.

Regulatory frameworks for food safety, pesticide control, and biodiversity conservation are also key interventions that have been identified for the way forward. Research findings and data are crucial for effective policy formulation. With the initiation of the 6th Agriculture Census, the data gaps can be bridged, and accurate information and data will be available.



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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 3 Targets	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. 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, by 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



### **Policy context and Progress**

After the COVID-19 pandemic, Suriname has been trying to recover and upgrade its health sector in terms of access and quality of healthcare. Reducing maternal and infant mortality remains a high priority, and in this regard, the Government is implementing the Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy 2021-2025. This involves increasing the capacity of health personnel, upgrading infrastructure in primary and secondary health facilities, and standardizing care. One of the key interventions is setting up the Perinatal Information System (SIP) and improving the gathering of perinatal data as of January 2025. The SIP is being utilized by medical staff from the Regional Health Services responsible for primary healthcare in Suriname's urban and rural regions, the Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname, which provides primary healthcare in Suriname's interior areas, and the hospitals.

The country demonstrates its commitment to enhancing neonatal and infant care through ongoing

investments in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU), training of NICU nurses, and promoting breastfeeding through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. However, there is a need to upgrade the code of conduct that ensures uniformity in prenatal and postnatal care, and the importance of breastfeeding. The immunization programmes for children are continued; in some instances, there are challenges related to the supply chain, availability of resources and complex procurement processes. However, all efforts are being made to guarantee availability and not disrupt continuity.

With regard to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), the focus has been on public health education programmes, guidelines and protocols for NCD prevention and management, intersectoral collaboration for physical activity strategies, and dietary guidelines, primarily through the 'Healthy Hub', which promotes the prevention of cardiovascular



diseases and other NCDs among the public.

In the past years, the Government has been implementing the Health Systems Improvement Programme with the support of its international partners and key national stakeholders. The focus areas are (i) digitization of primary healthcare, (ii) developing and implementing an integrated chronic care model (HEARTS), and (iii) strengthening the Malaria programme. The national REDCap monitoring tool which supports data gathering and clinical decision-making, has been introduced among the key stakeholders.

Consequently, the digital patient portal has been launched which will be supported by the electronic patient file and the my-health patient app. These are components of the National Health Information Exchange Platform (HIEP). These initiatives are part of the Digital Health Agenda 2022-2030 towards full digital connectivity among care providers. The transformation of healthcare delivery by providing real-time data will benefit informed decision-making and improve patient care, but also reduce healthcare costs.

Furthermore, the WHO-HEARTS Initiative, which commenced in January 2022, is crucial in addressing hypertension and diabetes in primary healthcare. The national NCD committee has completed national treatment protocols for hypertension and diabetes to facilitate a uniform and comprehensive approach to prevention and treatment. In the past years, almost 90% of primary health caregivers have been trained. In the initial phase, 35 clinics introduced the HEARTS Initiative in their daily practice, and the roll-out to a total of 500 primary health care facilities nationwide was planned. The HEARTS Initiative will be an effective mechanism to target hypertension and diabetes among the population. The Government has prioritized this investment because 78% of the mortality rates are attributed to non-communicable diseases, with heart and vascular diseases being the leading cause of death.

The introduction of the WHO HEARTS technical package in Suriname is a national strategic approach to improving cardiovascular health and managing heart and vascular diseases in Suriname. It should be noted that this approach will, in the long run, result in cost efficiency. Suriname's experience is an example in the region, and the exchange of experiences with other countries will be enabled.

Regarding mental health, the Ministry of Health has developed a national strategic plan for risk

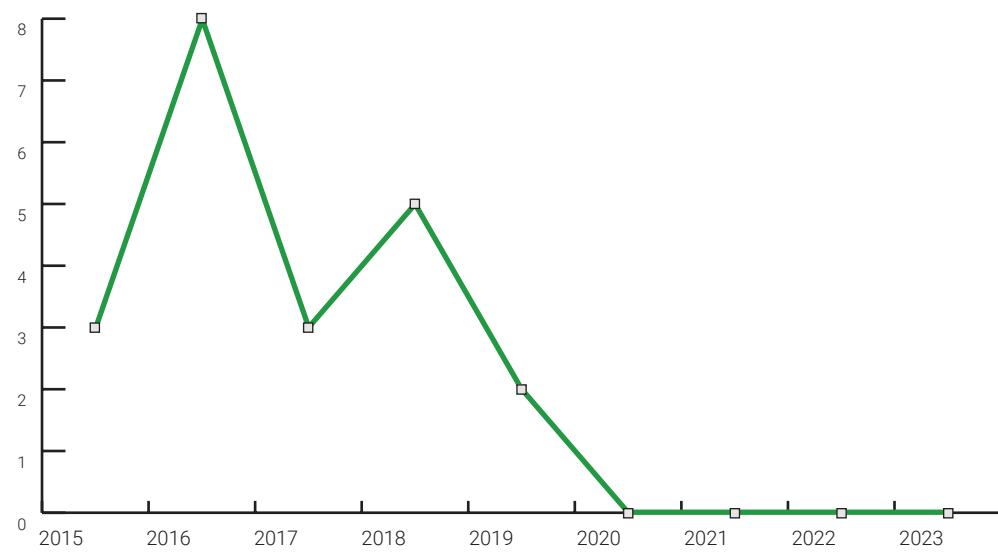
communication, psychosocial support, and mental health, which is currently being updated. The Medical Educational Bureau of the Ministry introduced the service 'psychological assistance for adolescents between 16 and 21 years old' as part of the project 'Improve access to adolescent gender-responsive physical and mental health services and awareness'.

The National Anti-Drug Council plays a significant role in reducing illicit drug use in Suriname through prevention, awareness, and treatment. Targeted preventive programmes educate the public, particularly 11-21 years old, about alcohol and drug risk factors. National anti-drug awareness programmes also support these initiatives. Emphasis has been laid on strengthening NGO treatment centers, training for prevention and treatment stakeholders and research on vulnerable populations. Public and non-governmental rehabilitation and aftercare clinics, such as the Psychiatric Center Suriname, Foundation De Stem, and Victory Outreach, rehabilitate drug addicts. The National Drug Observatory coordinates a multi-stakeholder Early Warning System (EWS) to monitor and notify on emerging psychoactive drugs in Suriname to improve drug control.

Suriname has achieved notable progress in malaria management, having practically eliminated the disease (See Figure 17). With the execution of the National Malaria Strategic Plan (2021-2025) and cooperation from partners such as the Global Fund, USAID, and PAHO, the country has sustained a zero-local transmission status since August 2021. The Test, Treat, and Track (T3) strategy, a comprehensive Malaria Information System, strong national ownership and leadership, and integrated healthcare for migratory communities in mining regions are the main factors contributing to its success.

The provision of health services in the Interior has been strengthened via operational research, vector control, task shifting in rural clinics, and free access to long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs). A milestone that reflects Suriname's exemplary approach and provides a blueprint for malaria elimination efforts throughout the Guyana Shield region, the country's dedication to inclusive, evidence-based strategies, including tailoring its efforts to the cultural diversity of its target populations, has positioned it to obtain the WHO malaria elimination certification in 2025.

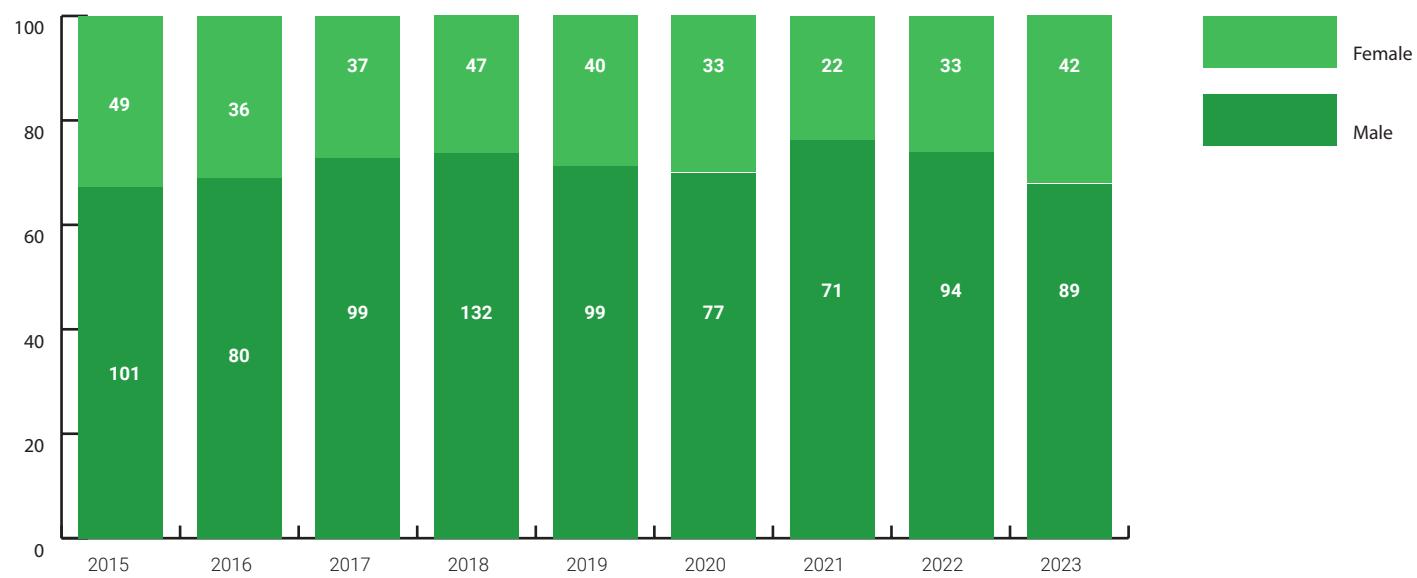
**Figure 17. Annual number of positively tested malaria cases**



Source: Estimates made by General Bureau of Statistics and Bureau for Public Health.

The National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) in Suriname educates stakeholders to combat Tuberculosis (TB). As shown in Figure 18, TB shows an increasing trend, which necessitates more attention. TB awareness among health professionals and the public is being promoted. The NTP will enhance early detection of tuberculosis in high-risk groups and improve patient outcomes.

**Figure 18. Annual number of persons with Tuberculosis by Sex**



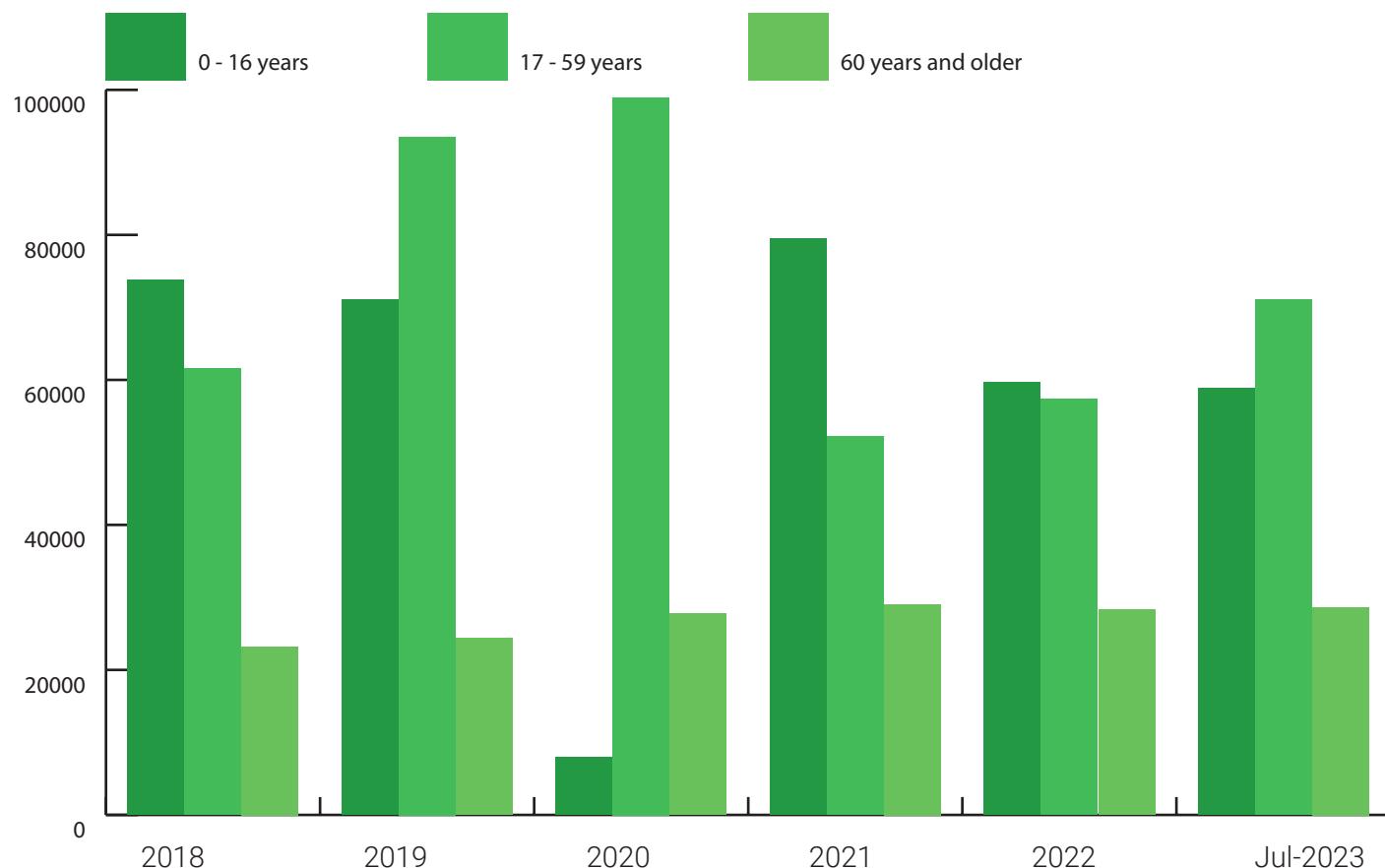
Source: National Aids Programme, 2024

Access to sexual and reproductive health care is guided by the National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2019-2025. Primary healthcare centers' sexual and reproductive services focus on maternal health and HIV, including prenatal, delivery, postnatal, and HIV testing. These primary health centers and community health facilities are scattered throughout urban, rural and interior areas. Furthermore, the NGO Stichting Lobi Health Center (SLHC) provides comprehensive sexuality education to youth both in and out of school, training and workshops for parents and educators, and awareness sessions on sexual reproductive health and rights for companies and other groups. SLHC services are neither free nor government-subsidized; however,

they are contracted with all major health insurance providers. The SLHC operates in 9 out of 10 districts, serving rural and underprivileged populations across the country.

The National Basic Health Insurance Act (2014) provides a free basic healthcare service package to vulnerable populations, including individuals aged 17-59 years. The registration procedure for basic health insurance (BAZO) cards has been continued to reach the population (see Figure 19). Legislative review is underway to broaden coverage and effectiveness; this based on an evaluation of effectiveness of the current regulations.

**Figure 19. Number of Persons whose Basic Care Premium is subsidized by the Government**



Source: Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing

The Government continues to invest in medicine and vaccine supply chains, prioritizing uninterrupted access to essential medicines and vaccines. Guaranteeing universal access to health care is inextricably linked with health care facilities; therefore, the Government continues its cooperation with international and national partners to rehabilitate and build health centers nationwide and in Interior areas with the Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname.

Education and training for health workers have continued through the Central Training for Nurses and Related Professions institute (COVAB) and other institutions to guarantee qualified nursing staff. In the past years, the Government has also allocated resources to provide incentives and salary increases to (specialized) nursing staff to guarantee care in the different health facilities.

The issue of brain drain plays a crucial role in

challenges related to the optimal provision of health services, and therefore has been a priority for the Government. Currently the Government is also working on a structured job description and valuation system for health care workers.

In 2008, Suriname endorsed the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and has a comprehensive Tobacco Control law. The 2013 Tobacco Control law commits to implementing

measures outlined in the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control in the Americas 2018-2022. Suriname also participates in the FCTC 2030 project, which provides technical support for tobacco control efforts. Gaps in the implementation of the WHO FCTC remain, including building compliance with, and conducting enforcement of smokefree requirements, and strengthening tobacco governance in line with WHO FCTC Article 5.

### **The Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname**

(MZ-PHCS) is the organization that provides care according to primary health care principles to the residents living in Interior of Suriname. Dedicated quality care tailored to individual needs remains the organization's specific expertise. The geographical work area covers approximately 90% of the surface area of Suriname, where about 55,000 people live, with the largest concentrations along the rivers in the eastern half of the country. MZ-PHCS has 58 locations in the Interior, which are managed and supported from its coordination center in the capital Paramaribo. MZ-PHCS works with health care assistants, who are able to coordinate and provide integrated primary health care, such as mother- and child care through compliance with IMPAC and IMCI protocols, immunization, care for persons with chronic conditions and providing preventive health education. The system of health care assistants is a unique and effective mechanism to meet the primary health needs of communities in remote areas of Suriname. MZ-PHCS has continued the institutional and human capacity strengthening over the years to enable an effective and efficient service delivery. An important strength of the organization relates to the ongoing partnerships with communities, civil society organizations, donors, and the government. Subsidies enable the organization to continue providing services despite very challenging circumstances. In the past decades, the organization has gained a lot of knowledge and experience in malaria control. This knowledge has significantly contributed to Suriname being on the verge of entirely malaria-free.

However, the social economic developments in the working area of MZ-PHCS pose an ever-increasing challenge for its target groups and, consequently, for the organization. The safety in (parts of) the working area and the decreasing willingness of employees to go to these areas in the absence of guarantees for the safety of property, are concerning. Aspects such as child labour and human exploitation should not be underestimated due to dire living conditions. Environmental pollution and climate change also exert additional pressure on the social

welfare apparatus. Due to droughts, rivers run dry resulting in great challenges to reach communities. Droughts also cause insufficient water availability, having impact on the health conditions of the populations. Delays in receiving government subsidies, accessibility of essential medicines and medical equipment as well as logistical challenges to reach communities, hamper the effective service delivery. The care model needs to evolve against this backdrop, while additional investments are required to relocate outpatient clinics to higher ground as water levels rise.

Nevertheless, all possibilities and alternatives are sought out by the health care workers to guarantee services. The MZ-PHCS has made an urgent appeal to the Government for a structural approach to infrastructure problems, improving safety, supporting local transport options, and release of overdue subsidies.

In the opinion of the organization, there are enough opportunities to optimize the health services delivery. The viability of MZ-PHCS is enhanced by continuing to participate in national healthcare policy development. The organization has been advocating for the connection between the health and well-being of target groups, and public health tasks and social determinants. Indigenous and Tribal communities are becoming more vocal about their right to self-determination, and the organization should anticipate on this, and should continue its partnership with other CSOs. The MPZ-PHCS welcomes national policy initiatives such as HEARTS and digitalization in the health sector. With regard to essential medicines, the organization has embarked on a partnership with Amazone Conservation Team Suriname, a civil society organization working directly with Indigenous populations, and the steering committee 'Development of Traditional and Integrative Systems Industry in Suriname', on 'Traditional and Integrative Health Systems'. The essence is to raise awareness about the application and recognition of traditional healthcare systems, and potential integration with modern systems. To support this process, legislation and regulations

specifically tailored to the Surinamese context, to guarantee just, safe, and sustainable traditional and integrative health systems is necessary. Putting efforts in the traditional health care will facilitate the work of MZ-PHCS, and benefit the communities. The organization strongly advocates for the health in all policies principle and working across sectors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, sectors worked together to tackle the grave consequences of the pandemic. Yet the lessons learned are not consistently applied after the pandemic. If we fully want to reach the targets of SDG 3, an approach to improve health and health equity through cross-sector actions on the wider determinants of health e.g. social, environmental, economic and

commercial conditions in which people live, is urgent. Communities are becoming more aware about what they need and are able to voice their concerns. Different sectors work on sustainable environment, but the interlinkages among sectors to guarantee the wellbeing of people are not consistently taken into account. A whole of government, all of society effort is needed to reach the full implementation of SDGs and ultimately 'leave no one behind'.

**Maureen van Dijk, Deputy Director Medical Affairs**

## Challenges

One of the most consequential challenges is health financing and persistent inefficiencies in the distribution of resources. Recommendations have been proposed, and efforts are being undertaken to dialogue with and reach consensus among the stakeholders.

Another challenge is the brain drain, which has a substantial impact on service availability and quality, particularly in primary and secondary healthcare. Furthermore, financial difficulties, compounded by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and Suriname's broader macroeconomic issues, continue to be a key concern.

The general gathering of programmatic and Epi data requires urgent upgrades, as Epi data collection and analytic capabilities of all key actors involved are insufficient and underfunded. Despite ongoing government efforts, shortages of essential supplies persist in secondary health care facilities, which could be related to inefficiencies. In the Interior areas, climate change significantly impacts healthcare delivery, presenting logistical and accessibility challenges that must be addressed promptly to ensure comprehensive health coverage.

## Opportunities

The Government has continuously worked on partnerships to invest in and guarantee access to health care at the national level. The HEARTS Initiative will be of utmost importance in strengthening the government's efforts to combat hypertension and diabetes. Raising awareness on the dietary guidelines and investments in prevention will benefit the population and lead to cost reduction. The health information systems expansion will result in a digital system of patient information, thus providing insight into and data on the health situation of the population to support treatment protocols. Gathering perinatal information through the SIP will lead to improved monitoring of the maternal and neonatal mortality status and support the Government in consistently reaching the SDG 3 targets. Seeking alternative resources for infrastructural improvements and the continued guarantee of medicines and supplies has been taken up by the Government. Given the positive track at the macro-economic level, allocation of funding for health care workers' incentives and salary increases, as well as a structured job description and valuation system, could be secured and will support the measures to tackle brain drain.

Suriname has made positive progress on SDG 3 by improving maternity and newborn care, nearly eradicating malaria, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, and promoting non-communicable disease prevention through the HEARTS Initiative and health education. The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted healthcare, necessitating significant measures to reactivate remote clinics and guarantee access to the national health insurance system. However, brain drain and health financing remain the significant challenges, followed by infrastructural needs in rural and interior regions, and inadequate health data systems. Nonetheless, ongoing reforms and collaborations are essential to help Suriname achieve its health objectives.





## 5.4 Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 4 Targets	Status
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	●
4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	●
4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university education	●
4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	●
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations	●
4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	●
4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development	●

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all



4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries



4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States



### **Policy context and Progress**

Suriname has taken essential steps toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4, particularly during the post-COVID-19 recovery period. Due to nearly two years of school closures, which caused delays in learning routines, the education system suffered setbacks. However, in recent years, this has been actively addressed. School facilities have been rehabilitated, and both pupils and teachers have returned to regular schedules under improved conditions. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (MinOWC) simultaneously introduced a revised primary curriculum and updated teaching

methodologies.

Furthermore, the Ministry identified four thematic priorities: (1) strengthening the legal and policy framework; (2) institutional capacity development; (3) improving quality and multilingualism in basic education; and (4) improving the labour market relevance of education and retaining academic talent. Strategic actions include decentralizing governance, operationalizing an Education Centre, integrating STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and mathematics) and soft skills, and developing a multilingual distance education model.



According to data from the 2022 Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, women are predominantly enrolled in formal educational institutions. Figure 20 shows the profiles of children who do not complete school, by sex and area. It is observed that across all educational levels, a higher percentage of males than females do not complete their education. Dropout rates are highest in urban areas for secondary levels, while for rural interior regions the highest dropout rates at the primary level have been reported.

**Figure 20: Out of school children by sex and area**

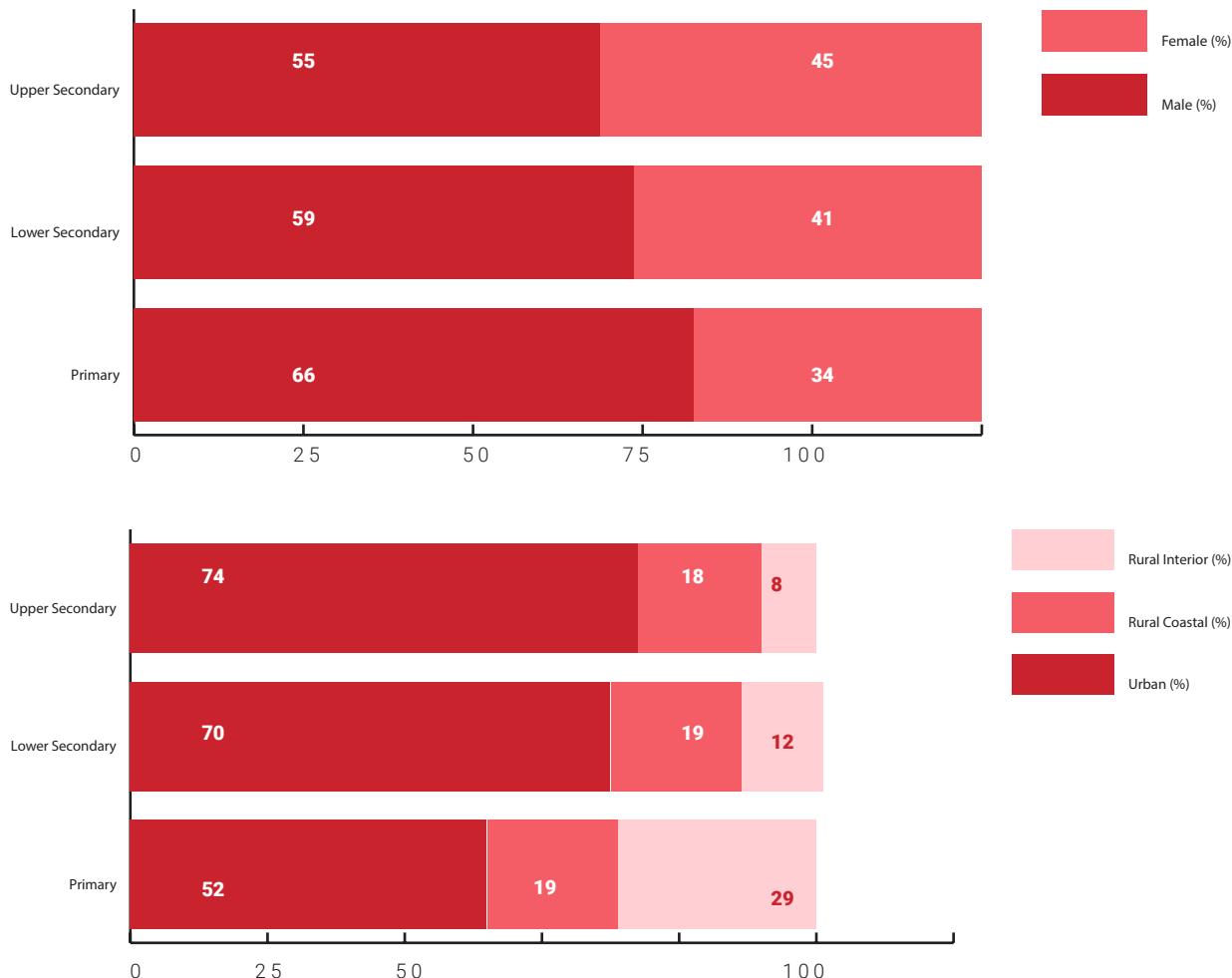


Figure 20 Out of school children by sex and area

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, report "Van Silhouet naar Stralend Gelaat", 2023

A milestone in policy planning was the launch of the National Education Policy Plan 2024-2031, which provides a strategic framework for systemic reforms. This is complemented by other foundational documents, such as "Van Silhouet naar Stralend Gelaat" and the Education Congress 2023 Report. Together, these outline a progressive vision for inclusive, equitable, and quality education. The reforms introduced include a 10-year primary education cycle with automatic early grades progression and a more flexible pathway at lower secondary education, allowing students to pursue varied academic and vocational streams beyond traditional alpha-beta

trajectories.

Vocational training has been developed in secondary education to the same level as academic programmes, reducing societal pressure to prioritize scientific studies. The establishment of the Suriname National Training Authority (SNTA) and the implementation of the 'CAIQES (Consolidating Access to Inclusive Quality Education in Suriname)' programme (2021-2027) with an international partner aim to develop curricula for grades 9-12 and align education with labour market and societal needs, resulting in increased capacity, curriculum alignment, and improved infrastructure.

Another significant achievement was the development and phased implementation of a revised primary education curriculum (grades 1-8) under the Basic Education Improvement Programme (BEIP) and the CAIQES programme. Despite initial criticism, particularly from schools, an active campaign launched in 2020 helped to increase support. To encourage active, student-centered learning, the OGO model of development-oriented education has been formalized.

Policies on Early Childhood Development, the Situation Analysis and National Policy for Children with Disabilities, and building the supervision and cross-sectoral coordination capacity are examples that address inclusion. To promote lifelong learning, the National Centre for Continuous Professional Development (CENASU) was upgraded, and a training portal was launched. Financial support mechanisms have been expanded through the 'Fonds Tegemoetkoming Studie Suriname', student grants, and quarterly allowances. Institutional capacity is being strengthened through policy coherence, as evidenced by the drafting of a new National Education Policy Plan for 2024-2031. Bullying against and mental health of children have been addressed through the Kenki Denki (change the thinking) programme.

Data and planning capacities have improved through the upgrading of the Education Management Information System, production of the Statistical Yearbook and the Education Statistics Reports. For each department within the Ministry, it has been determined which SDG indicator should be monitored. International collaboration has played a key role. The Suriname-Netherlands education partnership enhances quality assurance and curriculum development. Suriname also committed to the School Meals Coalition, pledging to provide every child, reaching over 15,000 students, with a nutritious meal

by 2030. UNICEF continues to support early childhood education, hybrid teaching, digital learning, mental health, and learning assessments, with training provided to over 900 teachers and reaching more than 74,000 individuals. All of these efforts reflect a strategic, multi-stakeholder approach to transforming the education sector.



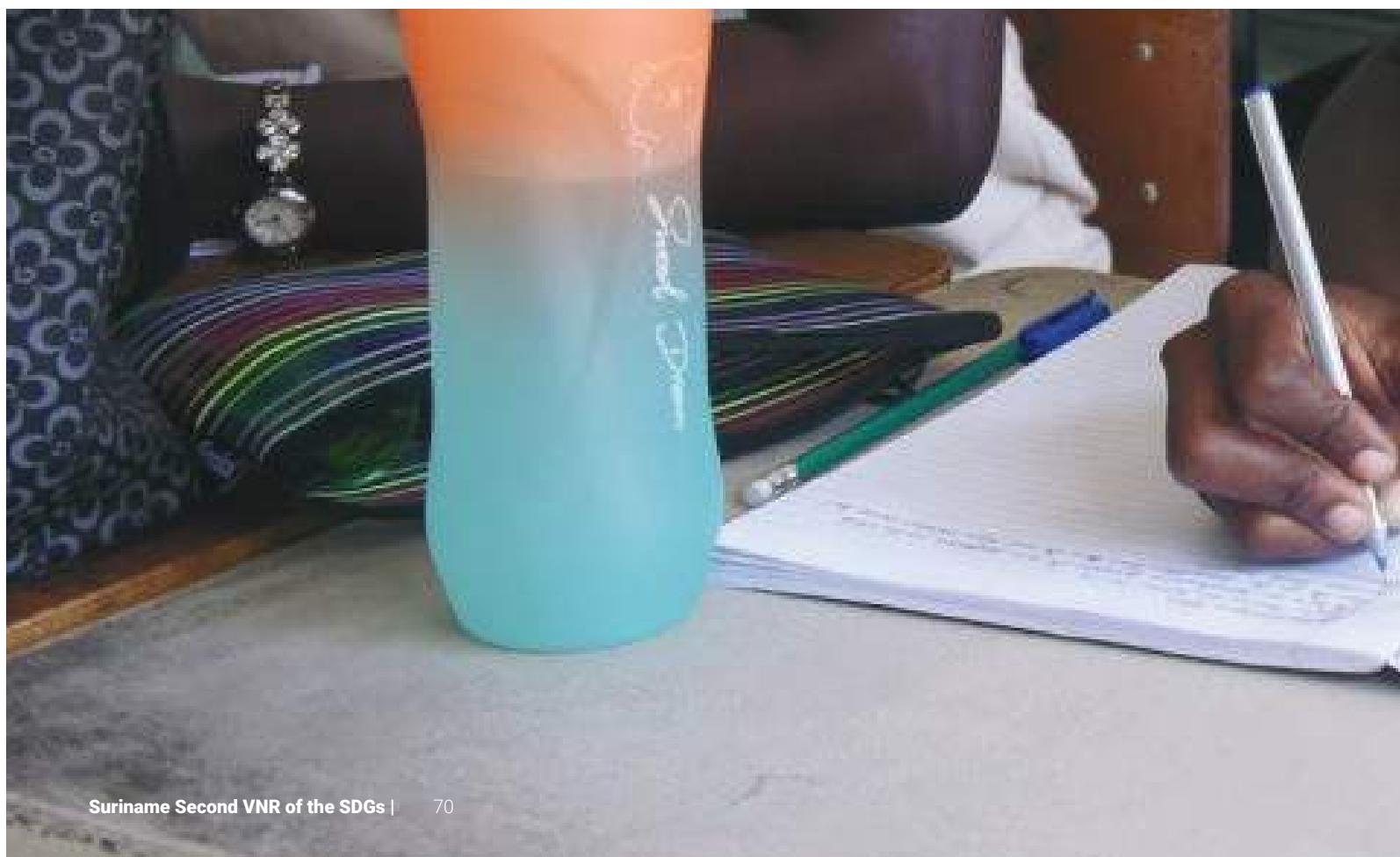
The WASH programme, supported by UNICEF, has played a crucial role in rehabilitating water and sanitation infrastructure and promoting hygiene in schools. Renovation and construction of primary school and teacher housing continued via national and loan-funded budgets. The completion of a higher education boarding facility at the Anton de Kom University of Suriname was financed through national budget allocations. New boarding facilities in the rural districts of Para and Marowijne have been established to accommodate students from remote areas. Suriname has also made efforts to improve the legal framework for education. Draft laws on Primary Education and Supervision, Registration, and Material Costs for Educational Institutions were submitted to Parliament in 2019. Meanwhile, the NOVA (National Accreditation Body) Act (2007) and the SNTA Act (2020) provide statutory backing for accreditation and TVET development, respectively.

## Challenges

Structural and operational barriers persist despite institutional efforts and curriculum reforms in Suriname's education sector. The roll-out of grades 9 and 10 under the new curriculum remains inconsistently implemented, due to insufficient guidance, teacher readiness, and monitoring tools. These inconsistencies lead to uneven curriculum delivery, negatively impacting educational quality. A critical gap in adapted school infrastructure, particularly for children with special needs, continues to limit access for all. Students in interior areas face persistent challenges, including under-resourced schools, teacher shortages, and limited learning materials, which are further impacted by language barriers and low parental involvement. Dropout rates at the secondary level remain high due to socio-economic constraints. Teacher shortages in key subjects, such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and foreign languages, combined with ongoing brain drain, have an impact on the education system's human resources. Legacy administrative systems, resistance to change, and slow legislative reform processes interfere with policy implementation and sustainability. Financial and logistical constraints, worsened by economic shocks, inflation, and low public investment, threaten the sustainability and adaptability of educational initiatives.

## Opportunities

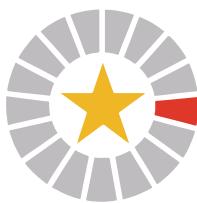
Suriname can utilize the opportunities to improve its education system and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4. The Government has assessed the current education system and focused on drafting the National Education Policy Plan, providing the way forward. Therefore, this lays the foundation for continued efforts and investments. Utilizing technology also offers new ways to teach. Schools in rural and remote areas can provide students with the same learning opportunities by improving internet access and utilizing digital tools. Hybrid learning, a combination of in-person and online instruction, can make education more flexible and future-ready. Adding STREAM (science, tech, reading, engineering, arts, math), soft skills, and teaching in multiple languages to the curriculum will help students' educational attainment. Working together with other ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Youth Affairs, can support the full development of children. International partners, including UNICEF, IDB, IsDB, and UNESCO, provide funding and guidance. Religious school boards, local organizations, and the Suriname-Netherlands Working Group also play a crucial role in making education more relevant to local needs. Suriname can also make substantial progress in education by training more teachers and strengthening school leadership. At the same time, updating the curriculum to match better the skills needed in today's job market will help students prepare for future careers.





Investments in curriculum development, teacher training, school infrastructure, teacher housing, boarding facilities and technical and vocational education have been priorities for the Government. There have also been efforts to prepare the supporting legislation to institutionalize reforms. The capacity of the Government to manage the education policy and sector has been strengthened and policies on early childhood development and children with a disability have been developed. Alternative methods for teaching in remote interior areas of Suriname have been explored. With the development of the National Education Policy Plan, a clear picture of the gaps and needs have been identified. Areas of concern are children dropping out of school, adequate and quality education in the Interior, education monitoring and management systems and the continued curriculum reforms at secondary level. The way forward will be continuing the efforts, investments and partnerships with both national and international stakeholders towards reaching the SDG 4 targets.





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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 by 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, by national laws	●
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	●



## Policy context and Progress

Within the structures of the government, the Bureau Gender Affairs within the ministry of Home Affairs is the responsible agency for coordinating policy matters. In 2019, the Gender Vision Policy 2021 –2035 was adopted, with seven 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**

During 2022-2023, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan including a Gender Results Framework, was developed. This Framework aims to align the vision and strategic goals of the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 - 2035 with the expected results and indicators. Additionally, the Legislation and Regulatory Monitoring Framework and the Planning and Reporting templates were drafted. In the Results Framework, the SDG 5 indicators have been incorporated. For the effective implementation of the Policy, workshops have been held with key stakeholders to discuss their roles and responsibilities and provide feedback on the supporting tools related to the Policy.

With regard to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, the Constitution of Suriname clearly states that 'no one shall be discriminated against based on birth, sex, race, language, religion, descent, education, political opinion, economic position, or social circumstances or any other status'; and men and women are equal before the law. In 2022, the Equal Treatment Labour Act further specified the direct and indirect distinction, and reads as follows: 'direct and indirect distinction as well as the assignment to make a distinction based on race, sex, religion, skin color, ethnic origin, national origin, social origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, political opinion, disability or family responsibility, HIV status and other chronic diseases, pregnancy, age or marital status'.

In recent years, the Government continued its efforts to combat gender-based violence through policies, education, awareness raising, and training in cooperation with civil society organizations. The legal framework has been strengthened through adjustments in the Suriname Penal Code and adoption of specific legislation on domestic and gender-based violence. An evaluation of the domestic violence legislation provided recommendations for adjusting the law to enhance its effectiveness. In 2022, the Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act was adopted in Parliament. The National Council on Domestic Violence (NCDV) was re-established in

January 2023 for one year, and the Government is currently in the process of extending the term of the NCDV. In the NCDV, representatives of the government, judiciary, police and civil society organizations have a seat. The NCDV worked on identifying bottlenecks that the police, government, and civil society organizations experience in providing services. This inventory led to the development of revised working procedures to enhance support to victims. The NCDV has also updated the National Policy Plan Structural Approach to Domestic Violence and has been coordinating the implementation. A mapping of available gender-based violence (GBV) service providers was done, and the Referral Pathway has been updated, containing information about various GBV services at country level. Workshops have been held on basic knowledge and skills on gender-based and domestic violence and referral pathway procedures for neighbourhood managers (part of the Police), government first responders, representatives of religious organizations, and other community workers.

Efforts have been made to develop a streamlined and robust approach to domestic violence reporting by developing an evidence-based upgrade of the Suriname Police Force's data collection system. This upgrade enables the recording of data on domestic violence using the standard registration form. An action plan to guarantee an essential services package for women and girls subject to violence was developed for improved service delivery to victims.

Due to several challenges, the government shelter for female victims of domestic violence was closed in February 2024, and the Government is looking into means to have it re-established. It should be noted that two civil society organizations currently operate victim shelters for women and their children.

These are (i) the Foundation Weid Mijn Lammeren (2020) which provides a safe home for homeless children, single mothers and vulnerable women including female victims of domestic violence; and (ii) the Foundation Sticris (reopened in 2020). The Government manages two bureaus for Victim Aid, one in the capital city Paramaribo and one in the rural area

of Nickerie.

Continuous awareness on domestic and gender-based violence is done through training and nationwide public awareness on gender, women's rights, gender-based violence, peer pressure and other gender-related issues to various target groups such as communication officials, religious leaders, youth from different religious denominations, civil servants, high level government officials, community-based organizations, primary and junior secondary school students, and the society in general.

Human rights education is incorporated into the curricula of law enforcement officers' training. Awareness-raising activities are conducted, and topics on gender stereotyping, gender discrimination, gender equality, and violence against women are included in the curricula of the vocational education 'public administration and government management' for civil servants provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Seminars on identifying discrimination and violence against the LGBTQ+ community were organized by the LGBT Platform Suriname. Seminars on the domestic violence legislation have also been held with sitting and standing magistrates.

Child protection and youth empowerment initiatives have advanced. The training of at least 50 social workers in child protection and case management enhanced their skills. Also, a comprehensive training programme benefited approximately 200 care coordinators in schools, teachers, and school administrators, as well as 80 para-social workers with skills to identify and respond to domestic violence and violence against children. At least seven community platforms have been established to raise awareness on social and gender norms. Additionally, 284 children took part in life skills training aimed at fortifying resilience against violence and gender-based violence. The Government also manages the Child Help Line 123, which was renamed in 2021 to 'Mi Lijn', and provides services from 12 PM to 12 AM (12 hours) for everyone.

Several civil society organizations in Suriname are actively engaged in building capacity, raising awareness, lobbying 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 include the Foundation Stop Violence against Women, Women's Rights Center, Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation, Projekta Foundation, and the National Women's Movement.



**The Women's Rights Centre Suriname** (WRC) is a civil society organization involved in training, research, advocacy, and support. WRC has established a strong reputation through its long-standing commitment to addressing domestic violence, promoting gender equality and sexual rights, and defending women's human rights.

The organization publishes 'Genderoptiek,' a monthly column, and actively utilizes its website and social media channels to raise awareness of gender issues, promote women's rights, and advocate for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

WRC has partnered with the Government on initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, particularly within key policy and legal bodies as well as the armed forces. These efforts focus on integrating human rights, women's rights, gender equality, and the prevention of gender-based and domestic violence into institutional practices. The organization has also collaborated with the Government on research and curriculum development in these areas.

In addition to Government cooperation, WRC actively partners with other civil society organizations and has been a vocal advocate for legal reforms related to gender-based and domestic violence, violence and sexual harassment at work, and equal treatment at work. The organization believes that further progress can be achieved by more fully integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national policy frameworks, particularly SDGs 5 and 10. It emphasizes the importance of establishing clear priorities with corresponding baselines and ensuring that policy implementation is closely monitored and evaluated.

WRC continues to advocate for dedicated budgets to combat domestic and gender-based violence and promote gender mainstreaming across all

sectors. However, frequent changes in government administrations after elections, due to the political culture, have disrupted the consistent and effective implementation of gender policies. There remains a strong need to enhance the capacity of government actors to understand and apply gender mainstreaming principles.

In WRC's view, gender should be an integral component of all sectoral policies. Current gaps in awareness, understanding, and institutional coordination highlight the need for a more integrated, cross-sectoral approach. Gender mainstreaming is not solely the responsibility of one ministry or institution; it requires a unified national effort.

Despite ongoing challenges, WRC identifies significant opportunities. The adoption and amendment of laws that uphold human and women's rights, including updates to the Civil Code and legislation addressing workplace harassment, domestic violence, and equal treatment, indicate a growing awareness and measurable progress toward achieving SDGs 5 and 10.

Notably, institutions such as the armed forces, Judiciary, Parliament, and other governmental bodies are increasingly incorporating gender equality and human rights into their policies and operations. Efforts to combat domestic and gender-based violence have gained momentum, with increased stakeholder engagement and collaboration between public institutions and civil society, ensuring that available expertise is fully utilized.

Encouragingly, the May 2025 national elections demonstrated increasing public support for women in political leadership and decision-making roles. This is a promising development. Despite existing gaps and challenges, WRC believes it is essential to continue and expand these efforts.

**Carla Bakboord and Henna Guicherit, Founders**

The Government provides legal assistance free of charge to persons who cannot afford it, irrespective of sex, through the Legal Aid Bureau of the Ministry of Justice and Police. The assistance includes counseling services in all areas of law provided by legal officials. If necessary, clients are referred to lawyers who are paid for their services by the Government. In January 2024, the Legal Aid program was evaluated and recommendations were made for its improvement. In regard to the decentralization of the judiciary, civil proceedings are held once a month in the interior districts of Brokopondo and Marowijne.

The Government of Suriname has ratified the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration (no. 100), the ILO Convention against Discrimination (no. 111), the ILO Convention of the Minimum Age (no. 138), the ILO Convention on Labour Inspection - Agriculture (no. 129), the ILO Convention on Social Security (no. 102), the C131 - Minimum Wage Fixing (no. 131) and the ILO Convention on Maternity Protection (no. 183). The implementation of these ILO conventions will entail more activities towards the full and equal participation of women on the labour market.

The Equal Treatment Labour Act was approved in October 2022 by Parliament and has entered into force.

The law applies primarily to the private sector, and mandates the Minister responsible for government personnel policies to make regulations in accordance with this law within twelve (12) months after the law has entered into force. The law contains provisions for the mandatory establishment of an internal complaints committee and complaints procedure by employers who employ more than 30 employees. In a company with fewer than 30 employees, an employer, if he is unable to handle a complaint himself, reports to the Labour Inspectorate with the request to investigate the complaint. Furthermore, employees have the right to file a complaint with the Labour Inspectorate regarding discrimination. Similar provisions are also included in the Violence and Sexual Harassment on the Workplace Act 2022 for violence and sexual harassment cases.

To guarantee social securities, the General Pension Benefits Act, the National Basic Health Insurance Act, the Minimum Hour Wage Act and the Family Employment Protection Act are applicable. With regard to the latter, the Fund for Parental Leave has been established to ensure maternity and paternity leave for employees in the private sector and has started paying wages during maternity and paternity leave.

**Assuria NV** contributes to the SDGs through sustainable risk management, inclusive service provision and ethical governance. We promote paperless working (SDG 13), offer financial education (SDG 4), support equal career opportunities for women (SDG 5), create local employment (SDG 8), and communicate transparently with our stakeholders (SDG 17). Additionally, we recycle water and utilize solar energy for reuse, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 and SDG 7. In this way, we foster sustainable growth, social value, and trust.

**Monique Bueno de Mesquita**  
**Manager Corporate Planning & Communication**

**The Fernandes Group** actively contributes to six of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on health, gender equality, access to clean water, sustainable energy, decent work, and responsible production. By combining international standards with local action and working closely with employees, partners, and the government, we aim to create a meaningful, long-term impact for communities in Suriname.

## **Bryan Renten** **Chief Executive Officer**

To increase the participation of women in election management bodies and other structures related to the elections, and to promote gender mainstreaming in elections, training sessions were held for management team and policy commission Elections 2025, district commissioners and staff, and the election 2025 supporting working groups.

With regard to women's participation in politics, lobby and advocacy campaigns for women's participation and inclusiveness in leadership and decision-making positions have been implemented through cooperation

of the government, non-governmental organizations, the media and other stakeholders.

Examples in which the Government has supported initiatives from an NGO with financial support from donor agencies are the 'Balance 2020', 'Excellence, Women First Campaign' and the 'Women, Leadership and Development' initiative in 2024.

**Table 5. Representation of women and men in Cabinet and Parliament**

**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 2024**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
1987	16	1	17	<b>5.88</b>
1991	18	0	18	<b>0.00</b>
1996	16	2	18	<b>11.11</b>
2000	17	3	20	<b>15.00</b>
2005	17	2	19	<b>10.53</b>
2010	15	2	17	<b>11.76</b>
2015	13	4	17	<b>23.53</b>
2020	11	6	17	<b>35.29</b>
2021	11	6	17	<b>35.29</b>
2022	12	5	17	<b>29.41</b>
2023	12	5	17	<b>29.41</b>
2024	12	5	17	<b>29.41</b>
2025	12	5	17	<b>29.41</b>

**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 2024**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
1987	47	4	51	<b>7.84</b>
1991	48	3	51	<b>5.88</b>
1996	43	8	51	<b>15.69</b>
2000	42	9	51	<b>17.65</b>
2005	38	13	51	<b>25.49</b>
2010	43	8	51	<b>15.69</b>
2015	37	14	51	<b>27.45</b>
2020	35	16	51	<b>31.37</b>
2021	36	15	51	<b>29.41</b>
2022	36	15	51	<b>29.41</b>
2023	35	16	51	<b>31.37</b>
2024	36	15	51	<b>29.41</b>
2025	36	15	51	<b>29.41</b>

Source: Parliament of Suriname

Activities for women to economic opportunities were provided through the promotion of entrepreneurship and the support of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, also in rural areas with the focus on Indigenous and Tribal communities. Initiatives implemented with international donor organizations are among others:

1. an agreement signed in 2019 with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to develop the "Basic Needs Trust Fund Program" (BNTF). In this regard entrepreneurship training for people with disabilities have been provided, and a total of 26 persons among which 21 males and 5 females with a disability have successfully completed a training.
2. in 2023, the FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries in strengthening the capacities of MSMEs and integrating them into regional and national value chains. Thirty-five (35) stakeholders, including women, were engaged in this project.
3. the promotion of high-value products through National Fairs for Producers and Exporters. This initiative was funded by the European Union under the Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project (SAMAP). More than 35 grantees and Value Chain Platform (VCP) members participated in this initiative, conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological innovation.
4. the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) programme, jointly implemented by FAO, UNIDO, ILO, and UNFPA, worked to drive advancements in Suriname's agrifood systems through its innovative approach to the pineapple chain development. The ASTA programme has also played a crucial role in structuring innovative financial mechanisms. The programme is granting access to tailor concessionary loan instruments and microfinance programmes to support pineapple farmers. Through ASTA, the capacity of 233 farmers was strengthened, focusing on pineapple production, gender equality, and participatory decision-making.

