

GENDER VISION POLICY DOCUMENT

2021 - 2035



Ministry of Home Affairs
Bureau Gender Affairs

Paramaribo, June 2019



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With support from the Canadian Government

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek/ General Statistics Bureau
ADEKUS	Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment/ Antiretrovirale behandeling
BGA	Bureau Gender Aangelegenheden/ Bureau for Gender Affairs
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action /Beijing Actieplatform
Caricom	Caribbean Community/ Caraïbische Gemeenschap
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women/ Vrouwenverdrag
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States/ Gemeenschap van Latijns-Amerikaanse en Caraïbische Staten
DNA	De Nationale Assemblée/ The National Assembly
GEI	Gender Equality Indicators / Gendergelijkheidsindicatoren
GLO	Gewoon Lager Onderwijs/ Primary education
GPI	Gender Parity Index/ Genderpariteitsindex
HDI	Human Development Index
MDG	Millenium Development Goal/ Millenium ontwikkelingsdoel
Mercosur	Southern Common Market/ Gemeenschappelijke markt van het zuiden
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster System
MinOWC	Ministerie van Onderwijs, Wetenschap en Cultuur/ Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
MinSoZaVo	Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Volkshuisvesting/ Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing
MZS	Medische Zending Suriname/ Medical mission
NRHG	Nationale Raad Huiselijk Geweld/ National council domestic violence
OAS	Organization of American States/ Organisatie van Amerikaanse Staten
OP 2017 - 2021	Ontwikkelingsplan 2017 -2021/ Development Plan 2017 - 2021
S.B.	Staatsblad / Bulletin of Acts and Decrees
TIP	Trafficking In Persons/ Mensenhandel
RGD	Regionale Gezondheidsdienst/ Regional health service
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals/ Duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelen
VOJ	Voortgezet Onderwijs Junioren/ Junior secondary education
VOS	Voortgezet Onderwijs Senioren/ Senior secondary education

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FOREWORD

In all societies, women and girls face discrimination and neglect to a greater or lesser degree. Regrettably, we must admit that Surinamese society is not free of various forms of discrimination of women and girls either.

Discrimination of women and girls raises impediments to achieving goals related to gender equality and compromises equitable national development. This undermines the government's aspirations to achieve the goals expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Government of Suriname (GoS) also recognizes gender equality as a right¹. The Ministry of Home Affairs bears final responsibility for implementation of the conventions mentioned, the implementation of which lies with the Bureau Gender Affairs. We strive to achieve gender equality together with the various stakeholders: non-governmental organizations, enterprises and individuals. The involvement of men in this is obvious. There are successes, but not enough and much remains to be done.

This vision document and the accompanying working document should be seen as a guideline for jointly, according to planning and above all structured implementation of the many work that still needs to be done to achieve gender equality in Surinamese society in the coming period.

Finally, we thank everyone who has contributed to the development of the aforementioned documents. A special word of thanks goes to the Canadian Government and the Stichting Bureau voor de Dienstverlening aan NGOs for the financial support, the consultant Mrs. Annette Tjon Sie Fat MA, the Bureau Gender Affairs, and the representatives of the ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The Minister of Home Affairs
Mike F. M. Noersalim MBA

¹Constitution of the Republic of Suriname, Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 1987 no.116), and following the amendment in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 1992 no.38.

Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1993.

Ratification of the Convention of Belém do Para in 2002.

1. SUMMARY

One of the most complex processes of change and development in a society is the process to achieve gender equality. The principle of equality between men and women is enshrined in the Surinamese Constitution, namely in Article 35: “Man and woman are equal before the law”.

The general prohibition of discrimination is laid down in Article 8 Clause 2 of the Constitution:

“No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of one’s birth, sex, race, language, religion, origin, education, political convictions, economic position or social circumstances, or any other status”.

This Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 elaborates on Suriname’s international and regional obligations to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; the Constitution of Suriname; the evaluation of earlier integral gender policy plans of the Ministry of Home Affairs; and the Development Plan of Suriname for the period 2017 – 2021 (OP2017 – 2021), which introduces gender policy in Chapter X, Paragraph 1.

Once again, the gender mainstreaming approach to policy design and implementation was chosen. This approach aims to strengthen equality and equity of men and women in society and refers to all sectors.

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

The priority areas for the period 2021 – 2035 are:

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

This policy document points the way to eventually achieve gender equality and equity in Suriname in the chosen priority areas. Besides the abovementioned priority areas, the government will also identify sectoral development themes or priorities in national development plans in the coming years. By applying gender mainstreaming, policies can be checked in the national development sectors or priorities, thus ensuring that the chosen policy does not create or reinforce gender inequalities. Furthermore, gender analyses can indicate which interventions may help eliminate or lessen any gender inequalities that may be found.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the past years, Suriname developed integral gender policy plans to work at promoting gender equality and equity and to meet international obligations. Suriname became party to CEDAW² (Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women) in 1993. In 1995 Suriname signed the Beijing Declaration, as a result of which it also became party to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)³, which identified 12 priority themes which required extra attention with respect to gender equality. The Inter-American Convention on Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, also known as the Convention of Belém do Para, was ratified in 2002. In 2015 Suriname committed itself to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, which introduced 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be achieved by 2030.

At the regional level, Suriname supports the policy programmes of the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the programme of action of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which have incorporated all of the goals of the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) for gender equality and/or sustainable development, derived from the international framework. In Suriname, a pilot project was carried out in 2018 to identify regional indicators – the CARGEI – in the context of implementing the SDGs in the Caribbean. Commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, this project resulted in a situation analysis: the National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname.

The Global Gender Gap Index of the World Economic Forum 2018 places Suriname 79th of 149 countries. In 2017, Suriname was 86th among 144 countries. The Global Gender Gap Index is a framework that registers the scope and hierarchy of gender inequality and tracks developments. The Gender Gap Index standardises national gender gaps on the basis of economic, political, educational and health criteria and classifies countries in such a way that they can be compared. The classifications are intended to make countries more aware of the challenges and possibilities which become apparent as a result of identified gender gaps.⁴

² CEDAW/C/SUR/4-6

³ Beijing Platform for Action, Suriname Report 2014

⁴ World Economic Forum, 2012, p. 3.

According to the Global Gender Gap Index, Suriname scores well in the areas of education (gender parity 0,991) and health (gender parity 0,973), but much remains to be done in the area of economic participation and possibilities (gender parity 0,638). As far as political empowerment is concerned, we score very badly (gender parity 0,177). The Gender Parity Index (GPI) indicates the ratio of the number of women versus the number of men with regard to a particular indicator. GPI equal to 1 implies full gender equality, i.e. equal numbers of men and women. GPI less than 1 reflects more men; greater than 1 indicates more women.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Development and change are complex processes that are not linear, nor can they be executed through strict plans. When making policy, it is therefore important to not just focus on achieving end goals. When policy plans are carried out it is also important that the processes to implement planned interventions are sufficiently flexible and are adapted when the planned interventions and activities do not turn out to be effective.

One of the most complex processes of development and change in a society is the process to achieve gender equality. Complete equality between men and women has not yet been achieved anywhere in the world. Things have improved throughout the years. Among other things, we can mention the UN Women's Convention (CEDAW) in 1979 and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) of 1995. CEDAW is globally considered the basic document to eliminate discrimination of women relative to men in legislation. For, constitutional gender equality does not always mean that men and women are equal in practice. The BPfA with 12 priority areas is considered a guide to achieve gender equality.

According to the United Nations, equality of men and women is not only a fundamental human right, but also the basis for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Gender equality concerns - among other things - equality of men and women in social relations; the absence of gender discrimination and the absence of discrimination on the basis of performance. The 2030 World Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may be considered a guide to sustainable development. Gender equality features in all the goals, but SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) specifically focuses on gender. Its main goal is to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

The principle of equality of men and women is laid down in Article 8 of the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname:

No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of one's birth, sex, race, language, religion, origin, education, political convictions, economic position or social circumstances or any other status.

Article 35 of the Constitution also stipulates that men and women are equal before the law.

The gender policy document 2021 – 2035 elaborates on:

- Suriname's international and regional obligations to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
- The Constitution of Suriname.
- The evaluation of earlier integral gender policy plans of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Development Plan of Suriname for the period 2017 – 2021 (OP2017 – 2021), which introduces gender policy in Chapter X, Paragraph 1.

On page 151 of OP 2017 – 2021 gender is described as follows:

Gender in societal context refers to the social attributes and opportunities related to being a man or woman and the relationships between women and men, girls and boys, as well as the relationships among women and those among men. The attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and learnt through processes of education and upbringing. They are contextual, temporal and fluid. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or man in a given context. In many societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in allocated responsibilities, activities carried out, access to and management of resources, as well as possibilities for decision-making. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural framework of the segments of class, race, poverty, ethnicity and age.

Regarding gender equality, the following is stated on page 152 of OP 2017 – 2021:

Gender equality implies that women and men share the same conditions to optimally realise their human rights and to contribute to and benefit from economic, social, cultural and political developments. Gender equality is thus society's equal appreciation of the similarities and differences between men and women and the roles they fulfil. It is based on women and men who are full partners in their families, neighbourhoods and society. Gender equality starts with equal appreciation of girls and boys.

Page 151 of OP 2017 – 2021 also identifies the problems in formulating and executing the gender policy:

- Insufficient capacities to develop, execute, monitor and evaluate a gender strategy and policy. The BGA lacks sufficient staff to make society in general and in particular school-age youth in the whole country aware of gender, education and upbringing, and human rights (women, men and children).
- Insufficient statistical and other information, including qualitative data to determine specific policy and to make problem-solving interventions. To stop the increase of cases of domestic violence, the Combating Domestic Violence Act was adopted in 2009, which allows a victim to apply for a restraining order against a perpetrator.
- Underreporting of complaints and not applying for restraining orders may contribute to an increase in the number of spousal killings.
- Little experience in and lack of gender integration processes, where equality goals are added to all policy goals during policy development, in both public and private sectors.

Once again, as was the case in earlier integral gender policy plans in Suriname and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), the approach of gender mainstreaming has been chosen for making and implementing policy. This approach aims to strengthen equality and equity of men and women in society and refers to all sectors. Actually, everyone involved in defining, applying, implementing and evaluating policy should first establish whether, when a measure or intervention is introduced, its impact on (the lives of) women and men might be different.

In gender mainstreaming, a comparative analysis of the situation of women and men is made first. Any inequalities between men and women are mapped and then one tries to limit or eliminate these by targeting them with interventions. The purpose of gender mainstreaming is to prevent policy being made which creates, preserves or reinforces

inequalities between women and men. At the same time, interventions are planned to eliminate or lessen gender inequalities, should these be identified.

Formulation of a long-term gender policy was preferred because processes of social change associated with gender equality and equity require time. The problems and challenges identified in the OP 2017-2021 with respect to the formulation and execution of the gender policy, will not be quickly resolved either. The Gender Plan of Action 2019 - 2020, which identifies concrete activities to be carried out in the period mentioned, is formulated simultaneously with this gender policy document. Furthermore, a conscious choice was made for the long-term gender policy to overlap one year of the current OP 2017 – 2021. This prevents a gap and enables the intended gender policy to be seamlessly included in Suriname's the next national development plan.

2.3 METHODOLOGY

The framework for the gender policy document was drawn up by a consultant in close cooperation with the Bureau Gender Affairs Bureau (BGA). During a series of brainstorming sessions and internal workshops, the vision for 2035, the general strategies, the priority areas and the conceptual framework were discussed. The first draft was formulated by the consultant, after which BGA added comments and supplements. The second draft was discussed with stakeholders and supplemented. After comments from policy-makers of the Ministry of Home Affairs were received, the third draft was made, which was presented and commented on during a final workshop with stakeholders. Using the comments and feedback, the 2021 – 2035 policy document and the 2019 – 2020 gender plan of action were finalised.

To formulate the draft, the most recent studies and reports available to BGA were used. Unfortunately, the data are not always recent. When formulating this document, the latest MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster System) study and the study to measure the existence of violence against women had already been completed, but the data had not yet been published. These reports will provide recent data which can be taken into account for future annual plans and adjustments of the policy document.

3. GENDER PROFILE OF SURINAME

Suriname has determined priority areas which were already decided with stakeholders since 2011 in earlier integral gender policy plans. The areas were selected from the perspective of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). Data and information, studies and reports were also largely gathered and formulated on the basis of these priority areas. The following gender profile is therefore also given on the basis of these areas.

3.1 SUMMARY OF THE LAST SITUATION ANALYSIS

Labour, income and poverty reduction

(Source: GEI; National Review BPfA +20)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that work is one of the most important human rights. Furthermore, the Constitution of Suriname states that everyone has the right to perform all work according to what is possible. The government is responsible for providing society with the possibilities to perform work. Suriname's National Development Plan also states that work is crucial to prosperity and wellbeing in society.

Census data for 2012 show that the total employed population in the age-group of 15 – 64 years amounts to 188,229 people: 63.1% employed men and 36.9% employed women. Most data on the economy are gathered on the basis of gender, but registration is usually on the basis of sex. Most job-seekers turn out to be women and more women are employed in the service sector. No recent sex-based data are available on the agricultural sector. Recent data on the informal sector are also unavailable.

In 2016, the percentage of independent entrepreneurs was 8.2% men and 2.5% women. In 2015, 0.7% men and 0.9% women of the total employed population were 'family workers'; in 2016 this fell to 0.4% for men and rose to 1.1% for women. Data for 2009 – 2016 also show that more women than men are employed part-time. Increasing funds and credits for women entrepreneurs might contribute to increasing the number of independent women entrepreneurs.

No statistical data are available on the pay gap between men and women, neither in the private nor in the public sector. Occupational segregation on the job market is increasing, with women concentrated in low-paid jobs in the informal sector and underrepresented in management positions and in non-traditional jobs. Targeted measures are required to tackle segregation in the workplace, promote access of women to formal jobs, among

other things in management and decision-making positions, by guaranteeing paid maternity leave and childcare and providing sufficient and adequate services.