Access to sexual and reproductive health services are facilitated through the primary health centers nationwide. The NGO Stichting Lobi Health Center provides comprehensive sexuality education to women, men, boys and girls as well as access to services.

To increase housing facilities for specifically women, the Affordable Housing program is being executed, with the specific target to allocate at least 40 percent of houses built to single women.

In Suriname's new Civil Code (2024), which entered into force in May 2025, the position of the surviving spouse has been improved. The legislation now states that the surviving spouse automatically acquires the assets of the estate and that each of the children as heirs acquires a monetary claim against the surviving spouse, which claim is only due if the spouse is declared bankrupt, when the spouse has died or in the cases mentioned in the will of the testator.

Non-demandability is a direct consequence of the principle that the surviving spouse must be cared for and can continue the existing lifestyle as much as possible. Furthermore, the law also stipulates that the surviving spouse is automatically entitled to continue occupation and use of the household effects for 9 months.

In 2023, within the framework of the International Women's Day and Girls in ICT Day, different training sessions have been held for girls in schools, in children's homes and communities to encourage the use of information and communication technology and improve girls' access as a strategy to increase their chances in the labour market and access to other economic opportunities. These activities contribute to the long-term goal of enhancing the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women (SDG 5b).

### **Challenges**

To gain better insight into the specific challenges faced by various groups of women and girls, it is crucial to improve data collection and analysis. Data should be disaggregated by variables such as sex, age, ethnicity, geographical location, and disability. Lack of required capacity in gender mainstreaming, data management, evidence-based policy making, management of programmes and monitoring and evaluation also hampers effective policy implementation. Information on policy implementation and evaluation is scattered within the Ministries, as a result of which civil servants are not informed about projects within their respective ministries, and different persons have to provide the data and information. This is not effective for a proper policy evaluation and analysis.

### **Opportunities**

In the Gender Vision Policy 2021-2035, the SDG targets have been incorporated and serve as the framework for the further implementation of the gender policy. The policy is operationalized through the results framework included in the M&E plan, and with the full engagement of all state and non-state stakeholders, the efforts to execute the gender policy will be continued. As a coordinating institution, the Bureau Gender Affairs also participates in or

supports several multi-stakeholder programmes aimed at ensuring that gender is integrated into the programmes concerned. These include: the EnGENDER programme; UN-SDG joint programme 'Roadmap for a Sustainable Financial System in Suriname'; UN-SDG joint programme 'Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator Pineapple value chain' (ASTA); UN-SDG joint programme –'Leave No One Behind, Building

Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) in Suriname'; the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) project; the National Migration Policy; Develop Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Policy; and the Essential Services Package Community of Practice regional project coordinated by the NGO Stichting Lobi Health Center.



Through stronger laws, more inclusive policies, and targeted initiatives that give women and girls greater rights across the country, Suriname is making progress towards gender equality. Key actions include the Gender Vision Policy 2021-2035, legal reforms such as the Equal Treatment in Labour Act and the Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act, and programmes supporting access to education, health services, and entrepreneurship. Awareness campaigns, building capacity and working with civil society tackle violence against women, encourage women to step into leadership positions, and give them more career possibilities. However, challenges such as inadequate financing, a lack of gender-disaggregated data, and institutional capacity limitations remain obstacles to full development.



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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 the 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	●

## Policy context and Progress

The Government of Suriname has prioritized access to clean water and sanitation as a key component of its development agenda, with a focus on expanding infrastructure in both rural and interior area. Guided by the Suriname Water Supply Master Plan (2011-2024), national efforts aim to upgrade water systems, enhance water quality monitoring, and implement integrated resource management. These initiatives are primarily coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources in partnership with the Surinamese Water Company (SWM) and international partners. It should be noted that SWM is responsible for providing water to both urban and rural areas.

According to MICS (2018) data, access to improved drinking water increased by 3.4% and sanitation services by 3.8% between 2010 and 2018. Most people in urban areas (99.2%) and coastal regions (97.5%) have access to safe drinking water, while the Interior has less access, namely 91% for water and only 61.4% for sanitation facilities.

Since 2022, the Water Platform Working Group, comprising government and non-government actors and the SWM, has had an advisory role to guarantee an integrated approach to water management and support dialogue on the national water policy. This forum enables a coherent approach to implementing projects to facilitate access to water.

Between 2020 and 2025, Suriname carried out several important projects to improve water management in a sustainable way. Some examples include investments in water infrastructure, proposed legal reforms and training in wastewater management. The Government implemented various water supply projects, with either support from international organizations or its own funding. Access to safe drinking water in the interior areas of Suriname has been prioritized:

1. BOSAQ programme: this program was funded through loans and grants from the Belgian government and the Flemish authorities. BOSAQ 1 and BOSAQ 2 have brought clean drinking water to over 15 villages in remote interior areas, including Tapanahony, Lawa, Matawai, and Brokopondo. BOSAQ 1 delivered five water systems in 2019, with four in active use (in Guyaba, Pamboko, Boslanti) and one in Kajapati, which was not accepted due to cultural preferences. BOSAQ 2 is still in progress.
2. Government-funded projects between 2023 and 2024, including water installations in the interior areas of Nieuw Lombe and Corneliskondre (upper part of Coppenname).
3. Support has also come from UN agencies, such as UNICEF and UNDP, which helped to rehabilitate the Indigenous village of Kwamalasemutu's water system and supported the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programme, improving

access to clean water and sanitation in schools and healthcare facilities, especially in the district Brokopondo.

4. Private sector contributions: Rosebel Gold Mines financed water projects in the interior areas of Nieuw Jacobkondre, Marshallkreek, and two other villages, with installations that were recently completed.
5. Furthermore, the SWM continues to supply water to both urban and rural areas, with new investments in the districts of Para and Commewijne (Alkmaar).

The Government executed awareness campaigns to teach people about protecting land, sea, and water, namely the development of the so-called blue economy. It also supported the use of natural solutions, such as mangroves, to mitigate floods and protect coasts. Special attention was given to the clean groundwater in the Amazon region and improved water planning in districts such as Saramacca.

The development of an Integrated Water Management Plan and the update of the Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) are crucial for improving coordination, data sharing, and evidence-based planning in the water sector.

The Government has also 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);

Water pollution in the Interior areas of Suriname continues to be a challenge and through the 'Improving Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname, with Emphasis on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (EMSAGS)' programme, training and sensitization takes place on methods to mine gold without mercury and prevent water pollution. Youth sensitization and education sessions aim to increase awareness on the consequences of mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Specific education materials have been developed to be taken up in the curricula of junior and secondary schools.

## Challenges

One of the main challenges in achieving SDG 6 is insufficient resources to complete and maintain drinking water projects, primarily in the rural and interior areas of Suriname. Inadequate maintenance due to a shortage of trained personnel to maintain water systems has been hampering the availability. There were plans to have contractors handle maintenance, but this also did not continue due to payment issues. Without sufficient budget or maintenance staff, it is challenging to address problems or expand services. This means that many projects rely on support from international donors, making it harder to achieve long-term solutions. Furthermore, the rural and interior areas still face significant infrastructure shortages. Another problem is that many of the water installations are located deep inland, where flooding can be a challenge and access is difficult.

When it comes to clean water, particularly in rural and remote areas, one of the most significant issues is water pollution. Rivers and creeks that people use as sources of drinking water are often polluted with residues from small-scale gold mining, harmful pesticides from agriculture, and waste that is not properly managed. In addition, climate change is causing more droughts and floods across the country. Coastal areas are also at risk because rising sea levels can cause saltwater to mix with freshwater supplies, potentially contaminating them.

There has been progress with the SWRIS, however there is room for improvement on water quality data, wastewater treatment, and groundwater usage. Without this data, it is challenging to plan and implement adequate water policies.

While access to drinking water has been prioritized, there are not enough sanitation projects, despite the importance of proper toilets and hygiene for public health. The Ministry of Health provides guidance, but projects are not consistently implemented.

A situational analysis of Integrated Water Resource Management in Suriname was conducted as part of a comprehensive report on implementing Integrated Water Resource Management, which included an action plan and a monitoring and evaluation plan. This situation analysis revealed weaknesses in Suriname's water management system and identified aspects that require attention to improve the situation. For example, there are no wastewater treatment plants; very few industries have some wastewater treatment; small-scale (illegal) gold mining in the Interior causes several water quality problems, making the surface water unsuitable for drinking water and eating fish; and increased use of pesticides for agricultural purposes has serious health effects on people and other organisms.

## Opportunities

There are also several opportunities to make progress. International organizations, such as UNICEF and UNDP, as well as donors from Belgium and Flanders, are already assisting and can continue to support Suriname with funding and expert advice. The Government is preparing for more effective strategies to attract additional support and funding, for example through the Green Climate Fund. Continued implementation and expansion of the EMSAGS programme, supports the reduction of harmful chemicals in mining and promotes clean water efforts in the district Brokopondo.

There are also initiatives to establish a National Water Authority, which will support the coordinated policy development and implementation. The proposed water laws will provide a stronger foundation for better water management. The Government also aims to utilize new technologies and implement improved systems to monitor water quality and enhance water access in remote areas.

To further strengthen SDG 6 implementation, the Government has highlighted five key areas of support.

1. First, more financial support is needed to complete, maintain, and expand drinking water systems.
2. Second, there is a need for capacity building, including technical and management training for both national staff and local communities. A comprehensive National Water Resources Management Framework will be developed and implemented. This Framework will focus on both the protection of water resources and the efficient management of water use across all sectors.
3. Third, policy advisory services are important to help finalize and carry out water legislation and institutional reforms. New laws and regulations will be introduced to promote sustainable water management, including stricter pollution controls and more efficient water use in agriculture and industry.
4. Fourth, better data systems are needed to track water quality, map needs, and guide planning. Expansion of Water Quality Monitoring and Evaluation Systems to more regions in the country, and implementation of advanced systems to assess the impact of pollution and climate change on water resources.
5. Finally, technological solutions such as low-cost purification and monitoring systems can make water access more reliable and sustainable in all regions of the country. Investments will continue in natural and infrastructure measures to protect coastal areas from erosion, flooding and other climate-related risks.



Access to water in urban and rural areas is managed by the Suriname Water Company, and data of 2018 indicates that most of the population in those areas has access to safe drinking water. Investments to facilitate access to safe drinking water in the Interior areas of Suriname have been prioritized. A Water Platform of state and non-state stakeholders has been established for a coordinated approach towards water access and management. Draft legislation has been prepared to guarantee safe drinking water. The access to sanitation facilities in the Interior areas needs more attention. Challenges in water facilities in the Interior areas of Suriname relate to insufficient funding and human capacity to maintain the facilities. Water pollution in rural and interior areas due to agricultural and mining practices needs to be addressed more effectively. The establishment of a National Water Authority has been proposed, as well as increased resources through national budget and cooperation with international partners, enhanced technical capacity and improved data systems.



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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 7 Targets	Status
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services	●
7.2 By 2030, substantially increase 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	●

## Policy context and Progress

Energy is essential for economic growth and quality of life, but has traditionally relied on fossil fuels, particularly diesel, which contributes to environmental challenges. To address this, the Government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, leads the regulation, administration, and developed the National Energy Policy 2013-2033, which outlines the goals and vision for the country's energy sector, aiming to provide all citizens with access to reliable and affordable energy supplies, while enhancing energy generation capacity and ensuring sustainability.

Suriname has been actively working on its renewable energy policies to promote sustainable development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The country has formulated the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for Suriname, which focuses on providing reliable access to affordable renewable energy solutions, especially in rural areas.

Key actors in the energy sector include the state-owned Surinamese Energy Company (EBS) and Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname (State Oil Company), with a central role in power generation and distribution.

The Energy Authority Suriname Act (Dutch: Wet Energie Autoriteit Suriname) was officially enacted on March 10, 2016, as per State Bulletin S.B. 2016 No. 41. This law established the Energy Authority Suriname (Energie Autoriteit Suriname - EAS), a regulatory body tasked with overseeing and supervising the national energy sector. The EAS is responsible for ensuring the availability, affordability, and sustainability of energy services in the country. It also plays a key role in promoting environmental hygiene in energy production and transportation processes.

Suriname's current energy mix consists mainly of hydropower and thermal (diesel) generation. A major step forward was the transfer of the Afobaka Hydroelectric Plant to Staatsolie in 2020, which boosted renewable energy production and reduced the country's carbon footprint. EBS supplies nearly all households in Paramaribo and Wanica (98.8%) with electricity via its coastal grid, while the department of Electrification Services of the Government provides diesel-generated electricity to around 135 villages in the Interior. Coverage in rural and remote areas has improved due to targeted interventions, including off-grid solar and hybrid systems.

Several major infrastructure investments and international partnerships have supported this progress. The notable efforts in the past years looked into:

1. Strengthen rural economic development through reliable access to sustainable electricity.
2. Improving EBS' sub-transmission and distribution systems, integrating renewable energy plants, enhancing service quality, and EBS' capacity for

inclusive stakeholder engagement during project implementation.

3. Technical planning for the connection of rural areas such as Moengo, Albina, and nearby villages to the Paramaribo grid.
4. Improving the sustainability and efficiency of the electricity service, including rural areas.
5. Renewable energy-based electrification for Interior communities.

The investments led to improved reliability, reduced outages (service interruptions dropped by 65%, outage duration by 75%), and expanded electricity access. By September 2023, EBS had increased its electricity connections by 9.8% compared to 2017.

With the support of international partners, the first solar mini grid in Suriname to provide 24/7 electricity to the Interior 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 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 of the 300-kW solar farm in the rural district of Coronie has been carried out, and is part of an expansion and upgrade project being carried out. Also, in the rural district of Marowijne, electrification has been provided to households of specific 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, meet the growing energy demand, defer future investment in distribution and transmission infrastructure, reduce electricity transport losses, and reduce the use of fossil fuels in main thermal power plants.

The Energy Authority Suriname (EAS), which has been operational since 2020, has developed the Electricity Sector Plan using Integrated Resource and Resilience Planning models in line with CARICOM standards, alongside a Rural Electrification Plan. EAS is also exploring innovative solutions, such as floating solar energy systems, for the Afobaka water reservoir.

For the energy sector development, some of the priority areas that will be continued are: (i) providing access to energy for all and ensuring energy security; (ii) securing energy supply through diversification of fuels; (iii) modernization of the energy infrastructure; (iv) increasing the proportion of renewables potential in the energy mix; (v) comprehensive governance/regulatory framework to effectively support the advancement of (rural) electrification; (vi) eco-

efficiency in the mining sector and other production sectors; and (vii) improving the lack of national baselines or data on energy conservation/efficiency. Renewable energy initiatives are continued such as energy efficiency programs, hybrid solar PV systems in 50 Interior villages, and technical assistance for a just transition to green value chains, as well as expanding the national distribution network and establishing more solar mini-grids.

### Challenges

The country still relies heavily on fossil fuels, particularly diesel, for power generation in rural and interior areas. While hydropower plays a significant role, solar and wind energy are still underutilized in the national grid. Many parts of the electricity network are outdated and require modernization to reduce power losses and enhance reliability. At the same time, most of the funding for energy projects comes from international sources, which makes Suriname vulnerable given its dependency on external resources. In the Interior of the country, some communities still lack steady access to electricity. There are also challenges in managing the sector: institutions like the Energy Authority of Suriname (EAS) still require more skilled staff and improved systems to operate effectively. Lastly, electricity prices are rising since subsidies are reduced, and without stronger social support systems, this can be particularly challenging for low-income families, especially in rural areas.

### Opportunities

Suriname has numerous opportunities to improve access to clean and reliable energy further. The country receives a significant amount of sunlight, making it an ideal location for expanding solar energy. There is also growing interest in using wind power and floating solar systems, which could add more renewable sources to the national energy mix. Hybrid solar systems and small-scale mini-grids are already helping to bring electricity to Interior villages that are not connected to the primary grid, and there is potential to scale up these solutions. Suriname is collaborating with international and regional partners, which provide support through technical expertise, advice, training, and funding for renewable energy projects. Upgrading and modernizing the electricity grid can increase energy efficiency, lower costs, and reduce energy loss. There are also opportunities to promote electric vehicles as part of a cleaner transport system and to invest in training programmes that build local skills in the green energy sector. In the short term, using natural gas can serve as a cleaner alternative to diesel as Suriname transitions to more sustainable energy sources. Improving laws and regulations will help attract private companies to invest in renewable energy. Ultimately, enhanced data collection and the utilization of digital tools can facilitate informed planning and decision-making, enabling Suriname to develop a more resilient and future-ready energy system.



The Government has laid emphasis on strengthening rural economic development through reliable access to sustainable electricity and improving the sub-transmission and distribution systems, integrating renewable energy plants, enhancing service quality, and contributing to renewable energy-based electrification for Interior and rural communities. The Government continued its efforts to enhance the institutional capacity in the energy sector, for example, through the Energy Authority Suriname. However, this needs more attention. While hydropower still plays a significant role, solar and wind energy are still underutilized in the national grid. Many parts of the electricity network are outdated and require modernization to reduce power losses and enhance reliability. However, there is a growing interest in using wind power and floating solar systems, which could add more renewable sources to the national energy mix. Hybrid solar systems and small-scale mini-grids are already helping bring electricity to Interior villages that are not connected to the primary grid, and there is potential to scale up these solutions. Improving laws and regulations will help attract private companies to invest in renewable energy. Ultimately, Suriname's partnerships with international and regional stakeholders provide support through technical expertise, advice, training, and funding for renewable energy projects, which are beneficial for the energy developments in the country.





## 5.8 Sustainable Development Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 8 Targets	Status
8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth by national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	●
8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological	●
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	●
8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, by the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead	●
8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	●
8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training	●
8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms	●

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	
8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	
8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	
8.A Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries	
8.B By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization	

### Policy context and Progress

Suriname's policy landscape regarding SDG 8 is shaped by the Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022-2026, the Decent Work Country Programme 2023-2026, and the Mid-Term Labour Market Policy 2022-2025 including a national strategy for Youth Employment, which defines strategies to improve employment, economic diversification, and social protection. The Multi-Annual Development Plan emphasizes improving Suriname's financial stability, diversifying the economy, and promoting sustainable employment. This Plan encompasses measures to develop the agricultural sector, enhance infrastructure, and foster investments in sustainable industries.

The Labour Market Policy addresses workforce development through skill-building initiatives and labour market integration strategies. It acknowledges the structural challenges of informality and gender disparities, and proposes interventions to promote economic participation, particularly for marginalized groups.

The Decent Work Programme emphasizes the following key priorities (i) Jobs, productivity, and sustainable growth to enhance enterprise competitiveness and create decent employment opportunities; (ii) Livelihoods, human capital, and skills, focusing on aligning education with labour market demands and improving social protection; and (iii) Labour market governance and labour rights, which seek to strengthen legal frameworks and labour administration systems.

The Youth Employment strategy ensures skills matching, workforce development, and equal access to educational opportunities; that education and training programmes are tailored to the current and future needs of the labour market; and improved policies, programmes and services to improve jobseekers' access to decent employment.

Within this framework, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs (AWJ) is responsible for developing and implementing inclusive labour market policies, regulating and monitoring compliance with legal provisions on labour disputes and labour protection. In addition, the Ministry develops wage

policies and regulations to ensure fair and decent pay for all and monitors a safe working environment for employers. The Ministry continues to promote entrepreneurship, upgrading and operationalizing a functional labour market information system, and combating unemployment, child labour, and social insecurity.

Legislation and regulations to promote Sustainable Economic Growth:

1. the Act of December 27, 2022, containing rules regarding the establishment of the Production Credit Fund. Based on the Government's policy about the financing needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the stimulation of the production of goods and services that add value, it has been deemed necessary to establish a Production Credit Fund.
2. ACT of 30 December 2024 establishing rules regarding the Suriname Savings and Stabilization Fund. The Fund aims to contribute to responsible management of budgetary resources originating from the extractive industries by acting as a stabilization mechanism for the budget in light of volatile revenues and as a long-term savings mechanism for the benefit of current and future generations, and achieve the highest possible return on the available assets, at the lowest possible costs, taking into account an acceptable level of risk, in accordance with the investment policy of the Fund approved by the Government.
3. Tax reforms:
  - amendments to the Income Tax Act 1922
  - amendments to the Wage Tax Act 2024
  - the Value Added Tax Act 2022
  - amendments to the Casino Tax Act 2002
  - draft General Tax Act formulated
  - draft Customs Act formulated

The Parliament of Suriname adopted these laws, which aim to implement tax reforms designed to improve tax collection and promote transparency.

In 2022, the unemployment rate for non-poor individuals in Paramaribo was 11.9%, and for the poor, it was 26.7%. In the Interior, the unemployment rate

for non-poor individuals was 25.1%, and for the poor, it was 58.5% (SSLC, 2022).

The Government has made it a priority to implement a labour market policy through the facilitation of employment opportunities in various sectors. Policies also focused on encouraging an entrepreneurial and investment climate that supports economic activities on any scale, including an increased coverage of the Public Employment Service Units (PES).

The Labour Market Alignment with New Industries Programme is being implemented to promote employability in the tourism, ICT and agriculture sectors with emphasis on vulnerable populations such as women. A roadmap for Training for Employment has been developed and is currently being implemented. Jobseekers are provided with skills aligned with the productive sector needs and expand access for both jobseekers and employers to labour market intermediation services.

In this regard, skills training for job seekers has been implemented, existing training for employment (TFE) systems has been improved, and the training curricula in coordination with the productive sector have been upgraded.

Continued investments in the labour market information system (including digital infrastructure) to facilitate decision-making are also high on the agenda. Approximately a few hundred Surinamese citizens have been/will be trained nationwide; these training opportunities are provided free of cost to the participants. After the training, the participants are also supported in finding employment. It should be noted the training sessions are also executed through the training institution related to the Government such as the Suriname Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre (SHTTC).

Suriname has also embarked on environmentally focused value chain development in its economy, fostering enterprise creation and formalization through Just Transition. Suriname highly depends on natural resources such as gold, timber, oil, and gas. The Multi-Annual Development Plan envisions an economy and society less reliant on natural resource exploitation with a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economy. This intervention is a targeted response to the need for a more sustainable, productive, and formal economy that generates new jobs, enterprises, and pro-climate growth, as stated in the country's third Decent Work Country Programme (2023-2026). Target groups comprise the most disadvantaged populations, including Tribal and Indigenous populations. In the past years, some of the key interventions have emphasized:

1. capacity building for employer and business membership organizations to effectively participate in dialogue on Formalization and Just Transition, support the development of the

roadmaps and discuss strategic options. The organizations were trained to identify and develop a green business idea and established enterprises to strengthen their green practices (MyGreen Enterprise methodology). The Suriname Business Association (the biggest representative of employers in Suriname) included this training in their action plan.

2. capacity building for workers' organizations and trade unions to effectively participate in dialogue on Formalization and Just Transition, support the development of the roadmaps and discuss strategic options. To sustain the future capacity of the union members, a learning module on negotiations of the Labour College for Workers – SIVIS has been revised and updated to make it more participatory and principle based. Two new learning modules with the focus on Just Transition and Formalization were developed.
3. two prioritized sectors have been identified namely wood processing and ecotourism, and a value chain study was conducted to assess the chain, the support services and the policy gap and other constraints. The assessment also defined actions to be taken towards Just Transition in the chosen value chain sectors.
4. access to finance as the major potential incentive for Formalization, followed by access to information on the different procedures. The National Development Bank (NOB) has government funds available for enterprise development. This was promoted among small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) and 40 (potential) SMEs have attended the information sessions in 3 Indigenous and Tribal villages.
5. local (municipal) government officials of two rural 2 districts were trained in applying Just Transition and Formalization.
6. awareness raising campaigns have been carried out as a pilot in two ITP villages. This strategy was chosen to bridge the gap of access to information in the Interior, where knowledge on Formalization, Decent Work and Just Transition is not sufficient, and interaction between government entities and local villages is very limited. The interaction between the Government and private sector entities enabled a better understanding and collaboration. As part of this process, village planning was also included. The premise was that planning at different levels beyond the national level, could facilitate a just and formal transition since national planning mechanisms rarely trickle down to local levels. An important milestone is that the strengthened constituents have played a key role in lobbying for a social, decent work and just transition pillar within the Green Development Strategy of Suriname 2025-2050, which will be executed by the Ministry of Spatial Planning &

Environment (ROM).

To support the national policy on Just Transition and Formalization, the national tripartite committee on Just Transition as well as the national committee on Formalization (of small entrepreneurs and informal businesses) were established. The committee on Just Transition coordinates actions to promote new, decent, and sustainable jobs to replace employment in polluting sectors. This means that the Government and the business sector must invest in new sectors such as renewable energy, circular economy, and green infrastructure, so that economic growth goes hand in hand with sustainability. After a joint lobbying of the Ministry of AWJ under the lead of the Just Transition committee, the policy themes 'just transition, decent work and employment' are mentioned in the chapter 'Social Inclusivity & Wellbeing', marking a huge collective success for advancing these aspects as part of a national strategy.

The committee Formalization promotes the formalization of small businesses and informal enterprises nationwide, and started its activities in the Interior of Suriname. This process enables them to access new opportunities and a range of growth possibilities.

A study on 'skills for green jobs in Suriname' was finalized in 2024. This study provides concise information about the context in which green jobs will likely expand and the skills required. As a follow up, the Government will work towards strategic alignment between competency-based education and training (CBET)-based TVET programming, equipping the Suriname National Training Authority to ensure effective coordination and standardization of green skills training across the country, and cooperate with the private sector to promote green skills development and resources mobilization.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, financial support was granted to people between 18 and 45 years old. In 2022, a project was initiated to provide this group with further training to re-enter the labour market as self-employed or assisted by the Public Employment Service to achieve a job at an employer.

The Foundation Labour Mobilization and Development (a technical and vocational institute of the Ministry of AWJ) is executing a project 'Working for Achieving Better Income' with the aim to provide, among others, young people between 16 and 40 years of age, with specific skills, demanded by the labour market, to increase their income by practicing the achieved skills as a self-employed or for an employer. Through the project, at least 362 persons have been trained in vocational and technical skills. A key achievement of this project has been training for young persons

with hearing disability. The project also considers young women as one of its key target groups. The training is provided free of charge and is implemented nationwide. The trainees are also being guided to either establish an own business or get employment.

Suriname has also been taking action to address child labour and the national committee Tackling Child Labour is coordinating the policy. Building institutional capacity and training as well as raising awareness are key strategies being implemented. In this regard, an integrated approach is being adhered with relevant government stakeholders who collaborate with non-governmental actors.

With regard to the protection of labour rights, the social security legislation on medical care, pensions and the minimum wage as well as parental leave (for both mothers and fathers) is being implemented. Recently, the legislation concerning violence and sexual harassment, molestation on the work floor, and equal treatment regarding labour matters has been approved, and actions have been taken to strengthen the capacity of the institutions responsible for oversight of the regulations. To operationalize the legislation on parental leave, the Fund for Parental Leave Provisions (FVO) has been established, and employees from more than 500 private companies have already registered with this Fund, which ensures the payment of wages during maternity, childbirth, and paternity leave.

Tripartite commissions have been established for the Minimum Wage Act (national wage council) and the Dismissal Act. The National Wage Council has provided several recommendations over the years to adjust the minimum wage and the adaptation of the legislation, which took place in 2024. The most recent adjustment of the minimum wage was in April 2025. In 2024, the Government ratified Convention No. 102, which sets the minimum standards and core principles for social security.

In the field of regulations and increasing digitalization of services, the Ministry of AWJ's website contains various instructions for employers on how to apply for permits. Additionally, there is an Inspection Service that aims to eliminate exploitation, undeclared work, and other forms of irregularities through proactive measures. The primary challenge in implementation is related to institutional capacity and financial resources. Partly due to financial constraints, inspections are often limited to urban areas.

Regarding migrant (alien) workers, both the Mid-Term Labour Market Policy 2022-2025 and the National Migration Policy 2024-2030 provide the policy outline. Some of the national laws and regulations applicable

on migrant (alien) workers are (i) the Aliens Work Permit Act; (ii) the Ministerial Decision regarding the determination of the work permit request form; (iii) the Minimum Decision Test Basic Language Knowledge and Society, or as of 2023 known as the Induction Foreign Workforce, to protect aliens against human trafficking; (iv) the Ministerial Decision regarding groups of aliens “exempted” from a work permit; (v) the State Decree regarding CARICOM citizens’ exemption from work permits (according to Treaty of Chaguaramas). In the context of implementing Article 8, paragraph 2 of the ILO Convention on Private Employment Agencies, 2000 (no. 181), Suriname must maintain contacts with the sending countries that are sending migrant workers to Suriname. The aim is to prevent exploitation and illegality.

### **Challenges**

The availability and reliability of labour market data are crucial to achieving SDG 8. The Labour Market Policy highlights that Suriname struggles with data scarcity, limiting the ability to monitor trends accurately and assess policy impacts. The absence of comprehensive, up-to-date labour market statistics and economic indicators complicates evaluating progress towards SDG targets.

Suriname's economy remains heavily reliant on extractive industries, such as gold and oil, making it vulnerable to external shocks. The DWCP 2023-2026 acknowledges that economic downturns have led to an increase in informality in employment, exacerbating job insecurity and limiting access to social protection. These financial challenges complicate the evaluation of sustainable development efforts, requiring nuanced policy recommendations. Although efforts are being made towards institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, the fragmented nature of institutional responsibilities in Suriname often leads to inefficiencies. The lack of a centralized coordinating mechanism hinders effective data-sharing and policy alignment among different entities.

Significant disparities exist in access to employment, education, and social protection, particularly affecting youth, women, migrants and indigenous communities. The DWCP 2023-2026 emphasizes the need for inclusive policies, yet implementation gaps persist.

### **Opportunities**

The Government has made it a priority to execute a macro-economic policy with the emphasis on economic growth, diversification of the economy, and labour market reform through facilitation of employment opportunities. The Just Transition and Formalization processes are at the core of this priority, and the efforts will continue to enhance skills for green jobs while emphasizing employment opportunities in rural and interior areas of Suriname. Together with international partners and through social dialogue with the tripartite partners, labour market institutions will be strengthened to design and implement active labour market programmes targeting women, youth, persons with disabilities, and people living in rural and interior areas.

Strengthening existing training institutions and continuing technical and vocational training, as well as further developing micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises, especially in rural and interior areas, are key areas of intervention. This will encourage decrease of the isolation of rural populations through value chain development and the strengthening of the cooperative sector with an integrated approach. Policies will continue to focus on an entrepreneurial and investment climate that encourage and support economic activities on any scale, including an increased coverage of the Public Employment Service Units (PES). Strengthening legislative and labour-related policy frameworks will be enhanced, and the promotion of digital transformation and data collection innovations by investing in digital tools and labour market information systems is significant. Continue to address informality through policy, entrepreneurship and technical and vocational training is essential.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs (AWJ) is responsible for developing and implementing inclusive labour market policies, regulating and monitoring compliance with legal provisions on labour disputes and labour protection. In addition, the Ministry develops wage policies and regulations to ensure fair and decent pay for all and monitors a safe working environment for employers. The Ministry continues to promote entrepreneurship, upgrading and operationalizing a functional labour market information system, and combating unemployment, child labour, and social insecurity. Value chain development, implementing Just Transition and Formalization processes towards green jobs and continued technical and vocational training opportunities and support are key priorities.





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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 states	●

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



## Policy context and Progress

Suriname has improved infrastructure, promoted inclusive industrialization, and fostered innovation. These efforts are supported by national initiatives and international partnerships, focus on enhancing rural access to infrastructure and its associated benefits. Furthermore, initiatives to increase MSMEs' chances to optimize activity in domestic and global markets have succeeded. In the reporting for SDG 8, the Government's efforts towards Just Transition and Formalization have been highlighted. Increased arrivals and departures at Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport and Nickerie Port indicate improved connectivity and logistical capability. Mobile and fixed telephone lines increased 16% in 2021 compared to 2020, demonstrating possible advances in communications infrastructure and digital connection, which enable industrial activity and innovation. The industrial and manufacturing sector contributed 25.6% of Suriname's GDP as of 2023, demonstrating its strategic importance to the economy.

## Infrastructure development

To improve the rural population's access to infrastructure, the Ministry of Public Works has continued and initiated various projects since 2022. The implementation is facilitated by public-private partnerships, the use of domestic budgets and international loans for financing, and monitoring of infrastructure by the Ministry.

These projects regard:

1. The Suriname National Infrastructure Projects - Phase II (NIP), especially targeting rural and interior areas of Suriname;
2. Rehabilitation of the Saramacca Canal, improving water management in the canal by making optimal use of the existing infrastructure;
3. Reconstruction of 't Hogerhuysroad and surrounding roads, which is one of the most important roads connecting the rural areas in the east with Paramaribo, and also where the Port of Paramaribo is located. This project involves the reconstruction of the existing road, widening it from four to six lanes, and the construction of a new 3x2 lane road and a 2x3 lane bridge over the Saramacca crossing.
4. Rehabilitation East-West Connection in the Saramacca, Coronie and Nickerie districts, which

connects the east to the west of Suriname. This includes the continuation of rehabilitation and upgrading works on the road section.

5. Construction of the seawall along the Brantimakka road given the critical situation in the surrounding areas.
6. Dredging of the Suriname River by reprofiling and deepening of the shipping channel over a length of 68 km.

## Green infrastructure initiatives

1. Suriname launched the Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Transport (GRID) project, which aims to develop transport and infrastructure systems that have minimal impact on Suriname's biodiversity and ecosystems. This project is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM) and WWF Guianas, in consultation with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Public Works, Port Management, the Maritime Authority of Suriname (MAS), and the private sector.
2. Another initiative is the proposed second bridge over the Suriname River, aimed at reducing traffic and improving overall regional connectivity. The project is being implemented as a Public-Private Partnership, with the Ministry of Public Works having presented the Terms of Reference to interest private sector inclusion for its feasibility and execution.
3. Suriname is also developing a Waste-to-Energy Facility to improve waste processing by converting waste into energy and reducing the amount of waste going to landfills. The initiative is supported through technical and financial assistance from the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This approach encompasses studies aimed at strengthening the political, institutional, and legal framework for integrated waste management, as well as efforts to promote environmental awareness and implement educational campaigns.
4. The Green Development Strategy (GDS) 2025-2050 to promote sustainable economic growth, environmental protection and climate security, social inclusion, and good governance with institutional strengthening. Various economic scenarios have been modeled to find the best balance between growth and environmental

preservation. Emphasis is placed on strengthening the agricultural sector and employment, while minimizing deforestation risks. In addition, industrialization, ICT, tourism, and the financial sector are important sectors. To legally anchor the strategy, a GDS draft law will be submitted to the Parliament. Action plans will be developed for each sector and a geospatial intelligence hub will be established to support strategic decisions.

### **Inclusive industrialization and Enterprise development**

The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation (EZOTI) implements the Suriname Competitiveness and Sector Diversification (SCSD) Programme, financed by the World Bank. A key component is the SURGE programme, which aims to strengthen micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), promote value chain development, and support economic diversification in sectors such as mining, agriculture, and tourism. Since its launch in 2023, SURGE has supported 637 businesses with business development services and provided 56 enterprises with matching grants to upgrade their operations. The project emphasizes inclusivity, targeting women, and ITP entrepreneurs, and is projected to generate more than 2000 new jobs and USD 65 million in additional revenue. Training initiatives, such as European Union packaging and labeling workshops in the interior district of Brokopondo, further enhance export readiness and regional integration. The SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) Fund aims to facilitate Government support by providing access to credit for (starting) and small businesses. The support is particularly for production companies and production-supporting enterprises. The Fund makes affordable financing available for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs to expand their production capacity and create jobs in Suriname. According to the Ministry, these efforts will contribute to the smoother and more sustainable development of Suriname's economy.

### **Challenges**

Current data systems fall short in capturing production footprints sufficiently, especially those related to imported and exported items, including origin, quantity, and environmental effects. For example, calculating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of value added as an indicator of environmental efficiency in both GDP-wide and sector-specific settings requires precise records of fuel combustion emissions. Furthermore, there is no national database or inventory that tracks investments, projects, or outputs related to Research and Development (R&D).

Another limitation in Suriname's current statistical and industrial classification systems is the absence of precise segmentation between small-scale, medium-

tech, and high-tech industries. Therefore, strategic industrial planning, as well as the tracking of resource efficiency and sustainability indicators, could be negatively affected.

### **Opportunities**

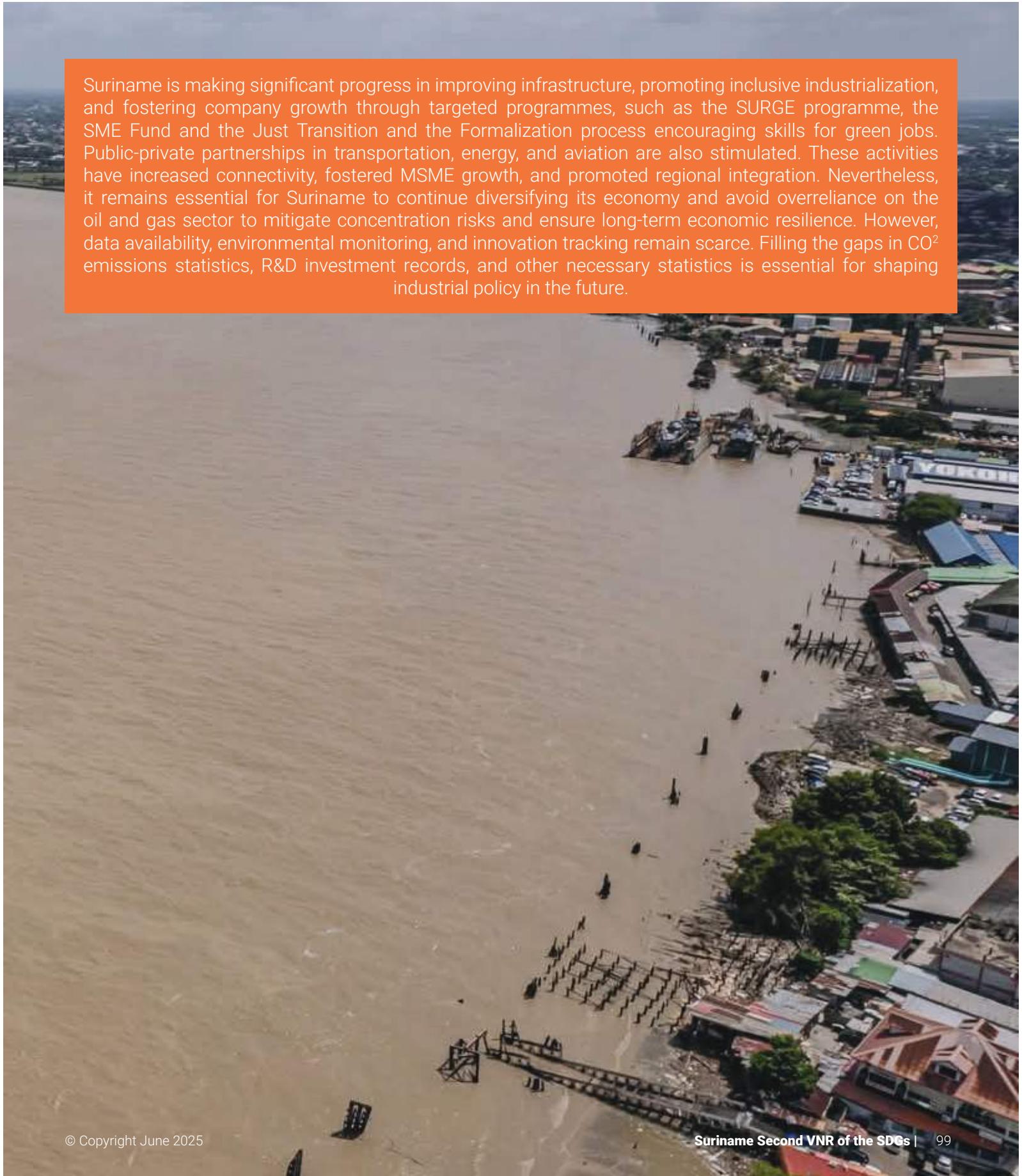
1. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation (EZOTI) is exploring the continuation and expansion of the SURGE programme as part of the broader SCSD programme, in collaboration with the World Bank. With legislative support currently in preparation for submission to Parliament, this could be an opportunity to institutionalize the achievements so far and ensure the long-term sustainability of entrepreneurial and MSME support programmes.
2. Recent dialogue between the Ministry of EZOTI and the CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) marks an opportunity to boost intra-regional trade and attract new investments. Consultations with local producers, including paint manufacturers and pig farmers, underscore the demand for Surinamese products within the region. With planned support for increasing production capacity, Surinamese businesses can become more competitive within the CARICOM market, especially in agriculture, agro-processing, and light manufacturing.
3. The commissioning of modern machinery at NV Amea Cashew and Pineapple Industries in the interior district of Brokopondo, financed under the SURGE programme, highlights the potential of decentralized industrial development. This investment strengthens agro-processing capacity and stimulates employment, infrastructure use, and entrepreneurship in the Interior.
4. The Ministry of EZOTI also promotes market transparency by regularly publishing guide prices for basic and strategic goods on its website and social media, which contributes to more equitable pricing and enables informed decision-making for producers and consumers, supporting trade planning.
5. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Public Works and the recently operationalized Eduard Alexander Gummels Airport (EAG) represents a concrete opportunity to modernize aviation infrastructure through public-private partnerships. The installation of a state-of-the-art meteorological station, aligned with ICAO/WMO standards, will enhance flight safety and operational efficiency, with positive spillover effects for logistics, tourism, and investment in Suriname.
6. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands continues to provide Suriname with guidance on infrastructure modernization and climate adaptation, including

specifications such as integrated water infrastructure and coastal defense technologies.

7. The anticipated growth of Suriname's offshore oil and gas sector represents a transformative opportunity to finance and scale infrastructure and industrial development. Strategic investments in transport corridors, logistics hubs, processing

8. zones, and workforce development will also be necessary to meet the sector's demands.

8. The Just Transition and Formalization processes that have been initiated towards encouraging skills for green jobs and employment.



Suriname is making significant progress in improving infrastructure, promoting inclusive industrialization, and fostering company growth through targeted programmes, such as the SURGE programme, the SME Fund and the Just Transition and the Formalization process encouraging skills for green jobs. Public-private partnerships in transportation, energy, and aviation are also stimulated. These activities have increased connectivity, fostered MSME growth, and promoted regional integration. Nevertheless, it remains essential for Suriname to continue diversifying its economy and avoid overreliance on the oil and gas sector to mitigate concentration risks and ensure long-term economic resilience. However, data availability, environmental monitoring, and innovation tracking remain scarce. Filling the gaps in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions statistics, R&D investment records, and other necessary statistics is essential for shaping industrial policy in the future.

## 5.9.1 Suriname's oil and gas sector in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals

The global energy transition is at a pivotal moment. As the international community intensifies efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pivot toward renewable energy, emerging oil and gas producers like Suriname face a dual challenge: harnessing hydrocarbon resources for economic development while maintaining a strong commitment to sustainability and the SDGs. Suriname's recent offshore discoveries - especially the landmark 'GranMorgu' project in Block 58 - represent a turning point in national development strategy. This thematic paragraph explores how Suriname's energy developments intersect with key SDGs, offering both opportunities and challenges in achieving a sustainable future.

### A Transformative Energy Opportunity

Suriname, historically reliant on gold, bauxite, and timber, has long struggled with fiscal imbalances and external debt pressures. However, significant offshore oil discoveries since 2020 have the potential to reshape its economic landscape. These include finds

by APA Corporation and TotalEnergies in Block 58, as well as subsequent discoveries in Blocks 52 and 53 by Petronas, ExxonMobil, and APA Corporation.

The centerpiece of this new energy era is the 'GranMorgu' development, which targets over 750 million barrels of recoverable reserves and anticipates first oil in 2028. Staatsolie, the state-owned oil company, has secured a 20% equity stake in the \$12.2 billion project, a move financed through a major bond issuance in early 2025.

The sector's growth trajectory is underscored by exploration successes in adjacent blocks and the strategic positioning of Suriname along the prolific Guyana-Suriname Basin, suggesting production could reach 650,000 barrels per day by 2032. Parallel to these developments is the launch of the "Royalty's Voor Iedereen" (RVI) initiative, which promises direct citizen benefit from oil royalties - an innovative model for equitable wealth distribution.

#### Aligning Oil and Gas with the SDGs

Despite global calls to reduce fossil fuel dependency, Suriname views its hydrocarbon sector as a catalyst for achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals - provided development is managed prudently and inclusively.



Suriname's oil revenues have the potential to lift significant segments of the population out of poverty, especially if invested in public services, infrastructure, and inclusive economic programs. The RVI scheme represents a direct cash-transfer mechanism that could reduce inequality and enhance financial inclusion. However, avoiding the pitfalls of the "Resource Curse" requires a diversification strategy that prioritizes job creation in non-oil sectors and safeguards macroeconomic stability.



One of the key enablers of long-term development is education. As Suriname ramps up oil production, there is a critical need to invest in technical and vocational education (TVET), especially in fields aligned with the energy sector - such as engineering, geology, environmental science, and logistics. Staatsolie and its partners have taken initial steps to encourage and support educational programmes, scholarships, and capacity building for a future-ready workforce.



The oil sector will necessitate the development of roads, ports, and ICT systems, many of which can have wider economic benefits. GranMorgu and related projects are already stimulating demand for auxiliary services and industrial support. There is a unique opportunity to integrate innovation—such as digital monitoring, low-flaring technologies, and remote operations—into infrastructure development that benefits other sectors as well.



Suriname has long been a global environmental leader, with over 90% forest cover and net carbon-negative status. Maintaining this leadership while developing hydrocarbons is an immense challenge. Emission-reduction technologies, strict environmental impact assessments, and reinvesting oil revenues into renewable energy infrastructure are non-negotiable. A strong regulatory framework will ensure that oil development does not reverse the country's climate progress. The Government should also explore how carbon offsetting, green bonds, and renewable energy investments can be embedded within national oil policy - using fossil fuel revenues as a bridge to a greener future. In the Green Development Strategy Suriname 2025-2050, various economic scenarios have been developed for the implementation of the goals set in the Strategy, which attempt to find an optimal balance between growth and environmental protection.



The involvement of global energy firms like TotalEnergies, Petronas, APA Corporation, and ExxonMobil demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships. These partnerships provide capital, technology, and international best practices. However, it is crucial that these arrangements also deliver value for Suriname through local content, training, knowledge transfer, and revenue transparency. Multilateral cooperation - particularly with development banks, the UN system, and regional climate finance mechanisms - can support sustainable investment in climate resilience, renewable energy, and human development, making SDG 17 a cornerstone of the oil strategy.

### Challenges and Mitigation measures

1. Suriname must navigate several critical risks:
2. Economic overreliance on oil could destabilize other sectors, particularly agriculture and tourism.
3. Environmental degradation poses long-term threats to biodiversity, water quality, and fisheries.
4. Social inequality could be exacerbated if oil revenues are unevenly distributed.
5. Governance capacity must be strengthened to manage complex financial flows and regulatory oversight.

### Key mitigation strategies include

1. Establishing a sovereign wealth fund with clear rules on investment, stabilization, and intergenerational equity.
2. Strengthening environmental institutions to monitor offshore activity and enforce compliance.
3. Ensuring transparent procurement and revenue reporting in line with EITI (Extractive Industries

4. Transparency Initiative) standards.
4. Encouraging citizen participation in oversight, particularly through community monitoring mechanisms and civil society engagement.

### Conclusion: A Balanced Path Forward

Suriname's entry into the league of oil-producing nations comes at a time of global energy transition. While fossil fuel development is not the world's preferred long-term direction, it can—if managed wisely—serve as a springboard toward a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development path. The government's challenge is to use the proceeds of today's resources to build tomorrow's economy—one rooted in human capital, innovation, clean energy, and environmental stewardship. Suriname has an opportunity to demonstrate that it is possible for an emerging oil state to embrace SDG-aligned development, safeguard its natural heritage, and ensure that prosperity reaches all its citizens.





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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 financial 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 to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions	●
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 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, by 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



### Policy context and Progress

The Government's strategies have been to reduce inequalities by prioritizing social protection, community development, and legal reforms that protect and support vulnerable populations. Strategic efforts were made to mitigate the disadvantages faced by households affected by macro-economic crises. The objectives of SDG 10 have been mainstreamed across various national policies, including the Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022–2026, the social policy including the National Social Protection Strategy 2024–2030 (NSPS), the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021–2035, the Labour Market Policy 2022–2025, as well as the Health and Education policies. The core of these frameworks and policies emphasize inclusion, equity, and social protection and security, particularly for marginalized groups such as Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs), persons with disabilities, women, and vulnerable youth. The 'Deep dive study into Suriname's Social Protection System' and the 'Comprehensive review of the Social Protection System of Suriname' provided profound insight into the main challenges and opportunities for policymakers to manage and track the progress of Suriname's actions regarding national social protection systems.

As mentioned under SDG 1, the Government increased the amounts of the social assistance programmes, and targeted financial support to vulnerable households. To mitigate the effects of the gradual phase-out of object subsidies for electricity, gas, fuel, water, food, and medicines, the Koopkracht Versterking (KKV) programme was introduced, which provides monthly cash transfers to over 120,000 eligible individuals, including older people (aged 60 and above), persons with disabilities, and low-income households. Public investments were made to strengthen digital financial inclusion through tools like the Moni Karta (bank card). At the same time, access to basic healthcare was expanded through increased coverage of the basic health insurance (BAZO). Legal reforms related to land title conversion allow households to access formal credit systems, promoting asset accumulation and economic resilience. Additionally, in consultation with social partners and trade unions, the minimum wage has increased periodically over the past years. The Government also established special commissions to enhance its social programmes delivery and the National Housing Construction Programme. Price limits on basic goods and support to families to purchase baby food during the crisis period were

introduced. In total, spending on social protection accounted for approximately 4.3% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Government is also implementing numerous projects in local communities, with the aim to strengthen them. Through two main programmes: the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) and the 'Buurten en Gemeenschapsprojecten (neighbourhood and community) programma' (BGP), more than 87 projects have been completed or are in progress. These projects focus on improving roads, providing clean water and electricity, rehabilitating schools, and vocational training, and creating employment opportunities in rural areas.

Over SRD 70 million has been invested, being funding from the Government, the Caribbean Development Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, the Alcoa Foundation, and Newmont Mining Corporation.

To reach people in remote communities, the Ministry of Defense and the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR), executed the civil-military operation 'Gran Mati' with a recurring character. Through this operation, eye care and medical missions, supported by the U.S. military, are executed. To encourage a community-based approach, local neighbourhood commissions were initiated by the President to report and respond to problems in the neighbourhoods.

Specific programmes are being implemented to directly support Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs), such as the joint programme 'Leave No One Behind, Building Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) in Suriname', which supports the well-being and rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) through a human rights-based approach. The ASTA programme also targets ITP farmers, with special attention for female farmers. The Just Transition and Formalization processes towards skills for green jobs have been piloted in ITP villages. Legislation to guarantee collective rights of ITPs has been drafted and submitted for approval to the Parliament.

## **Perspective of the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)**

The **Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)** believes that the rights and interests of ITPs must be structurally recognized and protected in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). VIDS emphasizes the importance of a human rights-based approach in all national policies and development programmes. Their legal recognition must be guaranteed, not just in words but through actual legislation and legal certainty. The organization states that effective SDG implementation for ITPs is only possible if their collective rights are legally recognized, in line with international standards, and fully integrated into national policy measures, while also increasing public pressure to place human rights at the center. VIDS plays an active role in promoting the SDGs, especially through participation in the national SDG Platform and the implementation of community-focused projects. This includes lobbying and advocating for collective land rights, (cultural) education (such as language preservation, cultural identity, traditional healing methods and homework support), food security, climate resilience, biodiversity, violence against women and children, gender equality, water and electrification, business skills for women and strengthening the traditional authority system. VIDS has led projects to train Indigenous women to address violence and created systems to report and track such cases at the village level. The organization will be networking with the local police and other service organization for improved handling of cases.

With regard to actively participating and being involved in major policy issues, the VIDS is of the opinion that this can be improved. Although they are increasingly being invited to participate in policy discussions, this involvement is often not equal or well-structured. The VIDS noted that their own limited capacity makes it challenging to participate in all the discussions and events regarding policy that could have a great impact on the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. However, in their opinion the Government actors should have a different approach in engaging with the ITPs to enable them to have a say in policy decisions and how the policies will impact the traditional customs and structures in the communities and the collective land rights. For example, in recent events, Indigenous communities have often been left out of important climate change and carbon-credit decisions and projects. They are sometimes only informed after agreements have been made; this violates the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Many Government and donor-led projects fail to match the needs of Indigenous communities because they are designed

with urban conditions in mind. Furthermore, VIDS is often treated as a symbolic partner, without adequate funding or capacity support. Recent entrepreneurial and production projects have led to challenges within the traditional structures and customs in the communities, or ITPs have not been fully able to participate because of the limitations to information and accessibility. Therefore, there is still a gap between policy and practice. Collective land rights are not recognized yet in national laws, making it hard to achieve goals like reducing inequality (SDG 10) or ensuring effective climate actions (SDG 13). VIDS has also pointed out that their governance systems are not respected in national decision-making, which further limits meaningful participation. VIDS emphasizes that the human rights-based approach should be adhered. To overcome these challenges, VIDS recommends proper monitoring of SDG progress with technical and financial support; inclusive policies that respect collective land rights and the traditional governance system; proper implementation of FPIC; stronger partnerships with international and civil society groups; and more investment in building the capacity of VIDS and village leaders.

## **Cylene France, Max Ooft and Josee Artist, VIDS officials**

## **Perspective of the Collaboration of Tribal Peoples in Suriname - KAMPOS**

In the opinion of the Director of the **Collaboration of Tribal Peoples in Suriname - KAMPOS**, the legal recognition of the collective rights of the ITPs are intertwined with the full exercise of the SDGs e.g. access to safe drinking water, food security, housing accommodations, access to health and education. The purpose of the SDGs is inherent to the collective rights of the ITPs. This is also closely connected to the right of legal personality and self-determination. The main point of concern is that the legal recognition of the collective rights has not been secured, so the full experience of SDGs by the ITPs cannot be exercised.

With regard to policy initiatives towards development of local communities, KAMPOS has been engaged in the past years, in the Government of Suriname and United Nations joint programme 'Leave No One Behind, Building Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) in Suriname', through which KAMPOS worked on water and sanitation projects and economic resilience of local communities in the Marowijne, Matawi and Upper Suriname areas. Women in the communities learned how to make face masks and were provided with sewing machines. Subsequently, the women were trained in dressmaking and setting

up a small business. With support of the United Nations system, KAMPOS initiated the rehabilitation of water supply installations in the New Aurora and Pikin Slee areas, and food security initiatives through training of the communities in growing highland rice in the Wita Gron area. KAMPOS also worked with government actors on water supply installations in other local communities.

KAMPOS - together with the local communities - are actively involved in raising awareness on the issue of surface water pollution of the main water reservoir in Suriname, since the water is used by the local communities for fishing, water supply and other means.

Due to gold mining and activities of other extractive industries, there is a lot of pollution in the water which causes health problems and concerns for the safety of drinking water.

The broader safety and security in the communities is sometime compromised. Due to the activities related to the extractive industries and gold mining, persons from other areas enter the living environment of the communities with for example heavy weapons which is very intimidating for the local population. This brings a concerning security situation for the communities, and they are of the opinion that they are not able to live freely in their own environment.

With regard to development in the areas where Tribal Peoples are residing, access to education and health care remain key concerns. Teachers' availability, teachers' housing, adequate drinking water as well as security issues hamper access to education. It should be noted that teachers are coming from urban areas to live in the communities and provide education. It takes months before the teachers can return to the schools and it is very common that schools start months after the holidays. There are different interruptions in the education process leading to increased educational disadvantages. Language barriers for children remain persistent since Dutch is not the main language for children in the Interior areas. For continued education - after primary education - children have to move to the urban areas Paramaribo or Wanica, posing challenges for them. Some initiatives have been taken establish vocational and junior secondary education facilities in the Interior, but have not had

the impact yet since there are many challenges in the operationalization of these facilities.

Another concern is that after the children and youth move out to the urban areas, they do not return to the communities for longer stay because there is no employment, and there are limited facilities and development opportunities. Given the circumstances in the Interior areas, the education system should be tailored taking into account the circumstances, because one size does not fit all.

When it comes to health services, the Medical Mission Primary Health Care Suriname - which is a private entity - provides primary health care services. However, in events of more complicated health issues, the persons have to pay very high costs to reach urban areas for medical treatment. In the past, some expenses were covered by the Government, however this option is hardly available anymore.

KAMPOS continues to lobby and advocate for the collective rights and implement projects to support the communities. The people living in the Interior areas of Suriname are also citizens, so they should have all development possibilities also. For example, youth will enter into sectors that can be dangerous for them because there are no immediate education options, and they have to earn money. There should be programmes to work with them and give them appropriate training; 'we are growing a generation that is uneducated; basic skills for reading and math but also basic life skills are therefore lacking'.

#### **Renatha Simson, Director**

*In conclusion, both VIDS and KAMPOS emphasize that Suriname cannot achieve sustainable development unless Indigenous and Tribal Peoples are being heard, have a say and are included as rights-holders, with full recognition of their rights, knowledge, traditional systems, and collective self-determination in all development efforts. If the collective rights are not legally recognized, the implementation of the SDGs will not be fully exercised, and the principle of 'leave no one behind' is not guaranteed.*

To support economic inclusion, the vocational training programmes executed by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs, the SURGE programme, the SME and NOFA fund, the BNTF and 'Buurten en Gemeenschapsprojecten', and other initiatives offer training opportunities as well as credit and market access to small and medium businesses, with a particular focus on women, youth and rural communities.

Legislation for the establishment of the Children's Ombudsburg, based on the Paris Principles, passed the Parliament in November 2024. The Ombudsburg plays a crucial role in monitoring and promoting children's rights. The operationalization of the Bureau

has been initiated and preparations for logistics and staffing are currently undertaken. The Bureau will supervise, receive and investigate complaints, and advise public and private institutions to ensure that the rights of children in Suriname are upheld and strengthened. With this law, Suriname emphasizes its commitment to the rights and well-being of children.

Civil society organizations in Suriname working with and in communities and with vulnerable populations have a crucial role in the efforts to reduce inequalities. Their work supports the implementation of the SDGs with the objective to 'leave no one behind'. The work of some of these organizations is highlighted below.

**The Pater Ahlbrinck foundation (PAS)** is working on development of communities in the Interior areas of Suriname in a sustainable manner through an integrated programme of activities. The strategies applied are (i) building capacity (out of school education, personal development and (vocational) training) of communities, (ii) developing and stimulating local entrepreneurship and (iii) enhancing economic market opportunities for these entrepreneurs. The PAS also operates as an intermediary between the communities and other organizations. The programmes that are executed are demand driven, since the PAS assesses with the local communities what their needs are.

In one of the recent programmes the PAS implemented with partner organizations, workplaces were set up where youth received vocational training. Approximately 100 young people between 16-24 years were trained and have either started working for themselves or work for an employer, or in some cases even went back to school.

Additionally, the PAS worked on small grants programmes to enhance the skills of farmers of acai berries in quality standards and strengthening their skills in business operations. This process enabled the farmers to maximize their output and have a competitive position in the market.

Through another programme, solar panels were set up to support local female entrepreneurs in Indigenous communities with their business operations. This provided them the opportunity to increase the volume of their products.

The PAS also works with organizations of persons with a visual and/or hearing impairment, and supports with training and education for these target groups. Partnership with other CSOs is an important mechanism for the PAS to reach its target groups and effectively implement its programmes. In the PAS' view, more information and communication about the SDGs should be provided; that is a national cause since all levels of society must be aware of and understand the SDGs. At national level, a SDG roadmap and implementation structure is necessary to ultimately reach the goal of 'leave no one behind'. Investments in data gathering and -analysis are a pre-condition to be able to determine the baseline and measure progress. Therefore, the PAS calls for increased sensitization about the SDGs, especially on local level and establishing a mechanism for oversight of implementation and measuring progress.

**Christien Naarden, Director**

The **Bureau for Services to NGOs (BFN)** contributes professionally to capacity strengthening and the economic development of grassroots communities and organizations. This is done through training, guidance, project development, and fundraising for target groups. BFN is a respected partner of various social groups because it endorses and applies the core principles of sustainable human development. From a human rights perspective, the principles of

gender equality, equal opportunities for youth, and inclusive strategies are implemented both within the organization and in the planning and execution of all interventions. The direct target group consists of communities in rural areas or districts and groups living in disadvantaged situations in the city who need assistance in building their community or neighborhood. The organization also works with local government at district level.



Recent projects of BFN focused on (i) poverty reduction and sustainable development, (ii) community development and gender equality, and (iii) economic resilience. BFN works with national and international partners to execute its projects. BFN has international partners which support with technical expertise and funding, but the organization also collaborates with national partners.

To enhance community development, BFN has a Growth Fund for small entrepreneurs of the different regions of Suriname. The organization has also implemented the Kas Moni+ (Cash+) initiative in Interior regions of Suriname, through which persons can deposit every month and take a small loan after some time. It should be noted that through this initiative, financial inclusion was also promoted to encourage community members to open bank accounts.

Women empowerment with emphasis on gender equality and economic resilience is one of the core areas of expertise of BFN. Economic resilient women have increased opportunities to support their families. Women are supported to start up a small business and guided in preparing a business plan until business operation and production. BFN also works on establishing cooperative associations. In the process of women empowerment, BFN also encourages economic activities in the field of (i) agro-processing, (ii) tourism, and (iii) hospitality.

Strengthening the product value chain including ISO certification is another strategy to encourage the business ventures and export options for the small and medium entrepreneurs in the communities. This has proven a successful since there are entrepreneurs that export to the Netherlands and Belgium.

Access to water and sanitation facilities in remote areas is a necessity; in this regard, BFN has been working with UNICEF and PAHO to look into models that are applicable and sustainable in these areas. Pilots have been executed to assess if the models can be replicated in other areas.

BFN is executing the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Change Nickerie! Plus project for the rural district of Nickerie and neighbouring Indigenous communities in the district of Sipaliwini. The target groups include (government) organizations, social workers, health care providers, education professionals, youth, local community organizations and community leaders. The project promotes gender equality and interventions to reduce domestic and gender-

related violence. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, the emphasis was on improvement of capacity of key stakeholders and enhance the integrated service system to provide prevention training, awareness, and emergency services in the area of gender equality, domestic and gender-based violence. For example, assistant counsellors and confidants (confidential advisors) were trained, but also enhanced capacity to provide legal and police assistance to victims was taken up. The focus was also on increased resilience of women, children, and youth to survive and prevent ending up in the cycle of domestic and gender-based violence.

Facilities for victims have been established with local NGOs. A successful lobby was undertaken to improve the efficiency of the execution of the protection order in the district of Nickerie, which resulted in a new partnership with the Public Prosecution Office. BFN and UNICEF also recently decided to promote joint actions in Nickerie, to promote synergy. Another important aspect of the project is the publication and dissemination of training materials and informational sessions, aimed at sharing insights and stimulating a national prevention model. In this way, BFN aims for a sustainable, broad impact in the fight against domestic and gender-based violence in Suriname. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the expansion of the interventions will be taken up and the geographical area of work will be expanded.

In the collaboration with the Government, BFN supported the coordination of the Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation Fund of the Cabinet of the Vice-President, which financed community development projects aiming at youth, women and children development nationwide.

Through its work BFN gives substance to the implementation of the SDGs. In the organization's view, national level coordination of the implementation of the SDGs is not sufficiently visible. To enhance monitoring of progress made, data availability still remains an area of concern. The prioritization of the SDGs for Suriname needs to be clear, what are the Government's highest priority SDGs and what strategies and partnerships will be utilized to reach the targets of these SDGs. Human resources and institutional capacity continue to be a challenge for all stakeholders. Therefore, a coherent and collaborative approach is much needed.

**Sheila Ketwaru, Director and Roshan Dalger, Project Manager**

**New Monday Foundation** is an organization that focuses on health, education, and social welfare for youth in Suriname, to create a respectful and inclusive society for all youth, more specifically for LGBTQ youth. The organization's interventions concern raising awareness, training and informative sessions for teachers, police officers, health workers and other stakeholders, but also training for youth themselves to understand and be vocal about their rights. Other activities of the organization are creating a safe space for children and youth, and girls' empowerment.

LGBTQ youth face challenges in different situations, either being in school, at home, in the community, in health care centers, where it is often required that a parent or guardian accompanies the young person. 'As organizations you can raise awareness and sensitize, however it is necessary to institutionalize and structure the human rights-based approach in training and school curricula and national legislation'. It has been observed during the training and sessions with different stakeholder groups that people integrate their personal views in their work. This leads to a certain attitude and even to bullying and rejection. Important is to work towards institutionalization of basic human rights in curricula and legislation. The Constitution

of Suriname specifically mentions that no one should be discriminated, however this takes place subtle or overt. Human rights of everyone should be adhered and the Government must ensure regulations to guarantee that non-discrimination and inclusivity are in place. The Government needs to provide more support and improve collaboration with civil society. As NGOs, you have to survive on funding from abroad, whereas there needs to be a commitment for financial and technical support, but also infrastructural support.

Civil society can provide policy advice since there is enough information available with them that can be used in policy formulation. More partnerships between the Government and civil society are recommended.

For example, in the project 'stop bullying' for teachers, the Government provides exemptions to teachers to attend the training. However, participation in the training is voluntary; this needs to be structured and not optional. If we really want significant changes, we need more legislation and policy that consider and integrate human rights.

**Mylene Pocorni, Senior Project Manager**





Suriname has ratified several 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 the 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

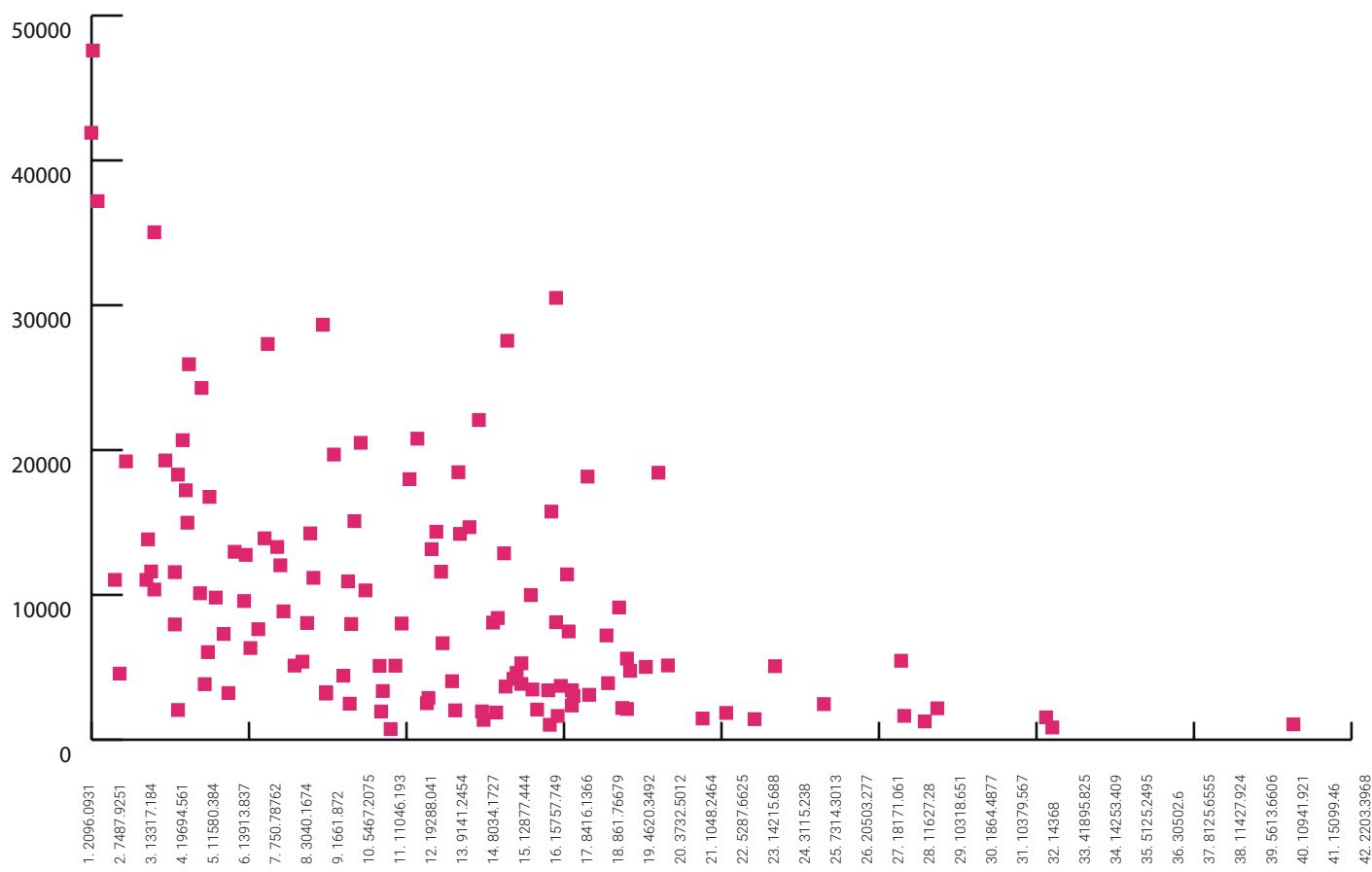
11. The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography

Furthermore, Suriname has enacted several key laws and policies to support Sustainable Development Goal 10. In 2023, the Parliament adopted a law to implement the ILO Recommendation No. 205 on employment and decent work, which protects vulnerable groups, including women, and displaced persons. It demonstrates Suriname's commitment to fairness and decent work, even during times of crises. Figure 21 illustrates that a relatively low labour market attachment among women can be observed across all educational levels, but is more pronounced at lower levels of education. Several legal frameworks have also been established to promote equality and fairness. The Equal Treatment Labour Act (2022) eliminates discrimination in the workplace based on race, gender, ethnicity, or disability. The Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act (2022) protects and establishes complaint mechanisms. Additionally, recent reforms to the Constitution and Civil Code of Suriname have strengthened social rights and equality. As the 2024 World Bank study (see Figure 22) points out, the majority of women aged 20-24 years who married by the age of 18 have relatively lower earnings (here illustrated with GDP per capita).

**Figure 21 Labour market status by education level and gender (% of population)**



**Figure 22 Women first married by age 18 (percent of women ages 20-24)**



Source: World Bank 2024, SSLC 2022

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation (BIBIS) has established the Interministerial Committee on International Migration and is collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Projects under this cooperation include training for policymakers, assisting returning migrants, and planning for circular migration, such as nurses working abroad. The Suriname Migrant Situation Analysis was conducted in 2023, which led to drafting of the National Migration Policy 2024-2030. By structuring the Policy through main domains dealing with labour mobility, proper living conditions of migrants, ensuring public order, enforcement and protection of human rights, eradication of human trafficking and establishing efficient communication and information systems, a clear and systematic implementation of target 10.7 can be realized. In addition, the Policy also references to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 16. New laws to support migrants and refugees are in the pipeline.

Contributions, in the form of implemented projects from the Ministry of BIBIS to SDG 10.7 are:

- Establishment of an Interministerial Committee on International Migration to coordinate migration-related policy and implementation across ministries.

- EMM (essentials of migration management) Level Up (2023): capacity-building training conducted by IOM to strengthen policymakers' competencies in migration governance.
- Regarding the return and reintegration of nationals, an operational committee was established from 2023 to 2024, which processed over 25 cases in 2024. Treaties for return arrangements were also signed with the Benelux countries on February 14, 2025.
- Support for the Cartagena Declaration (Chile, 2024), which provided political and institutional support for regional refugee rights agreements.
- Facilitation of work and residence permits (2024): information sessions were held for businesses and diplomatic missions to ease procedures.
- The IOM established its physical offices in 2024, and the UNHCR engagement process commenced.
- Key analytical reports completed and made available by IOM to guide future migration policy, for example, the Migration Governance Indicator -MGI (2022) & Migration Governance Needs Assessment Suriname (2021).

Some other initiatives that Suriname is working on include several ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at improving migration policy. These include

raising awareness about international migration and preparations for implementing the National Migration Policy, as well as setting up the Migration Authority. A booklet containing information for migrants has been prepared as a guide for them when entering Suriname. Draft advice has been prepared for the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, and a circular migration project for nurses is being developed with Belgium. Discussions are also underway to improve the asylum system with the assistance of UNHCR. Overall, the country is establishing a more effective national framework for managing migration.

### **Challenges**

Despite the progress made, Suriname still faces numerous challenges in reducing inequality. One of the most significant problems is that social assistance programmes are coordinated by different ministries and agencies, making them hard to manage and less effective. Weak institutions are another challenge. Many government agencies lack sufficient staff and resources, hindering their implementation of reform. A national social beneficiaries' registry is not operational yet, which hinders the proper identification and provision of assistance to those who need it most. Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) continue to face inequality. Their communities often lack adequate access to education, healthcare, employment, and other facilities. They also struggle with the acknowledgment of collective rights and have minimal legal protection. Although ITPs are the rightful owners of their land, they are systematically excluded from key decision-making. Additionally, many people in rural and interior areas have limited internet access, which limits their opportunities for online learning and employment. Migration-related programmes, like those that support returning migrants or improve the asylum process, are often delayed or underfunded. Social and cultural barriers also persist (see Figures 21 and 22). Vulnerable groups such as LGBTQ individuals, people with disabilities, women of rural and interior areas, and ITPs continue to experience discrimination

and exclusion. Legal aid is available in some places, but men and women in rural and interior regions often have little access to them. Overall, Suriname requires stronger coordination, increased funding, and improved monitoring to fully support inclusive development and ensure no one is left behind.

### **Opportunities**

Despite the numerous challenges, Suriname has enough opportunities to make more rapid progress in reducing inequality. The country's growing oil and gas sector could generate funds for a national Savings and Stabilization Fund, which would aim to equalize the distribution of wealth. This Fund could help finance inclusive development, reduce reliance on donors, and ensure sustained long-term support for social programmes.

The draft Framework Law on Collective Rights can protect the collective, land, culture, and leadership rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs), addressing long-standing injustices. Other laws against discrimination and those aimed at implementing equal pay create legal tools for people to claim their rights and participate fully in society. Labour and entrepreneur programmes also provide mechanisms for reducing inequalities. Practical programmes are being developed to enhance education in rural and interior areas by training teachers, utilizing digital tools, upgrading school facilities, and providing students with meals and uniforms. Efforts focusing on raising awareness about human rights, gender equality and the protection of children remain essential mechanisms for demanding attention to inequalities.

Working with the UN system in Suriname, CARICOM, international partners, bilateral relations, and the diaspora brings technical know-how, funding, and shared experiences. At the same time, empowering local communities, youth training, agriculture, and targeted programmes for ITPs can directly reduce inequality and contribute to long-term development.



Suriname is progressing toward creating a more inclusive society by addressing disparities and helping those who need support the most. The country is providing assistance to vulnerable populations including Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs), women, persons with disabilities, and low-income families, through improved access to basic services, stronger social protection, and legislation aiming to promote justice. The Government is committed to leaving no one behind, as seen by community initiatives, support for small and medium enterprises, and attempts to make healthcare and technology more widely available. Still, challenges remain, especially in rural and interior areas where access to opportunities is limited, and the community still feels unheard. Suriname may achieve a more equitable future for everyone by investing in local communities, maximizing its natural resources effectively, and cooperating with international partners.



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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 11 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



### **Policy context and Progress**

Access to housing is one of the Government's primary policy priorities. The National Housing Construction Programme 2023-2025 was launched, creating low-cost credit facilities for the community, cultivating plots, and constructing houses. This initiative also involves guiding and monitoring housing construction, as well as establishing a legal framework for housing development. The primary objective is to make private housing construction accessible to middle-income groups at affordable interest rates. Approximately 2500 building plots have been developed, and through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), another 2500 plots have been prepared in different urban and rural locations in Suriname. Although the Programme aims at the broader community, the Government has dedicated a specific percentage of the housing construction to accommodate senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the Affordable Housing Programme - supported by an international partner – was launched and is currently being implemented. The aim is to enable less affluent households, with a certain income level, to increasingly improve their housing situation by providing financial support for the construction, rehabilitation, or extension of their own house situated on a plot in their name, or a plot allocated through the Programme. The financial support is provided in addition to their own contribution or a possible loan via a commercial bank. Notably, the Programme has a special provision for residents of villages in the interior areas of Suriname, and 40 percent of the houses to be constructed will be allocated to single women. A strong component of the Programme is that it works through community-based organizations, making it easily accessible for those living in rural and interior areas of Suriname.

The Government also implemented the land conversion programme, which provides citizens with the opportunity to convert domain land up to 2 hectares, which is issued for forty years but still owned by the Government, to property. This contributes to legal certainty on land for citizens, promotes housing construction and economic activities, and reduces informal land occupation.

One of the milestones for the Government is the formulation of a structural vision for the country's long-term spatial development for the period 2025-2050, providing a basis for sustainable social and economic development. With this structural vision, the Government aims to achieve sustainable development in an integrated and targeted manner. It's worth mentioning that the Sustainable Development Goals were used as the starting point for formulating the vision. This vision describes how the spatial development of the country can be achieved, and is defined on a district and regional basis to create subsequent structural and zoning plans. Inherent to this vision, the land development standards and guidelines for all sectors were drafted. These standards and procedures will contribute to enhancing the country's resilient economic growth through sustainable and responsible spatial planning. Areas must be designed in such a way that facilities are easily accessible and should be located as close as possible to the residential area. Spaces for utilities and green regions are created for a pleasant and healthy living environment. In addition, green areas for recreation are taken into account, serving as a demarcation between, for example, residential areas and industrial zones. Training of key institutions in the country responsible for land management, forestry, forest conservation, agriculture and public and development works has taken place, and the gradual implementation of the standards and guidelines has been initiated.

The Government also launched the Geo-spatial Intelligence Hub, in which spatial data is collected and analyzed to support policy development. This facilitates the development of plans and decision-making on land use, providing valuable insights for specific issues, such as soil conditions or the presence of mercury.

The afore-mentioned initiatives align with the Green Development Strategy 2025-2050, an ambitious plan that serves as a roadmap to a sustainable future in which economic development and environmental protection are integrated.

The Strategy is of utmost importance in Suriname's path towards the envisioned oil and gas developments, considering the necessary measures to guarantee

forest conservation and implement climate-resilient policies. The Government also drafted the required legislation on spatial planning and the green development strategy, which will complement the existing Environmental Framework. The draft legislation is pending approval. Another step towards regional spatial planning and development is the concept of 'compact cities'. One case model in a rural area has been developed to identify the benefits and determine how this model can be replicated in other regions of the country.

Initial steps to assess the possibilities of 'green-gray' infrastructure through the conservation and restoration of nature, including natural coastal buffers such as mangroves, using conventional approaches, such as concrete dams and seawalls, have been taken. Further research and exchange of experiences with other countries in the region are being explored to identify Suriname's possibilities with this methodology.

To enhance access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, the project "planting one million trees in 5 years" was launched in collaboration with private partners, and by involving local communities in planting trees and maintaining public spaces.

Suriname does not have an overarching heritage law, but there are some specific laws that focus on the protection of cultural and natural heritage. Examples of these are the Monuments Act (2002) and the Nature Conservation Act (1954). In addition, Suriname ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2017. Although there are few structural investments in the heritage sector and training of heritage experts, there are committees and foundations that are actively engaged in the protection of Suriname's heritage e.g. the World Heritage Committee, the Suriname Built Heritage Foundation and the Monument Care Commission. The city of Paramaribo is a world heritage site and, in this regard, education and awareness projects are carried out aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of Suriname's heritage among the population.

The Paramaribo Management Plan 2020-2024 has been guiding the management of the site, and the Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP) is being implemented to contribute to the rehabilitation of the historic center of Paramaribo. Several actions have been completed or are being undertaken on issues such as a housing strategy for the historic city center, an inventory and manual for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, urban mobility, a communication and social engagement plan, restoration of three government-owned historic buildings, and the reconstruction of the former Parliament of Suriname

building. Despite these initiatives, heritage protection needs further strengthening; there are insufficient resources and there is no Central Heritage Institute. The revision and modernization of existing legislation and the establishment of a coordinating institute have been identified as priorities towards a better coordinated policy, and a more effective protection of Suriname's cultural and natural heritage.

In addition to cultural heritage, Suriname also has a unique nature reserve that is recognized worldwide. The Central Suriname Nature Reserve (CSNR) has been on the UNESCO world heritage list as a nature reserve since 2000. This Reserve covers approximately 1.6 million hectares and is one of the largest protected tropical rainforests in the world, rich in biodiversity and rare animal species.

The CSNR, functions as a significant carbon sink, which contributes to the mitigation of climate change by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Through the protection and sustainable use of various ecosystems and endangered animal species, Suriname's forests, including the CSNR, directly contribute to the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems and the halting of biodiversity loss. The CSNR also offers opportunities for ecotourism, which stimulates sustainable economic growth and employment for local communities.

To provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all and improved road safety, the Government invested in improved road infrastructure and traffic control systems of some of the main roads in the country, but also smaller roads in different communities to improve access to main roads and other facilities.

In the area of resilience to disasters and disaster risk management, the Government's National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management actively worked on capacity building of human resources for effective disaster response, with a focus on gender-inclusive emergency response; reduce flood risks through better water management, essential for infrastructure and disaster prevention; monitoring of water levels with early warning systems, limiting casualties and economic damage; safe schools to reduce casualties in disasters and protect critical infrastructure; strengthening disaster preparedness within government institutions, leading to more effective crisis decision-making; ensure that shelters are well prepared and can adequately accommodate vulnerable groups during disasters; improved logistical capacities to ensure faster distribution of relief goods; and international and regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on disaster management to strengthen Suriname's approach.

## Challenges

In the area of spatial planning, the buy in of the mining sector still is a challenge. Progress has been made in inventorying the gold buying businesses, but there is still work in registering the illegal gold-miners. The enforcement of procedures in the gold mining sector needs improvement. The institutional capacity and the knowledge on how to apply the spatial planning standards and guidelines in all relevant sectors needs to be build, and is an important precondition to reach the objectives. Improved coordination of the cultural heritage policy and updated legislation to preserve cultural heritage, is necessary. Capacity for national roll out of the waste management policy at the household level leading to more effective implementation of waste management methods needs to be build. The need for institutional capacity and availability of finances for housing policies and road safety are persistent and need to be addressed for an improved policy planning and implementation.

## Opportunities

Policy on spatial planning can be accelerated with the structure vision and spatial planning standards and guidelines as well as the intelligence hub, providing a structured approach in dealing with climate change challenges, the oil and gas developments and maintaining forest reserves. The Paramaribo city rehabilitation plans support the preservation of cultural heritage of the city and strengthening mechanisms to support the preservation. Continued international and regional cooperation in disaster risk management continues to support national policy. This counts also for continued efforts for guaranteeing housing facilities for different groups in society and looking into options for low-income groups, women, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. The national implementation of more effective waste management methods at household level is much needed.



Suriname is striving to establish safer, inclusive, and sustainable communities through affordable housing programmes, improving the effectiveness of urban planning, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. In the housing programmes, a special focus is placed on vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. Innovative mechanisms such as spatial planning standards and geo-data hubs support growth, while developments are being made in waste management and disaster mitigation. Despite ongoing challenges in the field of legislation and infrastructure, Suriname is making significant progress towards creating more resilient and sustainable communities.



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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 2030, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, by agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil 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, through 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 

### **Policy context and Progress**

#### *Sustainable production*

The Government has been reforming the mining sector through legislative updates, institutional integration, and the creation of the Minerals Institute Suriname to regulate extraction practices and promote less polluting technologies. Efforts to formalize and regulate small-scale gold mining and implement environmentally friendly methods are underway, supporting the goals of the Minamata Convention. The project 'Improving Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname, with Emphasis on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining', abbreviated as EMSAGS, aims to improve the management of small-scale gold mining and promote environmentally responsible mining technology in Suriname. This should lead to a reduction of the negative effects of small-scale gold mining on biodiversity, forests,

water, and local communities, while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The EMSAGS project supports the Government in formulating policies and adjusting legislation for the regulation of the small-scale gold sector. Institutions are being strengthened to improve the monitoring of the small-scale gold sector. Furthermore, the EMSAGS project promotes the use of new technology to combat mercury pollution.

In the energy sector, policies now focus on securing the national energy supply while supporting a transition to renewable energy sources such as bioenergy and solar power, which is aligned with the SE4ALL goals. Sustainable agricultural production is being promoted through training by the UN and Caribbean organizations in post-harvest handling, aimed at reducing food losses and improving quality standards for local and export markets.

At the **Surinaamse Brouwerij**, we proudly contribute to seven of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals through our 'Brewing a Better Suriname' strategy. From reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to promoting circular packaging, supporting local communities, and advocating for responsible consumption, sustainability is integrated into our business operations. We are leading sustainability by collaborating with various stakeholders to drive collective action towards these goals, contributing to a sustainable future for Suriname.

**Gijs van der Loo, Managing Director**

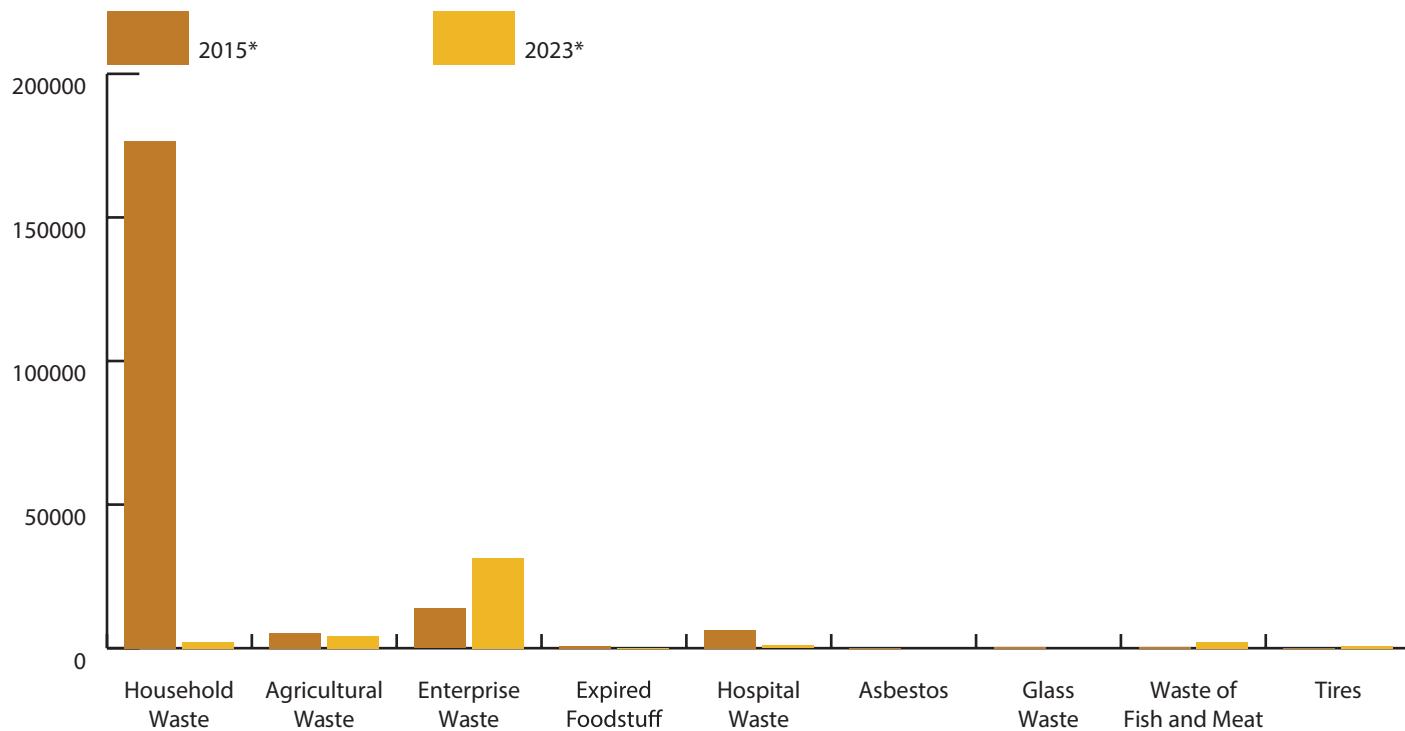
### Sustainable consumption

Regarding waste management, emphasis has been placed on raising awareness among the public and educating society about the importance of waste separation, reducing the amount of dumped waste, and stimulating local recycling. The 'Krin Birti' (clean the neighbourhood) and 'Koni Doti' (smart waste) projects aimed to enhance awareness and change practices. These projects were executed through cooperation between the Government and private recycling companies, such as Support Recycling Suriname (SuReSur) and Amazona Recycling Company N.V. (AmReCo), as well as the Green Heritage Fund Suriname, a civil society organization. After identifying critical gaps in Suriname's approach to chemicals and waste management in 2020, the Government has made substantial developments to fill these gaps, including:

1. Implementation of an Integrated Waste Management Plan. This strategy established Suriname's waste management framework, integrating garbage collection, processing, and disposal to improve environmental health and reduce pollution.
2. The Clean City project aimed at improving waste

3. management in urban areas by cleaning up litter and promoting cleaner urban environments.
4. Implementation of the Roadmap for Phasing Out Mercury-Added Products. The project aimed to reduce mercury exposure following the Minamata Convention principles.
5. The Feasibility Study for a Hazardous Waste Interim Storage Facility.
6. The National Medical Waste Plan, which focuses on developing infrastructure and procedures for the collection, processing and disposal of medical waste.
7. E-Waste Assessment for Suriname, an assessment report was developed to analyze the scope and impact of electronic waste (e-waste) in Suriname. This project served as a foundation for developing strategies for the sustainable management of e-waste, including recycling and safe disposal.
8. Waste Oil and Waste Tires assessment to determine the impact of waste oil and discarded tires, with the aim of developing sustainable solutions for the management of these specific waste streams.
9. Air Quality Measurements in Greater Paramaribo to monitor and manage air pollution levels.

**Figure 23 illustrates a notable decrease in waste disposal between 2015 and 2023**



Source: Ministry of Public Works, Division of Public Green and Waste Management

Private sector companies have taken initiatives to implement environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste recycling. Such examples are set by the Fernandes Bottling Company and the United Caribbean Contractors (UCC),

### **Clean water, clear intentions – Wastewater treatment**

At **Fernandes Bottling Company**, part of Fernandes Group, sustainability means more than just what we produce - it's also about what we return to nature. A clear example is our on-site Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), designed to treat the water used in our production process responsibly. In a sector where water usage is high, we take our role seriously. Our WWTP ensures that wastewater is filtered, biologically treated, and safely discharged, meeting environmental standards and contributing to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

The system required significant investment, technical expertise, and employee engagement. However, the impact is lasting: reduced pollution, enhanced water management, and direct protection of natural water sources throughout Suriname. Treating wastewater responsibly, we help maintain healthy ecosystems and reduce our environmental footprint.

This project demonstrates that sustainable business begins with action. The WWTP is a tangible example of how local efforts and business ethics can work together in support of a cleaner, more sustainable future - one step at a time.

### **Making Our Contribution to the SDGs Visible and Measurable**

At **United Caribbean Contractors (UCC)**, sustainability is a priority. For example, we have calculated our carbon footprint (SDG 13) to identify key drivers and take action. The main contributors to the carbon footprint are:

- Fuel consumption
- Energy usage (SDG 7)
- Water consumption (SDG 6)
- Controlled waste management (SDG 12)

As a company, we have implemented concrete measures to reduce our carbon footprint:

Investment in solar energy: In 2024, we transitioned to a solar energy system, designed for 100% solar usage, which reduced our carbon footprint by 9%. This aligns with SDG target 7.2, which aims to increase the share of renewable energy substantially.

Use of rainwater: In 2024, 29% of our total water consumption was sourced from harvested rainwater, primarily used for car washing and other applications. This supports SDG target 6.4, which promotes efficient water and sustainable water management.

Waste reduction through separate collection: We actively reduce waste streams by sorting plastic bottles, glass, batteries, cardboard, and metals (including iron and copper) for proper recycling and reuse. This contributes to SDG target 12.5, which targets a substantial reduction in waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

By reducing our carbon footprint and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we actively contribute to SDG target 13.2, which calls for integrating climate change measures into corporate strategies and actions.

At UCC, we live by the "Measuring is Knowing" principle. By making our sustainability efforts visible, measurable, and actionable, we create a tangible impact and drive continuous improvement in our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

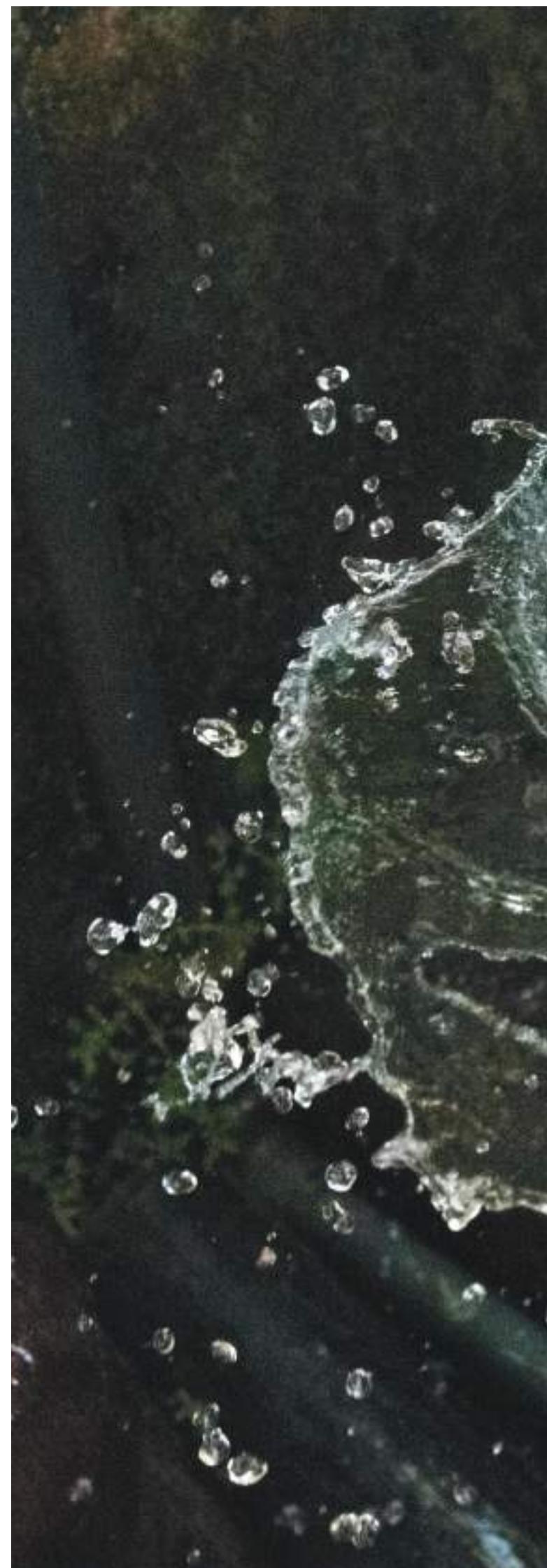
In the tourism sector, the Government's plan to rebrand Suriname as a destination for nature and culture includes establishing public-private working groups, regional tourism development strategies, and vocational training through the Suriname Hospitality & Tourism Training Centre (SHTTC). These initiatives aim to increase local participation, reduce environmental impact, and promote value-based tourism consumption. Collectively, these measures strengthen Suriname's institutional and policy frameworks for sustainable resource use and responsible consumer practices.

### **Challenges**

Key measures such as the material footprint, domestic material consumption, food loss and waste indices, and the number of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP are not well quantified or made public, making it challenging to evaluate resource efficiency, track progress, or develop effective policies for sustainable production and consumption. Furthermore, there is no strict monitoring of companies' publishing of sustainability reports, which limits openness and accountability in the private sector. Anticipating the growth of the oil and gas industry is especially important for preventing carbon lock-in and other possible effects that threaten sustainability. Lastly, mechanisms for measuring the long-term impact of tourism on development are still missing. These mechanisms are crucial to ensure that tourism generates quality jobs, promotes local products, and preserves cultural and natural heritage.

### **Opportunities**

Through the continued implementation of the EMSAGS project, the policies and regulations can be more effective in reducing the adverse effects of small-scale gold mining on biodiversity, forests, water resources, and local communities. Implementing the Integrated Waste Management Plan and the National Medical Waste Plan will positively affect the longer term. This also counts for the sustainable management of e-waste, including recycling and safe disposal. The developments in the private sector companies to implement strategies in their business development to adhere to the SDGs, more specifically the SDGs 12, 13 and 14 are an example of the collaborative efforts of all national stakeholders.





Suriname has made progress toward sustainable development through improvements in the waste management, reforms towards sustainable mining, and the implementation of renewable energy regulations. Public awareness and recycling programmes have increased, including post-harvest processing training programmes in agriculture. However, significant data gaps exist, including material footprint, food loss and waste, and fossil-fuel subsidies. Tools for monitoring sustainability in tourism are scarce, and company-level sustainability reporting falls short. These points are especially crucial as Suriname anticipates expansion in the oil and gas industry.



## 5.13 Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 13 Targets	Status
13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	●
13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning	●
13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	●
13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	●
13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	●

## Policy context and Progress

Suriname is facing increasing threats, including coastal erosion, flooding, prolonged droughts, and saline intrusion, all of which significantly impact key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy, and infrastructure. To combat these challenges, the Government is implementing a range of climate resilience and sustainability measures, aligning its national policies with international obligations under the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Suriname has proactively integrated climate action into its national development policies and governance structures, ensuring that climate resilience remains a central objective in policy implementation. Key national frameworks supporting this effort include:

1. the updated National Climate Change Policy, Strategy, and Action Plan.
2. the National Adaptation Plan 2019-2029, outlining Suriname's long-term priorities for climate adaptation.
3. the Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020 and Third National Communication 2023, reinforcing the country's international climate commitments.
4. the Environmental Framework Act 2020 amended in 2024, establishing a legal foundation for sustainable environmental management.
5. the policy brief Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Suriname.
6. the Sector Adaptation Strategy and Adaptation Plan (SASAP) for Water Resource Suriname.
7. the Suriname Green Development Strategy 2025-2050.

The Environmental Framework Act, which came into effect in 2020, regulates measures for the protection and sustainable management of the environment, including regulations and procedures for implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Subsequently, the National Environment Authority (NMA) as an independent administrative agency with legal personality was established.

Pending legislation such as the draft Coastal Protection law, the draft law on Protection of the Mangrove Forests, the draft Sustainable Nature Management Act, and the draft Disaster Risk Management law, aim at improving national resilience to climate-related hazards.

Climate governance in Suriname is spearheaded by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and the Environment in collaboration with local, national, and international stakeholders. This Ministry was established in 2020, and the Directorate for the Environment is currently the institution responsible for environmental management. Furthermore, this Directorate plays a crucial role in creating and monitoring environmental policy, serving as the focal point for all secretariats of MEAs and national, regional, and international

environmental organizations.