On the basis of international measurement tools such as the Human Development Index (HDI)/ Multi Poverty Index, it is estimated that 49% of households in Suriname live under the poverty line. The HDI is a tool to gauge long-term progress in three fundamental dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. In the Human Development Atlas for Suriname (2013), data from MICS 2010 and the 2012 census are used as the main sources to calculate the values of the various components of the HDI. It is worth noting that as yet no national definition of poverty has been formulated for Suriname. Different proposals have been made towards a definition, but activities still have to commence⁵.

No information is available on the way household resources are shared and controlled by household members. This might mean that even in households above the poverty line, women could be poor due to existing gender inequality; that the majority of women with low or no income are financially dependent on the income of a partner or another member of the household. It is therefore of great importance to support poor households with many women, and women who take on additional specialised responsibilities of care, such as care of the elderly and the disabled.

For a clearer image of the situation and to be able to take targeted measures, it is important to gather data on poverty, broken down according to sex. But it is of primary importance to have an image of gender-related causes of poverty, as well as gender inequalities in households. Despite the lack of hard evidence, there are reasons to believe that women are generally poorer than men, and that poverty is closely related to, among other things, gender, level of education, residential area and ethnicity. There are also enough indications that poverty greatly impacts the lives and activities of women. It is thus important to include a gender perspective in poverty eradication programmes to follow the impact of gender inequality on poverty and decide what measures may be taken.

⁵NCVA, January 2017

Education

(Source: GEI; National Review BPFA +20, 4th – 6th CEDAW, Reply LOI)

Article 39 of the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname grants each citizen the right to equal opportunities to access quality education. Rather than compulsory education, Suriname has compulsory schooling from the ages of 7 through 12 years. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (MinOWC) intends to extend compulsory schooling to ages 3 through 16 years.

The Surinamese educational system consists of three levels: primary level (GLO); secondary level, divided into junior secondary education (VOJ) and senior secondary education (VOS); and tertiary level, which includes the university and other institutions of higher vocational training (HBO). The higher the educational level, the fewer boys are enrolled compared to girls. GLO enrollment is higher for boys than for girls; the Gender Parity Index (GPI) for this level is slightly lower than 1; the GPI for VOJ is 1.2. The GPI for the higher levels are out of date; for VOS the last GPI measured was 1.76 (school year 2011-2012) and for the tertiary niveau the GPI was 1.93 (college year 2010-2011).

As in the rest of the Caribbean, primary education enrollment in Suriname is almost equal for boys and girls. For boys it is slightly higher than for girls⁶. Once calculated, GPI is roughly 1. This implies that equality of boys and girls in primary education has almost been achieved. At VOJ level, a higher percentage of boys (51%) repeats a class compared to girls (49%). This pattern holds for consecutive years. The presented percentage was calculated on the basis of numbers of registered students in a specific year. No recent percentages of repeaters are available for any level.

Despite having better school results compared to boys, girls still make up the majority of the category 'unemployed out-of-school youth'. Due to persistent structural gender inequality on the job market, (young) women have less access to jobs, even if they are better educated than men.⁷

According to data of the 2012 Census, 43% of Surinamese society is educated no higher than primary level education. The percentage of tertiary education graduates is just 5.4%, of which 2.4% are university graduates (2012 Census). This implies that the vast majority of the population (74%) is relatively low-skilled.

⁶ CEDAW Suriname country report, 2016.

⁷ 2012 Census

Depending on the university discipline, more women than men are enrolled or vice versa. When more women are enrolled, more women graduate, and likewise when more men are enrolled, more men graduate. The Faculty of Medical Sciences of the ADEKUS is the exception, however; more women than men are enrolled, but the percentage of male graduates is higher than that of females. The huge drop in the number of female graduates and the huge increase in the number of male graduates at this faculty in the 2014 – 2015 academic year is remarkable: 11% women versus 89% men.

There is a pregnancy protocol for VOS schools (Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Culture of 14 March 2016, Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2016 no. 44). This protocol provides a pregnant student with the same maternity leave period as a teacher and allows her to make up missed exams and return to school after giving birth. But no pregnancy protocol has been developed for VOJ schools. Therefore, young mothers still often drop out of the school system. Moreover, the young mothers tend to follow a lower vocational training instead of returning to formal general education, as a result of which they later have less well-paid jobs.

The measures taken to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes in the education system, the curricula and textbooks, are limited. The Basic Life Skills programme, which was introduced in 1997 to teach students basic skills next to school subjects, does contain elements to make students aware of gender equality, but the programme has not yet been integrated into the school curricula.

Health

(Source: GEI; National Review BPFA +20, 4th – 6th CEDAW, Reply LOI)

Good healthcare is important for a healthy population that can contribute to the development of a country. The priority of the Ministry of Health is to make quality healthcare accessible to all and to prevent and reduce disease.

The Law on Basic Health Insurance was proclaimed in 2014 (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees, 2014 no. 114). Under this law, all residents in Suriname are obliged to acquire a basic health insurance package, which covers medication, medical treatment with general practitioners, and selected specialist and paramedical treatment. Besides the basic health insurance package, there is also the possibility for private insurance where clients pay the premium themselves. The State Health Fund (SZF) was established for government employees, who share the premium with their employer – the State. But SZF also offers health insurance to private individuals.

As far as the interior is concerned, the Surinamese Medical Mission (MZS) offers primary healthcare and services for reproductive health, traditional health, immunisation, HIV/AIDS and malaria. With more than 50 polyclinics, the Regional Healthcare Service (RGD) offers similar services in the coastal area. Free condoms are also distributed by most RGD polyclinics. All polyclinics offer the possibility to come and talk about sexuality with the midwife / nurse, particularly for teenagers.

With regard to access to sexual and reproductive health, everyone with health insurance has access to contraception. The Surinamese Medical Mission and the Malaria Programme of the Ministry of Health distribute contraceptives in the interior. In 2017, an agreement was made with various NGOs to distribute contraceptives in the mining areas while they were implementing their outreach programmes.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster System (MICS) studies of 2000, 2006 and 2010 showed just a slight increase in the national use of contraceptives, from 42% in 2000 to 47.6% in 2010. Differences in contraceptive use are great, with use lowest in the interior: 14.6% (2006), while contraceptive use in Brokopondo and Sipaliwini in 2010 was respectively 26% and 25%. In 2010 the unmet need for family planning was 16.9% for all of Suriname; in the interior this was 33% for Brokopondo and 34% for Sipaliwini⁸.

In Suriname, prenatal care is offered by general practitioners, the hospitals, RGD and MZS. According to MICS 2010, 67% of women have generally had prenatal monitoring, i.e. four or more prenatal visits. Prenatal monitoring in the interior is lower (57.8%) than in urban (68%) and rural areas (71.9%). According to the same study, 93% of all births take place in a public (72%) or private health facility (21%), and were handled by medically trained personnel. In order to improve the quality of maternal care during pregnancy and at the moment of birth even further, the government recently decided to offer free prenatal and postnatal care to all pregnant women.

Various national and community-based initiatives have been developed to reduce maternal mortality. Maternal mortality fell from 153/100,000 in 2000 to 82.5/100,000 in 2011, and to 48.9/100,000 in 2012, which means that the MDG target for Suriname of 50/100,000 births was reached in 2012. Though the linear trend between 2000 and 2012 shows a clear drop, possible fluctuations should be taken into account.

For some decades already, the Lobi Health Centre Foundation, an NGO for family planning, has been offering a wide range of services in the area of sexual and

⁸ MICS 2010

reproductive health, including family planning, preventive testing of cervical and breast cancer, contraception, HIV tests and counseling. In January 2009, the Lobi Foundation and the Ministry of Health signed an agreement making 'Lobi' responsible for national policy on sexual and reproductive health.

It is estimated that 43 to 86 abortions are performed annually per 1000 women in the 15 – 44 year age-range. Reliable numbers on the incidence of abortion are unobtainable, due to a law that criminalises abortion in all cases, which means that abortions are not registered. Registration does occur at the Emergency Room of the Paramaribo Academic Hospital in cases of medical complications. According to MICS 2010, the prevalence of abortion is 7% of all women.

According to the CEDAW country report for Suriname (2016), numbers of teenage pregnancies dropped from 58.0 births for women aged 15-19 years in 2011 to 51.9 births for the same age-group in 2012.

Since 2007, the number of registered HIV cases has declined steadily: 683 in 2007; 601 in 2008; 527 in 2010; and 486 in 2011. In 2013, 1.8% of women aged 15 – 34 years and 2.6% of women aged 35 – 59 years died of HIV/AIDS. For men aged 15 – 34 years that was 0.9% and 4.7% in the 35 – 59 year age group 4,7%.⁹

Since 2003, the HIV test is included in regular blood tests for all pregnant women. Pregnant HIV-positive women receive anti-retroviral treatment (ART) during pregnancy and after childbirth. In 2011, 98% of children born of HIV-positive women were treated.¹⁰ Since 2006, significant advances in treatment have contributed to a sharp reduction in AIDS mortality. According to the 2016 CEDAW country report the number of people using ART has risen: in 2008 it was 62% of people with HIV/AIDS; in 2012 the percentage was 82%. Recent data are unavailable and in any case, data are not maintained according to sex.

Cardiovascular disease was the main cause of death in Suriname in 2011, affecting men and women equally at 27.1%. In 2013, the public health bureau (BOG) noted the most common cause of death for the 15 – 34 year age-group as being 'death by external causes' for both women and men, respectively 13.4% and 4.1%. For the 35 – 59 year age-group the most common cause of death was cardiovascular disease for both, men

⁹ Data from the Bureau for Public Health (BOG), 2013.

¹⁰ Suriname, UNGASS report, 2012.

and women, respectively 20.8% and 7.6%. Though the general incidence of cancer is low, Suriname has the highest incidence of cervical cancer among developing countries¹¹.

Power and decision-making

(Source: GEI; National Review BPFA +20, 4th – 6th CEDAW, Reply LOI)

In accordance with Article 52, Paragraph 2 and Article 53 of the Constitution, both women and men can participate in the general, free and secret elections for parliamentary institutions. In March 2005 some discriminatory Articles of the Elections Act were amended: amended Articles 15, 41, 57 and 73 now allow married or widowed women candidates the option to submit a written application to be registered under their own name, with the addition of their (deceased) husband's name. During the 2010 general elections, 1,360 married women made use of the possibility to register under their own name with the addition of their husband's name for the first time, while another 297 registered with the addition of the name of their late husband. In 2015, 5,012 women registered under their own name with the addition of the name of their husband.

The number of actual male voters dropped from 167,514 in 2005 to 160,441 in 2010 and rose again in 2015 to 176,324. The number of actual female voters dropped from 166,471 in 2005 to 162,184 in 2010, rising again to 176,735 in 2015.

Despite there being no laws that exclude participation of women, both national and international studies show that Suriname lags behind with the participation of women in decision-making positions. Up to 2005, the proportion of women representatives in the National Assembly (DNA) steadily rose from 18 to 22 percent. This changed drastically after the 2010 elections when the percentage of women dropped to 10 percent. In 2015, the proportion of women DNA representatives in the National Assembly rose to 25.5 percent again. In 2019, the proportion rose to 31% as a result of vacant seats being refilled through a system of moving the next person on the political parties' official lists of candidates. At present, 16 of the 51 members are women. The position of Speaker of the National Assembly has been held by the same woman since 2010.

With regard to female ministers, since 2015 there are five (5) women ministers in a cabinet of 17 ministers: Foreign Affairs; Education, Science and Culture; Spatial Planning, Land and Forestry Management; Social Affairs; and Sports and Youth Affairs.

¹¹ Statistical Yearbook, 2017

The proportion of women in higher government institutions has significantly increased, particularly in the Court of Justice, the State Advisory Council and the National Audit Office. The representation of women at the Court of Justice has changed drastically: the number of female judges increased from one in 2000 to 15 in 2019, while the number of male judges dropped from ten in 2004 to five in 2019. Women also dominate at the Public Prosecutor's Office: 29% male versus 71% female public prosecutors.

With regard to diplomatic positions, up to 2014 nine women headed a diplomatic post. The proportion of women in the diplomatic corps has declined: at the end of 2018 there were two female ambassadors and one female consul-general in Surinamese diplomatic service. In 2019, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, however, is a woman.

At the district level, four of 15 district commissioners are women. With regard to women in district-level councils, there has been an increase from 31% (2010) to 35% (2015), while the proportion of women in the local councils rose from 35% (2010) to 45% (2015).

There are indications that the involvement of women in decision-making in the private sector is increasing and that more women are selected for management positions on the basis of their appropriate qualifications. Women are now also found in top management positions of leading financial institutions, such as banks and credit cooperatives. However, trends cannot be indicated due to a lack of data.

Despite the relative increase of women in management positions, the general view persists that women in Suriname are still marginally involved in national decision-making. Many factors contribute to this situation, including a lack of opportunities within political parties, a lack of sufficient suitable childcare facilities, especially outside of regular working hours, a relatively weaker financial position of women compared to men, a lack of access to a political and financial network to support political campaigns, and a lack of support from their social environment.

Gender-related violence

(Source: GEI; National Review BPFA +20, 4th – 6th CEDAW, Reply LOI)¹²

Gender-related violence is not approached integrally in Suriname. Some forms of violence receive more attention than others. Attempts have been made to strengthen national legislation to protect citizens from all forms of violence and not to leave violence unpunished. In Suriname, data on violence against women available to the police are used.

In June 2017, the National Council on Domestic Violence (NRHG) was established for three years in particular to evaluate and actualise the national policy plan for the Structural Approach of Domestic Violence 2014 – 2017. The policy plan has meanwhile been assessed and actualised and a work plan for 2018 has been drawn up. The scope of domestic violence is currently difficult to establish, as the results of the study to measure the existence of such gender-related violence (2018) are not yet available.