In the past years, programmes have been executed that have led to developing policy frameworks, strengthening of capacities, and improving infrastructure to effectively address climate change. The Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) project looked into the integration of gender equality and human rights-based approaches into climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental management interventions. Aside from a policy brief on Gender and Climate Change, a Gender-based climate resilience analysis for Suriname was executed, and the National Communications for Behavioural Change Strategy Action Plan Suriname was drafted. Key stakeholders were trained in gender in relation to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Climate change and environmental awareness programmes focused on increasing awareness among the population. Community engagement and education were also prioritized, with a key focus on raising awareness and educating communities about the importance of energy resilience and adaptation measures. This includes promoting energy conservation practices and encouraging the adoption of climate-resilient technologies.

Institutional strengthening of climate change finance planning processes was taken up to enable implementation, monitoring and reporting of climate actions in Suriname and access to climate finance at the Green Climate Fund. An investment plan was developed to support the mitigation and adaptation objectives of the NDC, emphasizing mobilizing climate finance. The Government drafted national guidelines for developing and trading carbon credits, and explored carbon market opportunities under article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, positioning itself as a potential leader in sovereign carbon credit transactions.

Significant steps have been taken to improve integrated water resource management (IWRM) to address challenges such as flooding, drought, and saline intrusion. These include mangrove restoration and infrastructure improvement and development, but also rehabilitation of the existing instruments and placing new water-level instruments namely automatic water level stations and automatic weather stations.

Suriname's extensive forest cover is fundamental to its climate mitigation strategy. Efforts to enhance sustainable forest management included the expansion of protected areas, aiming to increase the percentage of forests and wetlands under protection to at least 17% of the country's land area by 2030; capacity-building programmes for local communities, including training in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Reduced Impact Logging (RIL), and carbon stock monitoring; and the development of forestry

monitoring platforms, such as GONINI geoportal and Kopi, to facilitate transparency and public access to climate data.

Recognizing the risks posed by climate change to agriculture, Suriname has emphasized climate-smart agricultural practices to ensure food security. Major initiatives include national land-use planning systems, integrating climate risk assessments into agricultural development, GIS-based crop mapping, supporting climate-resilient farming techniques, and research on drought-resistant crops and sustainable irrigation.

To reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase renewable energy adoption, some key measures were setting a renewable energy target of at least 35% by 2030, building upon the existing 50% contribution from hydropower; developing the Renewable Energy Act (pending approval), to promote solar, wind,

and micro-hydro projects; expanding off-grid solar installations; enhancing energy efficiency, aiming for a 20% reduction in energy use in buildings by 2030; and encouraging private sector investment, with fiscal incentives under review.

Efforts were made to strengthen national institutions for improved climate data collection, analysis, and reporting and to develop capacity-building initiatives for local communities, focusing on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and sustainable resource management.

The country has been advancing its national disaster risk reduction strategy to ensure alignment with its National Adaptation Plan. Early warning systems have been strengthened, and disaster risk plans have been developed in all districts.

The **Torarica Group** actively contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals by integrating 12 goals into its 2025 strategy. As Suriname's first Green Key-certified company, we renewed our certification in March 2025. We promote recycling through employee involvement, installed hybrid systems, and renovated our premises under our Green Norm. Through the Torarica Community Fund and initiatives like the Green Awareness Expo and World Cleanup Day, we actively support sustainability, community engagement, and responsible business practices.

**Dave Boucke, Chief Executive Officer**

## Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission

In our upstream operations at **Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V. (State Oil Company Suriname)**, we have converted four heater treaters from crude to gas power. This conversion has

resulted in a reduction of over 6,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>equivalent, providing significant environmental and economic benefits. Additionally, we are utilizing methane gas in the heater-treater system of our upstream oil production operations.

The Refinery off-gases from the two VBU's\*, HCU\*, and CRU\* are used as feedstock for the HPU towards our efforts for zero routine flaring. This has been accomplished through several improvement initiatives by our team on process equipment. Not only did the aforementioned result in an extra daily yield of about 200BBLS/day for Gasoline due to savings on Naphta as feedstock for the HPU but also reduced our CO<sub>2</sub> emission from 1100 to 900 tons/day in 2022 and from 900 to 800 tons/day in 2023, reducing our total carbon footprint with 10% due to sweet gas introduction to the HPU.

Our waste heat recovery, turbocharger efficiency upgrade, and cooling water heat recovery efforts at SPCS have resulted in a 30,000-ton annual reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

\*VBU-Visbreaker unit, HCU-Hydrocracker unit, CRU- Catalytic Reforming Unit, HPU- Hydrogen Processing unit

## The New Economy and SDGs: Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Development 2024

**VSH United** proudly positions itself as a leading force for sustainable growth in Suriname. Guided by our 2022–2027 Multi-Year Strategic Plan, which

falls under the "New Economy" framework, we are targeting opportunities driven by developments in the extraction industries.

### Investing in Human Capital

With 43% Millennials and over 20% women in leadership, we promote diversity and inclusion (SDG 5). In 2024, staff received training in leadership, digital tools, environmental awareness, and safety, advancing SDG 4 and SDG 8.

### Driving Digital Transformation

We improved operational efficiency and service sustainability by implementing the open-source ODOO ERP, which seamlessly integrates with various business-specific IT systems. This intelligent IT environment promotes data-driven decision-making, innovation, and adoption of international best practices, aligning with SDG 9.

### Embedding Sustainability in Operations

We recorded zero environmental violations and significantly reduced our carbon and water footprint. Through circular economic initiatives, we enhanced our ecological impact, aligning with SDGs 12 & 13.

### Empowering Communities

The VSH Community Fund invested over SRD 1.43 million in initiatives focused on education, healthcare, the environment, and the arts, advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 4, 13, and 17.

### Expanding Regional Impact

By expanding our footprint to include Guyana, we aim to grow all our business activities, building on the success of our manufacturing, CARICOM exports, and logistics services to the Dutch Caribbean, while reinforcing cross-border collaboration (SDG 17).

## Challenges

There is limited institutional and human capacity, with many stakeholders having insufficient expertise on key climate action topics. Limited funding for adaptation efforts and a reliance on donor funding are significant barriers, and are uncertain and do not cover long-term costs. Funding often does not cover all costs, including local compensation. Coordination issues between different ministries affect the alignment of policies and create inefficiencies. Legislation to enforce climate commitments is still inadequate. Illegal mining is a major driver of deforestation and poses threats to forest coverage. ITPs are strongly urging for recognition of their collective and human rights and the proper implementation of FPIC in decisions that the Government makes regarding climate actions.

## Opportunities

The Suriname Green Development Strategy 2025-2025 must be implemented into national policy with technical support from international partners and capacity-building efforts to encourage cooperatives. Addressing artisanal and small-scale gold mining through initiatives such as EMSAGS can contribute to climate mitigation and environmental protection. Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture practices, improving agricultural techniques to adapt to climate impacts, can enhance sustainability. The expansion of climate finance and the securing of long-term funding from multiple sources, including carbon credits, will benefit the implementation of policy. Continued investments in data systems and building capacity must be prioritized. Incorporating climate change education into schools and other higher education institutions and raising awareness at the community level will support the climate policy and programmes. Strengthened engagement, participation and collaboration with ITPs must be prioritized, capitalizing on their knowledge of forest conservation and prioritizing sustainable climate management.



Suriname has enhanced its policy and legislative framework to mitigate the effects of climate change. The establishment of the National Environment Authority. Building institutional and human capacity and investments in data monitoring systems were prioritized. Community engagement and awareness about the importance of energy resilience and adaptation measures have been implemented. Important steps were taken to improve integrated water resource management (IWRM) to address challenges such as flooding, drought, and saline intrusion. Private sector and civil society stakeholders' efforts are integral part of the country's endeavours to take climate change actions. However, the expertise on key climate action topics needs to be enhanced. Long-term national funding must be secured to prevent dependence on donor funding. Illegal mining needs to be addressed effectively and the full participation of ITPs in climate actions must be guaranteed through FPIC.





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

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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 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, 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, 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"



### **Policy context and Progress**

Suriname's coastline spans approximately 386 kilometers and is home to pristine mangrove forests, wetlands, swamps, and mudflats. The marine area of Suriname is part of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem that is exceptionally high in biodiversity due to the nutrient-rich coastal waters.

Suriname has developed ecosystem-based methods for ocean and coastal management in response to rising marine pressures. A specialized 'Coastal Protection and Ocean Management' committee was installed and a National Action Plan (2021-2031) was drafted, with legislative reform and mangrove restoration as top priorities. Apart from the existing laws that directly or indirectly contribute to the conservation of life below water, several new rules are under discussion, including the Aquaculture Act 2024, the Sustainable Nature Management Act 2022, and the Protected Coastal Area Act 2015. Between

2015 and 2023, the protected terrestrial and marine areas remained unchanged, accounting for 13.2% of the total land area. The increase of awareness about the importance of land and marine ecosystems in the conservation of water quality and biodiversity was taken up. The focus was on informing communities and stakeholders about sustainable use and protection of water resources.

Other notable achievements include developing a National Mangrove Strategy and Mangrove maps were updated in 2024, enabling improved climate and biodiversity data reporting under frameworks such as REDD+ and the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL). Mangrove rehabilitation is continued with emphasis on strengthening the resilience of coastal ecosystems by using natural infrastructure such as mangroves and other protective ecosystems to prevent flooding and erosion (at Weg naar Zee area).

At **Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V.**, our particular focus

is on the following five SDGs:

- SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy),
- SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth),
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production),
  - SDG 13 (Climate Action)
  - SDG 14 (Life Below Water)

Our efforts to integrate the SDGs into key performance indicators and our broader sustainability framework reflect our efforts.

**Annand Jagesar, Managing Director & Communication**

**The Green Heritage Foundation Suriname (GHFS)** is a nonprofit organization which promotes sustainable development by educating and empowering society, and provide Surinamese citizens with knowledge and skills to make wise decisions for sustainable use of natural resources. The organization works on SDGs 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17. GHFS programmes and activities are concentrated in Suriname's coastal and marine areas, which makes them the only Surinamese environmental organization focused exclusively on the coastal and marine areas in Suriname. The GHFS promotes the application of the One Health principle in Suriname, which is a multidisciplinary approach to promoting optimal health for people, animals, and the environment. Consequently, multidisciplinary data has been compiled that informs marine spatial planning e.g. 3D models of the entire coast and parts of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Suriname; species richness, diversity, and spatial and temporal GIS maps; and Environmental Sensitivity Maps (ESI) maps to identify areas along the coast that are especially vulnerable to man-made disasters. A strong component of GHFS programmes is to continuously engage with and educate different national stakeholders, youth, school children and communities about environmentally friendly and sustainable livelihoods, and advocating for ocean and coastal resilience. Through the GLOBE programme, GHFS has also developed a mangrove protocol for rapid assessment of the health of mangrove habitats.

The Green Community Development Programme promotes the recuperation and revival of cultural awareness, including those dimensions of Surinamese culture that embody positive values and practices and indigenous knowledge about the environment. Over the years, GHFS has worked in the coastal zone and marine area with local groups to record and promote positive values, practices, and knowledge about the environment. GHFS monitors developments that could impact the

environment, and different types of environmental data are collected.

Activities have also been conducted to address marine litter and supports marine spatial planning and identifying marine protected areas. The organization is working with the Government to train hunters via an online system to educate and inform them about the protocols to take into account during hunting. The GHFS has established a collaboration with the International Ocean Institute from Malta to open the Ocean Academy in Suriname, and has offered the first free online course on ocean management and marine sustainability. The participants gain knowledge and skills about the protection of the ocean and coastal ecosystems. In the opinion of the organization, Suriname needs to sign the Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region Protocol, the International Convention on Oil Pollution and the High Seas Treaty, given the developments in the oil and gas sector in Suriname. The impact of oil explorations on the ocean, the food supply and fisheries sector is inevitable, therefore policy and implementation should be taken at hand. With regard to climate change, GHFS is of the opinion that actions at community level are picked up by civil society organizations. For example, with regard to adaptation, farmers should be informed and trained about alternative solutions. The Government does not adequately provides this, therefore CSOs pick up. There are many opportunities in terms of global partnerships. There is a Caribbean Dolphin Protection plan, yet management actions and networking have not been taken by the Government. The system in the Government is hierarchical, which makes it difficult to make decisions. The implementation of the policy is very slow or sometimes non-existent. Insufficient capacity in Government as well as CSOs prevent accessing financial resources.

**Monique Pool, Director**



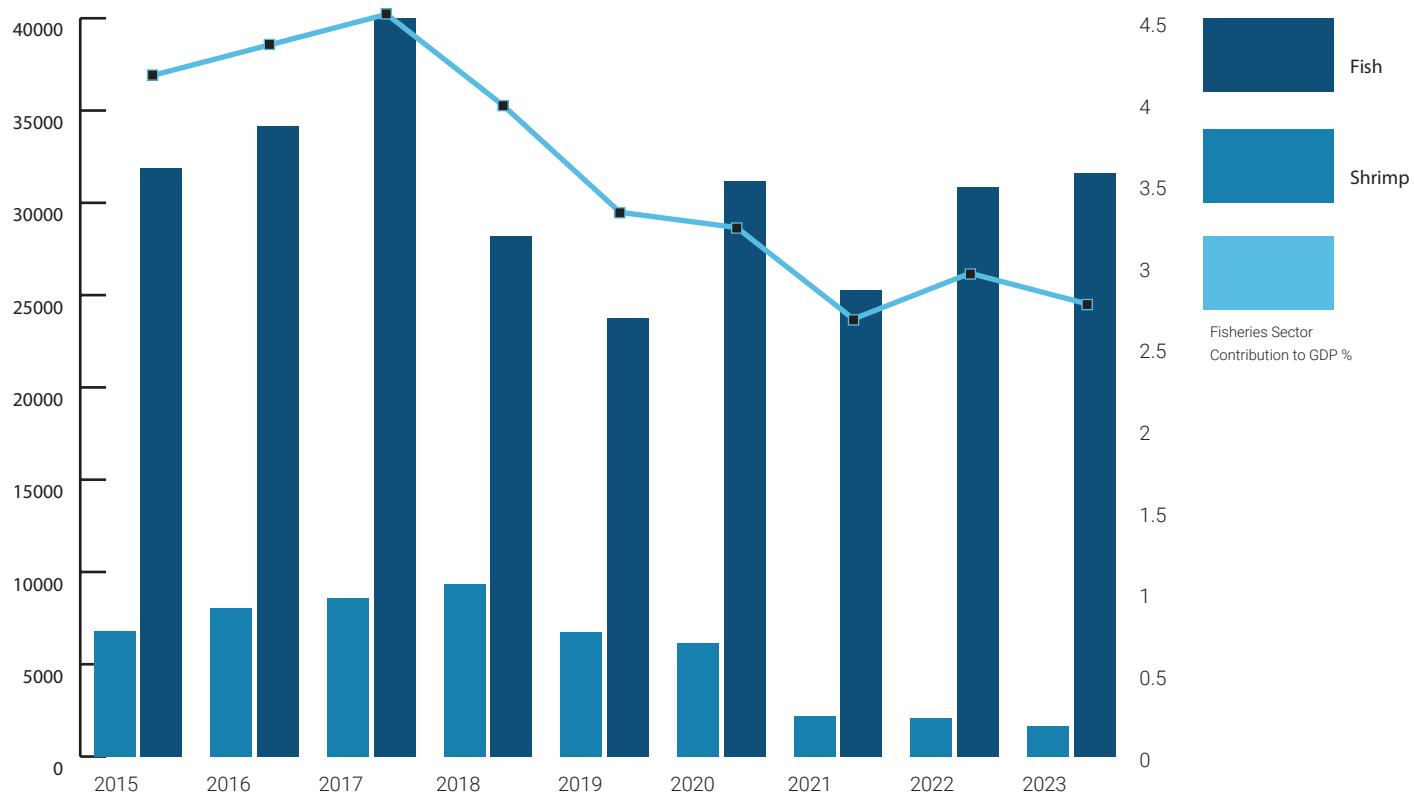
The 2021-2025 Fisheries Management Plan addresses fishery sustainability by implementing license changes, reducing bycatch through methods such as Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs), as well as enhancing monitoring and data systems. Furthermore, efforts are being undertaken to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, enhance fish health inspections, and align legislation with international marine and fisheries standards. Under the Marine Fisheries Act, approximately 90% of artisanal fishers have been granted licenses, promoting legal and equitable access to marine resources. Suriname also participates in regional REBYC-II-LAC programme, which focuses on mitigating the ecological impact of trawling.

Through the project, the formation of fisherfolk organizations, capacity building and mentoring programmes to strengthen the organizations are run. Additionally, strengthening of the Suriname Coast Guard is implemented to ensure effective

fisheries inspections at sea. Other measures are ensuring stakeholder participation in the drafting of a new national fisheries legislation and update of the fisheries management plan, and improving the national fisheries data collection system. These efforts help to maintain marine biodiversity, improve food security, and build a sustainable blue economy.

Figure 24 illustrates a downward trend in the fisheries sector's contribution to GDP, which decreased from 4.1% in 2017 to 2.2% in 2023. Catches of shrimp are declining significantly, while the catch of fish fluctuates within a specific range. The fish catch is still conducted in the same manner and is primarily for local consumption. Momentarily, current fishing activities have not led to the depletion of fish stocks. However, concerns persist regarding the deterioration of water quality in the Marowijne river, primarily due to pollution from cross-border trafficking, which has adverse health effects on the communities residing along the river, such as Galibi.

**Figure 24 Fish catch (by type) in tons and contribution of the Fisheries sector to GDP**



Source: General Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

## Challenges

The lack of data- and monitoring systems for ocean health indicators, such as the coastal eutrophication index, plastic debris density, and average marine acidity, is a significant problem. The allocation of research funds to marine technology is unclear, hindering innovation and the development of evidence-based ocean governance.

The predicted rise of offshore oil and gas production complicates these issues, as these marine resource users, notably offshore operators, boost the economy, but could harm fish supplies and coastal ecosystems. Water pollution, habitat degradation, and long-term biodiversity loss could continue to worsen without robust environmental safeguards and marine-specific laws in place.

Institutional and governance challenges remain. Ministries and stakeholders lack cooperation, with

overlapping mandates and unclear responsibilities for implementing marine policy. Weak institutional institutions, e.g. in the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, hinder marine conservation enforcement and leadership. Ultimately, national programmes often rely on short-term donor funding, which is insufficient for implementing integrated, multi-stakeholder marine strategies.

## Opportunities

In light of the challenges, Suriname continues its efforts to conserve marine biodiversity by emphasizing stringent environmental safeguards, enhancing monitoring systems, and adopting sustainable offshore energy practices, while proactively addressing the potential adverse impacts of offshore oil and gas development.



Marine biodiversity conservation in Suriname has improved via mangrove restoration, fishery sector reforms, and regional collaboration. The PROMAR, CLME+ and the 2021–2025 Fisheries Plan promote marine sustainability. Data gaps on ocean health indicators, insufficient institutional coordination, limited research funding, and donor finance remain vital challenges. Increased offshore oil and gas activities raises concerns about marine pollution and ecosystem degradation, underscoring the need for enhanced governance, effective monitoring, and robust environmental safeguards.



## 5.15 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

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
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	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
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	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
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	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
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	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>

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	

### Policy context and Progress

Suriname launched the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024-2035 in 2024, which is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and prioritizes endangered species protection, ecosystem restoration, and the expansion of terrestrial and marine protected areas. The policy goal is to designate a significant portion of the national area as statutory conservation by 2030. To combat land degradation, the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment conducted an evaluation that indicated 15.41% land deterioration between 2015 and 2019. As a result, the Aligned National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation (2023-2030), established within the UNCCD Strategic Framework (2018-2030) was drafted to guide Suriname towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The National Action Plan for Sustainable Land Development was also developed, providing steps to prevent deterioration through integrated land-use planning and risk mitigation techniques. Suriname has also made structural investments in biodiversity management and biosafety. The NBSAP's policy update emphasized the integration of climate and biodiversity, as well as the application of science-based management. Updates to the National Biosafety Framework and the implementation of BCH3 capacity-building training have enhanced regulatory readiness for managing genetically modified organisms.

To support decision-making, the infrastructure for collecting, managing, and analyzing biodiversity data through systems such as the Integrated Biodiversity Observation System (IBOS), the National Zoological Center Suriname (NZCS), and the Biodiversity Baseline System (BBS) have been improved. Suriname's national reporting to the UNCCD through PRAIS provided transparency in monitoring LDN targets and ecosystem developments.

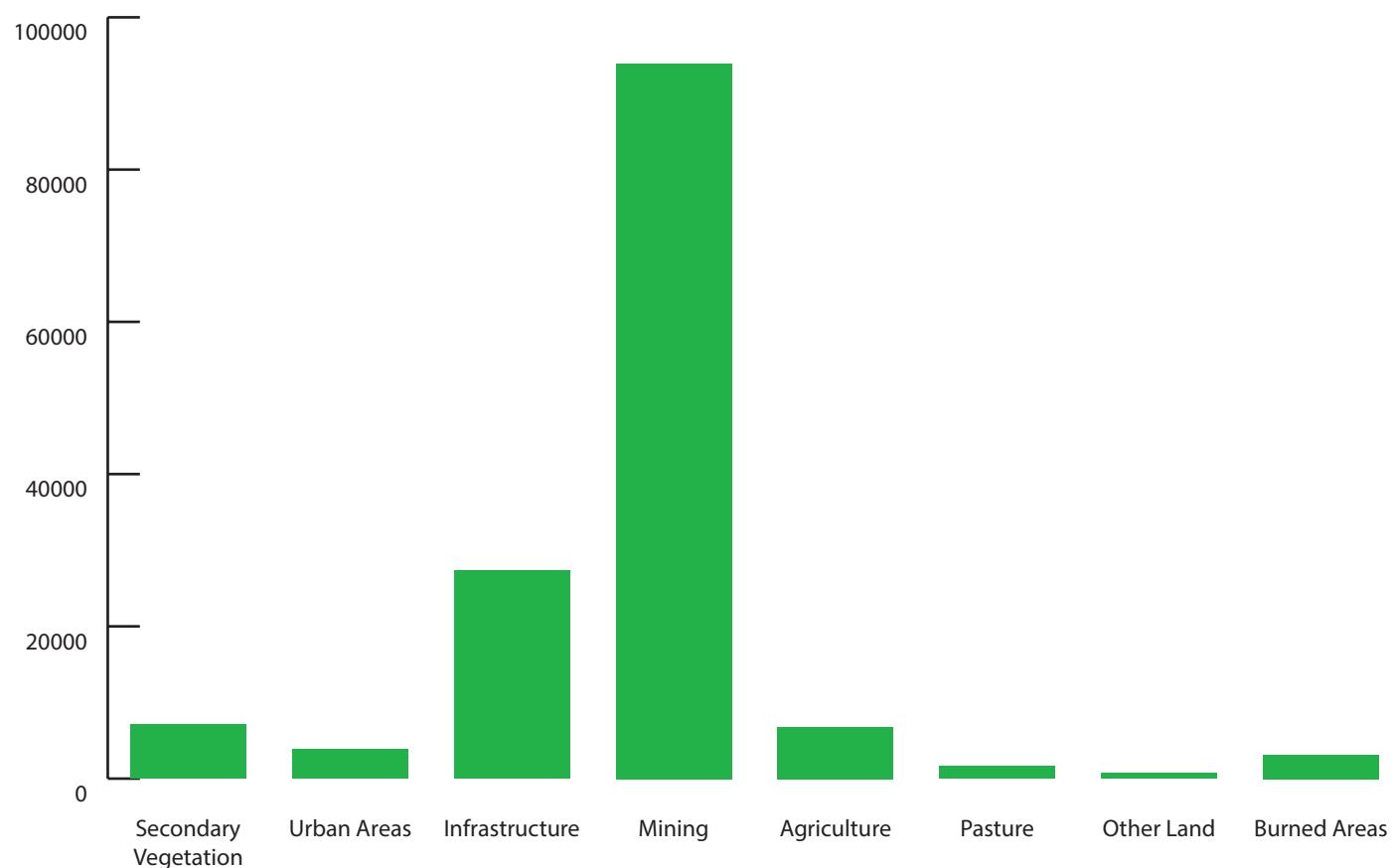
Capacity building in protected area management has improved thanks to focused training programmes, and community-based mangrove repair initiatives continue to strengthen coastal biodiversity resilience. The draft Biodiversity Protection law was reviewed to update legal frameworks and enhance enforcement capacities. Apart from the existing laws that directly or indirectly contribute to this SDG, new rules are also being discussed, namely the amendment to the Environmental Framework Act (2024) and the Draft Sustainable Nature Management Act. A comprehensive assessment was conducted in preparation for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, focused on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Suriname has also strengthened its forest sector strategy by implementing measures to phase out round wood exports, promote value-added timber processing, and expand forest governance through the Sustainable Forest Information System Suriname (SFISS), the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and forest-climate data collection for structured carbon credit mechanisms.

The Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon programme is being implemented and has three key pillars, namely data collection and field monitoring, a central data system for storage and analysis, and the use of information for conflict management, policy, industry, and education.

The forest area, as a proportion of total land area, has been on a downward trend since 2015; however, it has remained at an average of 93% (151,631 km<sup>2</sup> in 2023). Of this area, 14% is protected, a figure that has remained unchanged since 2015. Mining and Infrastructure development have been the primary reasons for deforestation (See Figure 25). Furthermore, dashboards are available that provide a visual representation of deforestation in Suriname.

**Figure 25 Total post-deforestation area, land use and land cover (LULC), 2000-2023**

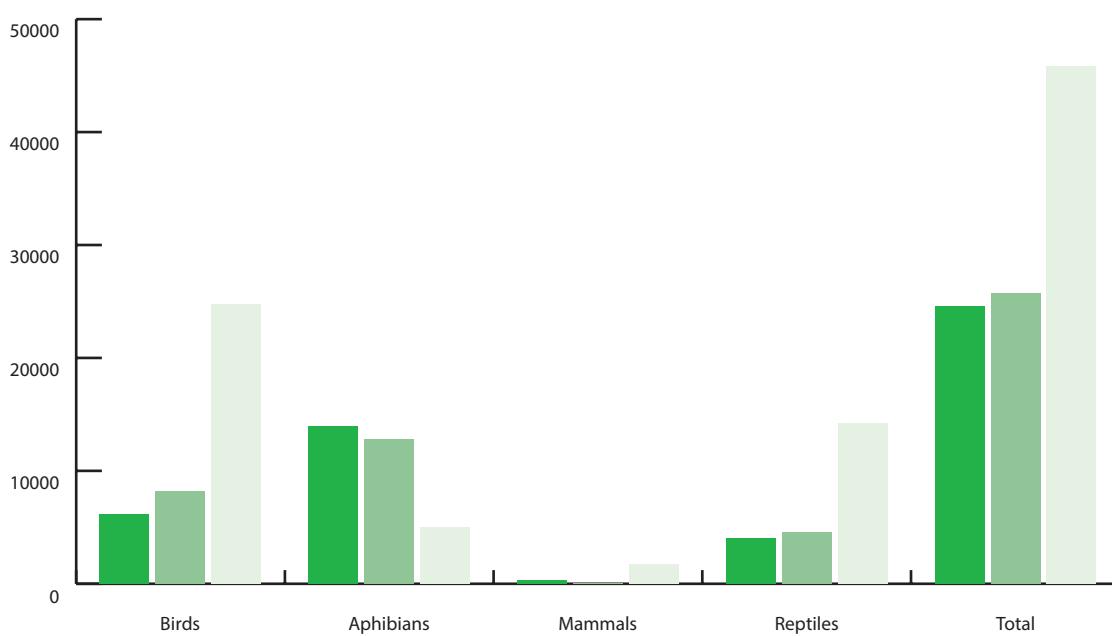


Source: Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control

The number of threatened species in Suriname is increasing significantly (see Figure 26). However, the proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illegally trafficked is not officially being registered. Popularly known are the Jaguar, Toucan and Sea

Turtles and their eggs. Training to promote sustainable and responsible hunting practices is being executed. It aims to improve hunting practices and raise awareness about the protection of vulnerable species and biodiversity.

**Figure 26 Threatened species in Suriname**



Source: IUCN Red List

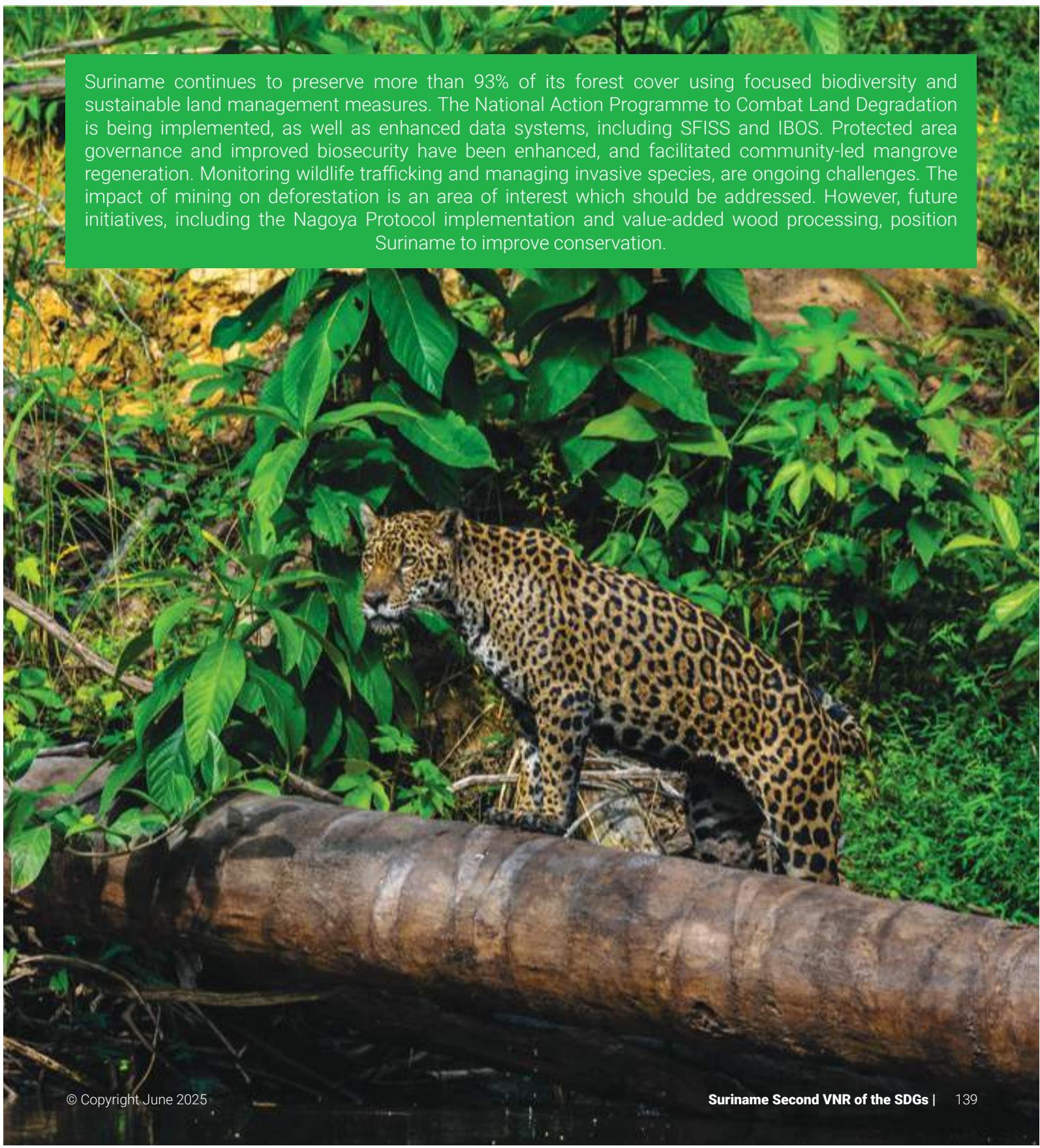
## Challenges

There is insufficient monitoring of traded wildlife poached or illicitly trafficked, and a lack of transparency regarding the individuals or systems facilitating such practices. Lastly, a clear and well-resourced framework for preventing and controlling invasive alien species is also lacking and should be well-documented. The mining sector greatly impacts deforestation and is a significant concern.

## Opportunities

The implementation of the NBSAP and the continued investments in data systems for deforestation are important components to preserve Suriname's position as a HFLD status.

Suriname continues to preserve more than 93% of its forest cover using focused biodiversity and sustainable land management measures. The National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation is being implemented, as well as enhanced data systems, including SFISS and IBOS. Protected area governance and improved biosecurity have been enhanced, and facilitated community-led mangrove regeneration. Monitoring wildlife trafficking and managing invasive species, are ongoing challenges. The impact of mining on deforestation is an area of interest which should be addressed. However, future initiatives, including the Nagoya Protocol implementation and value-added wood processing, position Suriname to improve conservation.





## 5.16 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

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

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	●

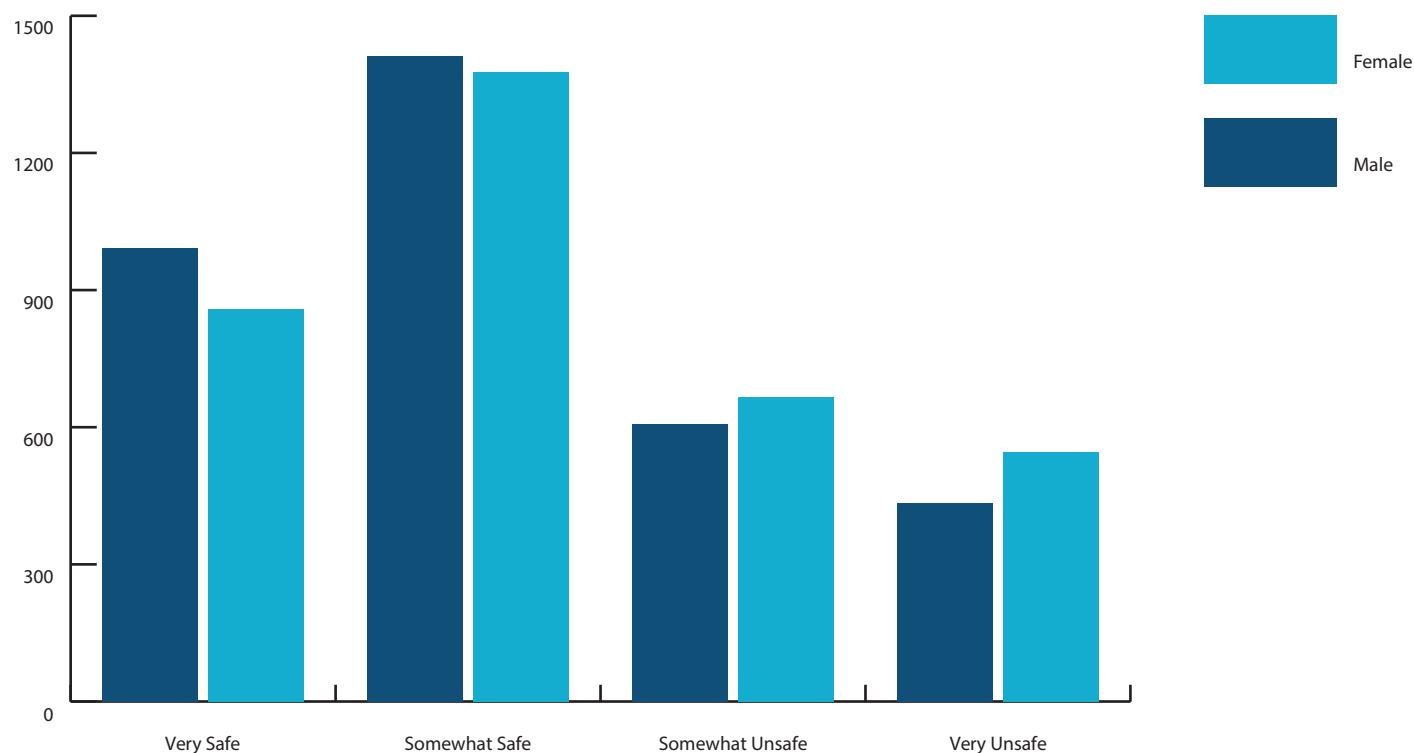
16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	<span style="color: #C8A234;">●</span>
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	<span style="color: #2ECC71;">●</span>
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, by national legislation and international agreements	<span style="color: #C8A234;">●</span>
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	<span style="color: #2ECC71;">●</span>
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	<span style="color: #C8A234;">●</span>

### Policy context and Progress

Suriname's Government has made efforts to strengthen its police force and public prosecution services to tackle various types of crime and violence. Police monitoring has been intensified, with a focus on recurring offenders, as well as the assignment and deployment of neighbourhood managers and the bikers' unit. Police reporting procedures have been strengthened, as have institutional feedback mechanisms for those who file reports and victims. Scientific crime research has also been conducted. The police regularly collaborate with communities and civil society groups to better understand violence-

related situations and develop early intervention measures, notably for reducing domestic violence. In addition, the Government initiated the Safe City project, which involved putting cameras across the city and many areas to ensure general security. The command center was established to monitor the pictures; it has been functioning for several years and has proven useful; however, updates have been suggested. According to the LAPOP 2023 survey (see Figure 27), citizens still see crime as a significant concern, indicating that the sense of safety has not yet reached the desired level.

**Figure 27 Perception of safety in the neighbourhood by gender**



Source: LAPOP, 2023

Between 2015 and the present, Suriname has made significant progress in strengthening the legal framework for child protection, aligning national laws with international standards. Children are now protected under key legislation, including the Constitution, Penal Code, New Civil Code, the Law on Combating Domestic Violence, the Law on Care Institutions, and the Child and Young Persons Employment Law. The Penal Code has undergone several revisions to address Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in line with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, broadening the definition of trafficking and increasing penalties, particularly for crimes against minors. For example, sexual violence and rape within marriage as punishable offenses, to criminalize sexual abuse of minors (raising the age to 16), and broaden the definition of sexual harassment.

The Bureau for Family Law Affairs plays an active role in cases involving child trafficking, custody, and alimony, with a strong emphasis on the children's right to be heard independently in legal proceedings. Regular training of social workers and police officers further supports these protection mechanisms, especially for children under 12, who are given a voice in sensitive court cases.

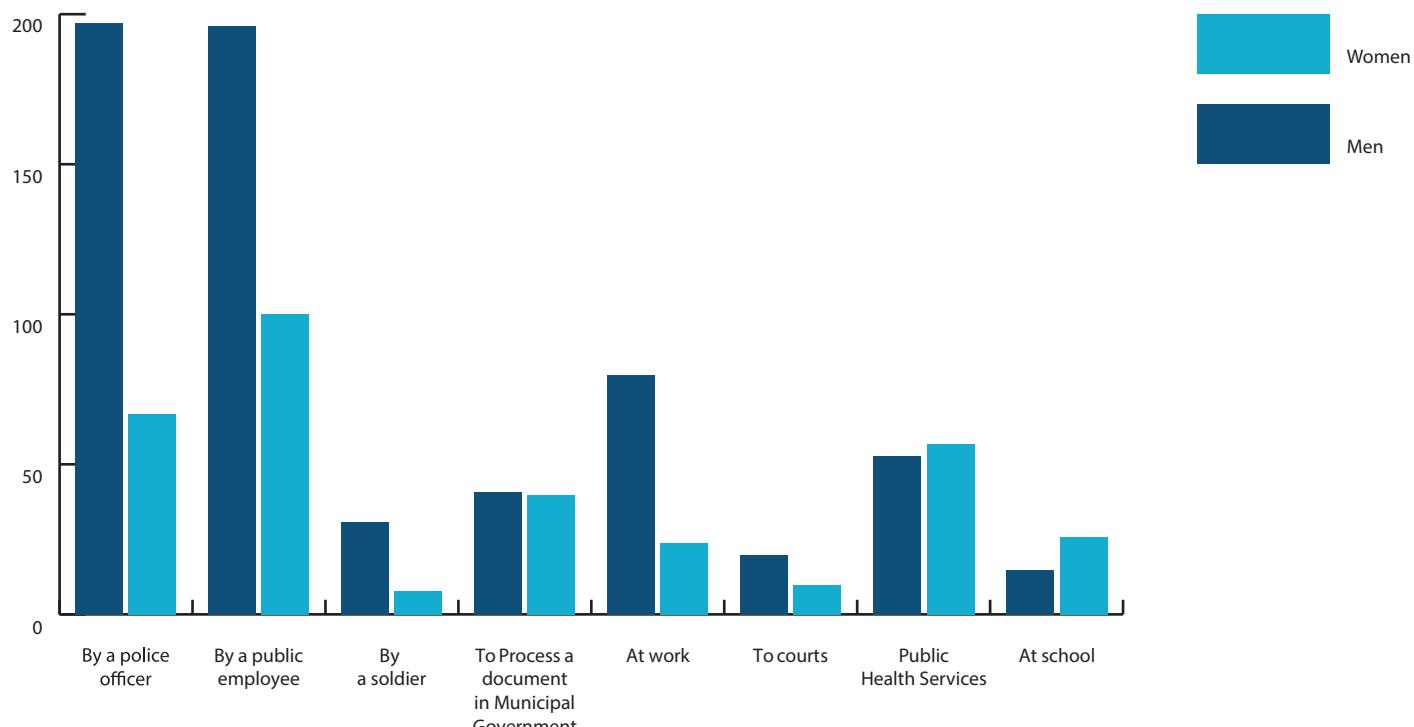
Measures have been introduced to combat sexual abuse through social media and to criminalize fake news and fake accounts. The Child and Young Persons Employment Law of 2018 harmonized child labour regulations with ILO standards, and efforts are ongoing to realize foster care legislation. Furthermore, Suriname committed to eliminating child, early, and forced marriages by 2030, raising the legal marriage age to 18 years for both boys and girls in the new Civil Code.

Furthermore, the Government continues its efforts to ratify the Hague Convention on parental responsibility and child protection in cross-border cases.

Suriname strengthened its fight against trafficking in persons (TIP) by implementing a First Response Protocol and training officials to identify and assist victims. In 2022, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on TIP was reconstituted to oversee the implementation of the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. This Plan focuses on prevention, investigation, prosecution, and victim support, with priorities including border control, awareness-raising, victim identification, safe return, and adequate shelter. Supported by the UN system in Suriname, the Ministry of Justice and Police enhanced its crime-fighting capacity through the digitalization of police data (PRMIS) and ICCS-based training, enabling better geospatial mapping, profiling, and evidence-based policymaking. Court services were also improved with audio-visual systems. Expanding bilateral legal assistance for cross-border crime, including cybercrime and terrorist financing, remains a priority. The Government conducted its first National

Risk Assessment on money laundering, terrorism financing, and corruption, detailing the threats and vulnerabilities for both the public and private sectors, as well as the effectiveness of legislation in combating these crimes. Suriname received a positive evaluation based on its first assessment. The country initiated an action plan to amend legislation and integrate more intelligence units into its police and justice system, addressing high corruption, bribery, and quality risks within the police force. In 2023, Suriname conducted its second national risk assessment and a sector analysis for the banking sector. In both reviews the positive developments regarding risk mitigation, updates of outdated legislation and awareness were underlined. Suriname is making good progress in acknowledging its risks and working towards addressing its vulnerabilities. Institutions such as the Project Implementation Unit of the Surinamese Anti-Money Laundering Programme and the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Council chaired by the President, have been established to oversee the implementation of the necessary actions. Nevertheless, there are remaining challenges, namely due to insufficient institutional capacity, illicit financial flows often go undetected, thereby increasing the risk of money laundering. Also, it cannot be ignored that bribery still occurs at important public institutions (see Figure 28).

**Figure 28 Bribery by setting and gender**



Source: LAPOP, 2023

Confiscating criminal assets is a key focus of the Public Prosecution Office, to dismantle the financial gains of criminals. The Financial Intelligence Unit Suriname (FIU Suriname), under the Unusual Transactions Reporting Point (MOT) legislation, plays a central role in combating money laundering and terrorist financing. FIU Suriname operations are aligned with FATF and CFATF standards, supported in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Central Bank of Suriname.

To strengthen integrity and fight corruption, Suriname adopted the Anti-Corruption legislation in 2017 and established the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2023. The Commission initiated awareness and education activities for the general public and specific institutions, and prepared the process to introduce the Statement of Income and Assets, as stated in the legislation. The Commission is currently working on evaluating the 2017 legislation. A specialized anti-corruption unit under the Public Prosecution Office investigates cases and also looks into cross-border crime, high-impact crime, and asset confiscation.

In achieving good public governance, transparency, and strong institutions under SDG 16, the Court of Audit has been reorganized as an independent state body, as outlined in the Court of Audit Law of 2019. Its priorities include professional investigations, strengthening internal governance with a code

of ethics, improving audit quality, and promoting transparency. Efforts also aim to combat financial crimes, money laundering, terrorist financing, and cybercrime.

Every birth in Suriname must be registered at the Civil Registry Office in the respective district, regardless of the parents' nationality (Surinamese, foreign, or undocumented) or residency status. The district Civil Registry's Birth Register confirms the child's birth and year.

Regardless of the parents' status or domicile, births in Paramaribo must be recorded at the Civil Registry Office within three days. Registration in other districts must be completed within 16 days, excluding birthdays, Sundays, and holidays.

To enhance registration of births in the Interior, awareness campaigns are held, and mobile units are set up to facilitate the registration. Approximately 96% of births in Suriname are registered.

### Challenges

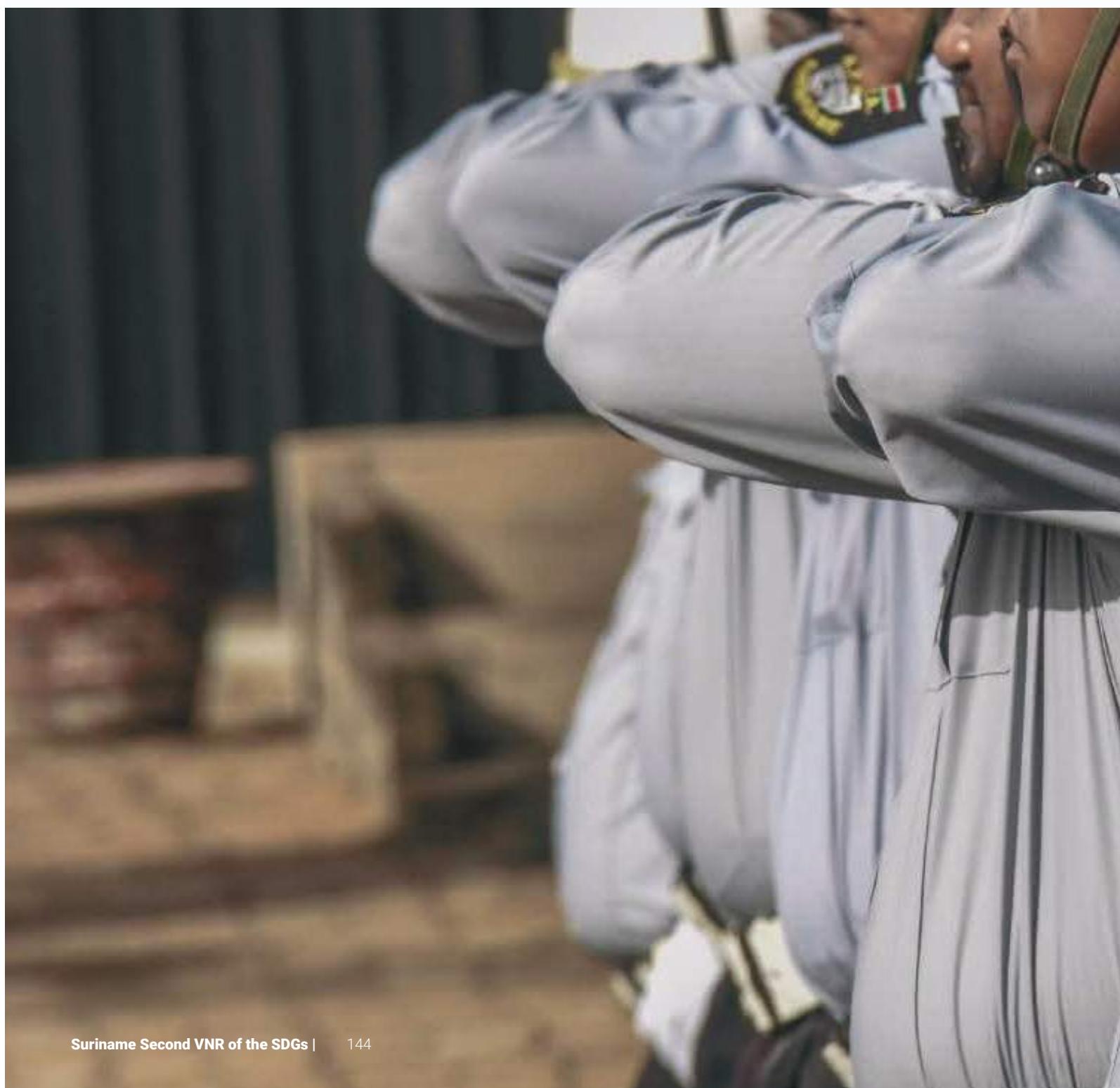
In the institutions responsible for maintaining the rule of law and the safety of society, there is limited capacity to tackle specific offenses. The emerging risks related to money laundering and corruption need specialized human resources that require resources and training. A worrying trend is the increase in violent crimes by young people. This requires a well-thought-out approach, in which prevention, resocialization

and cooperation among the chain of partners are essential. The Anti-Corruption Commission is in the starting blocks to implement Article 9 of the Anti-Corruption Law, which requires public officials' mandatory declaration of income and assets from a certain level in the bureaucracy. The Commission still needs to enhance its institutional and human capacity and prepare the supporting regulations to execute its responsibilities. The current anti-corruption and penal regulations do not adequately address the issues that negatively impact sectors such as mining and forestry, including widespread deforestation. Anti-corruption measures in Suriname are relatively new, limited, and involve multiple tasks. They also require sufficient personnel and financial resources. Within

the governance and financial institutions of the country, there is a continued need to enhance the institutional and human capacity to keep abreast with developments both nationally and internationally.

### **Opportunities**

Suriname's progress regarding the implementation of the actions following the National Risk Assessment, is a positive development that will be continued. The recent adjustments and adoption of national legislation to guarantee social, economic and human rights in the country provide an opportunity to make more endeavours to promote an inclusive society.





By fortifying its national legislative frameworks to secure social, economic and human rights for all, digitizing police information systems, increasing transparency, and enhancing child and victim protection measures, Suriname has made notable strides toward achieving SDG 16. The National Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, the Safe City project, the Anti-Corruption Law and the work of the Commission, the progress made following the National Risk Assessments, and the revised Penal Code and supporting regulations are progressive developments. Institutions such as the Public Prosecution Office and the Court of Audit have been strengthened. Yet, there is still work to be done on aspects such as the institutional and human capacity of regulating and oversight institutions, inefficient bureaucratic procedures, the public's perception of crime and corruption, crime by young people and ensuring that finance and enforcement systems are viable in every area.

## 5.16.1 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and the SDGs in Suriname

*"We envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity... A just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met."*

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a vision for sustainable development grounded in international human rights standards, putting equality and non-discrimination at the center of its efforts and encompassing not only economic and social rights but also civil, political, and cultural rights, and the right to development.

For Indigenous and Tribal peoples in Suriname, this horizon, only 5 years away now, is not getting much closer. Despite the strong slogan "Leave No One Behind", ITPs continue to be the ones left furthest behind in practically all SDG-indicators, and more importantly, their human rights are still not legally recognized, let alone realized, in Suriname. ITPs feel discriminated against, marginalized, forgotten, being treated as obstructors, opponents and obstacles to "development" instead of actors towards positive change, not listened to or ignored in national policies, including in disaggregated data research, and being sacrificed for the "development" of others, the more powerful and influential. These feelings are not only sentiments but have been objectively concluded by various human rights bodies in their monitoring and evaluation of Suriname's human rights situation over the past decades, among others during the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council and the periodic reports of the Committees monitoring the implementation of core human rights conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), all of which expressed their deep concern about the deep-rooted gaps and discrepancies in fulfilling the human rights of ITPs.

In addition, Suriname has been sentenced various times by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgments on the violations of the human rights of ITPs, in the Moiwana (2005), Saramaka (2007) and Kaliña & Lokono (2015) cases, on the grounds of violations of ITPs' rights: to recognition (as such, with legal personality) before the law, to lack of access to justice and legal protection (given the fact that ITPs do not have standing before the law in Suriname and their rights are not recognized), to collective property titles over their traditional lands and traditional natural resources that they depend on, to effective participation in policy-making and to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), among others.

International law, norms and standards have long ago recognized the collective rights of Indigenous and Tribal peoples. The Inter-American system adopted specific provisions all the way back to 1948 in the Inter-American Charter on Social Guarantees, during the Ninth International Conference of American States that created the Organization of American States (OAS), emphasizing the obligation of states to protect the life, personal liberty, and property of the native population. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981 was the first human rights instrument not limited to individual rights, as it also sets forth the collective rights of peoples. ILO Convention no. 107 of 1957 recognized the discrimination against ITPs and the need for stronger human rights' protection, and was later replaced by ILO Convention no. 169 of 1989. The Rio conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Desertification (CCD), approved during the first World Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, all recognize the rights and dependence of ITPs on their ancestral

<sup>9</sup> <https://unsgd.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values>  
<https://www.unwater.org/publications/water-sanitation-interlinkages-across-2030-agenda-sustainable-development/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://unsgd.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values>

<sup>11</sup> For a list of the various Concluding Observations and Recommendations of UN Treaty Bodies, please consult the Treaty database using "Suriname" as search term: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=En&CountryID=166](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=En&CountryID=166)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec\\_124\\_ing.pdf](https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_124_ing.pdf)  
[https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec\\_172\\_ing.pdf](https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_172_ing.pdf)  
[https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec\\_309\\_ing.pdf](https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/casos/articulos/seriec_309_ing.pdf)

lands and environment for their livelihoods, dignity, identity and survival. All of these instruments, and the subsequent funding mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), but also development banks and programmes such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), all have explicit conditions, standards and safeguards for respecting and protecting the rights of ITPs.

Suriname cannot stay behind. The current Government has early in its administration period, in June 2021, submitted a draft Framework Law on the Collective Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Suriname. This concept drew from an earlier draft law developed during the previous administration in close consultation with ITPs, but which was not discussed by the Parliament of Suriname. Unfortunately, the draft Framework Law was only tabled by the Parliament in January 2023 with amendments that were unacceptable to ITPs, and received many comments from various political parties, leading to the withdrawal of the draft by the Government and submission of an amended version which was, however, far below any international standard on the rights of ITPs. That new draft of January 2025 was subsequently strongly rejected by all representative institutions of the ITPs of Suriname and also by environmental NGOs, and again put on hold by the Government.

The recognition of the collective rights of ITPs in accordance with international standards is crucial for achieving the SDGs in Suriname, where it is precisely the ITPs being left behind. It is not just a

matter of development indicators of individuals, but of a recognition that human rights, equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of sustainable development, a recognition of equity, dignity and justice, of cultures and ways of life, of peoples that existed before the current state boundaries, of colonial wrongdoing and correction thereof, instead of sanctioning and continuing the same assimilationist and superiority approach against those that have been systematically excluded and discriminated.

The first steps have been taken and need to be strengthened without further delay. The draft legislation needs to be revised again to meet international standards on the rights of ITPs; Suriname must make a proactive holistic national policy on ITPs (a recently concluded UN Joint Programme “Leave No One Behind, Building Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Suriname” has laid the basis for that with a draft ITPs Policy Framework and a Manual for an Inclusive, Human Rights Based Government Policy on ITPs, and the Suriname SDG Platform, established in July 2022, is gearing up to develop and roll out a human rights-based monitoring system. All of these steps must be taken with the full and effective participation of ITPs, through their self-selected representatives and representative institutions of their traditional authorities, respecting their right to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

### **The Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) & the Collaboration of Tribal Peoples in Suriname - KAMPOS**

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cidh.org/Indigenas/intro.htm#:~:text=It%20is%20important%20to%20note,a%20provision%20on%20 indigenous%20rights>

<sup>14</sup> <https://africanlii.org/akn/aa-au/act/charter/1981/human-and-peoples-rights/eng@1981-06-27>

<sup>15</sup> [https://dna.sr/media/322328/21\\_899\\_Pres.\\_Sur.\\_Aanb.\\_Wet\\_Collectieve\\_Rechten\\_Inheemse\\_en\\_Tribale\\_Volken.pdf](https://dna.sr/media/322328/21_899_Pres._Sur._Aanb._Wet_Collectieve_Rechten_Inheemse_en_Tribale_Volken.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/imported\\_files/CEB%20equality%20framework-A4-web-rev3.pdf](https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/imported_files/CEB%20equality%20framework-A4-web-rev3.pdf)



## 5.17 Sustainable Development Goal 17 Partnerships: Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development

### Status of the Targets

● On track ● Moderate improvements ● Not on track ● Not monitored yet

SDG 16 Targets	Status
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization.	●
17.2 Implement all development assistance commitments by developed countries.	●
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries.	●
17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability.	●
17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for LDCs.	●
17.6 Enhance cooperation on access to science, technology and innovation.	●
17.7 Promote environmentally sound technologies.	●

17.9 Enhance capacity-building for implementing SDGs.	
17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO.	
17.11 Significantly increase exports of developing countries.	
17.12 Realize duty-free and quota-free access for LDCs.	
17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability.	
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	
17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership.	
17.16 Enhance global partnerships for sustainable development.	
17.17 Promote public-private and civil society partnerships.	
17.18 Enhance availability of timely, high-quality, and disaggregated data.	
17.19 Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development.	

### Policy context and Progress

Suriname has made cautious progress in strengthening domestic resource mobilization in recent years. Following a prolonged period of economic instability beginning in 2015, characterized by negative growth, soaring inflation, and rising public debt, the country has entered a phase of gradual recovery. However, structural vulnerabilities persist. Suriname's external debt stands at approximately 139% of its GDP, and domestic loans account for an estimated 80% of GDP.

A key development in domestic fiscal reform has been the introduction of a Value Added Tax (VAT) system. This move is intended to diversify revenue sources, shift dependence away from volatile extractive sectors, and broaden the tax base. Implementation is ongoing, and early indications suggest it could improve medium-term revenue stability.

Capacity constraints in tax collection, limited digitization, and gaps in enforcement continue to undermine efforts to mobilize domestic resources effectively. Furthermore, underdeveloped regions of the country - particularly remote interior communities - remain largely outside the formal fiscal system, further limiting the revenue base.

While national efforts are ongoing, sustained international cooperation is critical, not only through financial and technical assistance, but also through structural reforms in global financing frameworks that recognize the unique vulnerabilities of countries like Suriname.

With support from both international partners and domestic stakeholders, Suriname has made measurable progress in mobilizing financial resources beyond traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA). In recent years, the country has received substantial assistance through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including financial aid, technical assistance, and capacity-building programmes. This support has been especially critical during national emergencies, such as the widespread flooding events that severely affected communities and infrastructure across the country.

Humanitarian aid and post-disaster recovery funds were made available through regional organizations, development banks, and UN agencies. Capacity-building support has also played a vital role in strengthening institutional readiness and resilience in key sectors such as disaster management, health,

education, and climate adaptation. Private sector, civil society and community-based organizations have provided financial support, resources, and logistics during emergencies and in broader social development efforts. While formal public-private partnerships (PPPs) are still in early stages, there is momentum towards greater cooperation between public and private actors.

Despite these encouraging developments, Suriname faces challenges in accessing sustained non-ODA financial flows. Suriname's classification as a high-middle-income country, limits its access to concessional financing - an issue highlighting the need for international consideration of the multidimensional vulnerability index, as the SIDS community advocates. This classification does not reflect the full scope of Suriname's economic vulnerability, including its exposure to external shocks, climate-related disasters, and limited fiscal space. Suriname seeks to enhance its financial cooperation frameworks by improving coordination with international partners, expanding the investment climate, and exploring innovative financing models such as blended finance and results-based mechanisms.

In its efforts towards debt sustainability, the Government of Suriname adopted a comprehensive Recovery Plan (2020-2022), which laid the foundation for fiscal stabilization. Central to this effort was the securing of a USD 688 million Extended Fund Facility (EFF) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which provided both financial support and a policy framework to guide economic reforms. The Government committed to IMF-backed measures, including substantial fiscal consolidation through the elimination of non-essential subsidies, public sector reform, and reduced budgetary spending.

These measures, though socially and politically sensitive, were critical to halting economic decline and rebuilding international credibility. The support from the IMF included technical assistance in strengthening Suriname's debt management capacity and restoring monetary stability. One of the key achievements under the EFF has been the rebuilding of monetary reserves, which has reinforced confidence in the domestic economy and contributed to exchange rate stabilization.

Debt restructuring has been a vital component of Suriname's recovery. With the assistance of strategic partner Lazard, and through coordinated negotiations with official creditors, including the Government of China, Suriname was able to reach agreements that brought the country's previously unsustainable debt profile to a more manageable level. These restructuring efforts involved renegotiation of payment terms, interest rates, and maturity schedules, easing immediate fiscal pressure and creating room for recovery-oriented spending.

Continued debt management efforts will focus on strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing debt transparency, and developing domestic capital markets. International cooperation will remain essential in providing financial and technical assistance and promoting fairer access to global financing tools for structurally vulnerable middle-income countries.

Although Suriname is not classified as a Least Developed Country (LDC), it faces structural economic vulnerabilities characteristic of many LDCs, including limited infrastructure development, institutional capacity gaps, and heavy dependence on extractive industries. Suriname has high expectations for the impending oil and gas boom's transformative potential to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and narrow inequality.

The most prominent opportunity is linked to TotalEnergies' and APA Corporation's Final Investment Decision (FID) for the 'GranMorgu' development located on offshore Block 58. There are other major players already active in the country and collaborating closely with Staatsolie, the State Oil company. The Government has made significant efforts to enhance awareness among local businesses about potential partnerships, and to encourage foreign companies to invest in Suriname through a series of initiatives such as regional and international oil and gas investment summits, as well as ease of doing business campaigns. However, it is acknowledged that the direct employment benefits from offshore oil and gas operations may be limited, since only a small fraction of the workforce is employed in these sectors. The challenge lies in developing backward and forward linkages between the petroleum industry and other sectors. This is currently constrained by significant skills shortages in the local labour market, necessitating the import of much of the required technical expertise. These constraints also limit the scope for domestic value addition through local content strategies. With the launch of its National Migration Policy 2024-2030, Suriname is prioritizing orderly migration, diaspora engagement, and labour market integration to address skill gaps and promote socio-economic development. Additionally, in the Suriname Green Development Strategy, a transformative roadmap for Suriname's transition to a diversified, sustainable, and climate-resilient economy is presented. By integrating economic growth with environmental protection and social inclusion, the Strategy envisions that the country's natural wealth benefits all citizens.

To institutionalize its investment promotion efforts, Suriname established the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA) in November 2021, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business,

and International Cooperation. SITA serves as the primary agency for facilitating foreign direct investment, promoting exports, and coordinating trade development initiatives. It plays a key role in aligning investment flows with national development priorities. Suriname's investment climate is further being supported through legal and policy reforms aimed at improving the investment environment.

These include revising the Investment Law, introducing Transfer Pricing Regulations, and planning to establish a Co-Investment Fund, which aims to leverage public and private capital for strategic projects. By actively promoting investments across sectors and improving its institutional and policy framework, Suriname is laying the foundation for sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Suriname recognizes the critical role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in achieving sustainable development. Through strategic partnerships and national reforms, the country is working to enhance its capacity in STI, improve digital infrastructure, and foster international collaboration. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation has prioritized innovation as a driver of economic transformation, with a focus on renewable energy and sustainable technologies.

Suriname has also partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop the ICT Vision 2030, a national strategy that positions digitalization as a core pillar of development. The 2024 Second Agricultural Census, supported by FAO, further enhanced data systems critical for policy planning.

The digitalization of the public sector is progressing steadily, supported by a strong political mandate and cross-ministerial cooperation. Key reforms aim to embed technology across governance structures and enhance citizen access to digital services.

As such, enhanced North-South, South-South, and regional cooperation remains vital. Greater access to international expertise, financing, and technology-sharing platforms - such as the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism - can significantly strengthen Suriname's innovation capacity.

As a developing country with vast natural resources and high environmental vulnerability, Suriname has a strong interest in the equitable development, transfer, and implementation of environmentally sound technologies. Therefore, Suriname continues to take proactive steps to promote environmental sustainability. Despite the country's commitment, access to environmentally sound technologies remains limited and often costly, due to Suriname's classification which overlooks the structural vulnerabilities, including a small domestic market, limited technological capacity, and exposure to

climate-related disasters.

Suriname has received targeted assistance in renewable energy and environmental monitoring, including through technical partnerships with multilateral organizations.

However, such support has often been project-based, limited in scale, and lacking in long-term capacity-building components. There remains a significant need for sustained technology transfer programmes that go beyond equipment provision to include training, institutional strengthening, and infrastructure development.

The global responsibility to support vulnerable nations - especially those with critical environmental assets like Suriname - must be matched with accessible funding instruments and technology-sharing mechanisms.

Suriname calls on developed countries and international institutions to expand concessional and preferential technology partnerships, in line with SDG 17.7, to empower countries like Suriname to develop sustainably while continuing to provide essential ecosystem services to the world.

Over the years, Suriname has benefited from a variety of technical assistance and cooperation agreements with bilateral and multilateral partners. These include the European Union, the United Nations system, CARICOM regional partners, and international financial institutions, which have contributed to upgrading public sector effectiveness, improving statistical capacities, enhancing environmental governance, and supporting digital transformation efforts. These interventions have strengthened the foundations for national development planning and SDG localization. Institutional and human capacity development remains a dynamic and continuous process, especially in light of rapid global changes and complex national challenges. For instance, the need for robust public financial management systems, resilient healthcare delivery, climate governance, and digital infrastructure has grown significantly in recent years.

However, the country still faces critical gaps in technical expertise, modern tools, and knowledge exchange mechanisms, particularly in sectors such as climate resilience, education, data management, and public health systems. These challenges are compounded by brain drain and constrained fiscal space for investment in human resources. These evolving needs call for long-term, predictable, and adaptable support from development partners. Moreover, South-South and regional cooperation - particularly with countries that share similar development trajectories - holds great promise. Suriname is actively exploring partnerships with Latin American and Caribbean countries to share knowledge, innovations, and policy experiences, especially in sustainable agriculture, disaster risk management, health and education reform.

Trade remains a key engine for Suriname's economic

growth and development. Suriname is actively engaged in key multilateral trade processes, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Regionally, Suriname is part of several frameworks that enhance trade cooperation, including the CARICOM, the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the Trade Preferential System of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC), and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Suriname's engagement in global and regional trade systems reflects its commitment to an open and inclusive multilateral trading system. Continued investments in institutional capacity, trade infrastructure, and regional collaboration are essential for ensuring that the benefits of trade contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Suriname's export portfolio remains concentrated in primary commodities, notably gold and crude oil. This commodity dependence subjects export revenues to volatility in global market prices and hinders long-term resilience. The country's share in global exports remains marginal, underscoring the need for targeted strategies to improve value-added production and reduce over-reliance on extractive sectors.

To address these gaps, Suriname is pursuing technical and institutional reforms to strengthen its export capacity. Key initiatives include (i) trade-related technical assistance, (ii) export diversification policies, (iii) integration with digital trade facilitation systems, and (iv) participation in preferential trade arrangements.

As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Suriname adheres to non-discriminatory trade practices and aligns with the 2013 WTO Bali Decision on preferential rules of origin for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Though Suriname does not maintain complex or restrictive tariff structures impacting LDCs, its role in regional trade platforms indirectly supports market access for LDC goods. Through CARICOM, Suriname is part of a regional bloc that includes LDC members such as Haiti, and contributes to regional trade arrangements that provide preferential treatment and technical assistance to smaller economies. Suriname also participates in CARIFORUM, where cooperative mechanisms are in place to strengthen trade-related infrastructure and policy harmonization among Caribbean states, many of which share LDC-like vulnerabilities.

## **Challenges**

Because of its classification as a high-middle-income country, Suriname experiences challenges in accessing non-ODA financial flows. Due to this classification, Suriname faces restricted eligibility for concessional financing mechanisms and preferential technology transfer frameworks. This classification overlooks the country's structural vulnerabilities, including a small domestic market, limited technological capacity, and exposure to climate-related disasters. Capacity constraints in tax collection, limited digitization, and gaps in enforcement continue to undermine efforts to mobilize domestic resources effectively. Challenges also remain in the areas of productive capacity, export readiness of SMEs, and international market compliance. Suriname still faces critical gaps in technical expertise, modern tools, and knowledge exchange mechanisms, particularly in sectors such as climate resilience, education, data management, and public health systems. These challenges are compounded by brain drain and constrained fiscal space for investment in human resources.

## **Opportunities**

Suriname is seeking to enhance its financial cooperation frameworks by improving coordination with international partners, expanding the investment climate, and exploring innovative financing models such as blended finance and results-based mechanisms. At the global level, Suriname continues to support calls, especially from the SIDS community, for a multidimensional vulnerability index that better captures development realities beyond income alone. Debt management and restructuring efforts encompass strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing debt transparency, and developing domestic capital markets. International cooperation is inevitable to provide financial and technical assistance, as well as to promote fairer access to global financing tools for structurally vulnerable middle-income countries. The implementation of the Suriname Green Development Strategy, envisions the integration of economic growth with environmental protection and social inclusion. Suriname is actively exploring South-South, regional and international partnerships to share knowledge, innovations, and policy experiences, especially in sustainable agriculture, disaster risk management, health and education reform.



Suriname strengthened its domestic resource mobilization, debt management capacity and debt restructuring. The country adopted fiscal recovery plans, enabling greater macroeconomic stability and renewed investor confidence. It also enhanced its partnerships at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels, including through active cooperation with the UN, CARICOM, EU, and international financial institutions, to mobilize resources and technical assistance for achieving the SDGs. Initiatives like the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA), digital readiness assessments, and regional trade agreements aim to enhance FDI, expand export capacity, and promote innovation across key sectors such as agriculture and energy. The expected oil boom presents an opportunity to transform Suriname's economy, but success depends on policy reforms, investment in human capital, and strong institutions to avoid over-reliance on extractive industries. Suriname still faces critical gaps in technical expertise, modern tools, and knowledge exchange mechanisms, particularly in sectors such as climate resilience, education, data management, and public health systems. These challenges are compounded by brain drain and constrained fiscal space for investment in human resources. Suriname's classification as a high-middle-income country limits access to concessional financing; therefore, it supports the call for international consideration of a multidimensional vulnerability index, as advocated by the SIDS community.

# 6.

# Dashboard SDGs and Statistical factsheets



Suriname SDG performance Dashboard 2025				
	Statistic	Year	Rating	Trend
<b>SDG1 - No Poverty</b>				
Poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15/day (2017 PPP%)	1.1	2022	●	↑
Poverty headcount ratio at \$3.65/day (2017 PPP%)	4.2	2022	●	↑
<b>SDG2 - Zero Hunger</b>				
Prevelance of undernourishment (%)	9.0	2021	●	↑
Prevelance of stunting in children under 5 years of age (%)	7.6	2022	●	↔
Prevelance of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	5.5	2018	●	↔
Prevelance in obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% of adult population)	29.0	2022	●	↔
Human Thropic level (best 2-3 worst)	2.2	2021	●	↔
Cereal yield (tonnes per hectare of harvested land)	4.8	2022	●	↑
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index (best 1-1.41 worst)	0.6	2018	●	↔
<b>SDG3 - Good Health and Well-Being</b>				
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	84.0	2023	●	↓
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	10.3	2022	●	↓
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1000 live births)	16.0	2023	●	↓
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	20.6	2023	●	↓
New HIV infections (per 1,000 uninfected population)	0.7	2022	●	↔
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease in adults aged 30-70 years (%)	22.7	2019	●	↔
Age-standardized death attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	51.0	2019	●	↔
Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)	11.7	2022	●	↓
Life expectancy at birth (years)	73.4	2023	●	↑
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15-19)	48.0	2023	●	↓
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	100.0	2021	●	↑
Surviving infants who receive 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	74.0	2022	●	↑
Universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0-100 best)	63.0	2021	●	↓
Subjective well-being (average ladder score, worst 0-10 best)	7.0	2014	●	↑
<b>SDG4 - Quality Education</b>				
Participation rate in pre-primary organized learning (% of children aged 4 to 6)	84.4	2021	●	↔
Net primary enrollment rate (%)	82.7	2021	●	↔
Lower secondary completion rate (%)	44.7	2021	●	↔
Literacy rate (% of population aged 15 to 24)	98.9	2021	●	↔
<b>SDG5 - Gender Equality</b>				
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% of females aged 15-49)	57.5	2018	●	↔
Ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received (%)	104.4	2022	●	↑
Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate (%)	69.6	2023	●	↑
Seats held by women in national parliament (%)	29.4	2024	●	↔
<b>SDG6 - Clean Water and Sanitation</b>				

Suriname SDG performance Dashboard 2025				
	Statistic	Year	Rating	Trend
Population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	98.0	2022	●	↔
Population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	90.0	2022	●	↑
Freshwater withdrawal (% of available freshwater resources)	4.0	2021	●	↑
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	13.2	2020	●	↔
Scarce water consumption embodied in imports (m <sup>3</sup> H <sub>2</sub> O eq/capita)	NA	NA	●	●
<b>SDG7 - Affordable and Clean Energy</b>				
Population with access to electricity (%)	98.8	2021	●	↔
Population with access to clean fuels and technology for cooking (%)	94.8	2021	●	↑
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion per total electricity output MtCO <sub>2</sub> /TWh)	1.7	2022	●	↑
Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption (%)	11.0	2023	●	↓
<b>SDG8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>				
Adjusted GDP growth (%)	3.5	2024	●	↑
Victims of modern slavery (per 1,000 population)	2.3	2018	●	↔
Adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population aged 15 or over)	61.7	2022	●	↑
Unemployment rate (% of total labor force, ages 15+)	7.8	2023	●	↓
Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed (worst 0-1 best)	0.5	2022	●	↑
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	35.8	2019	●	↑
Victims of modern slavery embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	NA	NA	●	●
<b>SDG9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>				
Rural population with access to all-season roads (%)	81.6	2024	●	↑
Population using the internet (%)	75.8	2022	●	↑
Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 population)	124.4	2022	●	↑
Logistics Performance Index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1-5 best)	NA	NA	●	●
<b>SDG10 - Reduced Inequalities</b>				
Gini coefficient	39.2	2022	●	●
Palma ratio	1.8	2022	●	●
<b>SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>				
Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)	NA	NA	●	●
Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (μg/m <sup>3</sup> )	16.1	2022	●	↓
Access to improved water source, piped (% of urban population)	94.6	2023	●	↑
Satisfaction with public transport (%)	82.0	2014	●	●
<b>SDG12 - Responsible Consumption and Production</b>				
Production-based SO <sub>2</sub> emissions (kg/capita)	NA	NA	●	●
SO <sub>2</sub> emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	NA	NA	●	●
Production-based nitrogen emissions (kg/capita)	NA	NA	●	●
Nitrogen emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	NA	NA	●	●
Exports of plastic waste (kg/capita)	NA	2022	●	↓

Suriname SDG performance Dashboard 2025				
	Statistic	Year	Rating	Trend
<b>SDG13 - Climate Action</b>				
CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production (tCO2/capita)	5.8	2022	🟡	↑
CO2 emissions embodied in imports (tCO2/capita)	NA	NA	●	●
<b>SDG14 - Life Below Water</b>				
Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	74.2	2023	●	↔
Ocean Health Index: Clean Waters score (worst 0-100 best)	79.3	2023	🟡	↓
Fish caught from overexploited or collapsed stocks (% of total catch)	7.7	2018	●	↔
Fish caught by trawling or dredging (%)	26.0	2019	🟡	↔
Fish caught that are then discarded (%)	9.3	2019	🟡	↔
Marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population)	0.0	2018	●	↔
<b>SDG15- Life on Land</b>				
Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	51.9	2023	●	↑
Mean area that is protected in fresh water sites important to biodiversity (%)	49.4	2023	🟡	↔
Red List Index of species survival (worst 0-1 best)	1.0	2023	🟡	↔
Permanent deforestation (% of forest area, 3-years average)	0.1	2022	🟡	↔
<b>SDG16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b>				
Homicides (per 100,000 population)	7.3	2022	🟡	↑
Unsentenced detainees (% of prison population)	32.8	2021	🟡	↑
Population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city/area where they live (%)	75.9	2014	🟡	↑
Birth registration with civil authority (% of children under age 5)	98.3	2018	●	↑
Corruption Perceptions Index (worst 0-100 best)	40.0	2023	🟡	↔
Children involved in child labor (% of population ages 5 to 14)	4.3	2018	🟡	↔
Exports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant million USD per 100,000 population)	0.0	2023	●	↔
Press Freedom Index (worst 0-100 best)	76.1	2024	●	↑
<b>SDG17-Partnership for the Goals</b>				
Government spending on health and education (% of GDP)	7.4	2020	🟡	↓
Statistical Performance Index (worst 0-100 best)	57.2	2024	●	↓



# 1 NO POVERTY



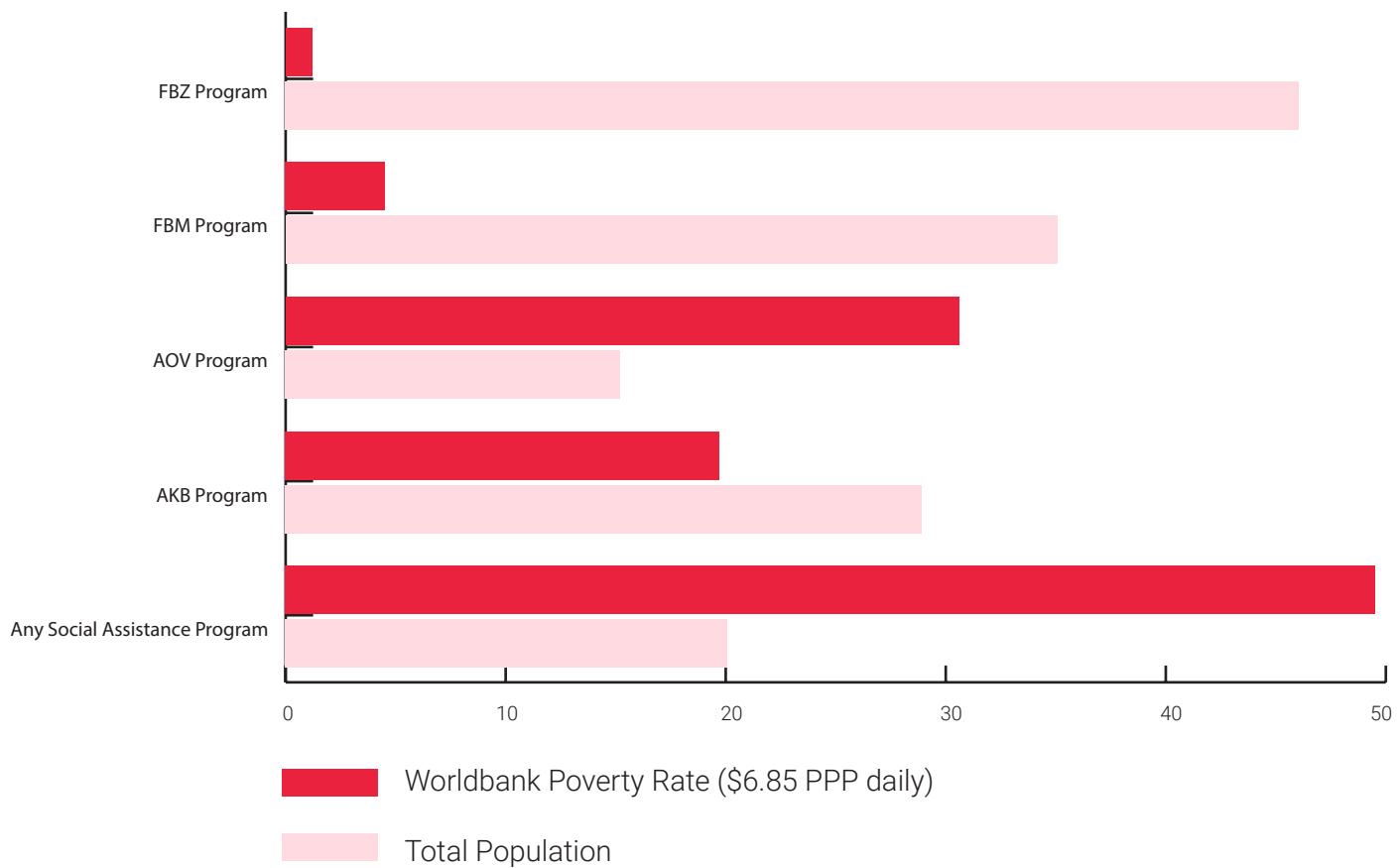
# Poverty No

## Key Messages

1. Suriname's poverty rate has decreased from 22% in 2016 to around 18% in 2022, using the World Bank Upper-Middle Income Poverty Line. This decrease is particularly due to the increase in several social assistance programmes.
2. Multidimensional poverty remains high: 44% of the population experiences poverty in terms of health, education, and access to services.
3. The coverage of AKB, FBMeB, and FBZwHH is currently insufficient. The coverage of these programmes is lower than the actual estimated need for these programmes.
4. The AOV (elderly allowance) has consistently lagged behind the national poverty line. Even after increases, in May 2025, the elderly received USD 62, while the poverty line was about USD 203 per month.
5. Despite commitments under the IMF EFF programme, the social assistance spending floor was not met.
6. The National Poverty line for a household with two adults and two children is about SRD 16,000 per month, as of December 2022
7. Primary education attendance is high across regions, but secondary and tertiary education attainment levels are below 10% in the Interior areas.
8. Women, children, the unemployed, and those living in the Interior are disproportionately deprived of basic needs and other material resources and household amenities.

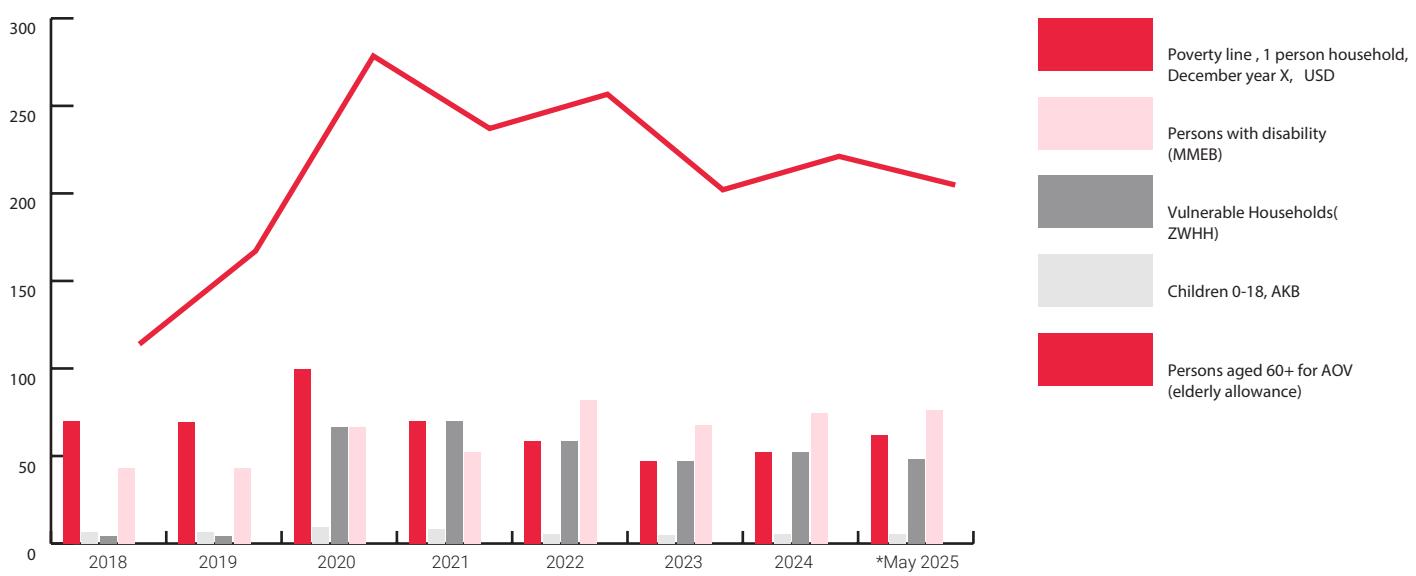


**Fig. 1.1: Social assistance programme by poor people, 2022, in %**



Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022

**Fig 1.2: Developments in level of social assistance for vulnerable groups, compared with national poverty line, 2018-2025**



Source: Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing; Ministry of Finance and Planning, Statistics; General Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Finance and Planning, Cebuma; Planning Office Suriname; Pension Fund, modified by author

**Table 1.1: Poverty profile by sex, age, employment status and geographic location, 2022, in %**

Category	World Bank Poverty Rate (\$6.85 PPP daily)	Total Population
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	<b>18</b>	<b>50</b>
Male	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Gender of the Head of the Household</b>		
Female	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>
Male	<b>15</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Age</b>		
0-5	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>
6-11	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>
12-14	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>
15-17	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>
18-24	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>
25-60	<b>13</b>	<b>44</b>
60+	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Missing age	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Employment Status</b>		
Employed	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>
Unemployed	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Region</b>		
Great Paramaribo	<b>17</b>	<b>70</b>
Remaining Rural Coastal	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>
Interior	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>

Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022

**Table 1.2: Population living in households with access to basic services, 2022, in %**

Household and Personal Assets	Urban	Rural Coastal	Rural Interior
Television	87	84	52
Bathroom	99	98	69
Mobile phone	98	97	91
VCR/DVD	4	3	2
Stove	92	87	84
Water tank	57	55	54
Cable TV	9	7	2
Fixed line	42	31	5
Automobile	71	72	26
Smartphone	95	91	86
Smart TV	63	56	49
Generator	3	1	8
Fixed broadband connection	90	87	44
Mobile internet	15	16	57
Checking account	64	62	45
Saving account	44	28	34
Dental checkup at least once a year	30	25	9
Basic Health Insurance	29	35	40
Private Insurance	59	53	35
Medical checkup at least once a year	54	56	30
School attendance	96	97	79
Primary Education	58	61	51
Secondary Education	16	11	6
Tertiary Education	9	4	2

Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022  
Access to assets, services and amenities by households. Grey color indicates that households in particular region experience low material deprivations, below 40. Light pink indicates that there is a high deprivation, above 40%





# Hunger

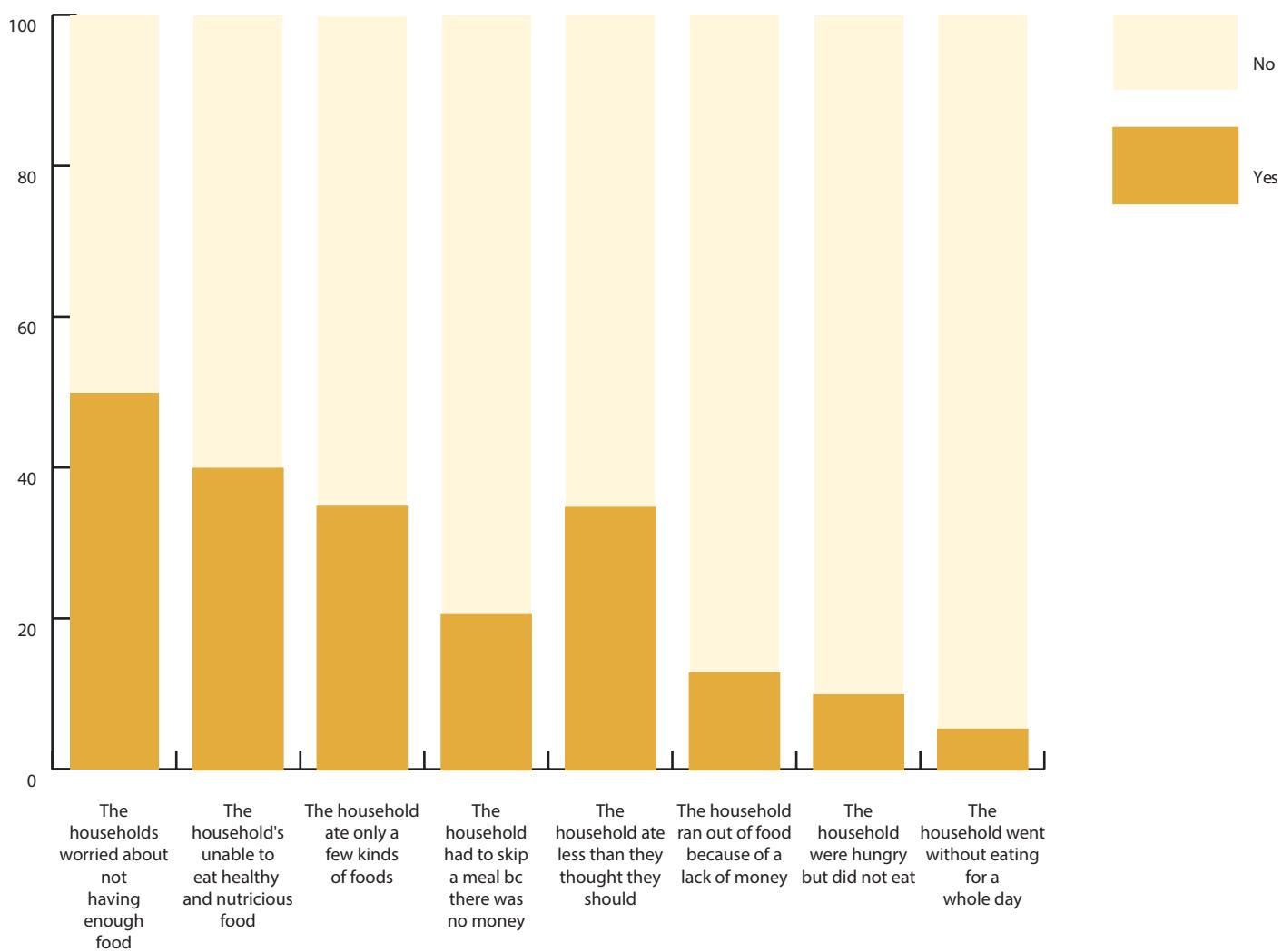
2  
Zero  
Hunger

## Key Messages

1. Nearly half of Surinamese households (50%) are worried about not having enough food, 40% cannot afford healthy and nutritious food, while 35% eat only a few types of food.
2. Households in the lower quintiles (Q1–Q2) spend a larger share (approx. 60%) of their income on food, while wealthier households (Q5) allocate a relatively smaller share (50%) for food (Fig. 2.2).
3. Although Suriname has 4.2 million hectares of arable land, only 1.4% is currently utilized, a stark underuse of agricultural potential.
4. Major obstacles include weak infrastructure, overreliance on food imports, and weak enforcement of food safety regulations and pesticide controls.
5. Policy interventions include: SAMAP and ASTA programmes, Good Agriculture Practices, Agriculture productivity, NOFA fund, climate-smart farming, and nutrition awareness programmes.

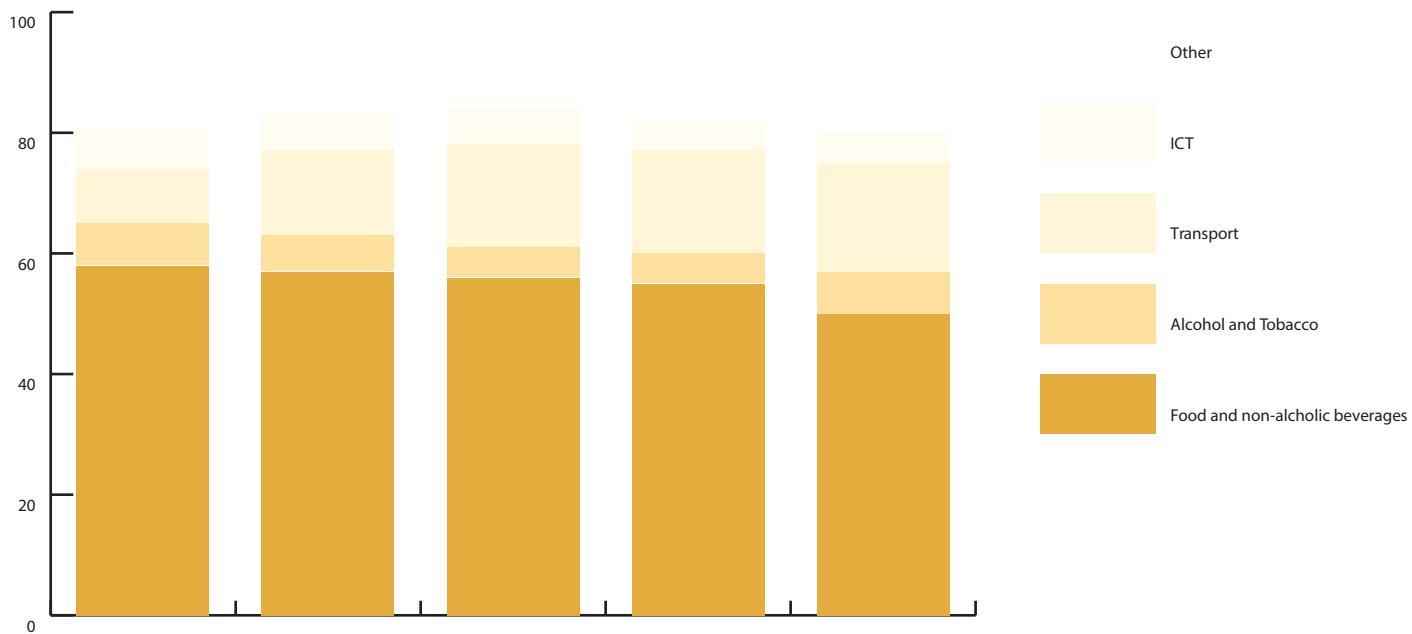


**Fig. 2.1: Food insecurity in % of population, 2022**



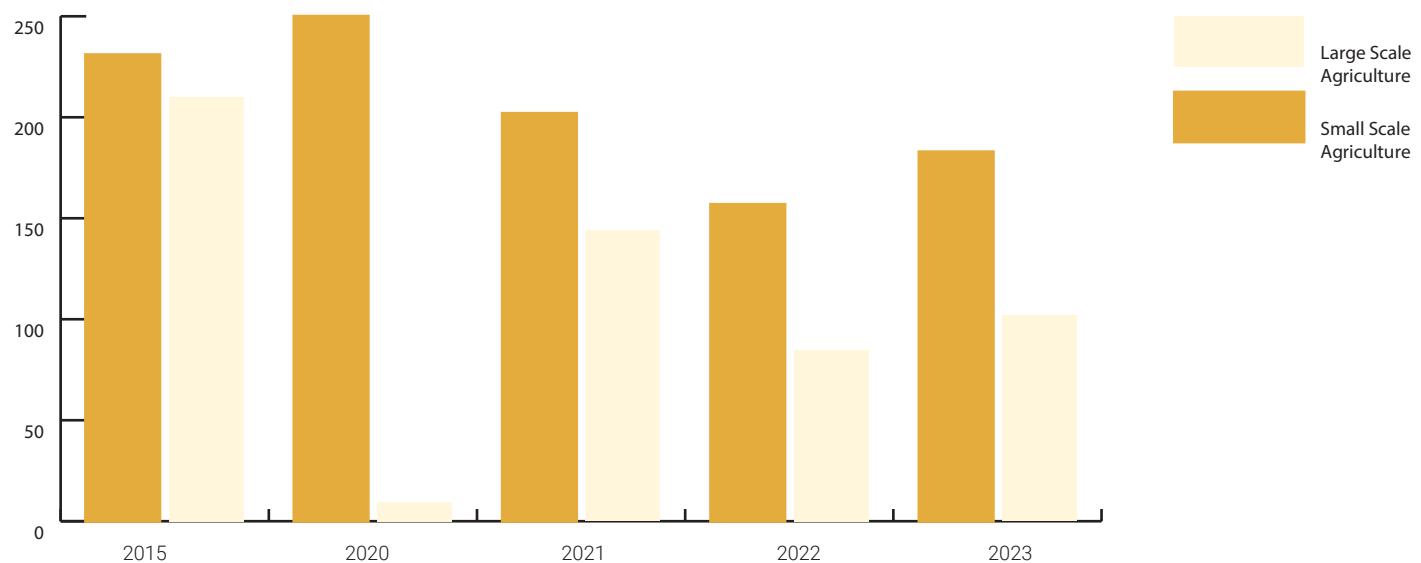
Source: Suriname Survey on Living Conditions, 2022

**Fig. 2.2: Expenditures by quintiles ranked by COICOP main group, in %**



Source: General Bureau of Statistics (GBS), 2024

**Fig. 2.3: Annual output in agriculture, 2015-2023, in thousands of kg's**



Source: General Bureau of Statistics (GBS), 2024





# Health and well-being

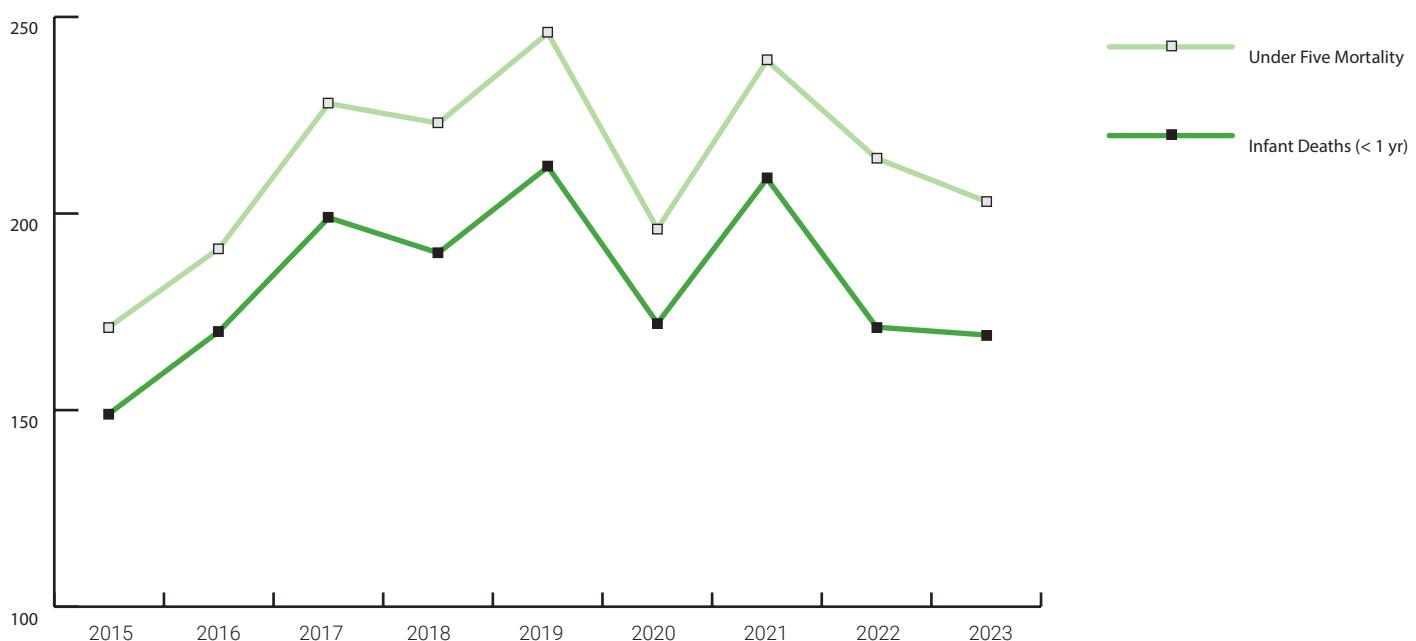
## 3 Good Health and well-being

### Key Messages

1. Policy interventions include: Digitization primary health care, HEARTS chronic care model, preventive public education, upgrade health infrastructure, expansion of SRH and maternal and neonatal care.
2. Both infant deaths and under-five mortality declined from 2021 (Fig. 3.1.).
3. Suriname maintained zero local malaria transmission since 2021 (Table 3.2) and is preparing for WHO malaria elimination certification. HIV and tuberculosis show an increasing trend, indicating the need for attention (Table 3.1)
4. Government-subsidized healthcare (BAZO) has been increasing (Fig. 3.3.).
5. Major obstacles in health services include brain drain, inefficiencies in health financing, programmatic and Epi data, infrastructure gaps and climate change affecting health care coverage in the Interior.