Data on domestic violence are maintained by different organisations for their own services. Exchange of data and information is not structural and/or coordinated.

A number of institutions provide assistance and related services. Unfortunately, cooperation between these institutions is insufficient. An up-to-date guide to social services is also lacking. All this results in, among other things, problems providing adequate references to effective services. Furthermore, there is just one shelter for female victims of domestic violence in the whole country.

The Combating Domestic Violence Act was approved in 2009, and since 2012 it is possible to apply to a judge for restraining orders. Since 2014, the number of applications has been growing and the court has responded by charging five judges (including one for the Nickerie District) with hearing these cases. However, the operation of the law in practice is yet to be evaluated.

In the period 2015 – 2017, 20 women and two men were victims of human trafficking. The majority of these victims (16) were between 11 and 20 years old. Data of the Suriname Police (KPS) indicate how many perpetrators are arrested, but movement of the

¹² Concluding observations on the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Suriname, 9 March 2018; National Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action + 20, Suriname, May 2014; National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, August 2018 – pilot project CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators; Research Report Sexual Assault in Ten Surinamese Labour Organisations in the Public and Private Sector, commissioned by the Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation for Legal Aid for Women, January 2012; Replies of Suriname to the list of issues and questions in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Suriname, 18 December 2017; Work Plan Domestic Violence, July 2018.

cases through the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Court are difficult to track, because data are not kept as such.

Various structures have been established to tackle human trafficking, such as the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) desk in the Public Prosecutor's Office, the TIP unit with the police, and the TIP working group. A lack of capacity within these bodies to monitor relevant legislation has become evident, particularly with respect to the interior. It is worth mentioning that the stipulations regarding human trafficking were extended in the Penal Code in 2015. Separate receiving areas for female and male victims of human trafficking are available, where food and other needs are provided. The locations are kept secret for reasons of security. There is no further information on available programmes and health services for this group of people.

Sexual harassment of female employees was confirmed by a study conducted by the Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation in 2012 among ten organisations (government and non-government). Prevalence of victims of sexual harassment varied between 4% and 25% for men and between 2% and 57% for women. Harassment was highest in workplaces with unequal sex ratios, those lacking a code of conduct, or with traditional management, and in a sexual context. It is remarkable that victims of sexual harassment were found in all age-groups and educational categories. Most women and men think that victims of sexual harassment are generally women and perpetrators generally men.

Up to now, there is no specific policy or legislation relating to sexual harassment or sexual intimidation in the workplace. There are legal stipulations that can be linked to it and which an employee could invoke. These are laid down in the Constitution, the Suriname Civil Code and Penal Code. There are currently two government bills. The first was drafted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and redrafted by the Ilse Henar-Hewitt Foundation and applies to both the public and private sectors. The second was drafted by the Ministry of Labour in 2018 and is titled "Work, Violence and Sexual Harassment". This bill only applies to the private sector. An assessment is needed on how these two bills might be integrated.

3.2 CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY

With regard to the media, there are no regulations as yet on the content of media products, which often reinforce traditional roles for women and do not provide a balanced representation of the diverse roles and contributions of women in society. This preserves genderstereotypes in society.

The principle of equality between men and women is laid down in the Constitution of Suriname, in particular in Article 35: "Men and women shall be equal before the law".

The prohibition of discrimination is laid down in Article 8 Clause 2 of the Constitution: "No one may be discriminated on the basis of one's birth, sex, race, language, religion, origin, education, political conviction, economic position or social conditions, or any other status".

Based on what is laid down in the Constitution, women are legally equal to men in every area, and discrimination should not occur, neither in public life nor in the private sphere. But despite the principle of equality of men and women and the prohibition of discrimination laid down in the Constitution, legal provisions exist in national legislation that contradict these principles.

In the past 25 years, attempts have been made to remove the discriminatory legal provisions or bring them in line with international treaties that advocate gender equality. It was also attempted to adopt new legislation which guarantees improved protection of women, but muchstill remains to be done to actually ensure that the principle of gender equalityis guaranteed in all legislation.

Suriname has ratified two specific conventions related to women's rights: the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination of Women (CEDAW), ratified in 1993, and the OAS Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Elimination of Violence Against Women (the Convention of Belém do Para), ratified in 2002. Ratification means that the State must comply with the obligations resulting from said treaty and must bring its national legislation in line with these treaties, where necessary. The Ministry of Home Affairs is charged with, among other things, formulating the national gender policy, which promotes gender equality.

CEDAW was initially conceived to combat all forms of discrimination of women. Since 2010, however, the CEDAW commission also asks questions about LGBT persons during meetings to review the country reports, and encourages member states through its concluding remarks to take into account this target group in policy implementation.

The following is a list of international treaties and plans of action to which Suriname has committed itself in order to promote human rights and gender equality:

- 1993 ratification of CEDAW (Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by Suriname.
- 1994 approval of the Program of Action of ICPD (International Conference on Population and Planning);
- 1995 the Beijing Plan of Action (BPfA);
- 2002 the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, also known as the Convention of Belém do Para;
- 2006 the Palermo Protocol, regarding the prevention and punishment of human trafficking, in particular trafficking of women and children;
- The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
- The optional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2011; and
- Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030

3.3 GENDER STATISTICS AND GENDER EQUALITY INDICATORS

The gathering, processing and presentation of data in Suriname is the legal responsibility of the General Bureau of Statistics (ABS), but data are also collected by other agencies, ministries and research institutes. According to the National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men (2018), due to a lack of financial resources, knowledge, humanpower and clear goals for data collection, data are not always collected in set periods, as a result of which available data are often outdated. Other constraints mentioned in the report are:

- Data are also gathered through registration of information, without a clear purpose.
- Research department do not receive data from other organisations like private job centres, which also register similar data.
- Data are not always brought into line with data gathered by other departments or organisations within the same ministry.
- Many organisations do not know how to gather gender-related data.
- Data are often old, unstructured or lacking, not analysed, not immediately available, not always specified according to sex, and in particular not gender-related.

- Gender Focal Points (GFPs) of the various ministries often do not know what data are available and cannot share data with other organisations.

When formulating this gender vision policy plan (January-February 2019) the results of the most recent MICS study (2018) and the study to measure the existence of violence against women (2018) were not available. In future, the statistics provided by these studies can be appended to this document to serve further policy planning and identification of activities in the annual plans.

For more details and analyses of the available gender statistics, reference is made to the National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men (2018), the reports and other documents mentioned in the Reference List. Furthermore, Appendix 1 to this document includes graphs showing the situation of women and men in Suriname.^b The data are derived from various sources.

4. GENDER POLICY

It was decided to develop a policy document containing a vision for gender equality and equity over a period of roughly 15 years (2021 – 2035). In this manner, the goals of the 2030 World Agenda and the national goals can be better coordinated and the vision of development and intended change can also be better articulated. The intention is that this gender vision policy plan will be integrated in the national development plans of Suriname for the coming years.

The 2019 – 2020 Gender Action Plan, which was developed simultaneously with this policy document, will serve as an example for forth coming annual work plans, which in future should be distilled from the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035. The 2019 – 2020 Gender Action Plan specifically bridges the periods indicated by OP 2017 – 2021 and the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035.

Future annual plans will start at the beginning of 2021 with activities to be incorporated in the ministerial annual plans and budgets. The planned activities will thus be incorporated in the general national annual plan and related state budget, which are presented in and approved by the National Assembly.

Assessment every five years are recommended, so as to adjust the course of the long-term gender policy. If required, concrete five-year plans may be derived from the longer term policy document, should future governments following the general elections of 2020, 2025 and 2030 still decide to formulate mid-term development plans (five-year plans). The system of annual work plans and five-year assessments (and possible five-year plans) builds a more efficient system for monitoring and evaluation by the Bureau Gender Affairs.

Constant monitoring of the implementation of the gender policy is the responsibility of the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA). The monitoring and evaluation process of the Planning Office of Suriname as national planning institute will be used, so the BGA annual work plans can be incorporated in the annual plans and budgets of the respective ministries. The annual evaluation is an internal process, to be carried out for each priority area by BGA together with relevant working groups.

The five-year assessments are conducted in a participatory process, in which stakeholders are able to evaluate the implementation of the gender policy together, and to adapt and expand the interventions suggested in the vision document.

THE VISION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

In 2035 Surinamese society is free of gender discrimination, gender stereotypes and gender-related violence, in the public as well as the private spheres. Gender equality and equity, shared responsibility¹³, equal opportunities and equal access to all sectors, funds and resources, are central.

GENERAL STRATEGIC GOAL

The general strategic goal formulated on page 152 of the OP 2017 – 2021 for the gender policy is maintained for the coming period, given that this goal is still relevant, namely:

The legal and regulatory framework and policy principles of private and public organisations guaranteeing the right to personal safety and freedom of men and women and the opportunities to realise their ideals and talents, are not negatively influenced by gender stereotypes.

PRIORITY AREAS

Equity, equal opportunities and rights for men and women are essential to achieve sustainable development. In the coming 15 years the national gender policy will focus on a number of priority areas, which have already been determined with stakeholders in 2011. The areas were selected from the perspective of the BPfA. These priorities are still valid according to the 2018 situation analysis¹⁴.

Two priority areas have now been added: legal and regulatory framework, because gender inequality and discrimination must be prevented in all legislative amendments and new laws; environment and climate change, because this sector has been identified as a priority for the development of Suriname.

The gender priority areas for the 2021 – 2035 period are:

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

¹³ 'Shared responsibility' refers to the way everyone can contribute, in the private sphere as well as in society, to achieving goals and to the way in which we decide together and encourage each other to keep contributing. The final goal is that everyone can equally contribute to and benefit from social interactions, without barriers that might arise due to gender roles. Mutual cooperation and communication among everyone involved are essential for this.

¹⁴ Country Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018 – pilot project CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators

This policy document points the way forward to eventually achieve gender equality and equity in Suriname in the selected priority areas. Besides the aforementioned priority areas, sectoral development themes or priorities will also be identified by the government in national development plans in the coming years. Policies within national development sectors or priorities can be tested by applying gender mainstreaming. This ensures that the chosen policy does not create or reinforce inequalities. In addition, gender analyses can indicate which interventions may help eliminate or reduce any identified gender inequalities.

After the last CEDAW country report, it was recommended to Suriname to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for men and women and increase awareness in order to eliminate discrimination and social stigma (CEDAW recommendation 51, adapted). This recommendation obviously applies to all priority areas.

Various CEDAW closing remarks contain recommendations with regard to rural, Indigenous and Tribal women. FAO¹⁵ and the CEDAW Commission state that Indigenous and Tribal women face multiple discrimination, namely on the basis of gender, ethnicity, and often on the basis of their socio-economic status. Special measures are necessary in all priority areas to reduce such multiple discrimination.

GENERAL STRATEGIES

In the coming 15 years, the following general strategies will constantly be applied in the implementation of the gender policy. This will also be taken into account when determining activities in the annual work plans:

- Ample attention for education and awareness for the general public on gender inequality, discrimination and stereotyping in society, focusing in particular on the target group of young people.
- Improve data and information gathering, and strengthen the ability to carry out gender analyses, in view of a targeted gender policy and efficient gender mainstreaming.
- Intensify cooperation with the General Bureau of Statistics (ABS).
- Involve and cooperate with civil society organisations to promote gender equality and equity, reduce gender discrimination and stereotyping, and combat gender violence.
- Involve and cooperate with actors representing Indigenous and Maroon women, or who are knowledgeable of the multiple disadvantages and the specific measures that are required.

¹⁵ <http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/focus-area-women/en/>

- Build networks and partnerships to improve cooperation within government structures, as well as with structures and organisations outside of government.
- Achieve gender equality and equity through support from a leading international framework and cooperation with regional and international organisations.
- Draft legislation in consultation and/or amend discriminatory legislation in line with international obligations and prevent gender-related discrimination.

THE BUREAU GENDER AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA), are responsible for the national gender policy. This bureau will also have to coordinate, supervise and monitor the national gender policy for the period 2021 – 2035. In order to carry out the tasks involved in this as efficiently as possible, and taking into account problems and challenges mentioned before in formulating and implementing gender policy and data collection and analysis, the Ministry of Home Affairs or the BGA, will have to ensure in the next years that:

- A plan for an organisational structure of the Bureau of Gender Affairs is finalised, with sufficient decision-making authority, human, technical and financial resources to actually promote gender equality and combat gender discrimination.
- The Gender Vision Policy Document 2021–2035 is used as a guide to achieve gender equality in the selected priority areas, and feasible annual work plans are distilled from that, with measurable indicators and results.
- The gender policy document is integrated into Suriname's future national development plans, while the annual work plans, where applicable, are incorporated in the respective ministerial annual plans and budgets.
- Gender mainstreaming is applied to the development and implementation of all laws, policy and programmes of the ministries and legislative structures.
- A mechanism for cooperation and monitoring per priority area is established within the Bureau Gender Affairs, to ensure that the annual work plans and/or five-year plans are made and can be implemented by the respective ministries. This mechanism must closely cooperate with the ministerial Plan Units.
- A network is established and maintained by the Bureau Gender Affairs to stay in touch with stakeholders and other civil society organisations regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the annual work plans and five-year plans and to keep abreast of social issues that influence gender equality and gender-related discrimination.
- A national database is set up in cooperation with ABS and managed within the Bureau of Gender Affairs, to promote and maintain the collection, analysis and distribution of extensive gender statistics according to age, location and other

variables, and to be able to evaluate trends in the situation of women and men and progress in achieving gender equality.

- A permanent mechanism is set up with the Bureau Gender Affairs, which should ensure that the legal and regulatory framework complies with the gender-related international conventions which Suriname is a party to, but also to monitor the status of government bills submitted to the National Assembly and approved laws to promote gender equality and eliminate gender-related discrimination.

The current gender management system with gender focal points (GFPs) in every ministry has not always proven to be effective. The system of GFPs is taken into account in the establishment of aforementioned mechanisms for cooperation and monitoring by the Bureau Gender Affairs. A thorough evaluation of the GFP 'gender management system' must indicate where and when the system was effective, how efficiency may be increased and what a different mechanism for cooperation and monitoring might look like.

The Bureau Gender Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs will further develop and shape the aforementioned mechanisms, taking into account the priority areas.

4.1 Labour, Income and Poverty Reduction



4.1 LABOUR, INCOME AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Main conclusions of the Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname in 2018¹⁶:

- More men than women are employed in industry, whereas more women are employed in services. There are no recent gender data on agriculture, as these are not collected.
- There are no recent data on the informal sector. 2006 was the last time that ABS published statistics on this sector; it was estimated that the informal sector contributed 18.5% to Gross National Income. In that same year a field study in the coastal area indicated that informal work in the non-agricultural sector amounted to 51%.¹⁷ In 2013 the Suriname Trade and Industry Association (VSB) estimated that 20% of the economy is informal.¹⁸
- It is unknown what proportion of the Surinamese population, taking gender into account, owns a plot of land and/or a building plot of a particular size. It is not clear whether these data are collected. In Suriname it is usual that land and/or building plots are registered under the name of a foundation or some other management structure, which makes it difficult to ascertain the gender of the owner. The number of women owners of enterprises is similarly unknown.
- Regarding customary law of Tribal societies: land rights of Tribal societies have not yet been recognized by law. Moreover, their economic activities are hampered by the activities of outsiders. They usually cannot act against investors who have a legal mandate (concession) to carry out activities (goldmining and logging) in the settlements of Maroons and Indigenous people (tribal communities).

This priority area takes into account achieving SDG 1.2 in particular, but there is still no official definition of poverty in Suriname, while there are large differences between conditions in urban and rural areas. In urban areas poverty is generally characterised by a lack of finances, while in rural areas often other elements contribute to what poverty means. The General Bureau of Statistics (ABS) carries out household budget surveys, which are primarily intended to produce a representative consumer package of goods and services with associated weights (relative importance measured along the expenditure ratio)¹⁹. The Ministry of Social Affairs is in the preparatory stage of determining the poverty line. The Decent Work Agenda²⁰ and the relevant indicators for decent work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are also included, as Suriname has committed

¹⁶ National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018 – pilot project CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model (CARICOM GEI)

¹⁷ <http://www.dwtonline.com/paramaribo-post/2016/09/23/informe-le-sector-zegen-en-vloek/>, accessed 7 August 2017

¹⁸ <http://www.starnieuws.com/index.php/welcome/index/nieuwsitem/20943>, accessed 7 August 2017 (from GEI)

¹⁹ <http://www.statistics-suriname.org/index.php/huishoudbudgetonderzoek>, accessed 24 January 2019 (from GEI)

²⁰ Decent work indicators: guidelines for producers and users of statistical and legal framework indicators: ILO manual: second version / International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2013

itself to those, and the Ministry of Labour has taken this up in cooperation with the Surinamese Trade and Industry Association (VSB).

Priority Area: Labour, Income and Poverty Reduction				
Strategic Goal: In 2035 the number of people living in poverty has fallen and insight is gained into the informal sector, unpaid care work and work in the home, particularly with a view to supporting women trying to produce income under difficult economic conditions.				
Long-term Goals	Interventions/Actions	Notes	5 – 10 years	10 – 15 years
At least halve the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions by 2030 (SDG 1.2)	Survey of the population (men and women) living under the poverty line	No official definition of poverty or a poverty line has been determined in Suriname. The Ministry of Labour has begun this.	X	
	Develop a strategy to achieve the SDG goal, with specific focus on women living in poverty			X
	Study of the impact of poverty on men and women		X	
Implement reforms granting women equal rights to economic resources, besides access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritances and natural resources, in accordance with national law (SDG 5 a)	Study and gender analysis of the accessibility of basic services (as indicated in SDG 5a)	Identification of basic services and data gathering can start in the short term	X	
	Study of possibilities of microfinancing and other financial services and their accessibility for women	Data gathering can start in the short term	X	
	Study and gender analysis of ownership and control of land and other natural resources		X	
	Study of occupational segregation on the labour market and the pay gap between men and women, on the basis of the	If possible, carry out a survey specifically in Nickerie in the 5 – 10 year period		X

	collection and analysis of statistical data, by gender distribution (CEDAW recommendation 37 d)			
Promote women's access to formal work	Guarantee paid maternity leave and provision of sufficient and adequate childcare facilities.	Parental leave has been officially regulated through the adoption of the Family Labour Protection Act (<i>Wet Arbeidsbescherming Gezin</i>) in April 2019 by the National Assembly	X	
	Promote equal sharing of family and household responsibilities between women and men, among others by introducing compulsory paternity leave. (CEDAW recommendation 37 f)		X	
	Promote empowerment of women, in the public as well as the private sectors		X	
	Improve and extend childcare centres that provide quality serves in line with national standards		X	
Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work by providing public services, infrastructure and a social protection policy, and by promoting shared responsibility in the household and extended family, as is nationally applicable (SDG 5.4)	Study and gender analysis of the informal sector, unpaid care and domestic work	It is assumed that more women than men 'hustle' in the informal sector. Unpaid care and domestic work are likely carried out primarily by women.		X
By 2030 all women and men in Suriname have decent work.	Identify labour rights that require improvement and actually improve them		X	
	Improve the working conditions of women and men in Suriname.			X

	Provide professional and other specialist training, for instance in agriculture, to deprived people, an important part of whom are women in rural areas and the interior		X	X
	Carry out feasibility and marketing studies to support possibilities of production, particularly in rural areas and the interior.	In rural areas and the interior, many women are involved in subsistence farming, the development of cottage industries and micro-enterprises.	X	X

4.2 EDUCATION



Foto: BiZa/ CU

4.2 EDUCATION

Main conclusions of the Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname in 2018²¹:

- There are more boys than girls admitted in regular primary education (GLO). The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is slightly below 1.
- The higher the level of education, the fewer boys are enrolled compared to girls. The GPI for secondary education at junior secondary level is 1.2. The GPI for senior secondary and tertiary levels is not up to date. The last measured GPI for senior secondary education was 1.76 for the 2011 – 2012 school-year. For tertiary education, the GPI was 1.93 in the 2010 – 2011 college year.
- A higher percentage of boys gets left back at junior secondary level, compared to girls at the same level.
- Percentages of repeaters are not yet available. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (MinOWC) has the data, but has not yet calculated the percentages.
- Depending on the disciplines at the University, more women than men will be enrolled, or vice versa. When more women are enrolled, more women graduate, and when more men are enrolled, more men graduate. The exception is the Faculty of Medical Sciences of ADEKUS; more women than men are enrolled, but the percentage of male graduates is higher than that of women.

MinOWC organised various education conferences in the past years, where particularly the problem of drop-outs and repeaters in primary education was raised. Also, various projects have been completed or are ongoing to improve teachers' skills and adapt the primary school curriculum.

MinOWC intends to organise a conference in 2019 to discuss extension of primary education and 'bridge building' between the different educational levels in order to reduce the number of repeaters and drop-outs. In the coming years, promotion of gender sensitivity of teachers and educational planners, and the improvement of the secondary education programme will be tackled.

²¹National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018 – pilotproject CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model (CARICOM GEI)

Priority Area: Education				
Strategic Goal: In 2035 gender inequalities in education with regard to numbers of girls and boys, women and men, will have been eliminated. Curricula are gender sensitive and teachers and other stakeholders in the educational sector understand gender equality and prevention of gender stereotyping in school.				
Long-term Goals 2035	Interventions/Actions	Notes	5 – 10 years	10 – 15 years
Ensure that by 2030 all girls and boys can complete primary and secondary education in a free, fair and qualitatively superior way, which should lead to relevant and effective educational results (SDG 4.1)	Map the number of girl drop-outs as a result of pregnancy (in the preceding 3 years), specifying educational level and district; suggest piloting in 3 schools in Paramaribo, Marowijne and Nickerie		X	
	Increase the percentage of women and girls in all levels of education, sufficiently taking into account the link between educational choices of women and girls and the demands of the job market (CEDAW recommendation 35 a)			X
	Improve the quality and accessibility of schools in rural areas and provide instruction in Indigenous and Tribal languages in schools (CEDAW recommendation 35 b)		X	X
	Implement monitoring mechanisms (including sanctions) that forbid the		X	

	expulsion of pregnant girls and facilitate reintegration of young mothers in the school system (CEDAW recommendation 35 c)			
	Institutionalise compulsory, age-appropriate and extensive sexual education, including on responsible sexual behaviour and prevention of early pregnancy CEDAW recommendation 35 d)		X	X
	Conduct a study and gender analysis of underlying causes of drop-outs among boys and girls in the Surinamese system of secondary education.		X	

Eradicate persistent discriminatory stereotypes in the education system with regard to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society.	Ensure that curricula, textbooks and other school materials are gender-sensitive and do not (un)consciously reproduce gender stereotypes and/or promote gender discrimination.	MinOWC has already started a study of the textbooks developed for primary education. The process is continuous.	X	X
Eliminate gender inequalities in education by 2030 and provide equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for vulnerable people, including people with disabilities, Indigenous and Tribal People, and children in vulnerable situations (SDG 4.5)	Introduce inclusive education and integrate Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the school system, and study the improvements this brings for children in vulnerable situations.	MinOWC intends to implement ECD in the short term. However, the study can only be carried out on the medium term	X	
Ensure that by 2030 all students acquire the knowledge and skills required to promote sustainable development, among others by education in sustainable development and sustainable life styles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, world citizenship and valuing cultural diversity and the contribution of culture to sustainable development (SDG 4.7)	Incorporate the Basic Life Skills programme in the educational system within a specific period and ensure that textbooks developed within the context of the programme are used in all primary and secondary schools (CEDAW recommendation 25 b)		X	
	Strengthen the capacity of educational planners and teachers with regard to gender equality and sustainable development	This is a continuous process. A two-track policy is recommended: train the existing teaching corps and train new teachers every year	X	X

4.3 HEALTH



Foto: BiZa/ BGA

4.3 Health

Main conclusions of the Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname in 2018²²:

- An increase in contraceptive use was noted in 2010 (48%) compared to 2000 (42%). Contraceptive use is highest in urban and rural districts and lowest in the interior.
- 67% of pregnant women in Suriname received prenatal care at least 4 times in 2010, irrespective of the care provider. This percentage is higher in urban (68%) and rural areas (71.9%) than in the interior (57.8%).
- Numbers of people living with HIV/aids are unavailable; the number of people who died of HIV/AIDS is available.
- The number of people who have access to ART increased from 62% in 2008 to 82% in 2012. However, data were not aggregated for gender.
- Data on causes of death are not recent. Reporting of causes of death by hospitals to BOG is not constant; lack of personnel is a factor for both parties.
- The percentage of births among women aged 15 – 19 years has dropped; in 2011 it was 58.0%, in 2012 it was down to 51.9%.

Maternal health and mother and child care have been emphasized the past years, particularly in view of reducing maternal mortality. This remains a priority the coming years (SDG 3.1).

Besides this, attention is required for:

- Living with HIV/AIDS, particularly access to ART for all.
- Prevention of teenage pregnancies.
- The specific health of young people and seniors in society.
- Gathering knowledge of health and healthy lifestyles of the various ethnic groups in Suriname.

In 2015 Suriname committed itself to application of the strategy of Health in All Policies (HiAP). In the workshops preceding that, the fifteen greatest burdens of disease²³ in Suriname were presented and it was stressed that gender plays an important role in reducing the consequences of these: 1) HIV/AIDS; 2) Strokes; 3) Complications during pregnancy; 4) Cardiovascular disease; 5) Suicide; 6) Depression; 7) Traffic casualties; 8)

²² National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018 – pilotproject CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model (CARICOM GEI)

²³ 'The burden of disease (BoD) is a combined measure of life-years lost due to premature death and years lived with disability due to temporary or permanent ill health or impaired function' – Diseases and Conditions Master Sheets for HiAP, presented at the national consensus workshop in October 2015.

Diabetes; 9) Anaemia as a result of iron deficiency; 10) Lower back pain; 11) Neonatal complications; 12) Congenital abnormalities; 13) Pulmonary infections; 14) Chronic renal disease; 15) Incorrect medical treatment.