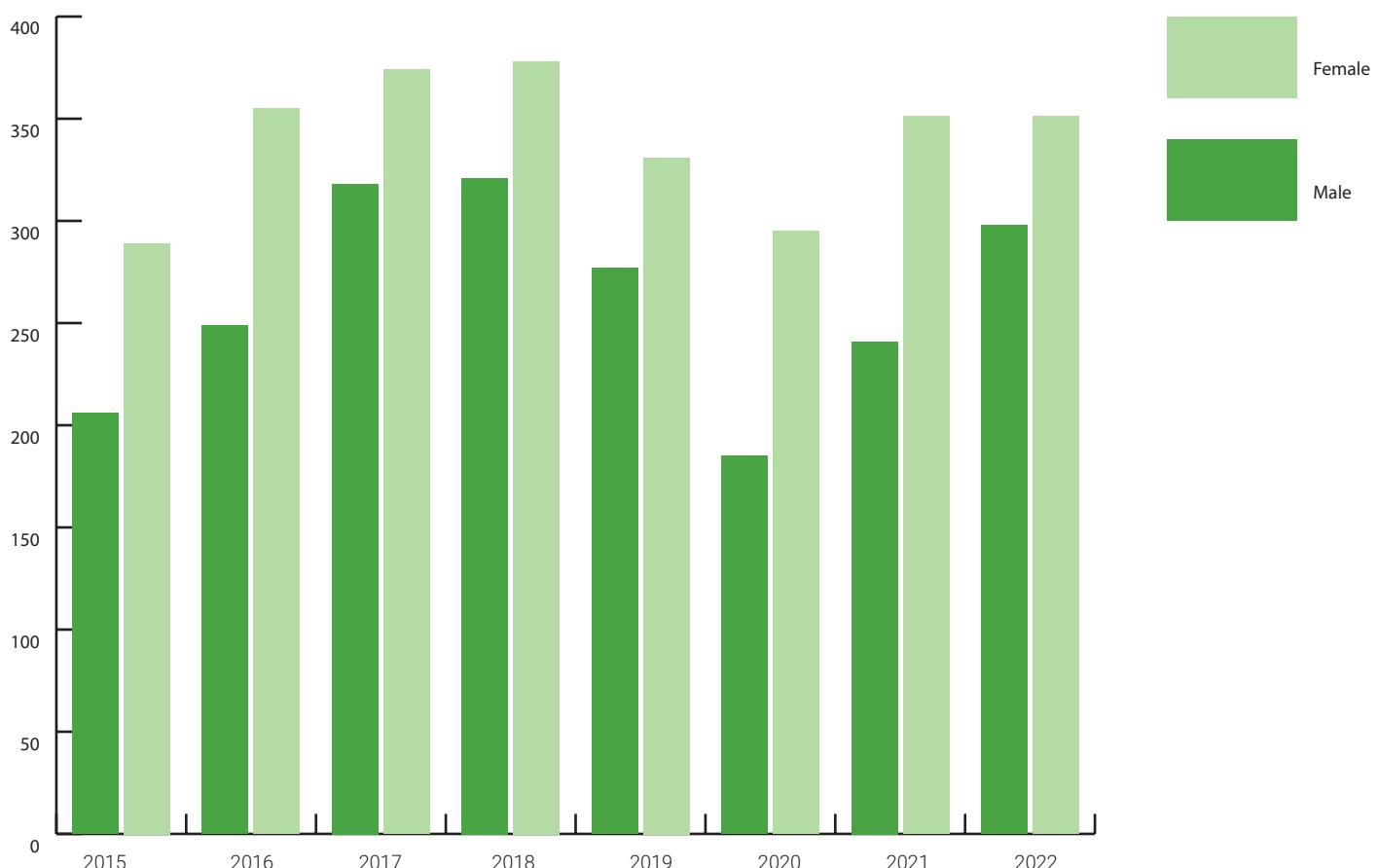


**Fig. 3.1: Number of deaths of children under five and under one-year-old, 2015-2023**



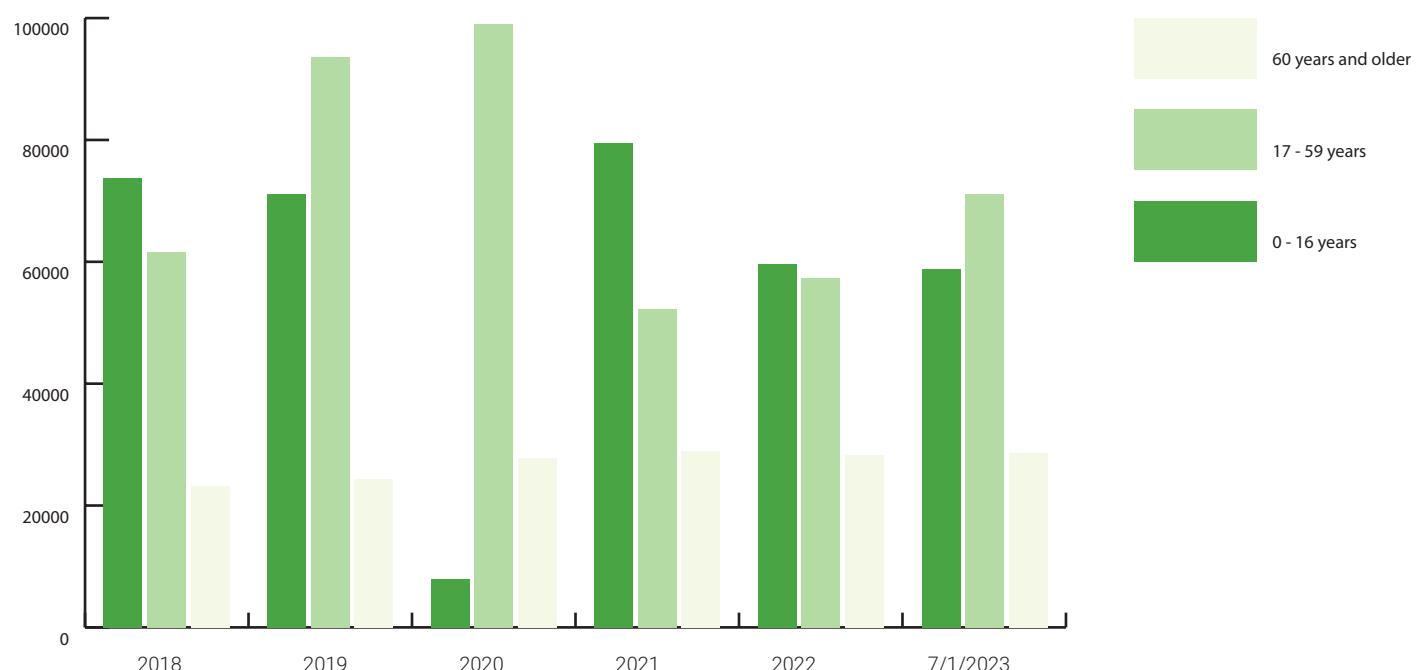
Source: PAHO & Bureau Public Health (BOG)

**Fig. 3.2: Number of HIV positives, 2015-2022**



Source: Epidemiology/Biostatistics, BOG; GBS

**Fig. 3.3: Number of persons whose Basic Health Care insurance is subsidized by the Government, 2018-2023**



Source: Ministry of Finance and Planning, Financial Plan, 2025

**Table 3.1: Tuberculosis Incidence per 100,000 Population, 2015-2023**

Year	Incidence per 100,000 Population	Change
2015	26	↓
2016	20	↓
2017	23	↑
2018	30	↑
2019	23	↓
2020	18	↓
2021	15	↓
2022	20	↑
2023	20	↑

Source: BOG & NAP (National Aids Programme)

**Table 3.2: Annual Number of Positively Tested Malaria Cases, 2015-2023**

Year	Number of Positively Tested Malaria Cases	Change
2015	3	↓
2016	8	↓
2017	3	↓
2018	5	↑
2019	2	↓
2020	0	↓
2021	0	↓
2022	0	↓
2023	0	↓

Source: BOG & NAP



## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



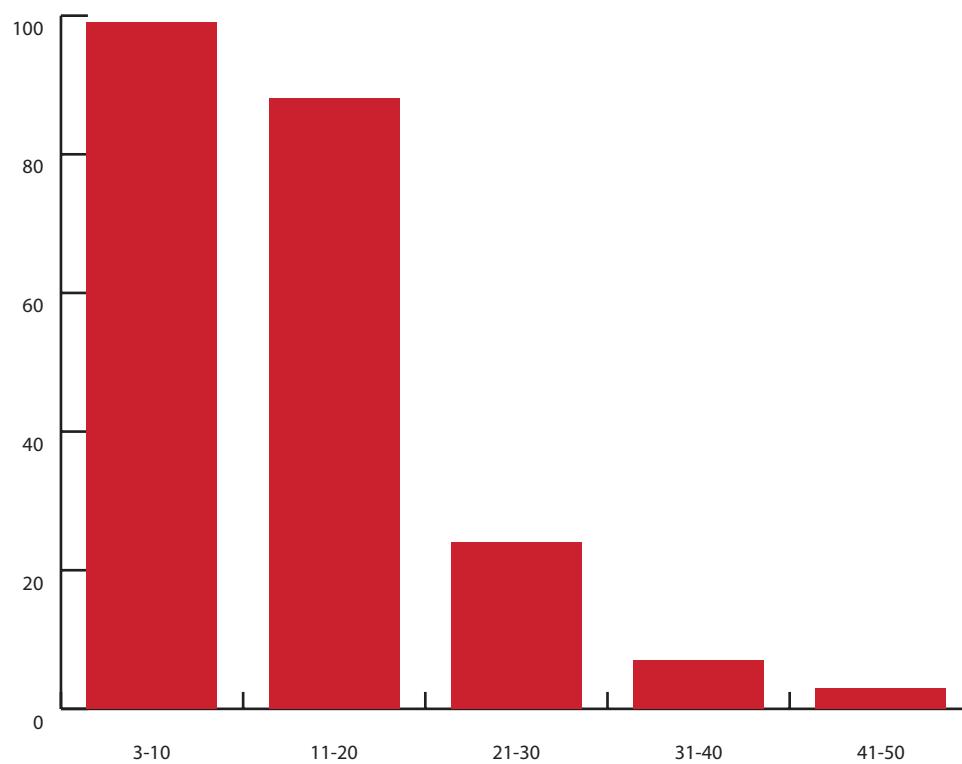
# Quality Education

### Key Messages

1. After nearly two years of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, Suriname has significantly rehabilitated school infrastructure and resumed full school schedules, including new, improved curricula at primary education level.
2. The government launched the National Education Policy Plan 2024–2031 and introduced a 10-year primary education cycle with more flexible secondary pathways.
3. The pass rate for secondary school exams (M.U.L.O.) averaged 62% between 2015 and 2022 (Table 4.1) and 74% for V.W.O. between 2020 and 2023 (Table 4.2).
4. Enrollment in formal education is high for ages 3–20 but drops drastically for older age groups.
5. The Interior has higher dropout rates at the primary level, while the urban has more dropout at secondary education level (Fig. 4.2 and 4.3).

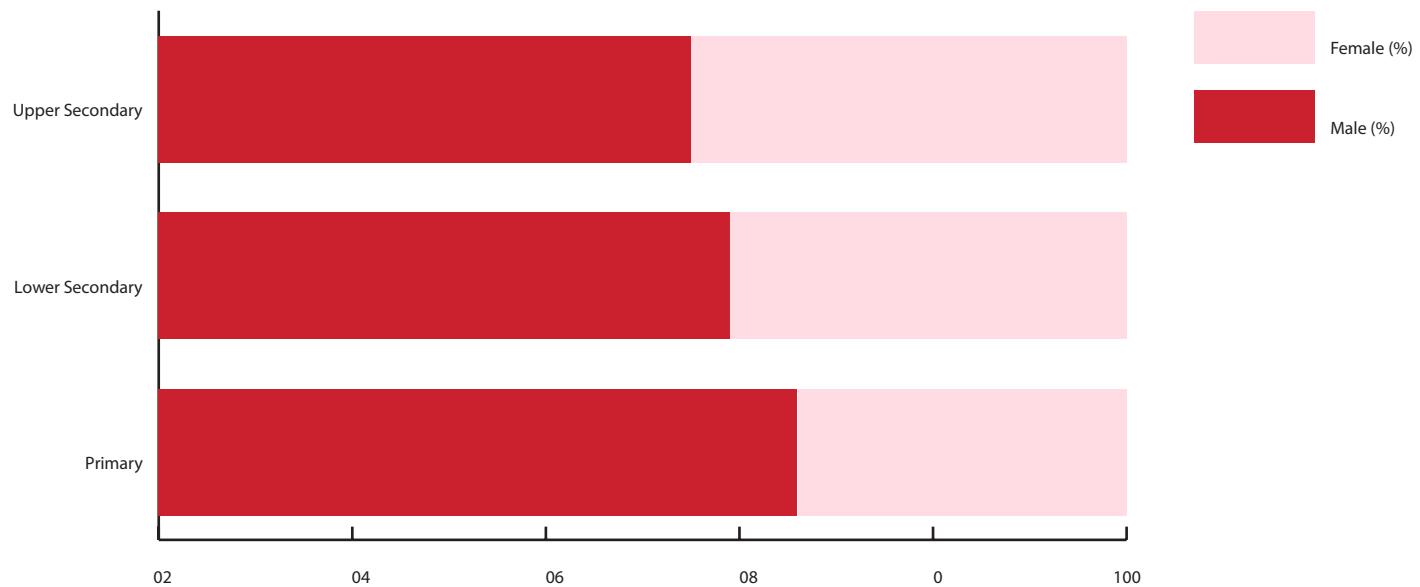


**Fig. 4.1: Enrollment in a formal educational institution, by age, 2022, in %**



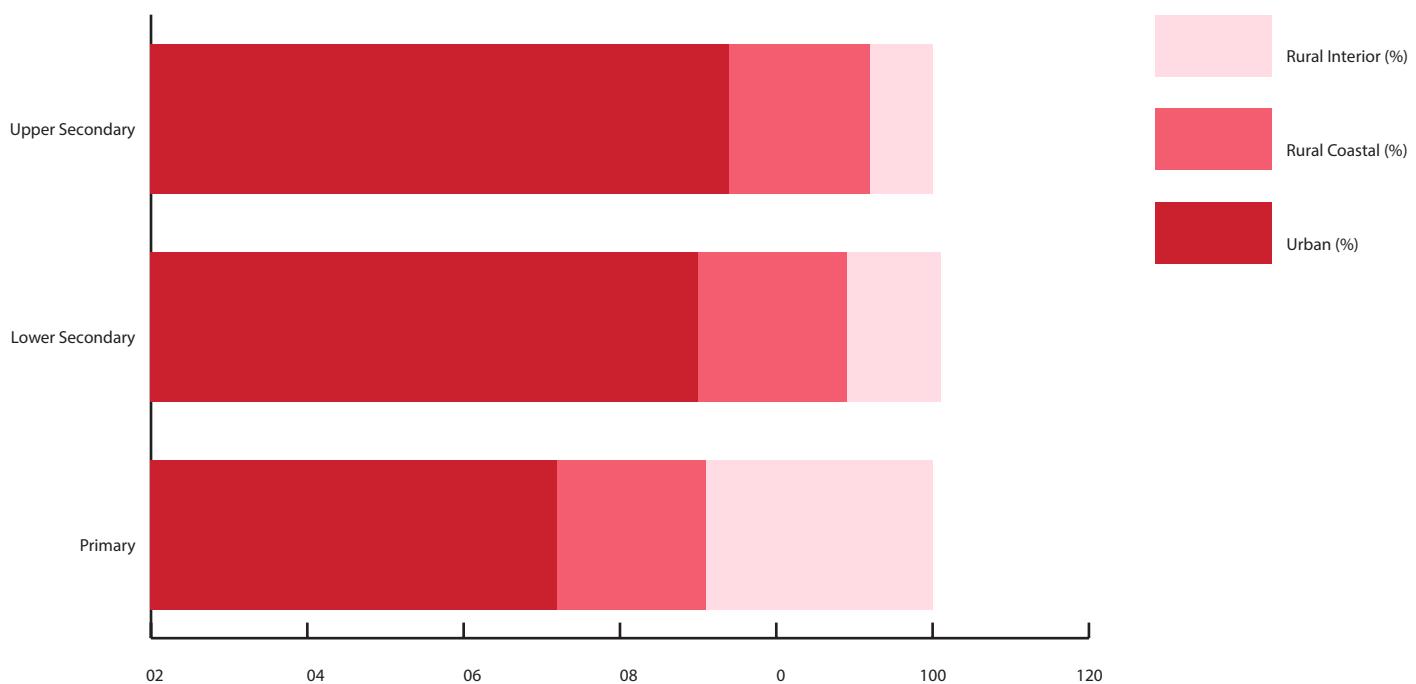
Source: Suriname Survey on Living Conditions, 2022

**Fig. 4.2: Children not completing school, by sex, 2022, in %**



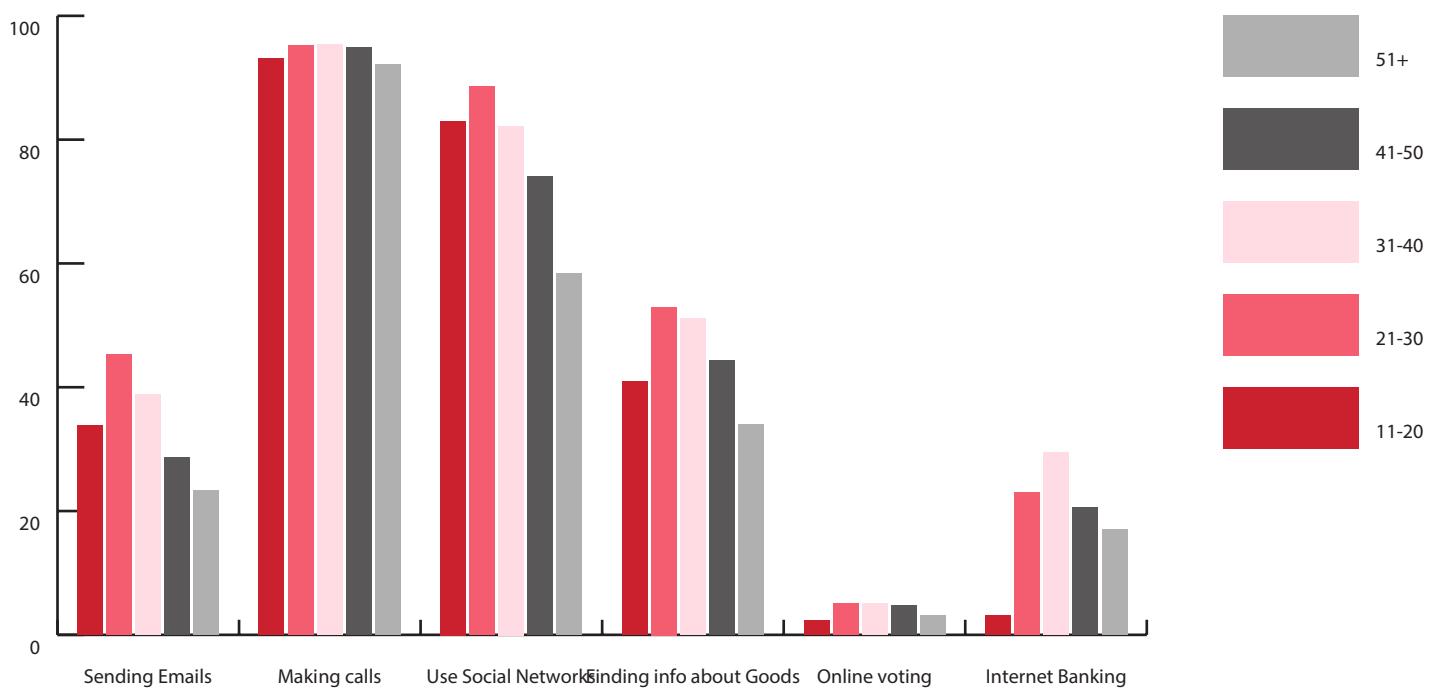
Source: Ministry of Education, report "Van Silhouet naar Stralend Gelaat", 2023

**Fig. 4.3: Children not completing school, by area, 2022, in %**



Source: Ministry of Education, report "Van Silhouet naar Stralend Gelaat", 2023

**Fig. 4.4: Usage of internet, 2022, by age, 2022, in %**



Source: Suriname Survey on Living Conditions, 2022

**Table 4.1: Pass Percentage of secondary education (M.U.L.O) completer's examination & Table**

Year	Pass rate
2015/2016	63
2016/2017	57
2017/2018	61
2018/2019	59
2019/2020	68
2020/2021	65
2021/2022	63

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Research and Planning

**4.2: Passing percentage by type of education, 2020-2023**

	V.W.O.	H.A.V.O.	Pedagogical Institute
2020	85	86	0
2021	73	81	84
2022	60	72	73
2023	79	64	68

Source: UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Research and Planning

**Table 4.3: List of schools for children with special needs**

District	School Name
NICKERIE	S.O. W.H.C. MONKOU
	S.O./ V.S.O. LION JAN GRUNTJES
PARA	S.O./ V.S.O. FAJALOBI
	S.O. MYTYLSCHOOL
PARAMARIBO	LOUIS BRAILLE S.O.
	L.O.M. SAMUEL GLO/SO
	S.O./ V.S.O. EMMA
	S.O. MA RETRAITE
	S.O. LIVORNO
	S.O. JANKIELAAN
	S.O. LAMTOROOSTRAAT / B.O. FLORA
	S.O. MARCEL RIA
	S.O. DE BLOEMENTUIN
	S.O. GRIETJEBIE
	S.O. JULE FERNANDES
	KENNEDY
	S.O. HUBSTINA
	S.O. TAMBAHREDJO
SARAMACCA	JENNY MULLER GLO/ SO
WANICA	S.O. / V.S.O. LELYDORP
	S.O./ V.S.O. WELGEDACHT C

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Research and Planning

#### Key Messages Cont'd

1. Strategies such as STREAM, soft skills, and multilingual education models are being explored.
2. TVET expansion has improved vocational infrastructure and made technical education more accessible, especially in rural areas (e.g., Para, Brokopondo, Moengo).
3. School and teacher housing infrastructure have been rehabilitated and expanded.
4. Continuous teacher training has been restructured and institutionalized.
5. Suriname established the Suriname National Training Authority (SNTA) to better link education to labour market needs.
6. Internet usage is high for communication and social networking, especially among youth (11–30 years), but very low for online voting or banking (Fig. 4.4.).
7. Key obstacles include limited inclusive and vocational infrastructure, teacher shortages in remote areas, and slow legal and policy implementation due to institutional and financial constraints.



## Key Messages

1. Suriname adopted the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021–2035, setting a 15-year framework across 7 priority areas, including labour, income and poverty reduction, Education, Health, Power and decision-making, Gender-based violence, Legal and regulatory framework, Environment and Climate Change.
2. Recent legislative progress includes approval of the Equal Treatment Labour Act (2022) and the Act Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (2022); draft laws on working conditions and hours are under review.
3. A Monitoring & Evaluation Plan including Gender Results Framework has been developed to track policy progress, with SDG indicators integrated.
4. The National Council on Domestic Violence was reactivated, domestic violence policy was updated, referral systems strengthened, national awareness campaigns, and coordination of service provision for GBV victims enhanced.
5. Child protection services have been strengthened.
6. Data collection and reporting systems for domestic and gender-based violence upgraded, enabling better-informed responses.
7. Civil society shelters, legal aid services, and specialized courts enhance victim support and legal protection of GBV victims.
8. Nearly 27% of women report having experienced at least one act of physical intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime (Fig. 5.3).
9. Occupational gender segregation persists, with women overrepresented in-service work and underrepresented in technical and trade sectors (Fig. 5.1).
10. With the entry into force of the New Civil Code (NBW, 2025, Article 251), women and men now have equal legal rights to be the guardians of their children during and after marriage (Table 5.1).
11. Suriname ratified several ILO conventions supporting equal treatment, social security, and wage protection, with new ones taking effect by November 2025.
12. Gender is being mainstreamed into multisectoral projects under the Joint SDG Fund and other programmes aimed at vulnerable groups and MSMEs

# (Additional) Legislation and Conventions

## Approved Legislation:

Violence and Sexual Harassment Workplace Act, 2022

Equal Treatment Labour Act, 2022

New Civil Code (Nieuw Burgerlijk Wetboek), 2025

## Draft legislation under review by Parliament:

Draft Act Working Conditions Act 2019

Draft Act Enterprise Consultation

Draft Act Working Hours Act 2019

## ILO Conventions to Enter into Force for Suriname on 28 Nov 2025:

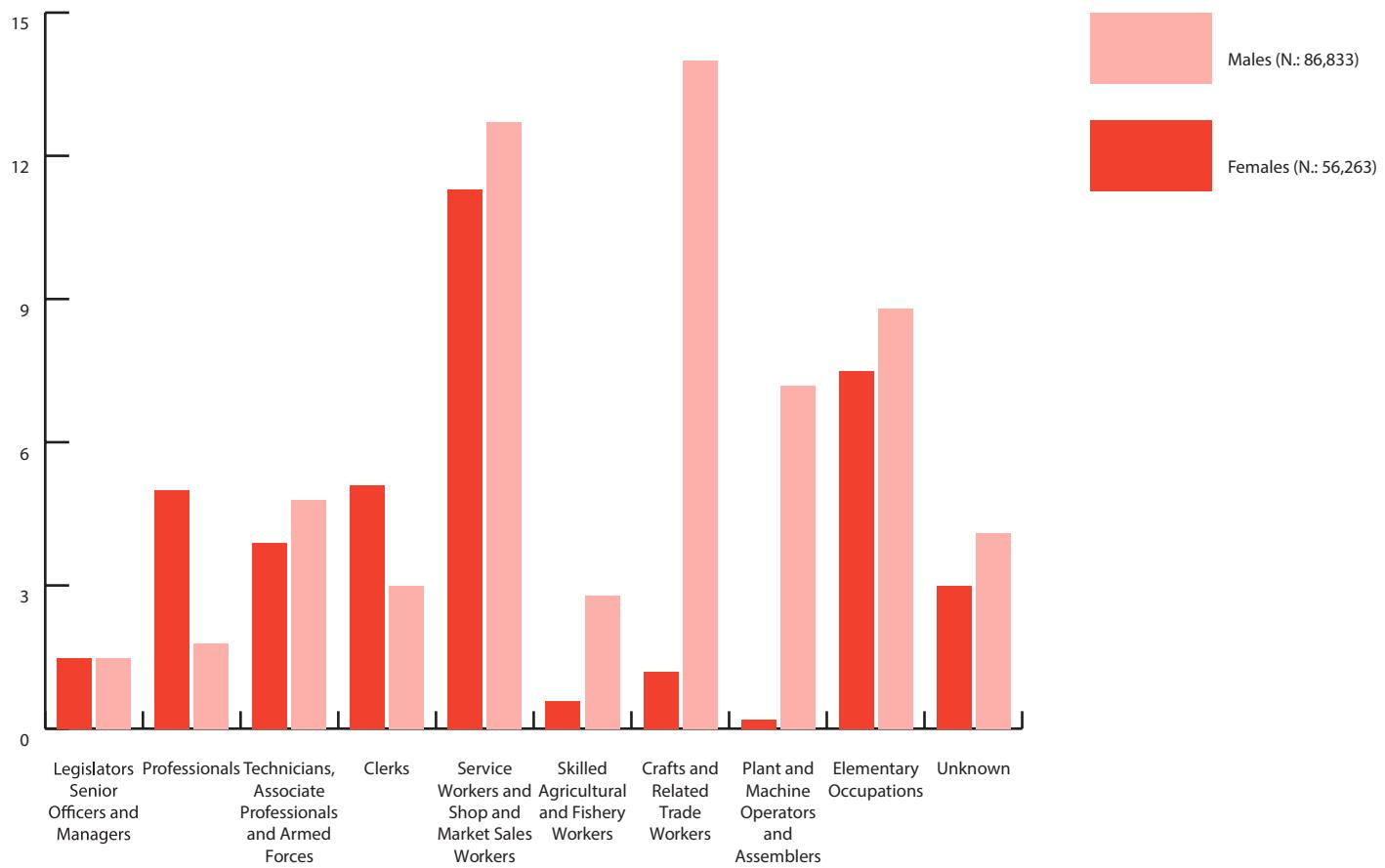
C129 - Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129) Has accepted Article 5, paragraph 1(b) and (c);

C102 - Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) Has accepted Parts II to X.

C131 - Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131);

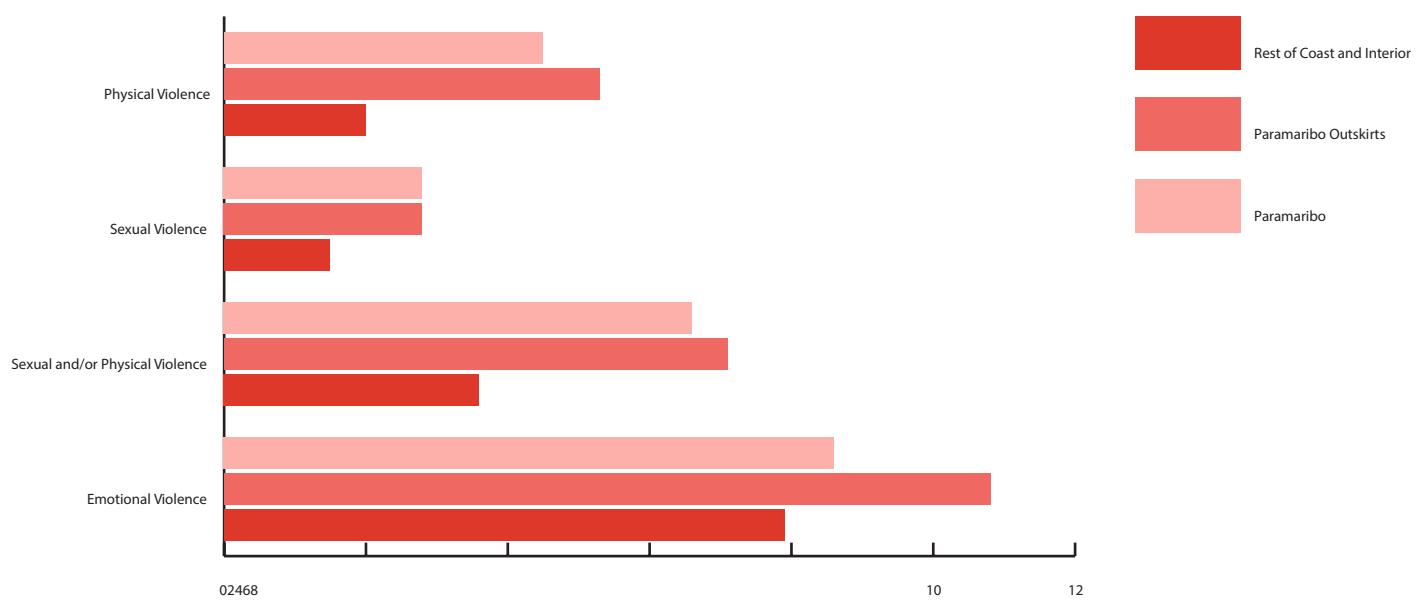
C183 - Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183) Period of maternity leave: 16 weeks.

**Fig. 5.1: The employed population (15 – 64 year) by occupational group and sex (in Paramaribo and Wanica, 2019), in % of total N (males and females)**



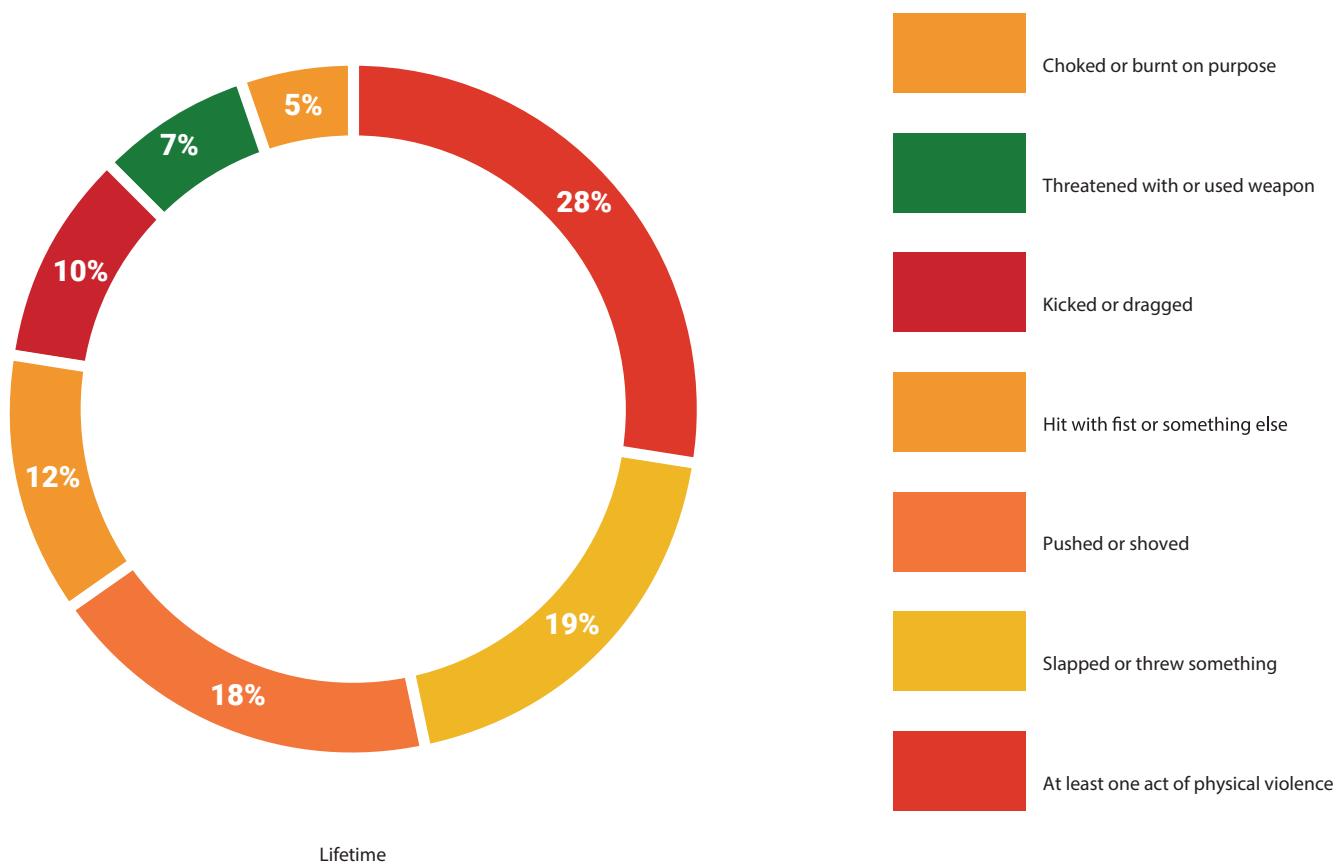
Source: GBS - Household Surveys, 2018 – 2020

**Fig. 5.2: Prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional IPV among ever-partnered women by area, 2019, in %**



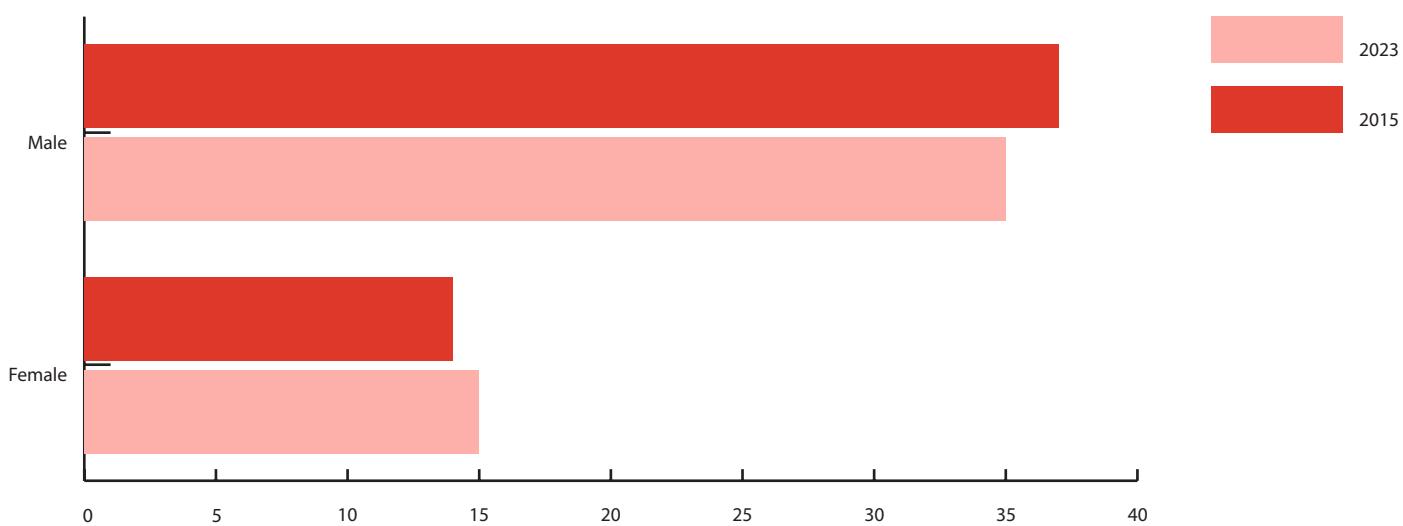
Source: National Women's Health Survey for Suriname, 2019

**Fig. 5.3: Lifetime prevalence of acts of physical IPV, in %**



Source: Suriname Progress Report on the Implementation and the Montevideo Consensus, 2013-2018

**Fig. 5.4: Members in the Parliament of Suriname, by Sex, 2015-2023**



Source: Parliament of Suriname

**Table 5.1: Questionnaire update 2025**

<b>Area 1: Overarching Legal Frameworks and Public Life</b>	
Promote	
3	Is there a discrimination law that prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination against women? Equal Treatment Labour Act, SB 2022 No. 137 (Articles: 1.f,g,h; 2; 4)
<b>Area 2: Violence against Women</b>	
Enforce and monitor	
7	Does the law establish a specialized independent body tasked with receiving complaints of discrimination based on gender (e.g., national human rights institution, women's commission, ombudsperson)? Equal Treatment Labour Act, SB 2022 No. 137 (Articles: 14; 15; 16)
Promote	
14	Have provisions exempting perpetrators from facing charges for rape if the perpetrator marries the victim after the crime been removed, or did they never exist in legislation? As far as is known, these provisions never existed.
15	Have provisions reducing penalties in cases of so-called honor crimes been removed, or did they never exist in legislation? As far as is known, these provisions never existed.
<b>Area 3: Employment and Economic Benefits</b>	
Enforce and monitor	
30	Is there a public entity that can receive complaints on gender discrimination in employment? Equal Treatment Labour Act, SB 2022 No. 137 (Articles: 16 and 17)
<b>Area 4: Marriage and Family</b>	
Promote	
32	Is the minimum age of marriage at least 18, with no legal exceptions, for both women and men? With the entry of the New Civil Code (NBW, 2025, Article 31), there are no exceptions.
34	Do women and men have equal rights to be the legal guardian of their children during and after marriage? With the entry of the New Civil Code (NBW, 2025, Article 251)
Enforce and monitor	
42	Are there dedicated and specialized family courts? There is a special unit within Civil Law that deals with family law cases. The judges are trained to handle family cases.

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, Bureau Gender Affairs



# Water & Sanitation

and

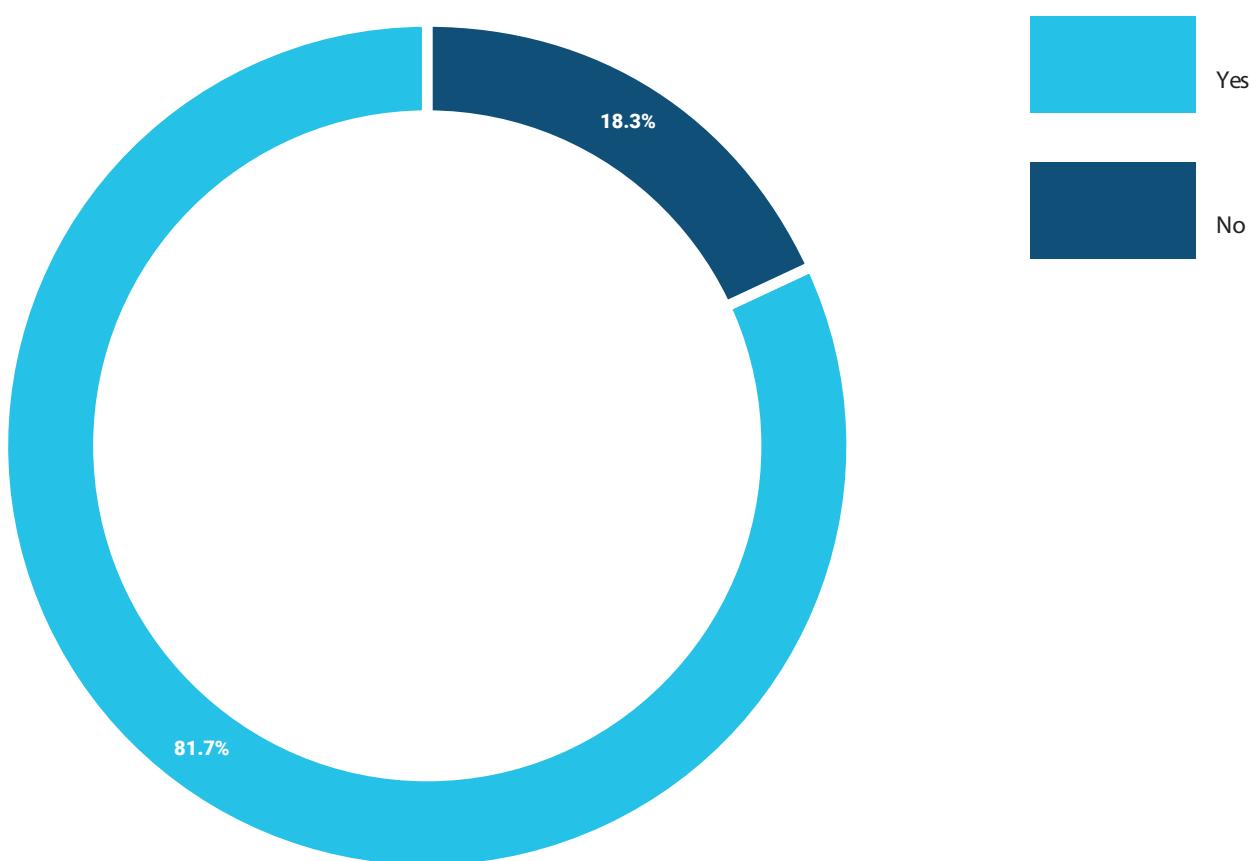
A vertical column of five white icons representing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a person with a checkmark, a person with a lightbulb, a person with a gear, a person with a bar chart, and a person with a gear.

## Key Messages

1. In 2023, 82% of households had access to drinking water piped into the home (Fig. 6.1), and as of 2022, 93% of households used improved sanitation facilities (Fig. 6.2).
2. From 2018 to 2023, thousands of water samples were tested annually by SWM for E-Coli (Fig. 6.3).
3. Draft laws on drinking water quality, groundwater, and groundwater protection areas are in preparation to enhance water governance.
4. The Suriname Water Supply Master Plan (2011–2024) guides national policy.
5. The government implemented projects to guarantee water supply and WASH, and training in waste water management.
6. Alternatives for mercury use utilized to prevent water pollution.
7. Challenges include mercury contamination from mining, lack of wastewater treatment plants, and vulnerability to climate change-induced flooding and drought.