Priority Area: Health				
Strategic Goal: In 2035 maternal mortality has been reduced to the level determined in the 2030 World Agenda for Sustainable Development, reproductive health and rights in Suriname have improved, and a gender perspective is taken into account in policy formulation and execution in the health sector.				
Long-term Goals	Interventions/Actions	Notes	5 – 10 years	10 – 15 years
Reduce maternal mortality to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030 (SDG 3.1)	Improve coverage and access to quality health services for women in non-urban areas and ensure that they have access to cardiovascular health services and cancer screening (CEDAW recommendation 39 a)			X
	Study the impact of unsafe abortions on maternal mortality and other obstetric complications (CEDAW recommendation 39 b)		X	
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed within the framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on	Provide women with access to quality post-abortion care, particularly in case of complications resulting from unsafe abortions (CEDAW recommendation 39 d)			X
	Provide access to safe and affordable	Preparations for this can start in the short	X	

Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the end documents of their respective conferences (SDG 5.6)	prophylactics, family planning services and adequate information on sexual and reproductive health (CEDAW recommendation 39 e), with special attention for young people.	term		
Halve the worldwide number of traffic fatalities and casualties by 2020 (SDG 3.6)	Reduce the number of traffic fatalities and injuries in Suriname in 2021 by 30% relative to 2016 ²⁴ .	A discrepancy has been noted between male and female traffic casualties and their participation in traffic. The traffic institute to be established (J&P) plans to carry out a number of studies and continuous educational campaigns, which should be gender sensitive. There is also a discrepancy between the number of men and women living with disabilities as a result of traffic accidents.	X	X
Improved health for all, particularly young people and senior citizens	Conduct a study and gender analysis of the main causes of death among senior citizens	During the HiAP workshops in 2015, particular attention was asked for promotion of a healthy lifestyle among young people, and attention was asked for overweight,	X	
	More education and awareness on healthy lifestyle and healthy nutrition, particularly for women and girls.		X	X

²⁴ Goal formulated in the Strategic Plan for Traffic Safety in Suriname 2018 – 2021. SDG 3.6 mentions the year 2020, but Suriname has opted for 2021.

		particularly among girls and women in Suriname.		
	Study of the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes among men and women in younger age groups, for instance 16 – 25 years	This was proposed during the workshop in Nickerie in March 2019	X	X
Improved health for men and women living with HIV/AIDS, with special attention for communities in the interior.	Study of the causes of the lack of ART for men and women in the communities of the interior.		X	
	Improve access to ART for men and women living with HIV/AIDS, particularly aimed at communities in the interior.		X	X
	More education and awareness of healthy lifestyles for men and women living with HIV/AIDS in communities, particularly aimed at communities in the interior.	At the introduction of Health in All Policies (HiAP) in Suriname in 2015, it was pointed out that HIV/AIDS forms the largest burden of disease in Suriname and that more education, more attention for groups at risk and improved cooperation between health services are needed	X	X
	Improve cooperation and coordination between health experts to provide ART.		X	

4.4 POWER AND DISCUSSION-MAKING



4.4 POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

Main conclusions of the Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname in 2018²⁵ :

- Suriname scores very low with regard to women in political and decision-making positions. The available data show that in the period 1987 – 2015, the Council of Ministers comprised on average merely 12% women.
- Participation of women in the National Assembly is higher than in the Council of Ministers. Parliament initiated and executed programmes in the past years to promote more female political leadership, and thus get more women placed on lists of candidates of the political parties.
- Data on women in management positions show that women have a subservient position, despite being in the majority in tertiary education. A rising trend of women in management positions may be noted in the public sector, particularly in bodies such as the State Advisory Council and the Independent Electoral Council.
- A rising trend may also be noted for women in the judiciary since 2008. Data show that since 2016, the judiciary consists of 73% women.
- Data show that there are four times more men than women in the Surinamese Police Corps (KPS). Unfortunately, data on the ranks of these women were not available.

In the past years, various campaigns and projects have been carried out to encourage and support more women to claim a place in political structures. These activities were mainly carried out by NGOs and women's organisations. The last major activities took place prior to the 2015 general elections. Encouraged by the female Speaker, the National Assembly tried to improve the position in politics in the same period through various capacity strengthening initiatives.

Encouraging women in decision-making is more than political decision-making, however. In the coming years more attention will, therefore, be paid to stimulate women in decision-making positions in all sectors of society.

²⁵ National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018 – pilot project CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model (CARICOM GEI)

Priority Area: Power and Decision-Making				
Strategic Goal: In 2035 there is full, equal, free and democratic participation of women in political and public life, and women and men are equally represented in all public and private decision-making structures in the country.				
Long-term Goals	Interventions/Actions	Notes	5 – 10 jaar	10 – 15 years
Full and effective participation of women and ensure equal opportunities with regard to leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. (SDG 5.5)	Develop a comprehensive strategy to promote participation of women in all levels of political and public life, among others by fixing legal quota for political appointments, accelerated recruitment of women in decision-making positions and providing financial incentives to political parties to include equal numbers of women and men on their lists of candidates.	Determining legal quota for appointments has been raised at various times, but there are differing opinions about its use.	X	
	Request the Central Electoral Office (CHS) to keep data on voters according to gender, administrative jurisdiction, district and age, and if possible, also state gender of candidates on the list of candidates (DNA and RR ballots).		X	
	Encourage explicit support of women who wish to be candidates and their election campaigns through awareness of political leaders and the	This will have to be a continuous process, which should be given particular attention during the general	X	X

	general public, capacity strengthening and financing of campaigns (CEDAW recommendation 31 b)	elections (2025 and 2030).		
	Encourage women in positions of leadership and decision-making in civil society structures.		X	
	Encourage women in positions of leadership and decision-making in the business community in general, as well as non-traditional occupations such as construction, mining and logging.		X	
	Develop and implement a policy to support the economic and social development of rural, Maroon and Indigenous women and to prevent continuous gender inequality, which limits access to land, social services, economic opportunities, sanitation and communication technologies (CEDAW recommendation 45 a)		X	X
	Take measures to ensure full and equal participation of rural, Maroon and Indigenous women in decision- making processes that affect them, including mining and logging concessions, as well as rural and national development			X

	plans (CEDAW recommendation 45 b)			
	Develop specific training processes to build the leadership capacity of women of all ages, in order to achieve decision-making roles on the basis of equality, in particular in senior management leadership and technical functions (MS 4.d)		X	
Increase the use of innovative technology, in particular information and communication technology, to achieve greater empowerment of women (SDG 5b)	Encourage the use of information and communication technology (ICT) and improve its access for women and girls as a strategy to strengthen their competitive capacity and increase their opportunities in the labour job market, and increase access to other economic opportunities.			X
Take temporary, special measures to combat gender discrimination	Carry out awareness activities on the implementation of temporary, special measures to achieve substantive equality of women and men and eliminate intersecting forms of discrimination among deprived groups of women, particularly rural, Maroon and Indigenous women and women with		X	

	disabilities (CEDAW recommendation 23 a)			
	Set time-phased goals and allocate sufficient resources to temporarily take special measures, such as quota and other proactive measures, to accelerate equal representation of women, among other things in public service, village councils, agricultural cooperatives, labour unions, and boards of public and private enterprises and professional associations (CEDAW recommendation 23 b)			X
	Temporarily enact special measures to promote representation of rural, Maroon and Indigenous women in the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, legislative bodies, district and resort councils, leadership positions in political parties and government advisory councils (High constitutional bodies) (CEDAW recommendation 31 c).		X	X
Eradicate enduring, discriminatory stereotypes of the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society.	Identify and tackle impediments in the development of structural national long-term programmes in order to change social and cultural			X

	patterns that strengthen discriminatory stereotypes regarding the roles of men and women in the family and society (CEDAW recommendation 25 a)			
	Make the media aware of the necessity to eradicate gender stereotypes and establish a mechanism within the Bureau Gender Affairs that systematically conducts evaluations and encourages removal of stereotypical content from the media and shows positive representations of women and girls (CEDAW recommendation 25 c)		X	
	Develop and enact targeted measures to increase public awareness of women's rights via the media and encourage positive representations of women as active participants in social, economic and political life, and of men as actively responsible in domestic life and upbringing of children (CEDAW recommendation 25 d) .		X	X
Increase awareness among policy makers and the general public on gender-responsive budgeting.	Carry out educational activities and programmes on gender-responsive budgeting and actually show its benefits.	Awareness activities have been carried for years. The implementation of a demonstration or pilot project might better show the benefits	X	X

4.5 GENDER RELATED VIOLENCE



Foto: BiZa/ CU

4.5 GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE

Main conclusions of the Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname in 2018²⁶ :

- A study was carried out in 2018 to measure the existence of violence against women. The results of this study are not yet known.
- Data from the Criminal Intelligence Service (DCIV) for 2010 – 2015 show that gender-related violence, in particular domestic violence, has not decreased, despite ratification of the Convention of Belém do Para in 2002 and adoption of the Combatting Domestic Violence Act in 2009. Women still make up the majority of victims of domestic violence. Particularly physical violence among women aged 21 – 40 years has increased.

The UN Declaration on Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as follows:

... any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Article 1 of the Convention of Belém do Para states:

For the purposes of this Convention, violence against women shall be understood as any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere.

Article 2 of that Convention explicitly states that violence against women is physical, sexual and psychological violence:

- a. that occurs within the family or domestic unit or within any other interpersonal relationship, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the woman, including, among other things, rape, battery and sexual abuse;
- b. that occurs in the community and is perpetrated by any person, including, among other things, rape, sexual abuse, torture, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, kidnapping and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as in educational institutions, health facilities or any other place; and

²⁶National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018 – pilot project CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators Model (CARICOM GEI)

- c. that is perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents regardless of where it occurs.

Sexual harassment or unwanted intimacy is also transgressing behaviour that may occur in different situations and is considered intimidating or undesirable by the person targeted by it. Sexual harassment can manifest itself in (a combination of) three forms:

- Words (verbal harassment): sexually suggestive remarks, jokes, intimate questions or innuendo;
- Gestures, facial expressions (non-verbal): staring, sexually suggestive gestures or showing sexually suggestive or pornographic images (also via email, WhatsApp or text messages);
- Direct physical contact (physical): all form of unwanted bodily contact, such as an arm over a shoulder, grabbing, pinching, kissing, blocking one's way.

This priority area includes more than just violence against women. The term 'gender-related violence' was chosen to mean all types of violence where members of a particular gender are targeted, with their sex as the underlying reason. Gender-related violence is linked to various types of violence, including femicide, physical, psychological and financial violence, and intimate spousal violence.

In recent years the focus was on revealing and combatting domestic violence. Suriname not only wishes to combat, but also prevent all forms of gender-related violence through policy and legislation and through cooperation with organisations, institutions and other bodies which have as their goal to prevent and combat gender-related violence.

In this context, the following laws have been approved:

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

There is good cooperation between the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) and the National Council for Domestic Violence (NRHG). The latter has also outlined a policy document and drawn up a work plan. The Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 also supports the vision and policy of the National Council, since the proposed interventions to tackle and reduce domestic violence also contribute to achieving the long-term goals of the gender policy document. In the coming years, the activities of the domestic violence work plan and the annual gender action plans will be constantly coordinated.

Priority Area: Gender-related Violence				
Strategic Goal: By 2035, gender-related violence will have decreased and access to help and legal services for victims and perpetrators will have been improved and increased.				
Long-term Goals	Interventions/Actions	Notes	5 – 10 years	10 – 15 years
Reduce domestic violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment of all men, women, boys and girls in Suriname.	Improve protection against all forms of gender-related violence.		X	
	Conduct a study sexual intimidation and harassment in the public and private sectors, and provide education with respect there to, and make workplaces safer.		X	
	Improve psycho-social assistance to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and their families		X	X
	Conduct constant training of identified professional groups, including health workers, teachers, police officers, military and religious leaders to respond better to gender-related violence.	Such training should be included in the training of recruits to fully-fledged police officers, and the training of teachers and healthworkers	X	X
Eradicate all forms of gender-related violence in the public and private sphere, also with regard to trafficking in women and sexual and other exploitation (SDG 5.2)	After approval of the National Policy Plan with regard to Domestic Violence, keep striving to enforce the Domestic Violence Act (CEDAW recommendation 27 a)		X	

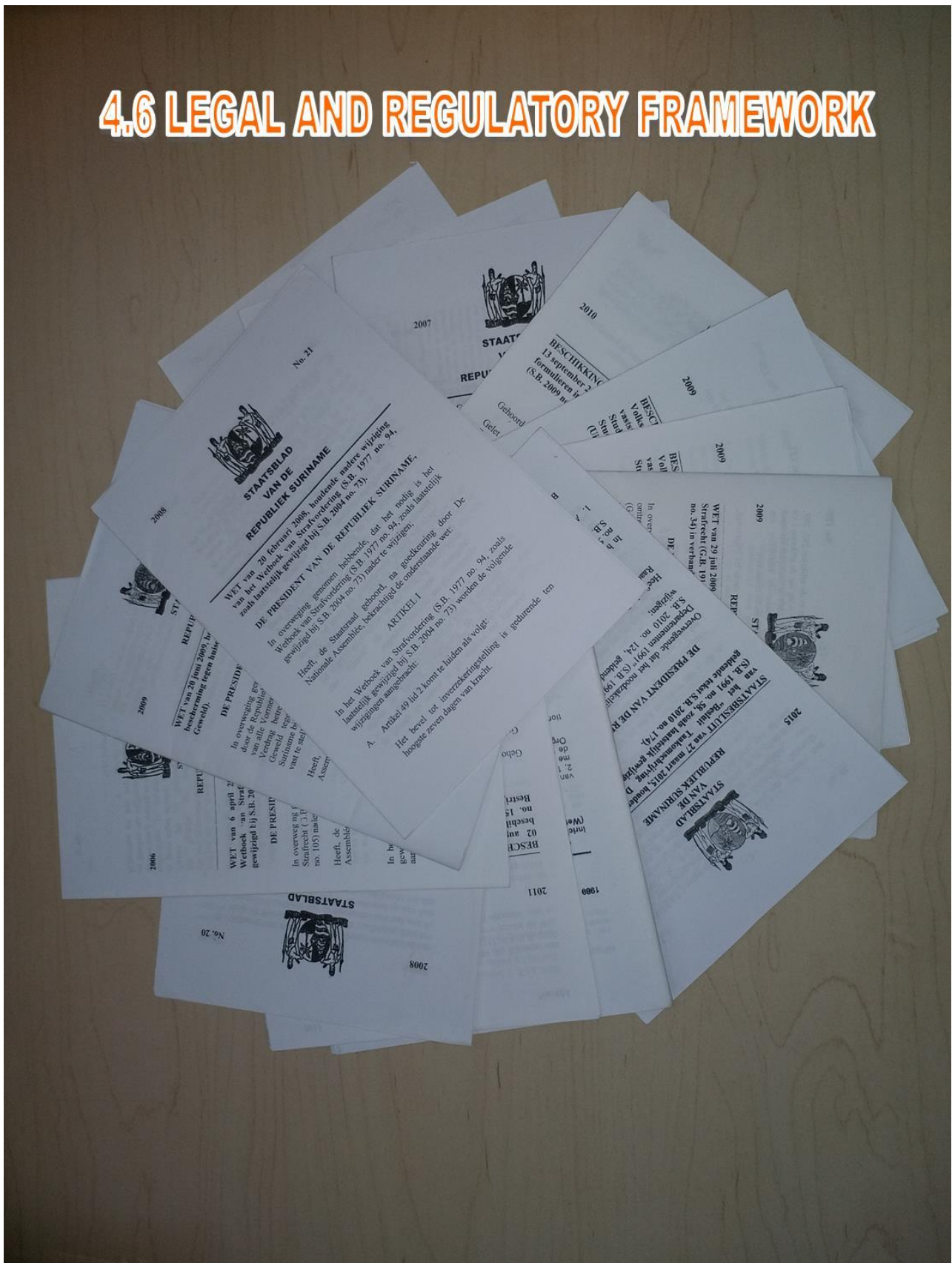
	Systematically gather data on gender-related violence, according to age, ethnicity, geography and relationship between victim and perpetrator, and ensure that research in this area forms the basis for comprehensive and targeted interventions (CEDAW recommendation 27 d).	Preparations for this can start in the short term.	X	
	Establish a confidential complaint mechanism for persons who are victims of gender discrimination and gender-related violence (CEDAW recommendation 13 b).	Preparations for this can start in the short term.	X	
	Train and supervise community workers in effective application of laws and relevant procedures.		X	X
	Streamline data that are registered by other departments in the Ministry of Justice and Police. Bring structure to acquisition, registration and management of the data.		X	
	Apply a zero-tolerance policy with regard to gender-related discrimination and violence, including prosecution and adequate punishment of perpetrators. (CEDAW recommendation 51)			X
	Develop national plans to prevent, punish and eradicate gender-related		X	

	violence.			
	Foster agreements of cooperation with the media and advertising agencies to disseminate the CEDAW and the Convention of Belém do Pará.		X	
	Include the concept of violence from the Convention of Belém do Pará in official documents of Suriname.		X	
	Develop special training on gender-related violence for the benefit of the executive and legislative arms and the judiciary.		X	
	Establish a special body within the judiciary to handle cases of gender-related violence.			X
	Promote the establishment of domestic violence units in all police stations.			X
Improved accommodation and counseling of victims of gender-related violence and human trafficking.	Establish additional shelters for victims of gender-related violence, accessible to women and girls, particularly from rural areas, which provide legal aid, rehabilitation and psycho-social support to victims (CEDAW recommendation 27 b).		X	
	Create / improve social programmes for victims of gender-related violence at the the Ministry of Social Affairs.			X

	Encourage the establishment/ strengthening of public and private bodies for assistance to victims of gender-related violence (before, during and after the legal process).			X
	Monitor the quality of free legal aid services.	Preparations for this can start in the short term.	X	
Eliminate human trafficking, in particular trafficking and exploitation of women and girls.	Allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to the new government infrastructure to combat human trafficking (Schakelketting 2.0) in order to implement the national strategy and the national plan of action to combat human trafficking and set up sufficient and adequately equipped shelters for victims of human trafficking in different parts of the State that is party to the Convention (CEDAW recommendation 29 a)		X	
	Test, prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators and ensure that victims of human trafficking and prostitution are free from criminal responsibility and are provided with adequate protection, legal remedies and compensations, including temporary residence permits, medical care, psycho-social support,			X

	rehabilitation and support for reintegration and compensation (CEDAW recommendation 29 b)			
	Adopt policy to ensure that victims of human trafficking who need protection, have access to asylum procedures and that there are gender-sensitive identification and referral mechanisms at points of entry and in detention centres (CEDAW recommendation 29 c)			X
	Continue strengthening the capacity of judges, public prosecutors, border police, immigration authorities and other law enforcement officials of early identification and gender-sensitive protocols for dealing with victims of human trafficking. (CEDAW recommendation 29 d)		X	X

4.6 LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



4.6 LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The legal and regulatory framework is a priority area in the 2021 – 2035 gender policy document, because Suriname still needs to amend or draw up a number of laws in order to meet the international conventions that have been ratified or signed, and that aim to eliminate gender-related discrimination or achieve equality.

The last CEDAW report also included recommendations that indirectly relate to the Convention:

- Operationalisation of the National Human Rights Institute in accordance with the principles on the status of national institutes for promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) (Resolution 48/134 of the General Assembly) with a broad mandate, including the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality. The Commission recommended that the state party allocate sufficient financial resources to the institute and provide for capacity strengthening of personnel with regard to gender issues and women's rights in compliance with the Convention. (CEDAW recommendation 17)
- Formulate policy for implementation of the Anti-Corruption Act, strengthen institutional capacity to effectively trace and investigate public sector corruption, prosecute perpetrators and guarantee transparency of the public financial management system, in order to prevent funds for the execution of the Convention being mispent. (CEDAW recommendation 19)

Recommendations were also made that should lead to immediate approval of various bills. In the next five years the recommendations of the CEDAW commission will be studied thoroughly to see whether and how these may be integrated into the national legislation and/or whether there are any impediments to implementation of existing laws.

Priority Area: Legal and Regulatory Framework				
Strategic Goal: By 2035, all legislation will have been adapted, strengthened and approved and implemented to promote gender equality and to eliminate gender-related discrimination in Suriname.				
Long-term Goal	Interventions/ Actions	Notes	5 – 10 years	10 – 15 years
End all forms of discrimination of women and girls, everywhere (SDG 5.1)	Strengthen the capacity of members of parliament, policymakers and government officials in the interest of comprehensive, consistent and coherent legal reforms to achieve substantial equality of men and women, in view of immediate approval of various government bills to promote women's rights (CEDAW recommendation 11d).	Capacity strengthening must be continuous, particularly after each round of general elections	X	X
	Amend Article 8 Clause 2 of the Constitution to recognise intersecting forms of discrimination of rural, Maroon, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women (CEDAW recommendation 11 b)	Amending the Constitution is not easy, as that requires a two-thirds majority of votes.		X
	Adopt the law on equal treatment of women and men and ensure that it contains a definition of gender-related discrimination, as well as a prohibition on direct and indirect discrimination in		X	

	the public and private spheres, in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention and earlier concluding remarks of the Commission (CEDAW recommendation 11 c)			
	Study the manner in which General Recommendation No. 33 (2015) of the Commission on the access of women to justice may be applied to reform the Bureau of Legal Services (Bureau Rechtszorg) and to deal with discriminatory practices that limit women's access to justice (CEDAW recommendation 13 a)	Preparations for this can start in the short term	X	
	Provide free legal aid to women and girls who lack sufficient funds, adopt gender-sensitive application procedures at Bureau Rechtszorg, increase the budget and provide free translation service to ethnic minority women (CEDAW recommendation 13 c).		X	
Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation (SDG 5.3)	Approve legislation to explicitly forbid corporal punishment in all contexts (CEDAW recommendation 27 c)		X	
	Take measures to prevent child marriages and forced marriages, among other things by developing a national strategy to		X	

	prevent and eliminate child marriages and setting up a complaint mechanism for victims of child and/or forced marriages (CEDAW recommendation 53 b)			
Approve and strengthen a healthy policy and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at all levels (SDG 5c)	Adopt the government bill on the establishment of a Constitutional Court (CEDAW recommendation 11 a)		X	
	Promote research on the impact of gender stereotypes in studies and legal processes.		X	
	Incorporate gender in protocols regarding investigation and prosecution by the Public Prosecutor's Office.		X	
	Establish a body to regulate sexist content in advertising.		X	
	Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention as soon as possible and adopt the amendment to Article 20 Clause 1 of the Convention regarding the time of meeting of the Commission. (CEDAW recommendation 56)		X	
Strengthen the existing legal framework to make companies and if necessary their foreign partners responsible for human rights abuses, particularly with regard to land rights, health, as well as environmental	Strengthen legislation on regulation of the actions of registered enterprises, including the Mining Act of Suriname, in order to set minimum standards for environmental protection, water quality, labour and health, with a view of		X	

and labour standards and the specific rights of women related to those.	protecting the rights of rural, Maroon and Indigenous women, who are, or are likely to be, affected by the operations (CEDAW recommendation 21 a)			
	Establish a mechanism or body to regulate the activities of private mining companies and to oversee observance of laws and promotion of the human rights of women (CEDAW recommendation 21 b)	In Suriname there is an EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative), that is currently being coordinated from the Bauxite Institute. Contact can be made with EITI in the short term.	X	
Take into account gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness in legislation and regulations.	Take legal and other measures, such as using mobile units for civil registration, lowering costs and administrative barriers and facilitating theregistration of children born in the interior (CEDAW recommendation 33 a)		X	
	Remove any administrative impediments and discriminatory practices that stand in the way of registration of children born of foreign parents (CEDAW recommendation 33 b)		X	
	Formulate and adopt policy on protection of refugees and establish asylum			X

	procedures that provide a gender-sensitive approach and that protect the economic and social rights of refugees and women and girls seeking asylum (CEDAW recommendation 49 a)			
	Introduce gender-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and age-sensitive individual screening and assessment procedures to ensure systematic and early identification of refugees and asylum seekers, in particular women and girls who have been or risk becoming victims of gender-related violence (CEDAW recommendation 49 b)			X
Bring equal compensation for equal work for women and men in line with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.	Approve the revised Civil Code, the Law on Protection of Motherhood, amendment of the Employment Act, and extend the Law on Minimum Hourly Wages to the public sector and the informal economy (CEDAW recommendation 37 a)		X	X
	Amend Article 28 of the Constitution to include the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and take measures to maintain this principle effectively (CEDAW recommendation 37 c)		X	X

Legalise abortion in certain cases and decriminalise it in all cases.	Amend Articles 355-357 of the Penal Code that forbid abortion; the principle is legalisation of abortion in cases of rape, incest, risk to the life and/or the health of the mother, or severe damage of the foetus, decriminalise it in all other cases and remove sanctions for women having abortions (CEDAW recommendation 39 c)	Broad social debate on abortion and its legalisation are required. This involves multiple stakeholders (among others the Ministries of Justice and Police, Public Health, VMS, religious organisations).		X
Improve legislation on marriage and family relations.	Adopt the revised Civil Code to remove discriminatory stipulations (in particular Articles 18, 24, 56a, 217, 221, 234 and 353), raise the minimum marriageable age to 18 years and guarantee legal competence, equal rights of married women, as well as equality of women and men with regard to parental authority and child custody (CEDAW recommendation 53 a).		X	
	Provide legal protection with regard to so-called tribal marriages and carry out targeted awareness activities on the rights and corresponding legal remedies (CEDAW recommendation 53 c).			X
	Extend social and economic protection to women in concubinage (CEDAW recommendation 53 d).		X	

Adapt the legal and regulatory framework to the Convention of Belém do Para.	Assess laws and regulations for those still requiring amendment and make an action plan for other amendments.	Preparations can start in the short term.	X	
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4.7 ENVIRONMENT AND CIMATE CHANGE

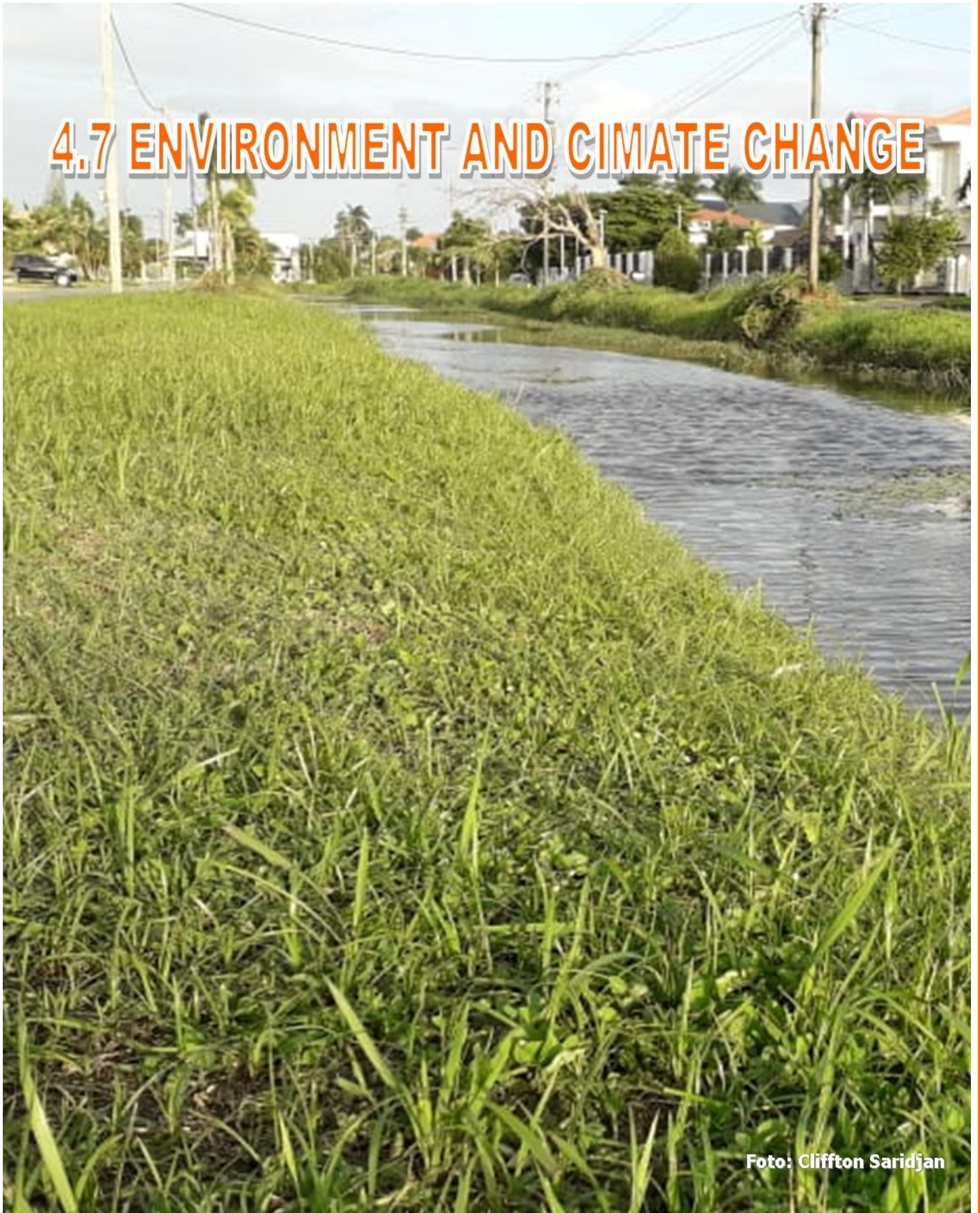


Foto: Clifton Saridjan

4.7 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This priority area has been added for the coming period. The effective participation of women in this priority area is actually essential, not only because women are disproportionately heavily affected by the consequences of climate change and disasters, but also because they are agents of change and play an important role in formulating and implementing policy and plans of actions relating to the environment, protection of biodiversity, as well as adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The interventions must explicitly include a gender perspective and take the specific requirements of women into account.