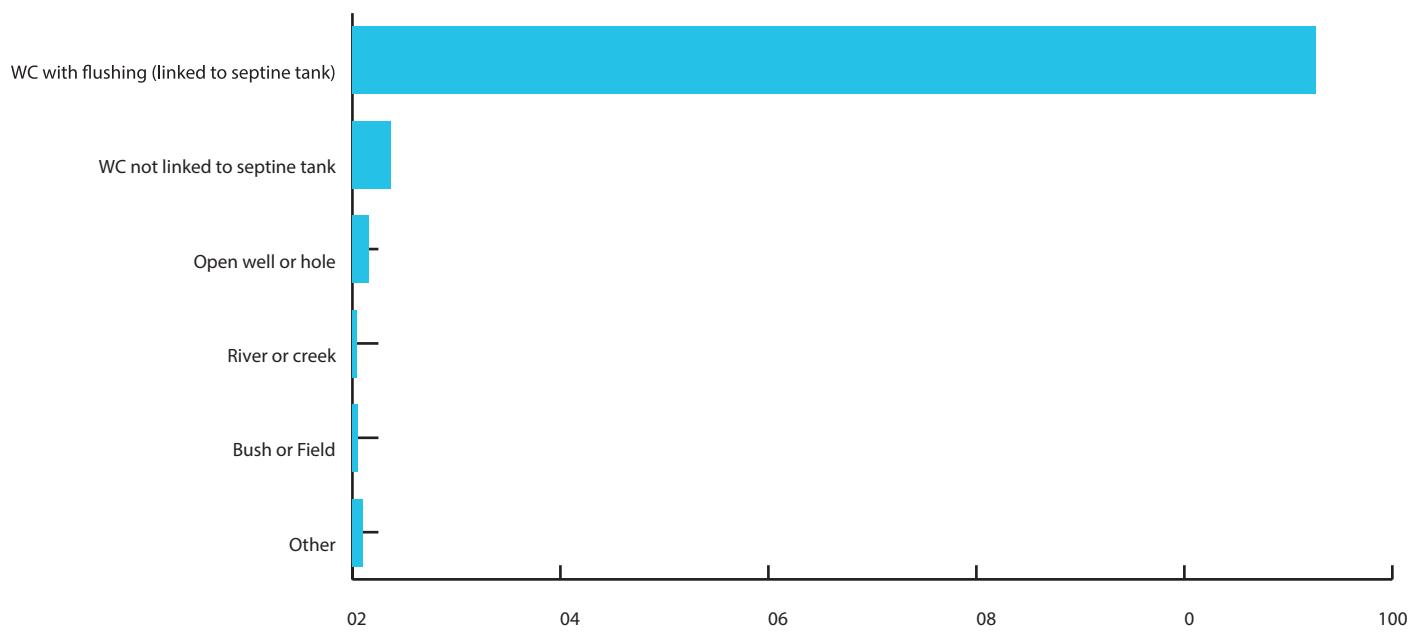


**Table 6.1: Proportion of Household that has drinking water in the home/pipe to the house, 2023**



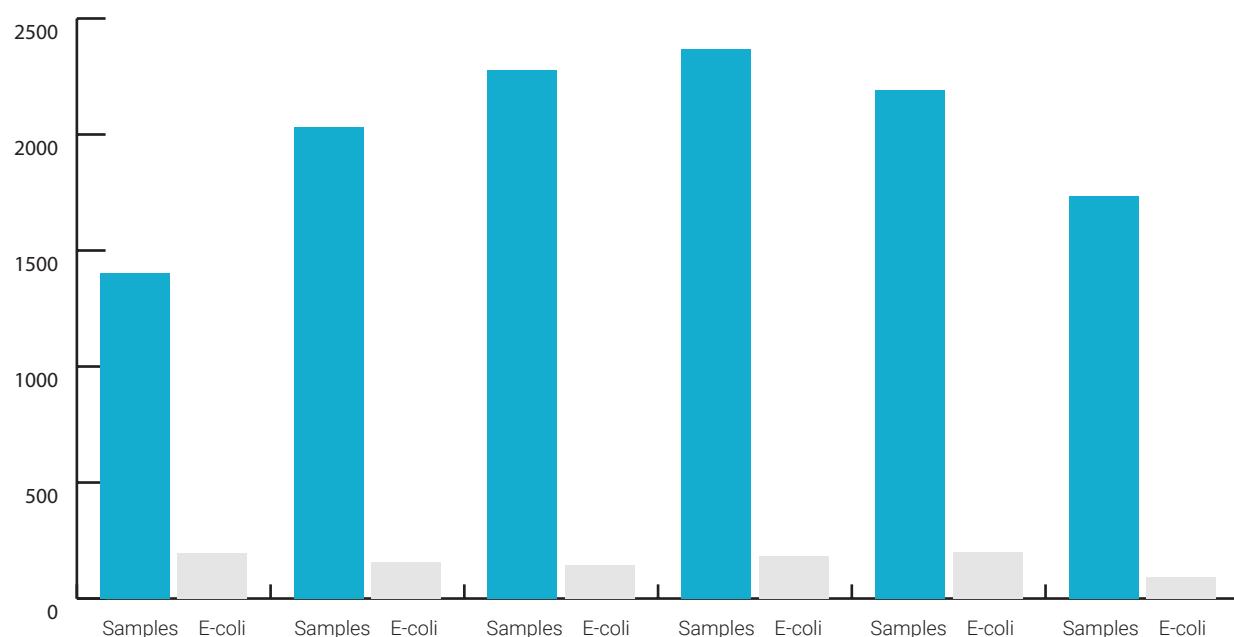
Source: Latin America's Population Barometer survey (LAPOP), 2023

**Fig. 6.2: Main type of toilet facilities used by households per district, 2022, in %**



Source: Suriname Survey on Living Conditions, 2022

**Fig. 6.3: Number of samples taken at SWM water stations that were tested for E-coli, 2018-2023**



Source: Suriname Water Company (SWM)

## Projects

- **Water Supply Modernization Program (2022):** Improvement of the quality & efficiency of the potable water provided by the Suriname Water Company SWM
- **BOSAQ 1 and 2:** Improve water supply in the Interior
- **Integrated Water Management Plan and the update of the Suriname Water Resources Information System**
- **Water and Sanitation programme in Indigenous communities**





## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



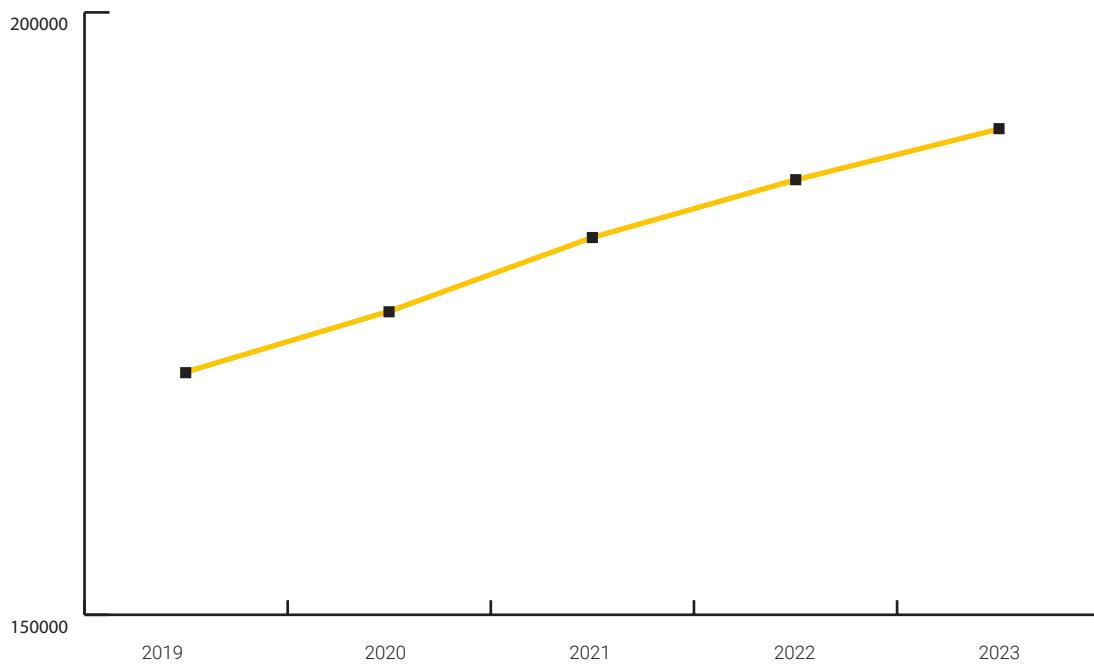
# Affordable and clean energy

### Key Messages

1. The National Energy Policy 2013-2033 is the overall policy framework.
2. The number of EBS (Energy Company Suriname) electricity connections increased steadily from 170,104 in 2019 to 190,326 in 2023, reflecting improved access to energy across districts (Fig. 7.1).
3. Through IDB- and CDB-supported projects, solar mini-grids and hybrid systems were implemented in multiple interior villages, enhancing 24/7 access to electricity in remote communities.
4. While total renewable capacity grew slightly from 190 MW (2019) to 193 MW (2023), the share of renewables in total electricity capacity declined from 42% in 2019 to 33% in 2023 due to faster growth in non-renewable capacity (Fig. 7.2 & 7.3).
5. The Energy Authority of Suriname (EAS) has developed the Electricity Sector Plan and a Rural Electrification Plan, aiming to boost renewable energy integration and ensure sustainable energy planning aligned with SDG 7.
6. Energy system upgrades, such as substation modernization and integration studies for East-West corridor villages, are ongoing.
7. Challenges include fossil fuel reliance, institutional capacity for management, and some outdated networks.

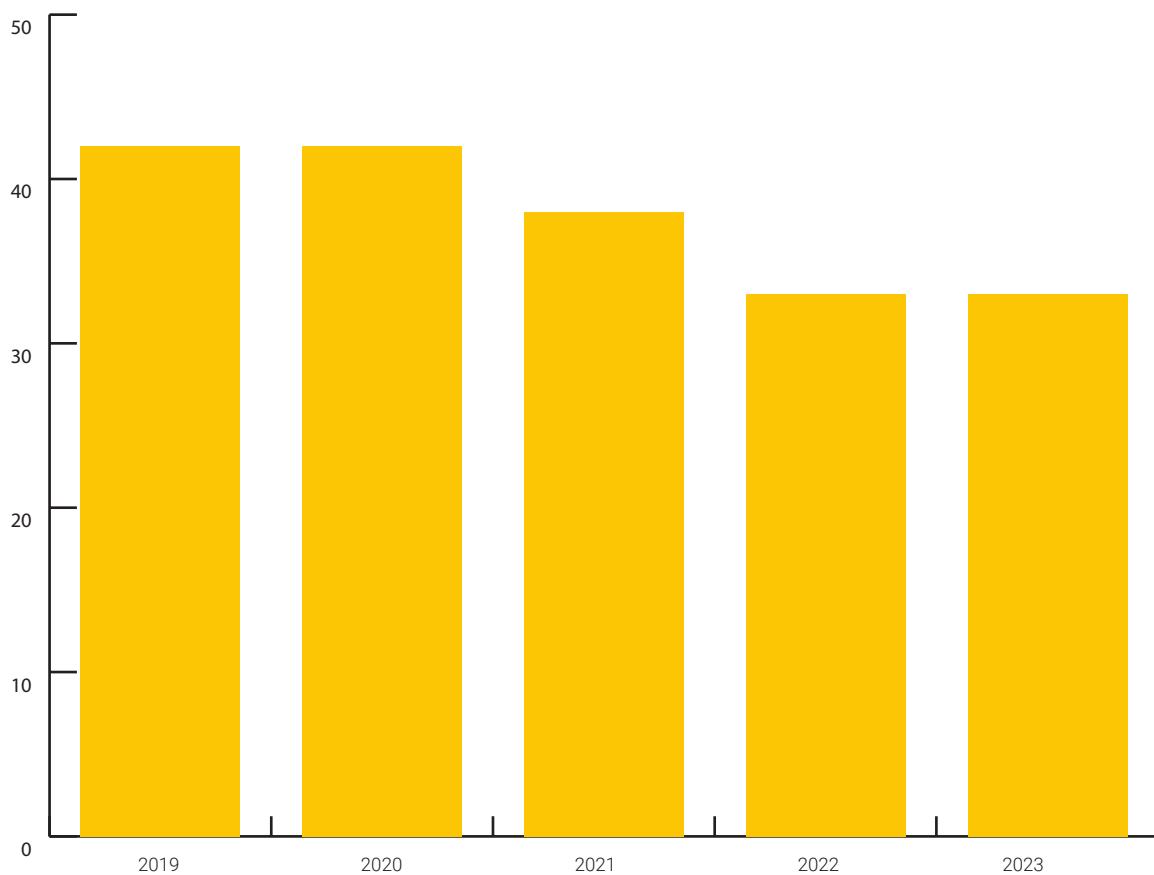


**Fig. 7.1: Number of EBS Connections by District, 2019-2023**



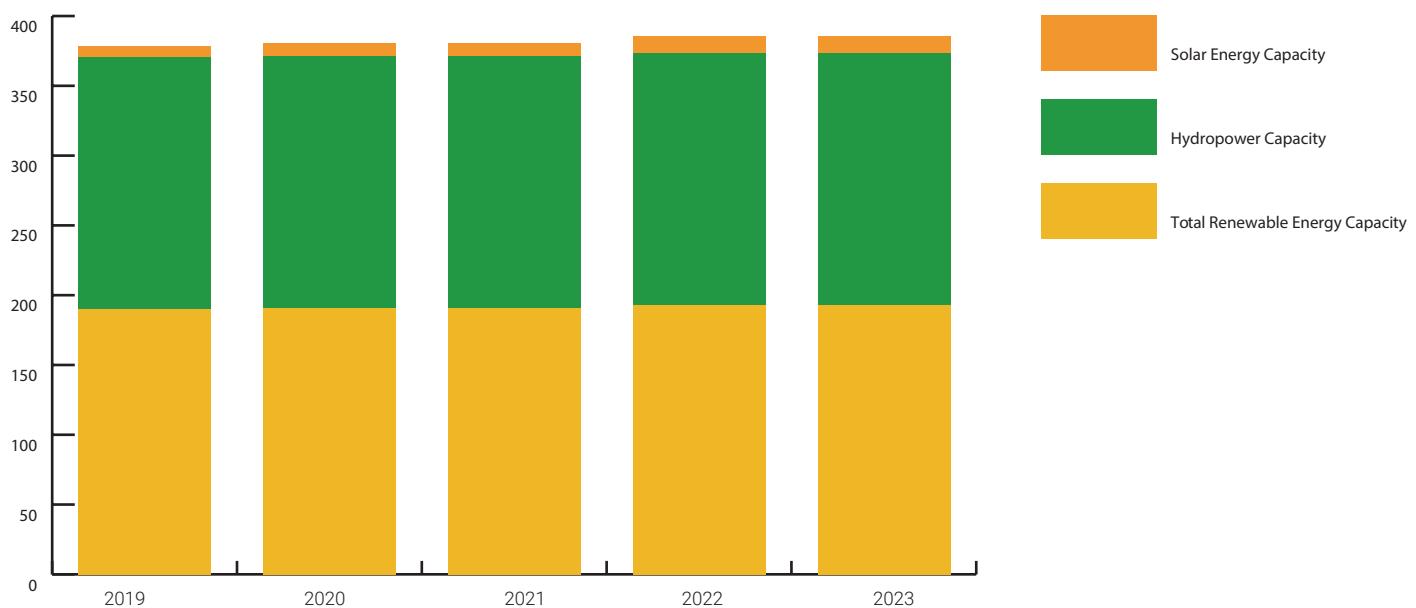
Source: Suriname Energy Company, department MIS

**Fig. 7.2: Renewable energy share of electricity capacity, 2019-2023**



Source: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

**Fig. 7.3: Renewable energy share of electricity capacity, hydropower capacity and solar energy capacity (MW), 2019-2023**



Source: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)



## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



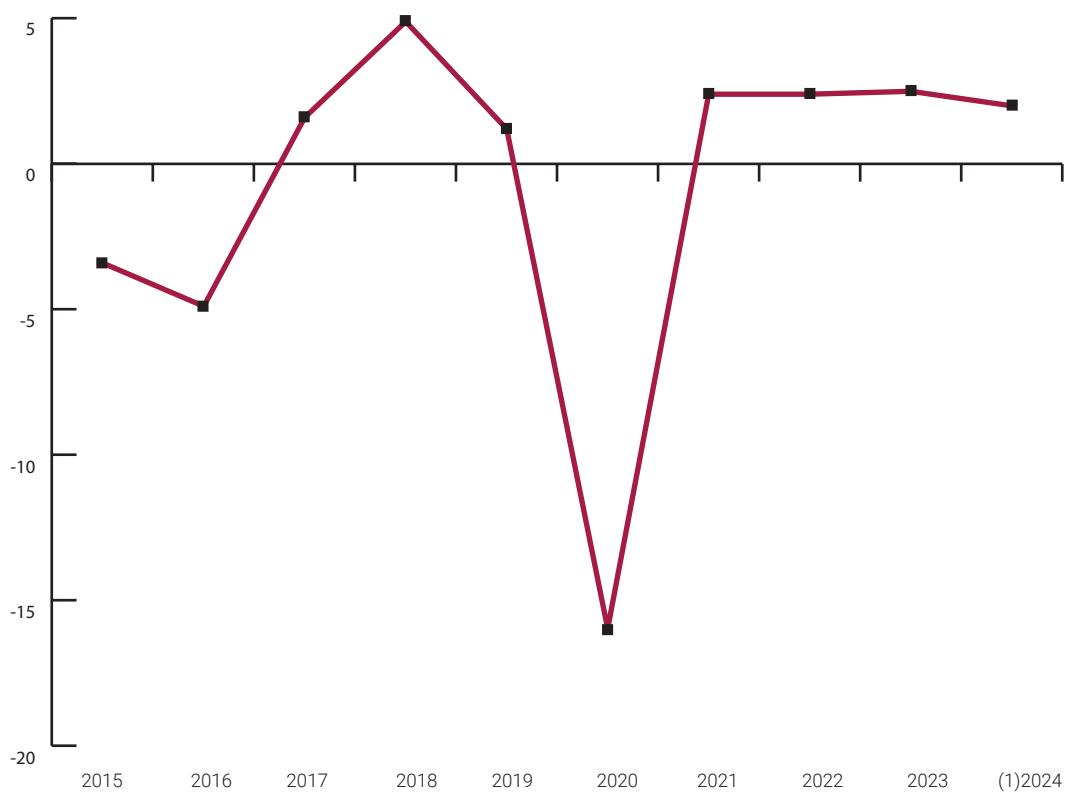
# Decent work and economic growth

### Key Messages

1. Unemployment is significantly higher among the poor and in the Interior (up to 58%). A growing informal market (Fig. 8.2) might increase the likelihood of a higher unemployment rate or informal employment under unfavorable circumstances.
2. Women earn less than men across most hourly wage ranges (Fig. 8.4), and disparities are also evident between economic sectors (Fig. 8.5), highlighting inequality and the need for more inclusive wage policies.
3. Total fatal accidents declined from 396 in 2020 to 302 in 2021, yet sectors like agriculture and construction remain high-risk and require stronger occupational safety enforcement (Table 8.1).
4. Policy aims at skills and TVET training, promoting entrepreneurship, addressing child labour, training for employment e.g. in tourism, agriculture, and ICT sectors, fair wage policy, safe working environment.,
5. The government initiated Just Transition and Formalization process to enhance among others skills for green jobs and opportunities.
6. Key challenges include insufficient disaggregated labour market data, fragmented institutional coordination, and remaining disparities for vulnerable groups to access employment.



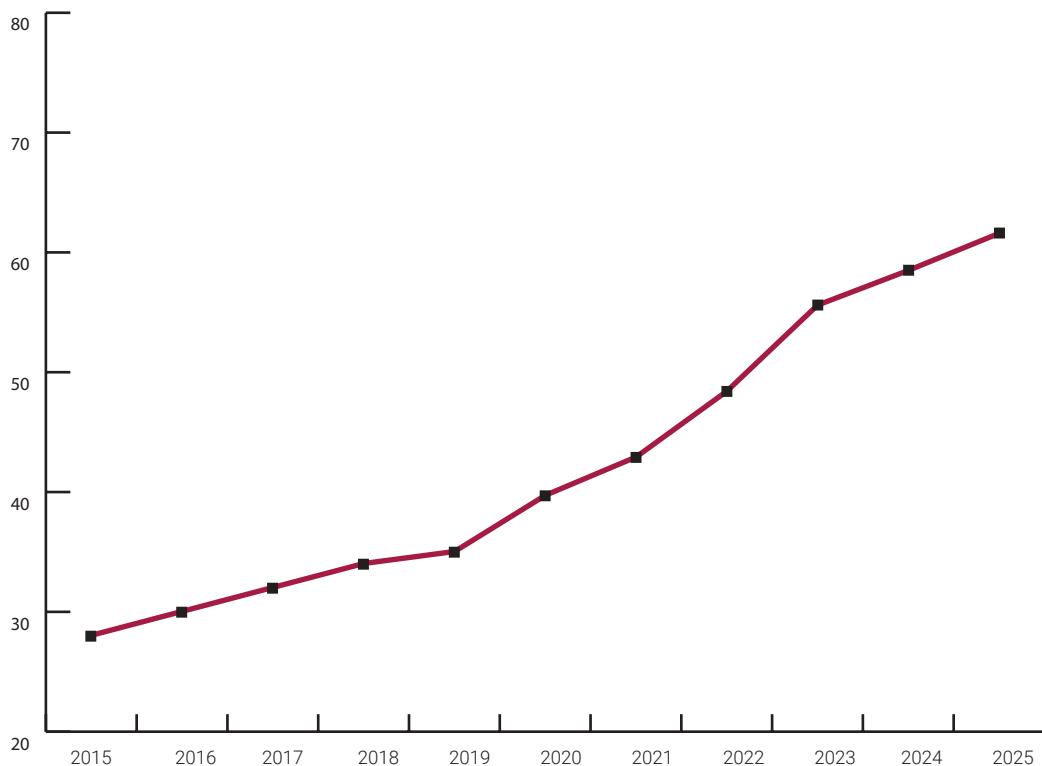
**Fig. 8.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita, 2015-2024, in %**



"Source: GBS - National Accounts, 2024"

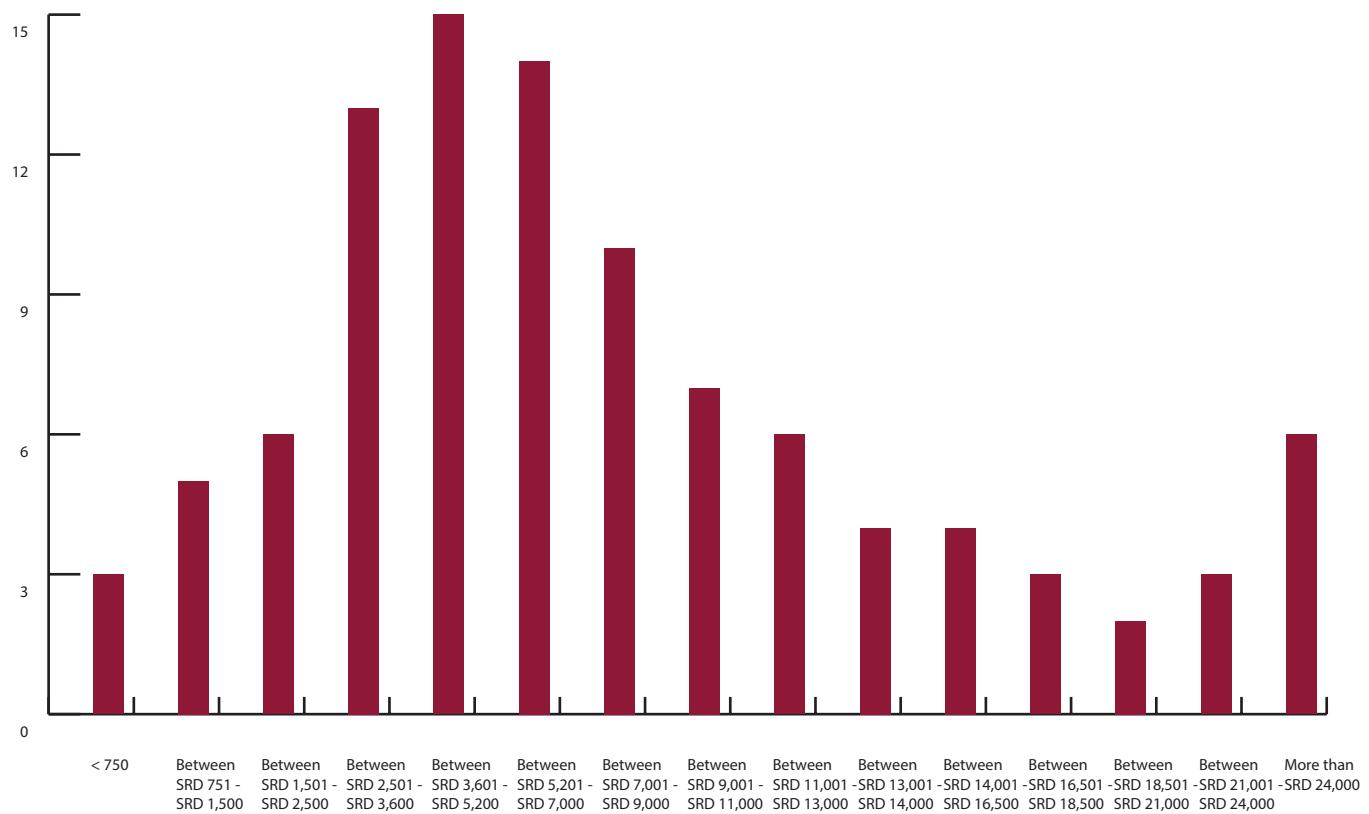
<sup>(1)</sup> The GDP figures for 2024 are projections from the Suriname Planning Bureau from October 2024

**Fig. 8.2: Informal sector in share in GDP (market prices), 2015-2025, in %**



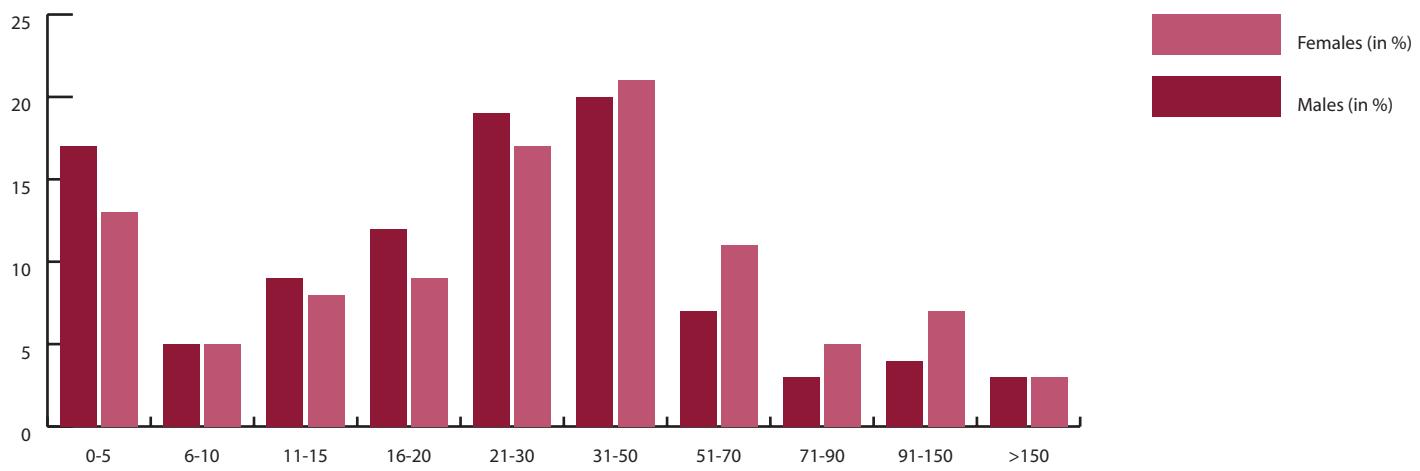
Source: Author's calculated estimations

**Fig. 8.3: Income range, 2023, in %**



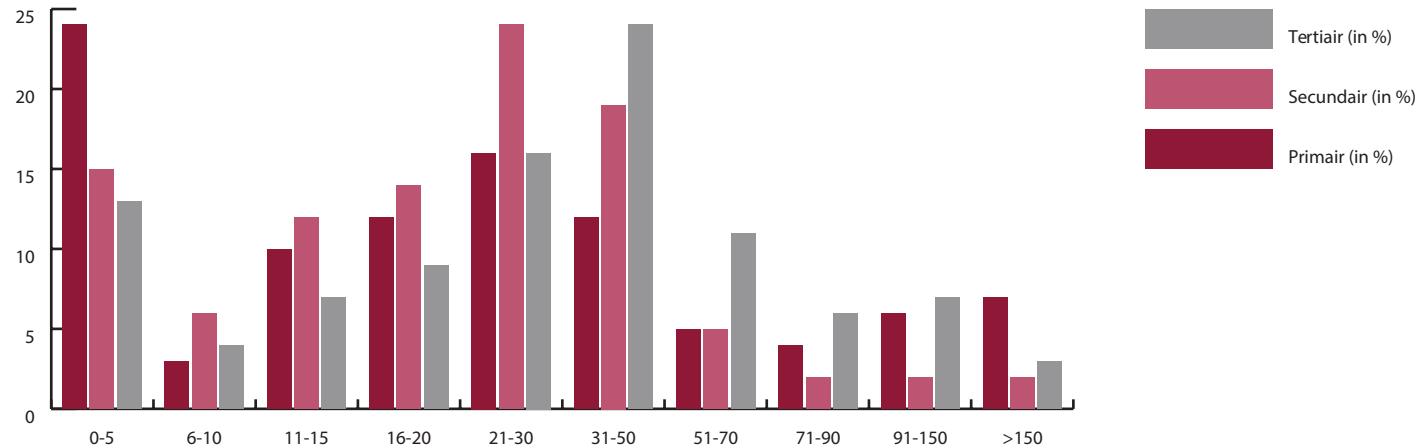
Source: Latin America's Population Barometer survey (LAPOP), 2023

**Fig. 8.4: Hourly wage by sex, 2022, in %**



Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022

**Fig. 8.5: Hourly wage by sector, 2022, in %**



Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022

**Table 8.1: Fatal accidents per sector, 2020-2021**

Main Group	2020	2021
<b>Agriculture, forestry, and fishing</b>	134	79
<b>Mining and quarrying (extraction)</b>	16	15
<b>Manufacturing (inclusive of milling and refining)</b>	74	57
<b>Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply</b>	7	10
<b>Water supply; sewerage, waste management, and remediation activities</b>	16	4
<b>Construction</b>	64	45
<b>Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles</b>	38	40
<b>Transportation and storage</b>	7	5
<b>Accommodation and food service activities</b>	14	17
<b>Information and communication</b>	1	-
<b>Financial and insurance activities</b>	3	3
<b>Real estate activities</b>	-	-
<b>Professional, scientific and technical activities</b>	4	8
<b>Administrative and support service activities</b>	12	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>302</b>

Source: Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs,  
Medical Bureau

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



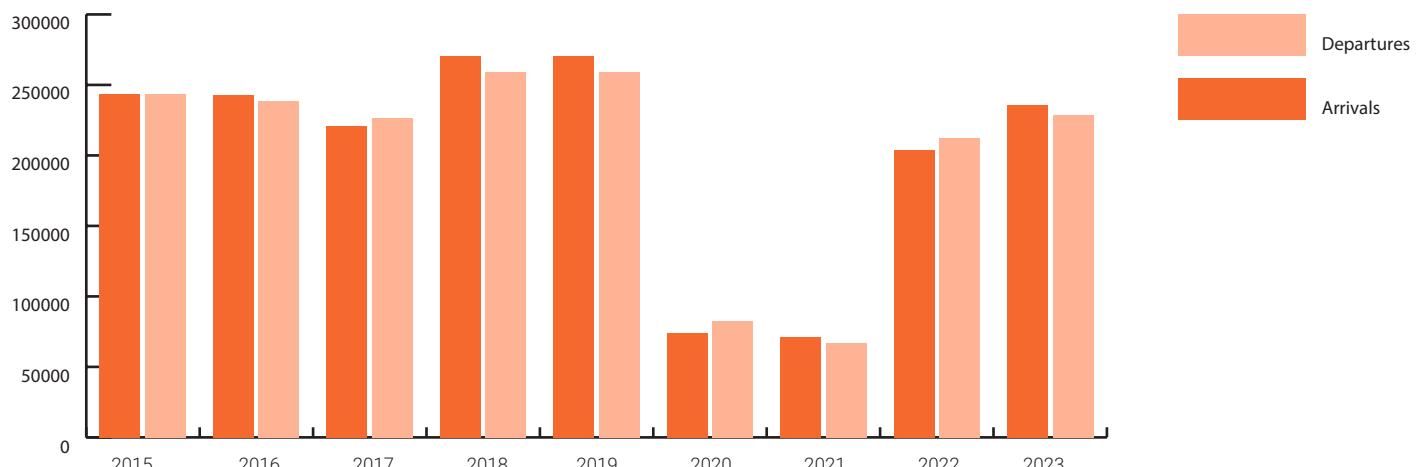
# industry innovation and infrastructure

### Key Messages

1. Rehabilitation of main roads, canals and bridges; the construction of a seawall and river dredging has been taken up.
2. Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Transport and Waste to Energy were initiated.
3. SURGE programme and SME fund implemented to support MSMEs.
4. The manufacturing sector accounted for 26% of GDP in 2023, reflecting its rising contribution to economic diversification (Fig. 9.2). Since 2023, over 637 MSMEs received support, with 56 receiving matching grants, emphasizing job creation, innovation, and inclusion of women and Indigenous entrepreneurs.
5. Mobile penetration reached 147%, and fixed lines rose to 20% of the population, highlighting progress in digital infrastructure crucial for innovation and industry (Table 9.1).
6. After significant drops in 2020–2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, arrivals and departures via JAP international airport and Nickerie Port are rebounding, supporting tourism, trade, and mobility (Fig. 9.1).
7. The lack of comprehensive data systems for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, R&D investments, and technology classifications limits effective policy formulation and monitoring.

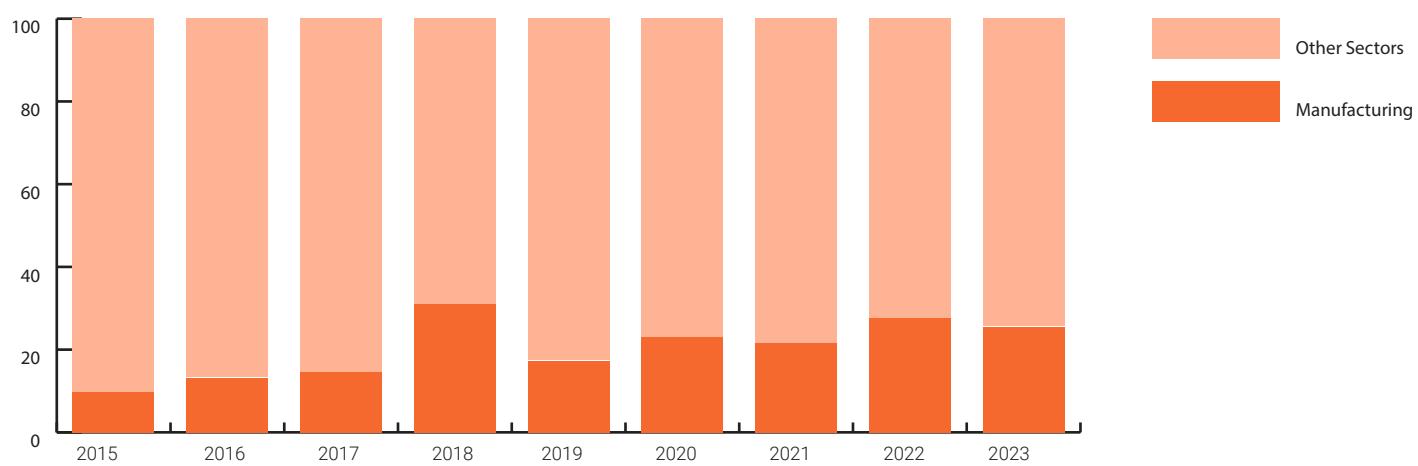


**Fig. 9.1: Number of arrivals and departures via JAP Airport, 2015-2022**



Source: Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism; Airport Management (since 2012) & Canawaima Ferry Service Inc.

**Fig. 9.2: Share of manufacturing in % of GDP, 2015-2023**



Source: GBS - National Accounts

**Table 9.1: Number of mobile and main (fixed) telephone lines in % of population, 2018-2021 &**

Year	Mobile lines in % of population	Fixed telephone numbers in % of population
2018	134	15
2019	136	16
2020	148	17
2021	147	20

Source: Telecommunication Authority Suriname (TAS)

**Table 9.2: Length of the road network, per district and type of road surface, 2023-2024, in km.**

	2023	2024
Districts	Paramaribo	1,134
	Wanica	1,177
	Nickerie	474
	Coronie	100
	Saramacca	317
	Commewijne	294
	Marowijne	306
	Para	553
	Brokopondo	196
	Sipaliwini	381
Type of Material	Asphalt	2,079
	Paved	397
	Laterite	1,816
	Sand-shell	640
Total	<b>493,175</b>	<b>493,175</b>

Source: Ministry of Public Works, Sub-Directorate of Project Monitoring & Administration, Statistics Department

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# Reduced inequalities

### Key Messages

1. Suriname has streamlined SDG 10 across various national strategies, such as the National Social Protection Strategy 2024–2030, the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021–2035, the Labour Market 2022-2025 and Health and Education policies.
2. Levels of social assistance programmes were increased and the Koopkracht Versterking (KKV) programme was launched, which provides monthly cash transfers to over 120,000 eligible individuals.
3. Community development projects have been supported nationwide, and the efforts of civil society actors are crucial in minimizing inequalities.
4. Child protection systems strengthened and law on Child Ombudsperson approved and implementation initiated.
5. Equal Treatment Labour Act and the Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act adopted in 2022), protecting workers from discrimination and abuse, while reforms to the Civil Code advance social equity.
6. MICS (2018) data show women report higher experiences of discrimination than men across most indicators, especially ethnic origin and gender, highlighting enduring systemic bias (Table 10.1).
7. As shown in Figure 10.1, lower-income households experience higher expenditure burdens than their income, indicating that consumption inequality persists.
8. Outbound remittances have increased from US\$54.1 million in 2021 to US\$60.0 million in 2024, with China and the Netherlands emerging as the top destinations. This shift may reflect growing labour migration and transnational familial ties (Table 10.2).
9. Migration Policy Suriname 2024-2030 has been approved.
10. Legislation for guarantee collective rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) was drafted.
11. Provisions in housing policy for women and youth.
12. ITPs advocate that the recognition of the collective rights of ITPs in accordance with international standards is crucial for achieving the SDGs in Suriname, where it is precisely the ITPs being left behind.



**Table 10.1: Percentage of people aged 15-49 years have felt discriminated against or harassed on the basis of:**

	Ethnic origin	Gender	Sexual Orientation	Age	Religion or Belief	Disability	Immigration Origin	Other Reason	Any Reason	People who have not felt discriminated against or harassed in the last 12 months	Number of Persons
<b>Women</b>	7.3	2.4	1.3	1.8	3.1	0.9	1.1	2.3	12.5	87.5	7,000
<b>Men</b>	6.8	1.6	0.7	1.7	2.5	0.7	0.7	1.2	10.8	89.2	2,828

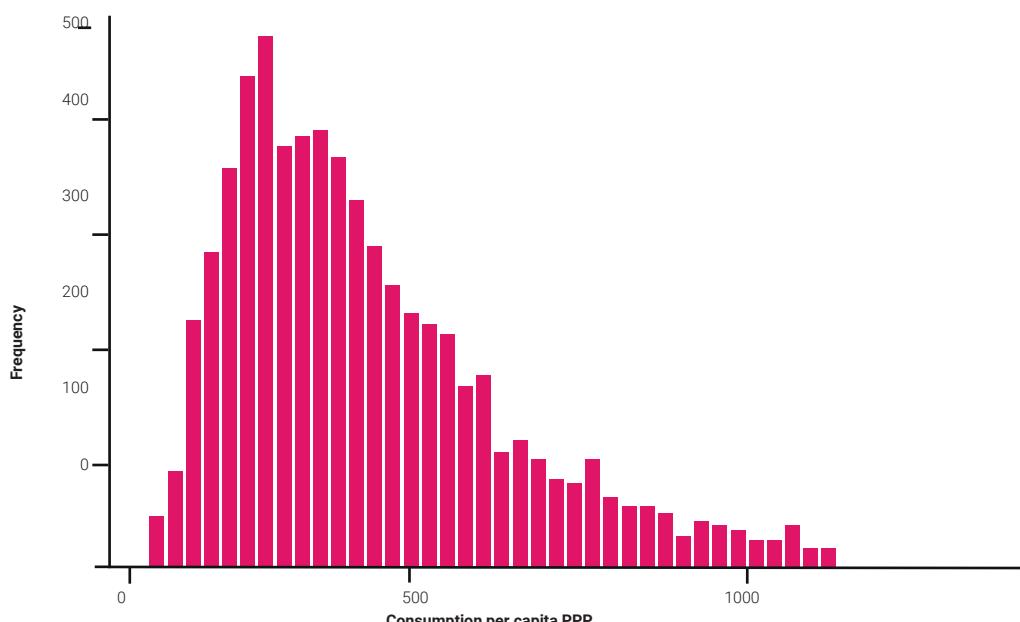
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2018

**Table 10.2: Personal transfers outbound by top ten countries in US\$ millions, 2022-2024**

	2021	2024
Netherlands	8.7	China
China	8	Netherlands
Dominican Republic	5.9	Dominican Republic
United States of America	4.6	United States of America
Brazil	3.8	Philippines
Vietnam	3.4	Haiti
Philippines	2.2	Columbia
Haiti	2.1	Turkey
Guyana	2.1	Guyana
Belgium	1.9	Belgium
Other	11.4	Other
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>60</b>

Source: Central Bank of Suriname, GBS - National Accounts

**Figure 10.1: Consumption per capita (ppp 2017), SSLC 2022**



## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



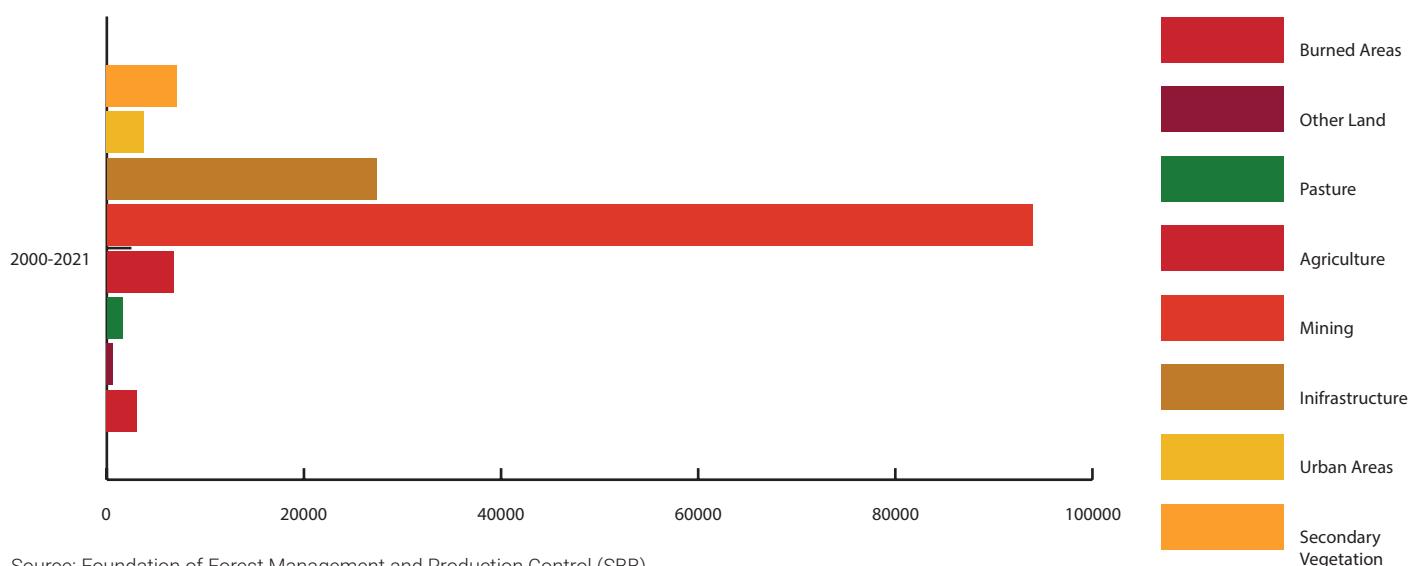
# cities and communities

### Key Messages

1. The National Housing Construction Program (2023–2025) and the Affordable Housing Programme, addresses housing shortages, particularly for women, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. As seen in Table 11.1, there is a notable part of the population that is still in need of a secure living place.
2. Suriname developed a long-term structural spatial development vision (2025–2050), supported by standards, guidelines, and geospatial intelligence tools, aiming to balance industrial growth, climate resilience, and green urban planning.
3. Investments in road safety, resilient transport systems, and public green initiatives, are enhancing urban livability and community engagement.
4. The Paramaribo Rehabilitation Programme and (culture) heritage legislation aim to preserve Paramaribo's historic city center and cultural identity.
5. In 2023, 106 people were affected by flooding and storms (Table 11.2). The government is improving flood management, emergency response systems, and shelter preparedness to reduce disaster risks, particularly important in light of deforestation patterns and increasing climate-related threats.
6. Challenges persist in the effects of mining on the spatial planning policy, institutional capacity for spatial planning and coverage of housing programmes.



**Figure 11.1: Total Post-deforestation area, Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) 2000-2021, Classes in ha.**



Source: Foundation of Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)

**Table 11.1: House ownership by region, 2022, in %**

House Ownership Form	Urban	Rural Coastal	Rural Interior
Owned (with Mortgage)	7	8	1
Owned (without Mortgage)	51	53	71
Inheritance	18	18	9
Rented room in larger dwelling	0	0	0
Private rented/Leased	14	8	5
Squatted	0	0	0
Rent-free	5	3	6
Other	3	10	9

Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022

**Table 11.2: Population affected by a natural disaster, 2018-2021**

Year	Type Disaster	Dead A2	Injured A3	Affected B1	Estimated Population	Ratio per 100,000 persons
2020	Floods and storm with heavy wind	-	-	3	608,900	1
2021	Floods and storm with heavy wind	-	-	75	616,500	12
2022	Floods and storm with heavy wind	-	-	3,810	624,900	610
2023	Floods and storm with heavy wind	-	-	106	633,400	17

Source: Suriname Survey of Living Conditions, 2022

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



# responsible consumption and production

### Key Messages

1. Suriname focused on waste management efforts through: the Integrated Waste Management Plan. Compared to 2015, a sharp decline in total waste disposed is noticeable in 2023 (Table 12.1).
2. Community cleaning projects like Koni Doti and Krin Birti and partnerships with recycling firms are promoting household waste separation and awareness.
3. Private sector plays a key role in recycling activities (Table 12.3), but also in waste (water) management.
4. Suriname has developed plans to manage hazardous waste, e-waste and medical waste.
5. Phasing out mercury use in alignment with the Minamata Convention has been prioritized through the EMSAGS programme.
6. Post-harvest training and eco-tourism development support sustainable food systems and low-impact tourism, advancing local livelihoods and responsible consumption.
7. Areas of improvement are quantification of material footprint, waste indices, fossil fuel subsidies; the private sector sustainability reporting are not mandatory. Implementation and national tracking systems for phasing out mercury still require strengthening.



**Table 12.1: Amount of waste disposed in m3, 2015/2023**

Waste type	2015	2023
Household Waste	176,579	2,366
Agricultural Waste	5,409	4,345
Enterprise Waste	13,921	31,557
Expired Foodstuff	976	282
Hospital Waste	6,552	1,003
Glass Waste	534	13
Asbestos	118	17
Waste of Fish and Meat	614	2,353
Tires	257	875
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,960</b>	<b>42,811</b>

Source: National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management, 2023

**Table 12.2: E-waste estimates for Suriname, 2018/2021**

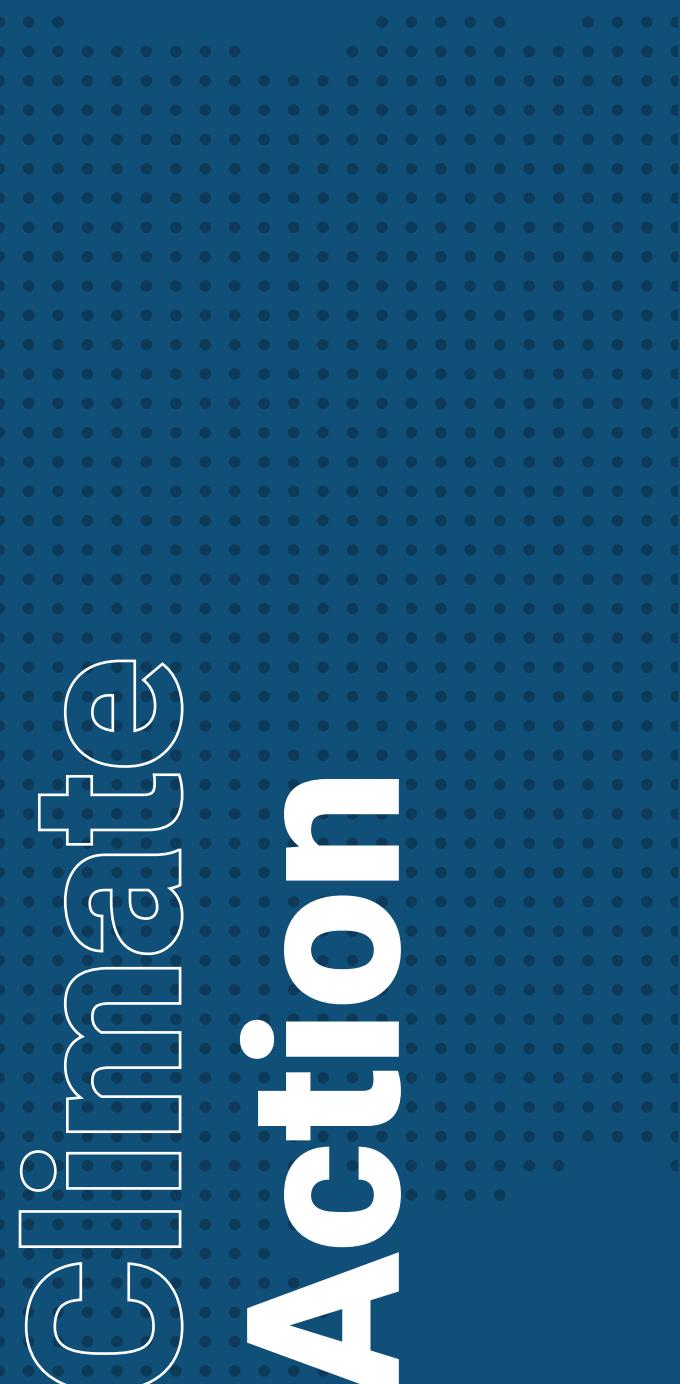
Type of electrical and electronic equipment	2018	2021
Temperature exchange equipment	987	1,178
Screens, monitors, and equipment containing screens	220	135
Lamps	434	84
Large equipment (excluding photovoltaic panels)	491	506
Photovoltaic panels (incl. converters)	-	-
Small equipment	2,306	1,730
Small IT and telecommunication equipment	306	406
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,744</b>	<b>4,039</b>

Source: General Bureau of Statistics

**Table 12.3: Recycled Materials of Renowned Businesses, 2020-2023**

	2020	2021	2023	2023
<b>Export of recycled materials from Amazona Recycling Company N.V.(AmReCo), (x metric ton)</b>				
<b>Total</b>	583	890	328	547
<b>Sustainable performance indicators of Newmont Suriname LLC</b>				
<b>Recycled Waste (tonnes)</b>	983	2,563	7,325	2,210
<b>Recycled Steel (tonnes)</b>	526	1,994	5,713	1,580
<b>TSF Water reclaimed (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	13,856,344	14,423,536	13,041,390	15,564,386
<b>TSWR-water re-used (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	312,943	222,288	51,202	17,624
<b>Amount of scrap (kg) by State Oil Company Suriname</b>				
<b>Scrap Metal Recycled</b>	150,958	100,534	17,254	52,183
<b>Sustainable performance indicators of Zijin- Rosebel Gold Mines</b>				
<b>Recycled waste (metric tons)</b>	1,385	3,481	1,125	155
<b>Waste oil (liter)</b>	836,750	1,262,051	1,082,474	881,000
<b>Recycled Steel (tonnes)</b>	623	1,499	-	-
<b>TSF Water reclaimed (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	10,858,612	9,398,182	8,621,702	8,930,658
<b>TWSR-water Re-used (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	-10,858,612	-9,398,182	-8,621,702	4,861,307

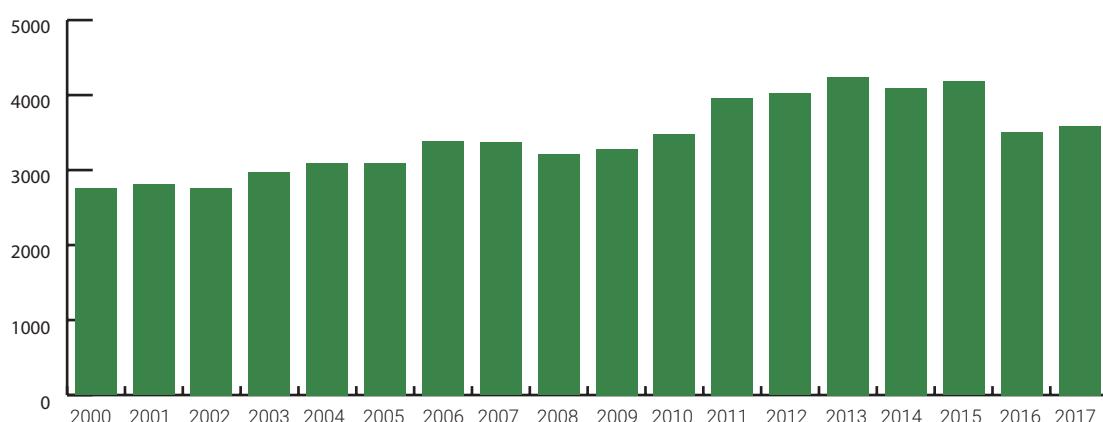
Source: AmReCo, Amazona Recycling Company N.V, Newmont Suriname LLC, State Oil Company Suriname, Zijin Mining Group/Rosebel Gold Mines, 2023



## Key Messages

1. Suriname remains carbon negative, with vast forest cover acting as a major carbon sink, but faces rising threats from sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather, especially in vulnerable coastal zones.
2. Robust national policies and legal frameworks, including the Environmental Framework Act, Suriname Green Development Strategy 2025-2050, National Adaptation Plan, Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk policy brief, and REDD+ Strategy guide climate action, while new draft legislation (e.g. Coastal Protection Law, Mangrove Protection Law), aims to further strengthen resilience.
3. Institutional capacity is expanding: the ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment and the newly established National Environment Authority (NMA) lead on climate governance, data, and environmental monitoring.
4. Suriname is tapping into climate finance, preparing for carbon markets through ITMOs and refining national guidelines under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, while also engaging in Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness programs.
5. Despite significant progress, gaps remain in climate data infrastructure, coastal protection enforcement, and access to long-term international climate finance, posing ongoing challenges to scaling climate adaptation and mitigation.
6. The increase of greenhouse gas emissions from 2000 to 2017 is mainly due to higher fuel demand in the 'Fuel Combustion Activities' subsector (Fig. 13.1) This rise is mostly caused by emissions from 'Manufacturing Industries and Construction' and 'Road Transportation'. Until 2010, the mining sector (gold and oil), which falls under manufacturing, was the largest emitter (Fig 13.3). From 2010 onwards, the transport sector became the second biggest source of emissions.
7. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), implemented by the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB), provides important and relevant data for the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector. SBB produced the Forest Cover maps, Deforestation Maps and Land Use and land use Change maps. Furthermore, SBB has contributed to the development of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) reports and the REDD+ Technical Annex, which includes the reported REDD+ results.
8. Civil society and private sector are key players in implementing mitigation measures and community education.