The man-made warming of the planet has a visible global effect on physical and biological systems. Climate change has consequences for all economic and social sectors and levels of society, and for food security on earth, because the fertility of agricultural areas is affected. But climate change is also a political problem with fundamental consequences for social justice and gender equality.

Environmental Coordination functions directly under the responsibility of the President's Office and is charged with coordinating the environmental policy in Suriname, which should directly link to the development plans of the country. The National Institute of Environmental Development in Suriname (NIMOS) functions as the technical implementing body of Environmental Coordination. NIMOS is also responsible for controlling environmental pollution, and has built cooperation with authorities such as the Labour Inspectorate, the Bureau of Public Health (BOG) and the District Commissioners (Environmental and Health Services, MGD), to be able to tackle certain aspects of environmental pollution via them. NIMOS is furthermore charged with activities relating to climate change, such as formulating the SIDS report for Suriname and execution of the REDD+ project.

In the coming years, policies with respect to the environment, biodiversity and climate change, and the gender policy will be coordinated. The environmental strategy and policy have been laid down in the draft of the Environmental Framework Law, which has been submitted for approval to the National Assembly. In this Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 and in the Gender Plan of Action 2019 – 2020 a start has already been made to incorporate environmental and climate activities that specifically relate to gender equality. As soon as the Environmental Framework Law has been officially approved, the Bureau Gender Affairs will discuss adapting the interventions in the priority area of environment and climate change with the organisations charged with environmental policy.

Priority Area: Environment and Climate Change				
Strategic Goal: In 2035 all women will be actively involved in decision-making with regard to the environment, biodiversity and climate change at all levels, gender issues and gender perspectives will have been integrated into policy measures and programmes for sustainable development, and the mechanisms at the national level will have been strengthened or set up to take gender-related effects of policy into account.				
Long-term Goals	Interventions/ Actions	Notes	5 – 10 jaar	10 – 15 years
Achieve universal and equal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. (Percentage of the population that has access to safe drinking water) (SDG 6.1)	Investigate whether it is possible to lay water mains in areas where these have not yet been laid.	In 2018 the Surinamese Water Distribution Company (SWM) already provided some new areas with water mains for access to safe drinking water.	X	
	Develop a strategy to achieve the SDG goal, with special attention for women in remote areas who use river and creek water.		X	
Achieve proper and reliable sanitation and hygiene for all and put an end to public defecation, paying special attention to the requirements of women and girls and people in vulnerable situations.(SDG 6.2)	Conduct a study and gender analysis with regard to the use of sanitation and the specific requirements of women in (remote) communities in the interior.		X	
	Further improvement of toilet facilities, particularly in the interior.		X	X
Strengthen participation of and support local communities in improving water management and sanitation. (SDG 6.b)	Integrate traditional knowledge of rural communities, particularly of women, in environmental programmes, and especially their knowledge of, access to, and management of water sources and sanitation.		X	

	Education and awareness for local communities, particularly women, about good water management and safe toilet facilities.		X	
Promote mechanisms to increase the capacity with regard to effective planning and management linked to climate change, in the least developed countries and small island states, also focusing on women, young people and local and marginalised communities. (SDG 13.b)	Encourage the participation of women in decision-making with respect to climate change and emergencies.		X	
	Further develop and intensify national programmes for awareness and education, which take into account the requirements of women in a changing environment and protection of biodiversity.	This shall have to be elaborated further for implementation in rural districts and the interior, with their specific requirements and language use.	X	
	Study the specific susceptibility of women to climate change and environmental degradation.		X	
Ensure effective participation of women (particularly rural, Marron and Indigenous women) in the formulation and implementation of policy and action plans to protect biodiversity and lowering risk of disasters and climate change (CEDAW recommendations 37 and 43)	Policy and action plans for climate change, including the Third National Communication on Climate Change, explicitly contain a gender perspective and take into account the specific requirements of women.	Participation processes may start in the short term, but are continuous.	X	X
	Policies and action plans to protect biodiversity explicitly contain a gender perspective and take into account the specific knowledge and requirements of women. ²⁷		X	X

²⁷ See also specifically the 2015 – 2020 Gender Plan of Action of the Convention on Biological Diversity <https://www.cbd.int/gender/action-plan/>

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- National Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action + 20, Suriname, May 2014

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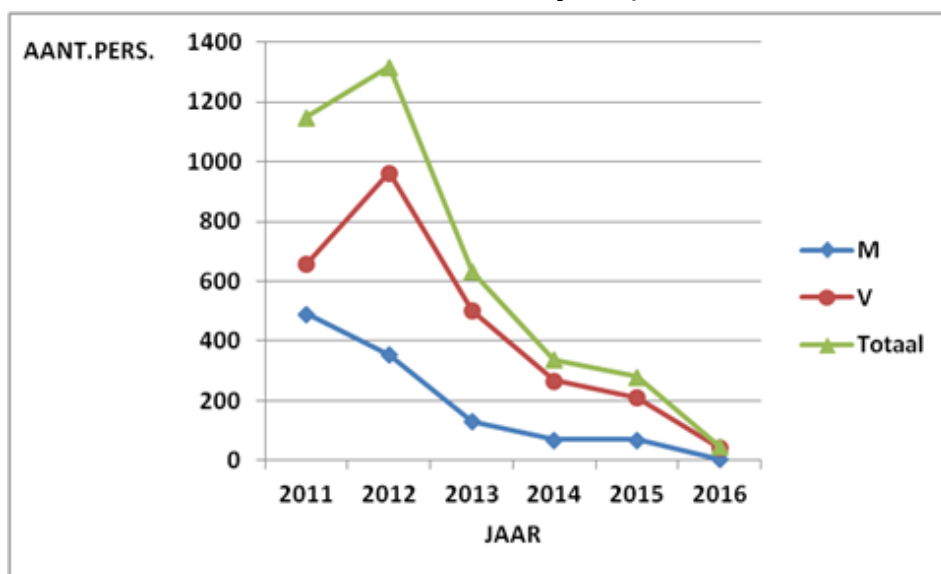
Other documents:

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(<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/docs/guidelines.pdf>)

APPENDIX 1 THE SITUATION OF WOMEN AND MEN IN SURINAME, IN CHARTS

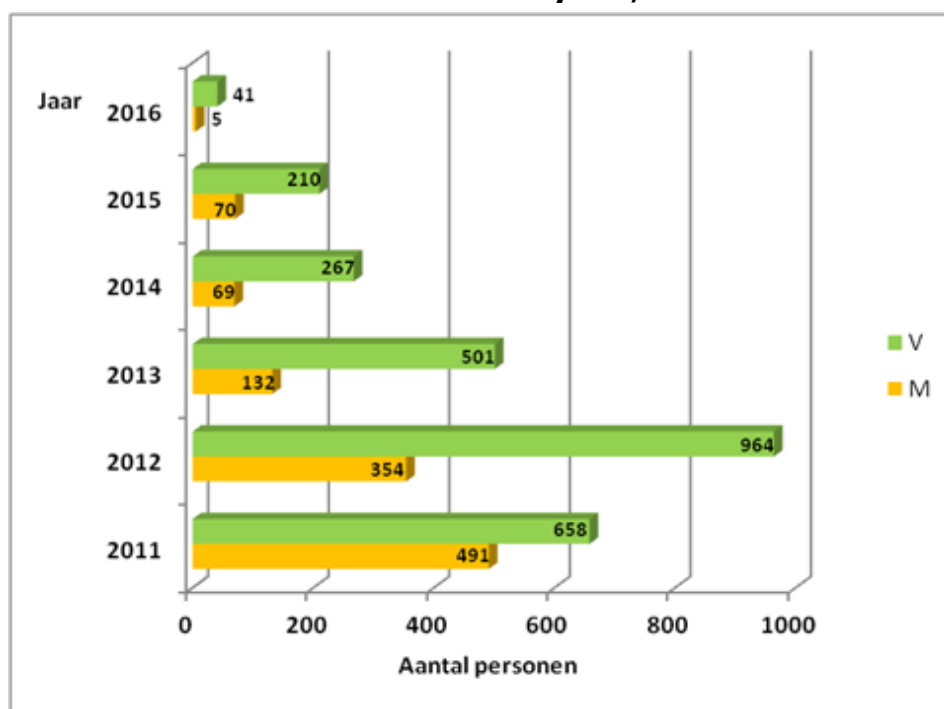
Priority Area: Labour, Income and Poverty Reduction

Job Seekers in Paramaribo by Sex, 2010 - 2016



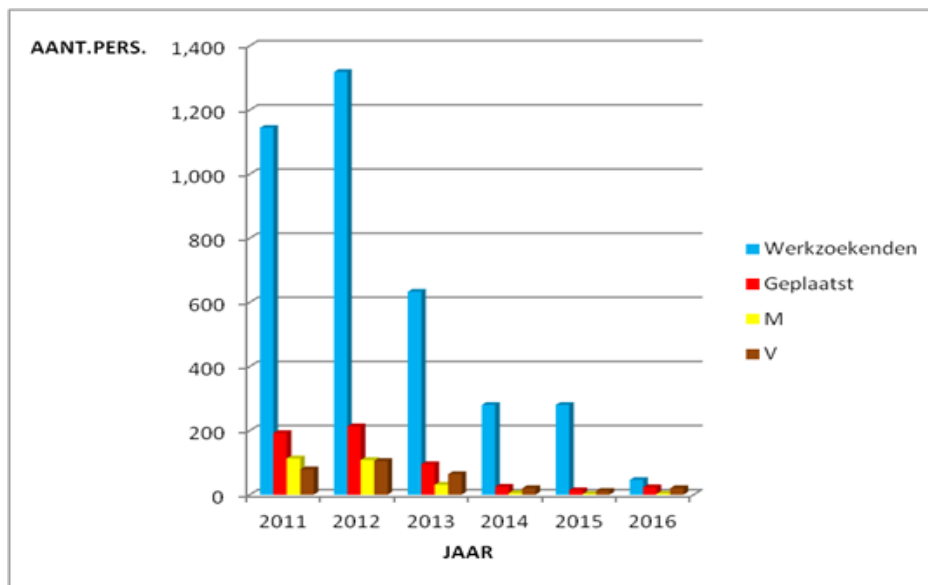
Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname, 2018

Job Seekers in Paramaribo by Sex, 2011 – 2016



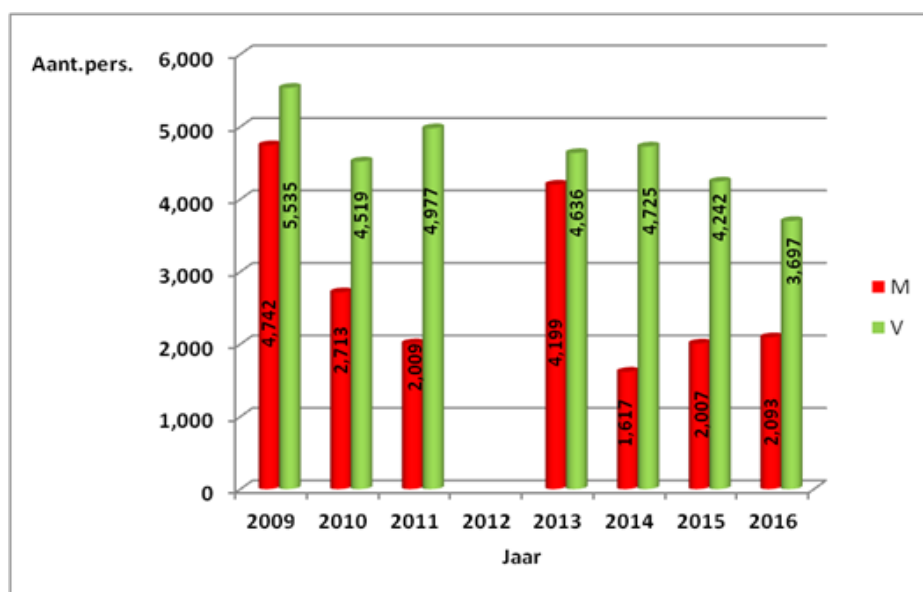
Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018