**Fig. 13.1: Total Green House Gas emissions (excluding removals), 2000-2017, in Gg CO<sup>2</sup>eq**



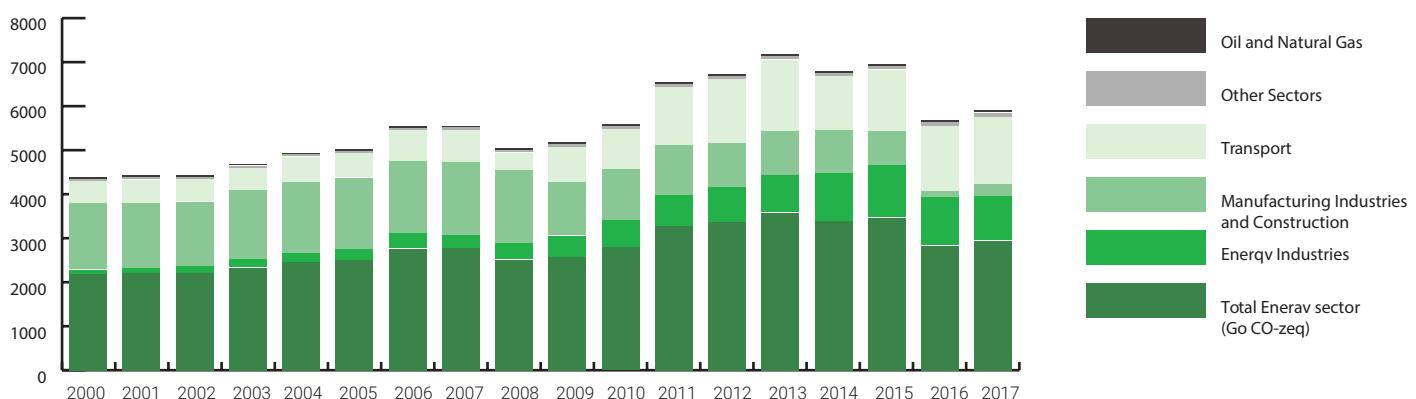
Source: Adapted from the partial report: Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Measures for the Energy Sector of Suriname, Lachman, D., November 2022

**Fig. 13.2: GHG emissions (excluding removals), 2017, in Gg CO<sup>2</sup>eq**



Source: Figure adapted from the Green House Gas Inventory (GHGI) Report as part of the NC3 report, R. Jharap, 2023

**Fig. 13.3: Total Green House Gas emissions (including removals by sector, 2000-2017, in Gg CO<sup>2</sup>eq)**

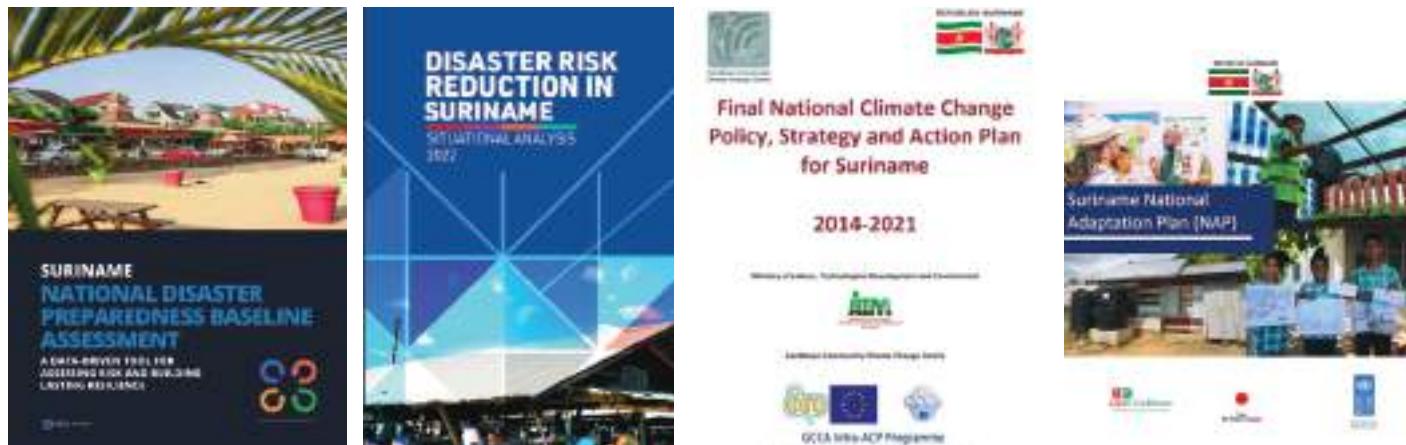


Source: Table adapted from the Green House Gas Inventory (GHGI) Report as part of the NC3 report, R. Jharap, 2023

**Table 13.1: Green House Gas emissions by company, 2021-2023**

Parameter	Unit	2021	2022	2023
<b>Mining activities of Zijin-Rosebel Goldmines</b>				
<b>Green House Gas emissions</b>	Tons CO <sup>2</sup> e	196,481	207,246	195,226
<b>Green House Gas emissions</b>	tCO <sup>2</sup> e/ t milled	0.02	0.02	0.02
<b>GHG intensity</b>	Tons CO <sup>2</sup> milled/ Thousand tonnes milled	19.97	24.71	22.09
<b>Mining activities of Newmont Suriname LLC</b>				
<b>Green House Gas emissions</b>	Tons CO <sup>2</sup> e	505,471	444,251	460,462
<b>Green House Gas emissions</b>	tCO <sup>2</sup> e/ t milled	0.03	0.03	0.03
<b>GHG intensity</b>	Tons CO <sup>2</sup> milled/ Thousand tonnes milled	33	31	32
<b>Mining activities of Grassalco</b>				
<b>Green House Gas emissions</b>	Tons CO <sup>2</sup> e	2,988	-	-
<b>State Oil Company Suriname</b>				
<b>State Oil emissions</b>	tons	613,939	610,789	667,717
<b>Scope 1 CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent</b>	tons	68,950	59,903	77,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>tons</b>	<b>682,889</b>	<b>670,692</b>	<b>744,917</b>

Source: Zijin - Rosebel Goldmines, Newmont Suriname LLC, N.V. Grassalco, State Oil Company Suriname







# Below Water

## Key Messages

1. The share of protected terrestrial and marine areas has remained unchanged at 13.2% between 2015 and 2023.
2. Suriname has made strides with the National Mangrove Strategy, the Fisheries Management Plan (2021–2025), and legislation in progress.
3. Through initiatives such as PROMAR and participation in global negotiations on plastic pollution, Suriname shows active engagement in efforts to protect ocean health and foster a sustainable blue economy.
4. Suriname is active in the regional projects CLME+, and its successor PROCARIBE+, which promote integrated maritime governance and biodiversity protection.
5. The high productivity of Suriname's marine environment has been exploited by unregulated fishing and is increasingly threatened by offshore and nearshore natural gas prospecting, coastal degradation from sand mining, and inland pollution.
6. The expected offshore oil and gas production could harm fish supplies and coastal ecosystems. Water pollution, habitat degradation, and long-term biodiversity loss worsen without strong environmental safeguards and marine-specific laws.
7. Civil society and the State Oil Company Suriname play an important role in sensitizing and informing the community, and advocate for preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

**Protected Area  
as a  
% of Total Area  
2015-2023**

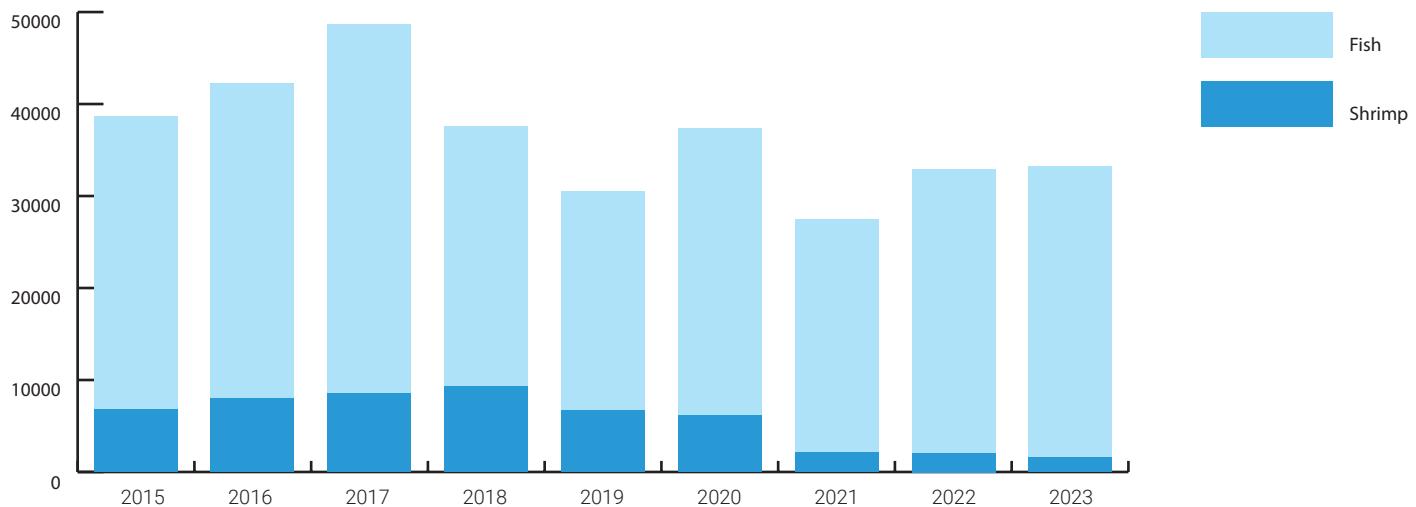
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**Terrestrial and  
Marine Areas  
protected (%)  
2015-2023**

**13.2**

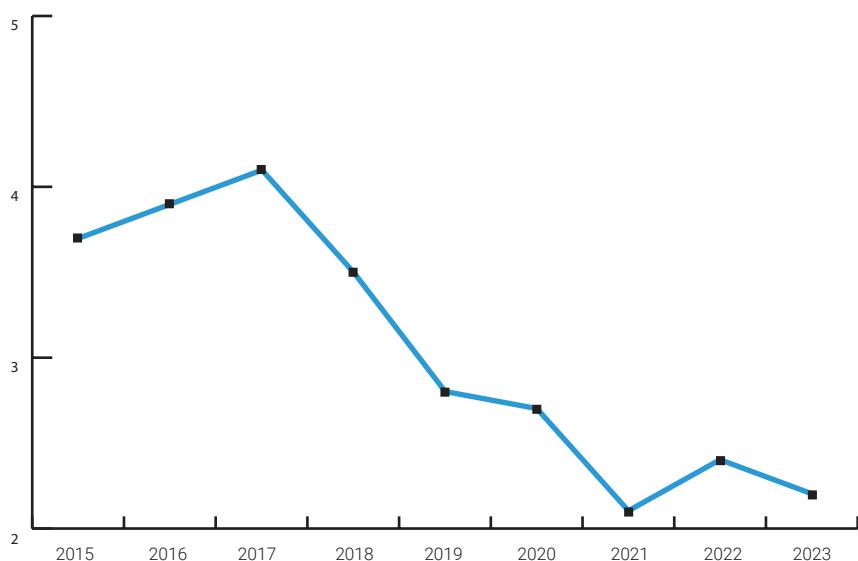
Source: Table adapted from the Green House Gas Inventory (GHGI) Report as part of the NC3 report, R. Jharap, 2023  
Retrieved from: Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Fig. 14.1: Fish catches by type of fishery, 2015-2023, in tons**



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, section of Agricultural Statistics, sub-directorate Fisheries (ODFish)

**Fig. 14.2: Fisheries as a proportion of GDP, 2015-2023, in %**



Source: GBS - National Accounts, 2021 and 2023

### Legislation

#### Draft legislation under review by the National Assembly:

- Draft Aquaculture Act 2024
- Draft Sustainable Nature Management Act 2022
- Protected Coastal Area Act 2015



Ministry of National Planning and Environment  
- A Better Future for Suriname  
(Sustainable Future)

Ministry of Social Planning and Environment

Suriname



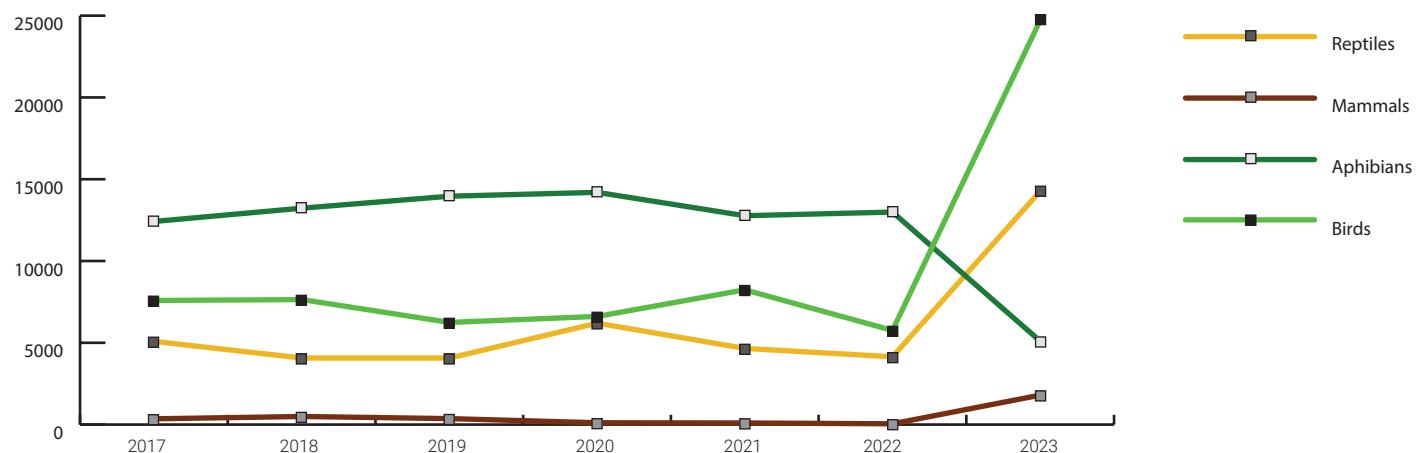
on  
Land

## Key Messages

1. Suriname maintains over 93% forest cover, one of the highest in the world, but forest area is gradually declining due to mining and infrastructure expansion (Table 15.1).
2. Biodiversity pressures are increasing, with the number of threatened species nearly doubling from 83 in 2016 to 156 in 2023, especially among fish and plant species (Table 15.3).
3. Wildlife exports (under CITES permits) have significantly risen, with a sharp increase in 2023 across birds, reptiles, and mammals (Fig. 15.1).
4. Policy progress includes the National Biodiversity Strategy 2024–2035, integration of forest data systems (e.g., SFISS), the National Action Plan for Sustainable Land Development, though gaps remain in monitoring illegal wildlife trade, invasive species, and mountainous ecosystem health. The (illegal) mining sector poses threats to deforestation.



**Fig. 15.1: Total export of birds, amphibians, mammals, reptiles with a CITES permit, 2017-2023**



Source: Forest Management Service Suriname, division Nature Conservation

**Fig. 15.2: Total export of birds, amphibians, mammals, reptiles with a CITES permit, 2017-2023**

Year	%	km <sup>2</sup>
2015	93	152,242
2016	93	152,129
2017	92.9	152,022
2018	92.8	152,946
2019	92.8	151,843
2020	92.7	151,755
2021	92.7	151,668
2022	92.6	151,578
2023	92.5	151,466

Source: Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)

**Table 15.3: Threatened species in Suriname, 2016/2023**

Species	2016	2023
Mammals	9	9
Birds	9	3
Reptiles	6	6
Amphibians	1	-
Fish	30	71
Molluscs	-	-
Other invertebrates	1	1
Plants	27	66
Fungi & Protists	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>156</b>

Source: UCN Redlist

**Table 15.2: Protected areas in Suriname, 2023**

Nature Reserves	Area	IUCN
1	Boven Coe-sewijne	
2	Brinckheuvel	Terrestrial
3	Central Suriname	
4	Coppename	
	Monding	Marine and Terrestrial
5	Galibi	
6	Hertenrits	
7	Copi	
8	Peruvia	Terrestrial
9	Sipaliwini	
10	Wane kreek	
11	Wia Wia	Marine & Terrestrial
Nature parks		
12	Brownsberg	Terrestrial
Special management areas		
13	Bigi Pan	
14	Noord Coronie	
15	Noord Saramacca	Marine and Terrestrial
16	Noord Commewijne-Ma- rowijne	

Source: Foundation of Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) & Forest Management Service Suriname, division Nature Conservation

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



# justice and Strong institutions

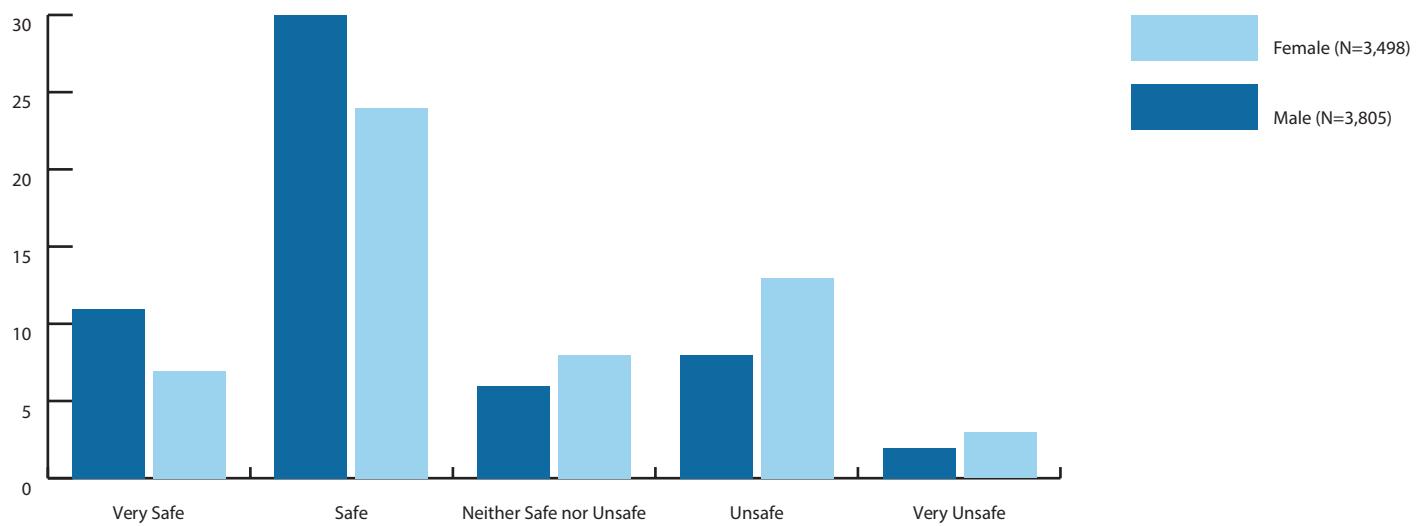


## Key Messages

1. Suriname's National Risk Assessment revealed threats and vulnerabilities, leading to important reforms, yet enforcement gaps, weak coordination, and underfunded institutions still hinder effective risk mitigation.
2. Suriname has made significant legislative progress, including updates to the Penal and Civil Codes, child protection laws, and the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission and specialized units, contributing to stronger institutional integrity and child protection.
3. Initiatives like the Safe City Project and improved police data systems might have caused security to improve, as 41% of men and 31% of women (aggregately) reported feeling "Very safe" or "Safe" walking alone at night, however, the rest shows persistent public concerns about security (Fig. 16.1)
4. According to the LAPOP 2023 survey, bribery was most frequently reported in municipal services, public employment, and by police officers, with males generally more likely to report having paid bribes than females (Table 16.2).
5. Enhanced digitalization of crime reporting, judicial improvements, and international cooperation have supported crime investigation and prosecution, although violent youth crime and limited prison capacity remain key issues.
6. Birth registration is above 95% in Suriname. Measures to mitigate birth registration gaps in the Interior are continued.
7. Citizens express moderate satisfaction with public services; education and health score higher, while dissatisfaction is more prominent regarding road conditions and responses to robbery reports (Fig. 16.4 & Fig. 16.5).
8. Trust in local government and in the administration's economic management remains fragile, with a notable portion of citizens (approximately 50%) expressing low to moderate confidence in institutional performance and accountability mechanisms (Table 16.3 & 16.4).

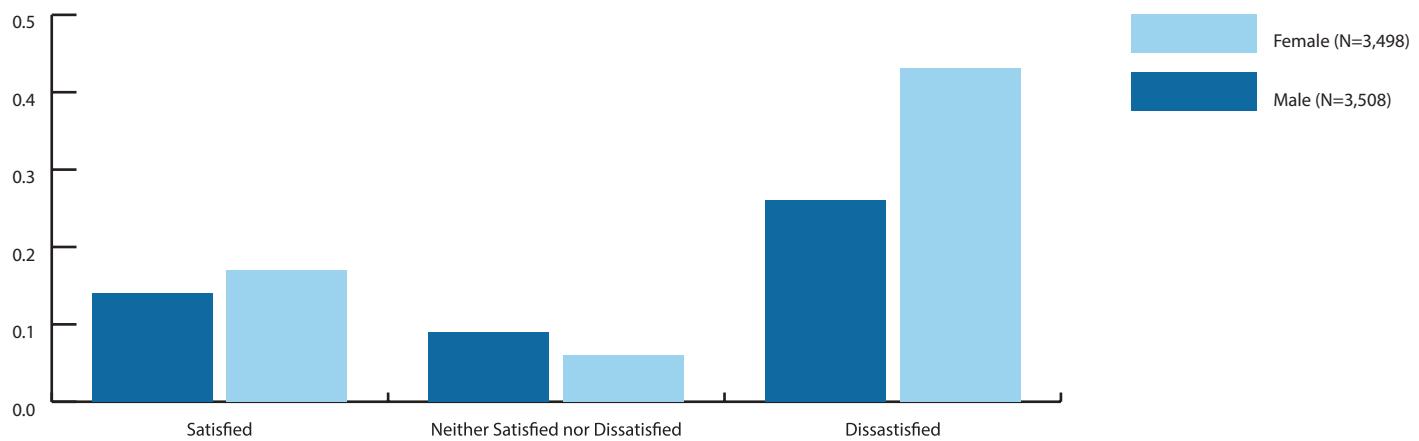


**Figure 16.1: Perception of security: walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, 2010-2023 (aggregate), in %**



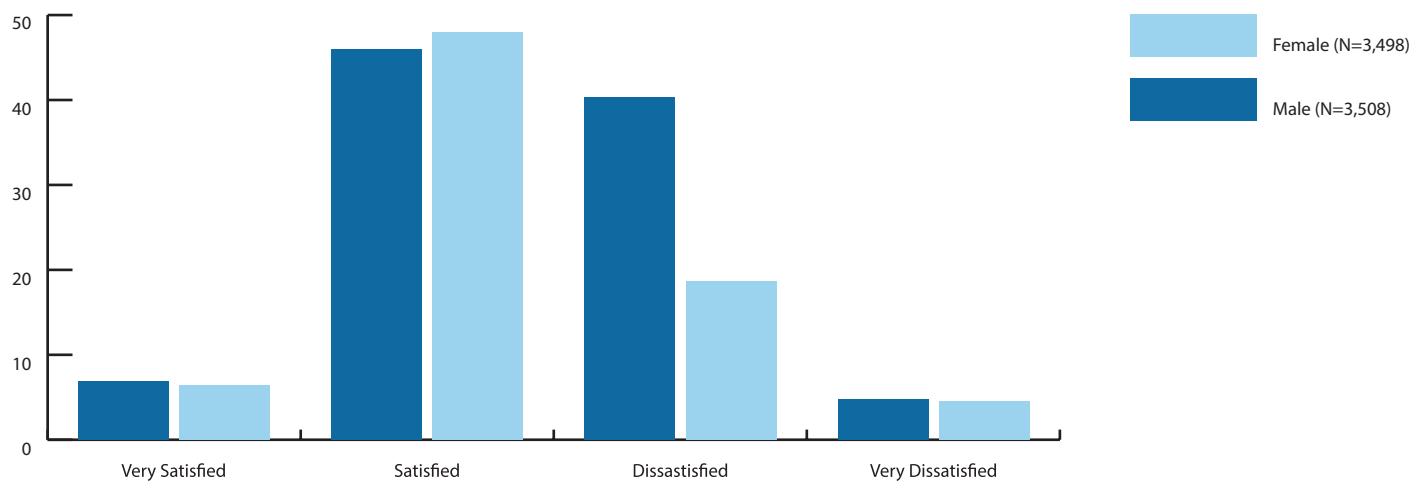
Source: Latin America's Population Barometer survey (LAPOP), 2010-2023

**Fig. 16.2: Satisfaction with Police: robbery report, by gender, 2010-2023 (aggregate), in %**



Source: LAPOP, 2010-2023

**Fig. 16.3: Satisfaction with roads, by gender, 2010-2023 (aggregate), in %**



Source: LAPOP, 2010-2023

**Table 16.1: Number of investigations stated, 2015-2019**

	Number of Investigations Stated,
Sexual exploitation including sexual exploitation of children (trafficking in persons/human trafficking)	13
Kidnapping and hostage-taking (Article 342 Criminal Law/National Code)	185
Extortion (KD department)	161
Robbery (Article 372 Criminal Law/National Code)	1,751
Murder/manslaughter, grievous bodily harm	166

Source: Police Force Suriname, December 2020, edited by National Risk Assessment

**Table 16.2: Bribery by type, 2010-2023 (aggregate), in %**

Asked:	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
To pay a Bribe by Police Officer	7	2	4
To pay a Bribe by Public Employee	1	1	1
Requested by a Soldier	0	0	1
To Process Document in Municipal Government	1	1	1
To Pay a Bribe at Work	2	1	1
To Pay a Bribe at Court	1	0	0
To Pay a Bribe to Use Public Health Services	2	2	1
To Pay Bribe at School	0	1	1

Source: Latin America's Population Barometer survey (LAPOP), 2010-2023

**Table 16.3: Trust in local governments, by gender, 2010-2023 (aggregate), in %**

	Male	Female	Total
Not at All	6	6	5
2	6	6	5
3	11	10	9
4	21	20	17
5	22	22	18
6	16	14	12
A lot	9	9	8
Don't Know	5	6	5
Not Relevant	2	2	2
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>3,498</b>	<b>8,545</b>

Source: LAPOP, 2010- 2023

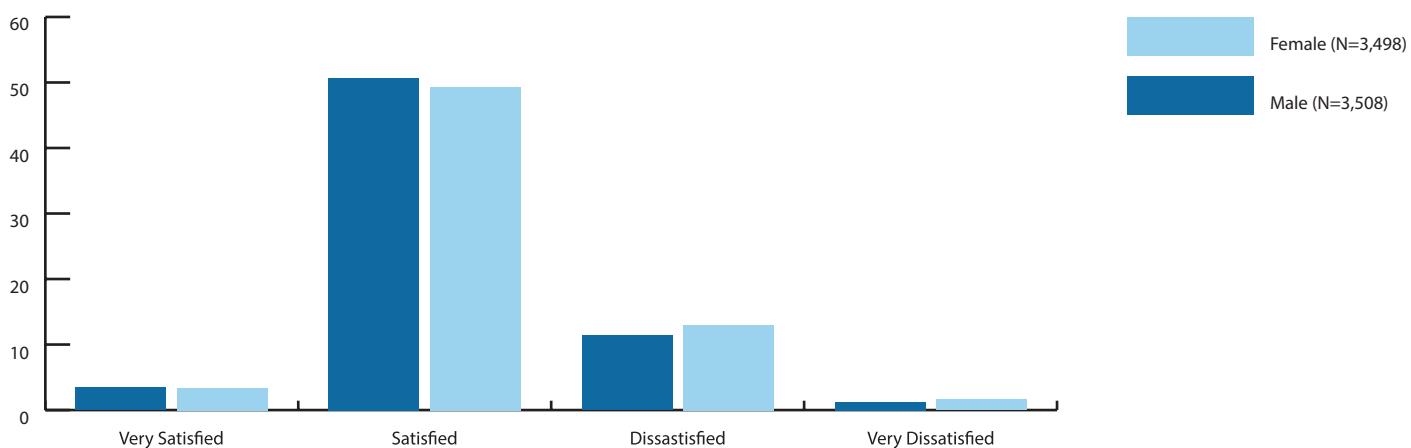


**Table 16.4: Trust in evaluation of Administration's handling of economy, by gender, 2010-2023 (aggregate), in %**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Not at All</b>	5	6	4
<b>2</b>	5	6	4
<b>3</b>	10	11	9
<b>4</b>	22	21	18
<b>5</b>	27	25	21
<b>6</b>	19	18	15
<b>A lot</b>	8	8	7
<b>Don't Know</b>	2	3	2
<b>Not Relevant</b>	1	1	1
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>3,498</b>	<b>8,545</b>

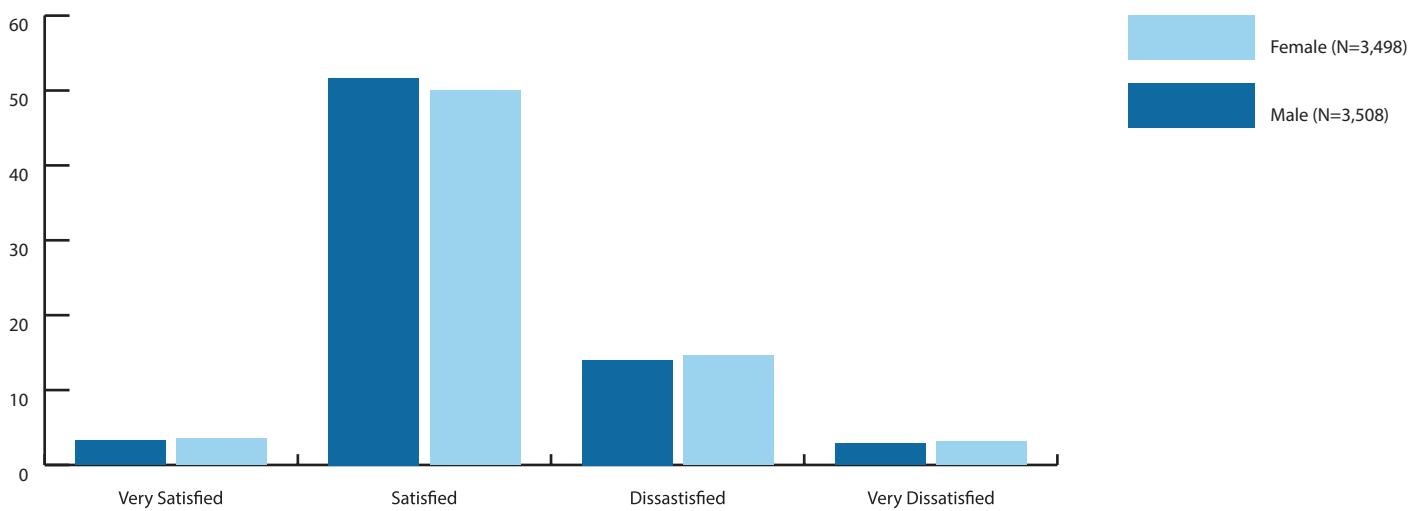
Source: LAPOP, 2010-2023

**Fig. 16.4: Satisfaction with Public Schools, by Gender, 2010-2023 (Aggregate), in %**



Source: LAPOP, 2010-2023

**Fig. 16.5: Satisfaction with Public Medical and Health Services, by Gender, 2010-2023 (Aggregate), in %**



Source: LAPOP, 2010-2023

# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



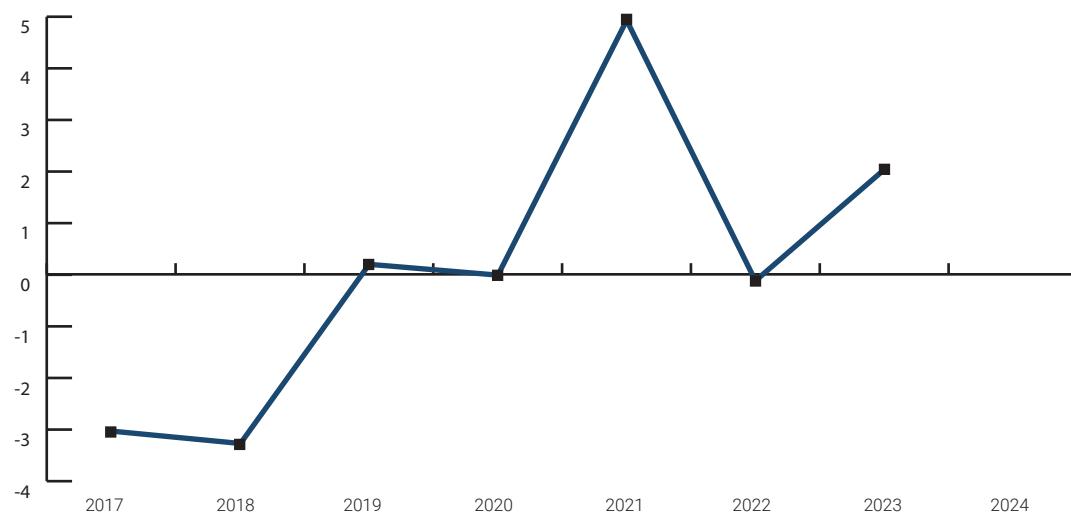
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## Key Messages

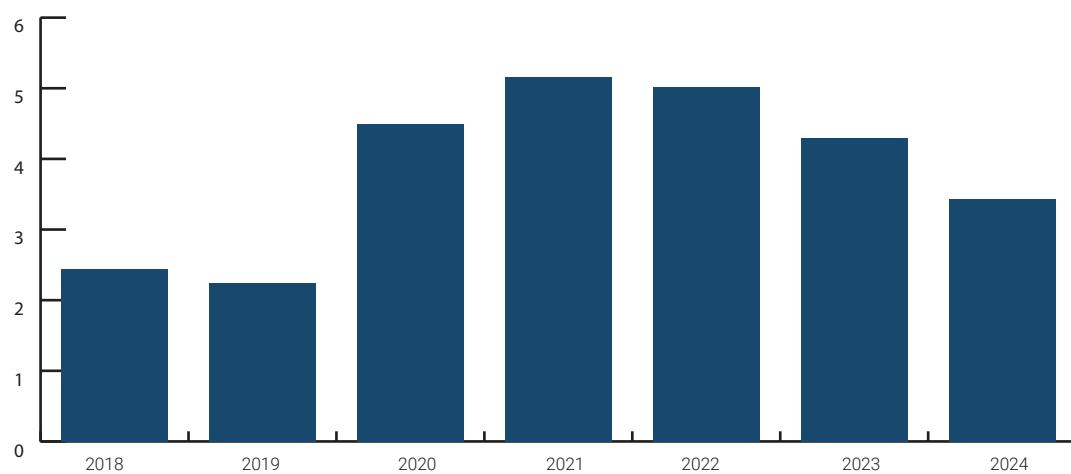
1. Suriname made progress in strengthening domestic resource mobilization, debt management capacity and debt restructuring.
2. Suriname adopted fiscal recovery plans, enabling greater macroeconomic stability and renewed investor confidence.
3. Suriname enhances its partnerships at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels, including through active cooperation with the UN, CARICOM, EU, and international financial institutions, to mobilize resources and technical assistance for achieving the SDGs.
4. The expected oil boom presents an opportunity to transform Suriname's economy, but success depends on policy reforms, investment in human capital, and strong institutions to avoid over-reliance on extractive industries.
5. With the launch of its National Migration Policy 2024–2030, Suriname is prioritizing orderly migration, diaspora engagement, and labour market integration to address skill gaps and promote socio-economic development.
6. Initiatives like the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA), digital readiness assessments, and regional trade agreements aim to enhance FDI, expand export capacity, and promote innovation across key sectors such as agriculture and energy.
7. Suriname still faces critical gaps in technical expertise, modern tools, and knowledge exchange mechanisms, particularly in sectors such as climate resilience, education, data management, and public health systems. These challenges are compounded by brain drain and constrained fiscal space for investment in human resources.
8. Suriname's classification as a high-middle-income country limits access to concessional financing; the country calls for the international consideration of the multidimensional vulnerability index, as advocated by the SIDS community.

**Figure 17.1: FDI in % of GNI, 2017-2024**



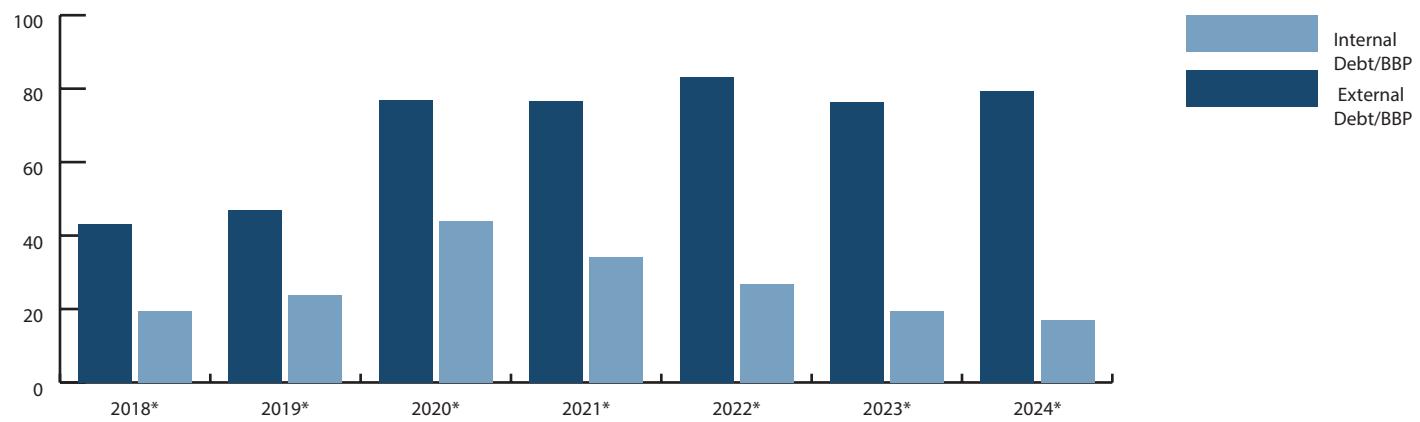
Source: Central Bank of Suriname; GBS - National Accounts

**Figure 17.2: Remittances Inflow in % of GDP, 2018-2024**



Source: Central Bank of Suriname; GBS - National Accounts

**Figure 17.3: Debt ratios according to International definitions, 2018-2024, in %**



Source: Suriname Debt Management Office, \*Preliminary data

# 7.

# Emerging risks and The way forward

This chapter provides an overview of the cross-cutting risks that Suriname faces in achieving the 2030 Agenda. It also looks into the way forward in Suriname's path in implementing the SDGs.



## 7.1 Emerging risks

For every risk area (see table 6 below, column 1), risk factors (column 2) are listed as well as their possible impact and/or consequences. The main risks that were mentioned and observed as crosscutting through all SDGs are:

Economic crises and Financial constraints,  
Human capacity, Weak institutions and Lack of logistics and material, and  
Political environment, cohesion and cooperation.

### **Ad. 1 Economic crises and Financial constraints**

Major economic crises affected the country's development between 2015 and 2022, which resulted in a decline of 8% and 16% in real GDP, placing a heavy toll on the socioeconomic circumstances of households. Following the implementation of the Recovery Plan 2020-2022 with the support of international partners, the economic crises were addressed, and the country's macroeconomic situation gradually improved, resulting in GDP growth of around 2-3.5% from 2022 to 2024 (Planning Office Suriname, 2024). Suriname still has challenges to overcome at the macroeconomic level, but has a better position to move forward.

### **Ad 2. Human capacity, Weak institutions, and Lack of logistics and material**

Due to financial and economic constraints, the brain drain trend is on the rise. Especially, employees from the health, social, technical, and educational sectors are leaving for a future in either the Caribbean, Europe or other countries. This poses significant risks for the government and the private sector to build strong and effective institutions and organizations, and implement effective strategic policy plans and programmes. The Government has overlapping mandates and responsibilities regarding policy areas and geographical targeting. Efforts to improve an integrated and coordinated approach to plan and implement policies are therefore highly necessary. As a result, these inefficiencies can hamper the policy implementation and targeting of specific vulnerable groups. Additionally, the financial constraints have a high impact on investments in logistics and materials within the Government.

Ad3. Political environment, cohesion, and cooperation  
Political cohesion is of utmost importance in progressing national development and reaching all policy goals and aims. Within a difficult macroeconomic environment hampered by human and institutional limitations in certain areas, there is an urgent need for a cohesive political environment. The public and political agenda must be in coordination to foster development and meet the needs of society. Viewpoints may differ among political stakeholders, nevertheless a breaking point has to be reached to reach the whole of society.

**Table 6. Risk framework**

Risk area	Risk factors
<b>Democratic space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited inclusive participation of groups e.g. ITPs, vulnerable populations regarding governance and economic reform measures.</li><li>• Commitment to implement policies and legal provisions for meaningful participation or representation.</li><li>• Social unrest due to lack of participation and involvement in decision-making.</li></ul>
<b>Displacement &amp; Migration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inadequate systems to protect the rights of migrants. This could lead to disturbance of socials economic environment and population composition leading to reduced social cohesion.</li><li>• Increased influx of migrants, especially from unstable countries in the region (e.g. Venezuela, Brazil, Haiti and Cuba). This could cause an overburden on existing social systems.</li><li>• Limited access of migrants to decent work and exposure to exploitation.</li><li>• Skilled persons leaving Suriname resulting from macroeconomic conditions and limited opportunities, leading to increase in brain drain and low-capacity levels.</li></ul>
<b>Economic stability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country recovering from economic crises, but still suffering with high external debt, high inflation rate and exchange rate deterioration.</li><li>• Positive economic outlook, but not all structural adjustment reforms are implemented.</li><li>• Continued dependency on external development aid and loans from international partners.</li><li>• Currency devaluation and impactful austerity measures.</li><li>• Constraints in poverty interventions and social targeting.</li><li>• Limited employment opportunities and growing informal sector.</li></ul>
<b>Environment &amp; Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rising sea-level.</li><li>• Floods in coastal and interior areas, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities.</li><li>• Wastewater contaminating groundwater in urban areas.</li><li>• Erratic weather cycles e.g. drought one-year, excessive rainfall another, impacting for example agriculture and fishing sector, access to health and education, including living conditions of ITPs.</li><li>• Deforestation due to mining activities.</li><li>• Disruption of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.</li><li>• Pollution of rivers due to mercury use.</li></ul>
<b>Food Security, Agriculture &amp; Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No legislation yet on collective rights of ITPs.</li><li>• Reliance on high-cost imports.</li><li>• Crop destruction leading to loss of income for vulnerable groups.</li><li>• Increased food prices.</li><li>• Decrease in purchasing power and risk of unhealthy food consumption.</li></ul>

Risk area	Risk factors
<b>Internal security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money laundering and financial crimes, corruption, cross border organized crimes, leading to increased organized crime and potential for black listing.</li> <li>• Trafficking in persons, especially women and girls.</li> <li>• Underperformance/underdeveloped special forces to implement sanctions and other measures. Tensions between ITPs and gold mining companies.</li> <li>• Insecurities for and unsafe feeling by (local) populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure &amp; access to social services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural and interior disparities challenge access to education, health, water and sanitation, social protection, and employment, causing inequalities.</li> <li>• Unequal development opportunities in the Interior leading to a sense of feeling left behind and unmet priorities.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure &amp; access to social services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of corruption, strikes from labour unions and underdeveloped institutions with limited capacity.</li> <li>• Degree of distrust in government by the public.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to secondary and tertiary health care systems are impacted due to insufficient financial resources.</li> <li>• Health expenditure per capita reduced by half since 2015.</li> <li>• Heavy focus by government on economic reform and less attention for preventive health care.</li> <li>• Lower access to quality health services and growing health inequalities.</li> </ul>
<b>Social cohesion, equality &amp; non-discrimination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrimination and stigmatization of marginalized groups e.g. ITPs, People living with or affected by HIV, LGBTQ persons and migrants.</li> <li>• Domestic violence against women and children.</li> <li>• Unequal opportunities for women and youth e.g. when starting a business.</li> <li>• Children and youth dropping out of school or limited employment options, leading to risk behaviour and loss of human capital.</li> <li>• Limited participation of communities in the Interior in national development.</li> </ul>

## 7.2 The way forward

The Government of Suriname recognizes that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires more than sectoral interventions; it demands coherent policymaking, inclusive partnerships, robust data systems, and effective monitoring frameworks. In recent years, the Government has taken important steps to institutionalize these cross-cutting enablers of sustainable development while acknowledging the challenges and risks that remain.

Policy coherence has been strengthened through national policy frameworks that align development planning with the SDGs. These frameworks are supported by inter-ministerial coordination through the National SDG Committee, which should facilitate consistency across sectoral strategies and foster alignment with international commitments. However, structural barriers - including institutional fragmentation, limited vertical coordination with subnational levels, and weak integration of sustainability into budgetary processes - still constrain

the full operationalization of coherent and future-oriented policymaking. These barriers will be critical areas where actions are necessary to guarantee the acceleration of the SDGs implementation.

Suriname firmly upholds the principle of national ownership in its development cooperation. The country has maintained leadership in shaping its policy direction while engaging international partners consistent with national priorities. In that regard, partnerships will be reinforced and elaborated to maximize the outcomes. Nonetheless, the restrictive eligibility criteria of many global financing and technical assistance instruments continue to limit their ability to exercise policy space in a manner that fully reflects their structural vulnerabilities. Hence, the Government remains committed to advocating for international frameworks that support equitable access to finance and technical cooperation, particularly for structurally vulnerable middle-income countries.

Data systems have seen incremental improvement, particularly through targeted support from the

UN system and other development partners. The Agricultural Census 2024, the national Census 2024, the National Forest Monitoring System, the Climate Change Knowledge database, the Suriname Water Resources Information System, the digitization of patient information, the education information system, the digitization of government services and provision, and the ICT Vision 2030 are contributing to more timely and accurate data for planning and monitoring. The General Bureau of Statistics is expanding its coverage of SDG indicators and improving data disaggregation by region, sex, and age. The SDG Data and Analysis Repository 2022, which was updated in 2025, supports this coverage. However, gaps remain in SDG indicator coverage, data harmonization, and interoperability between government information systems. Technical capacity and financial support are urgently needed to modernize the national statistical system, enhance open data platforms, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

Suriname also recognizes that the Government cannot achieve sustainable development alone. The country has made meaningful progress in cultivating inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships involving civil society, academia, the private sector, and community-based organizations. These partnerships have proven especially valuable, but often remain

ad hoc and project-based. There is a growing need to institutionalize participatory mechanisms, build trust through dialogue, and formalize public-private partnerships to scale up their impact.

Finally, the monitoring and accountability framework for SDG implementation is actively being developed. While some sectors have established annual review mechanisms, a comprehensive, cross-sectoral SDG monitoring system is not yet fully operational. The Government is exploring using geospatial data, digital dashboards, and participatory tools to enhance the transparency and responsiveness of development efforts. Ensuring that citizens, civil society, and parliamentarians have access to information and opportunities to engage in accountability processes will be essential for deepening democratic governance and building public trust.

Suriname's efforts to strengthen policy coherence, data capacity, partnerships, and monitoring frameworks reflect a recognition that these are foundational pillars of the 2030 Agenda. Continued progress in these areas will require sustained political commitment, long-term international support, and the mobilization of domestic expertise. Suriname is laying the groundwork for more inclusive, resilient, and evidence-driven development by investing in these enablers.

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