Overview of Accommodated Job Seekers in Paramaribo by Sex, 2011 – 2016



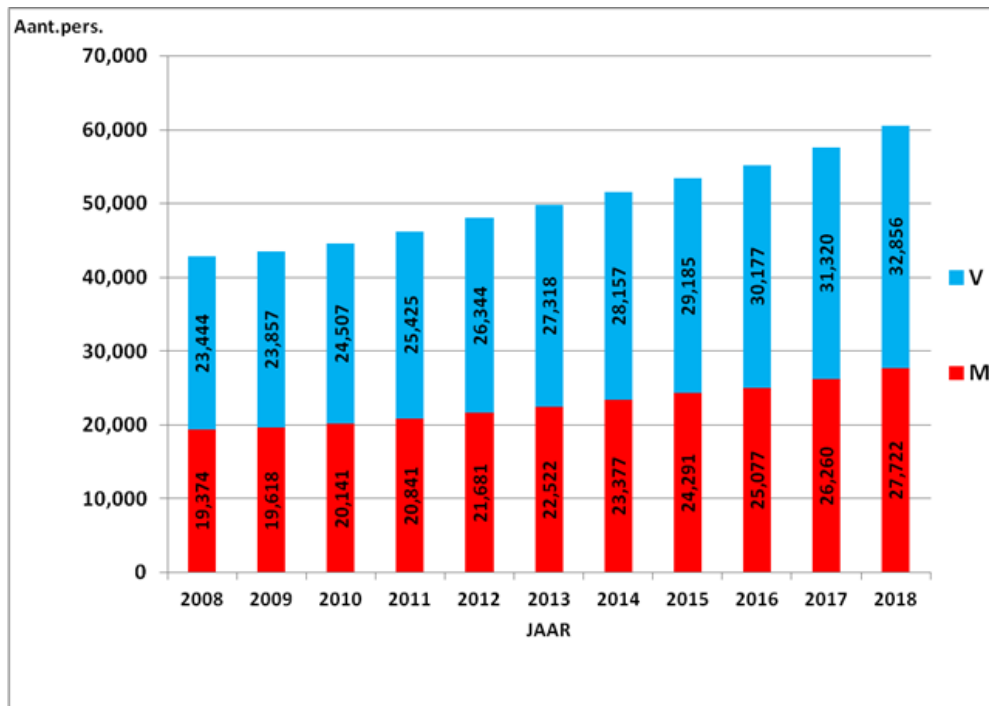
Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018

Numbers of Part-Time Workers in Paramaribo and Wanica by Sex, 2009 – 2016



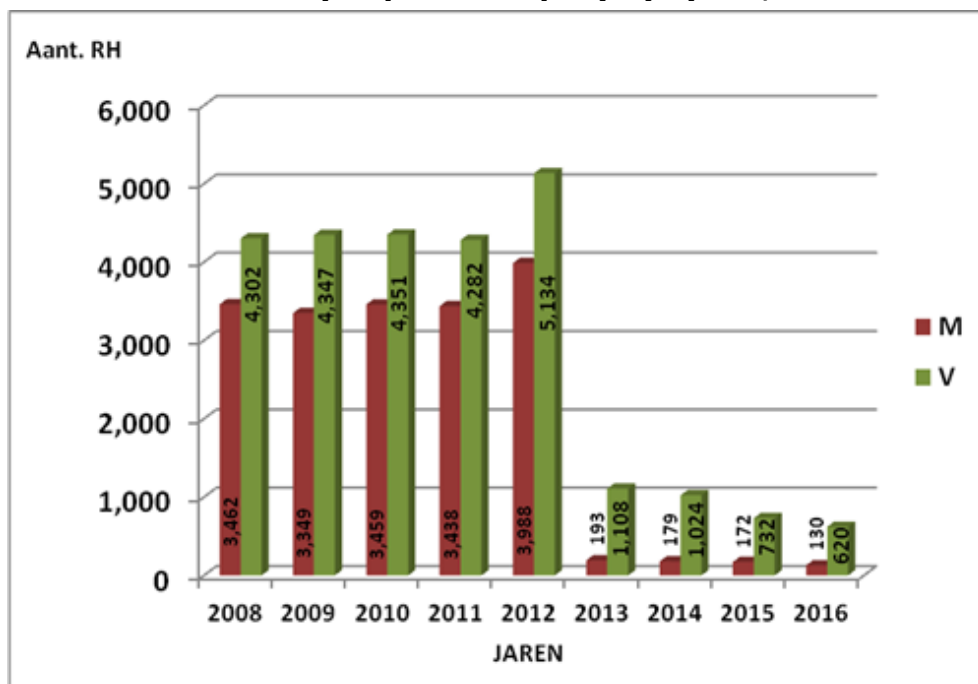
Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018

Number of Claimants to Public Retirement Plan (AOV) by Sex, 2008 – 2018



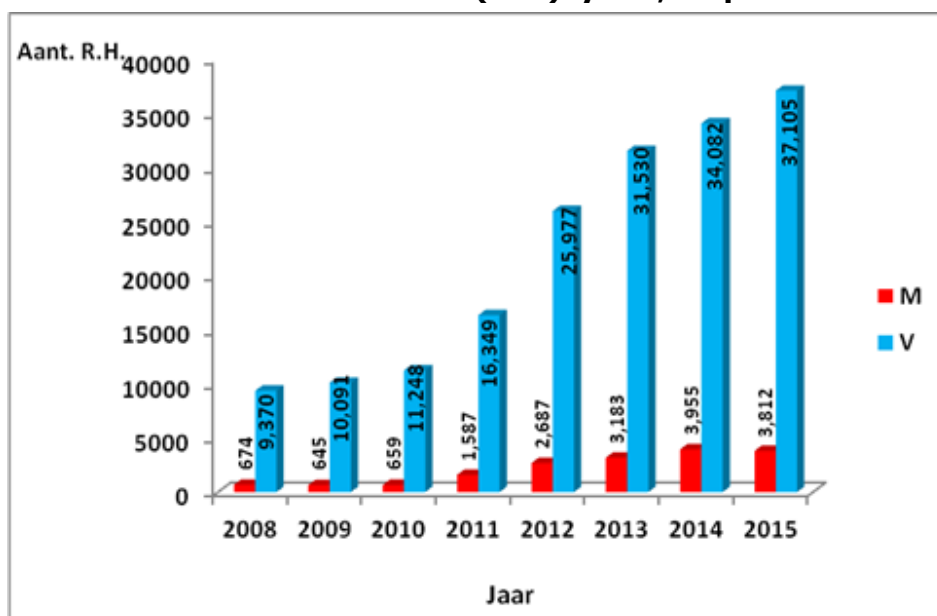
Source: MinSoZaVo/ AOV Fund

Number of Financially Deprived People (FB) by Sex, 2008 – 2016*



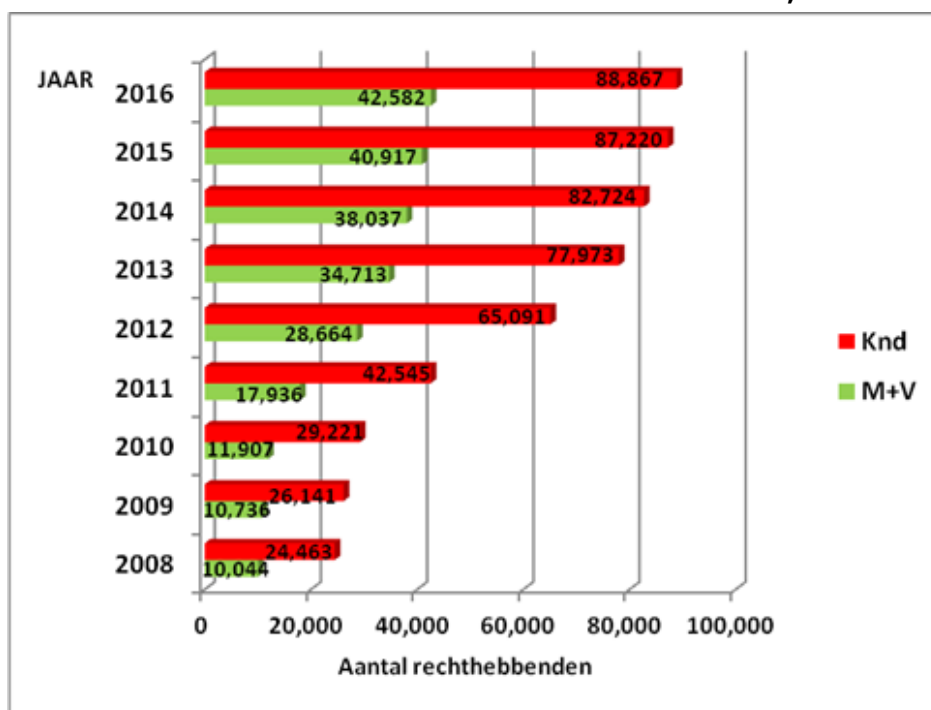
Source: MinSoZaVo/A.U.S.V. Division (* coastal area Dec.)

Number of Child Benefits Claimants (AKB) by Sex, 4th quarter 2008 – 2015



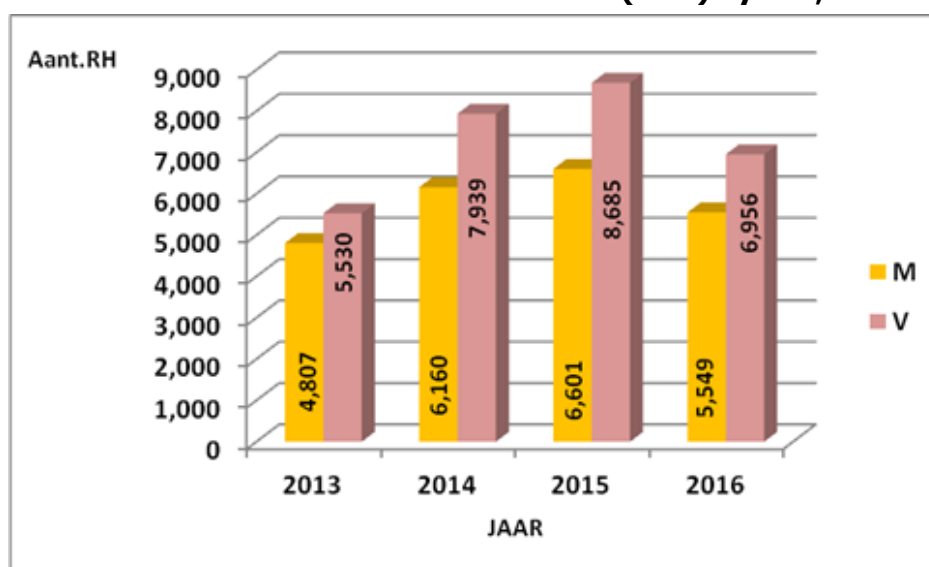
Source: MinSoZaVo/AKB Division

Total Number of AKB Claimants with Number of Children, 2008 – 2016



Source: MinSoZaVo/AKB Division

Number of Benefits Claimants with Disabilities (UPH) by Sex, 2013 – 2016



Source: MinSoZaVo/A.U.S.V. Division (* coastal area Dec.)

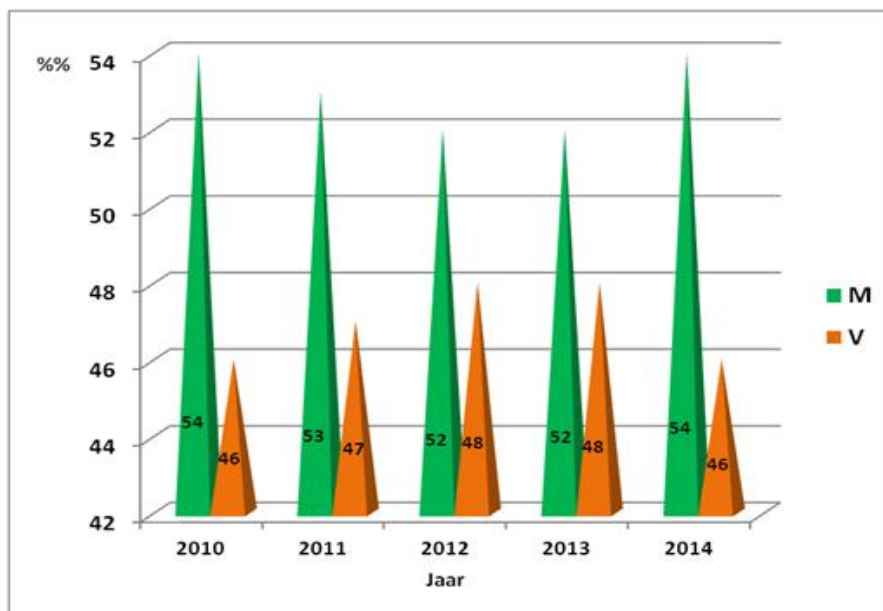
Priority Area: Education

GPI by Level of Education, 2009 – 2014

Level of Education	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Primary Education	0.93	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.96
Junior Secondary Education	1.09	1.07	1.2	1.2	1.2
Senior Secondary Education	1.67	1.71	1.76	NA	NA
Tertiary Education	1.93	1.93	NA	NA	NA

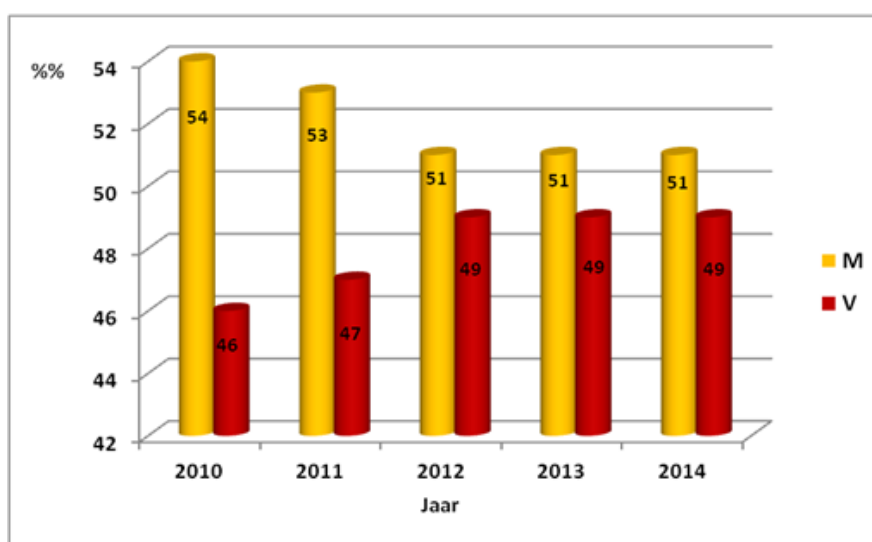
Source: MDG Progress Report 2014 and MinOWC
Dept. of Research and Planning, 2017

Percentage of Repeaters at Junior Secondary Level by Sex, 2010 – 2014



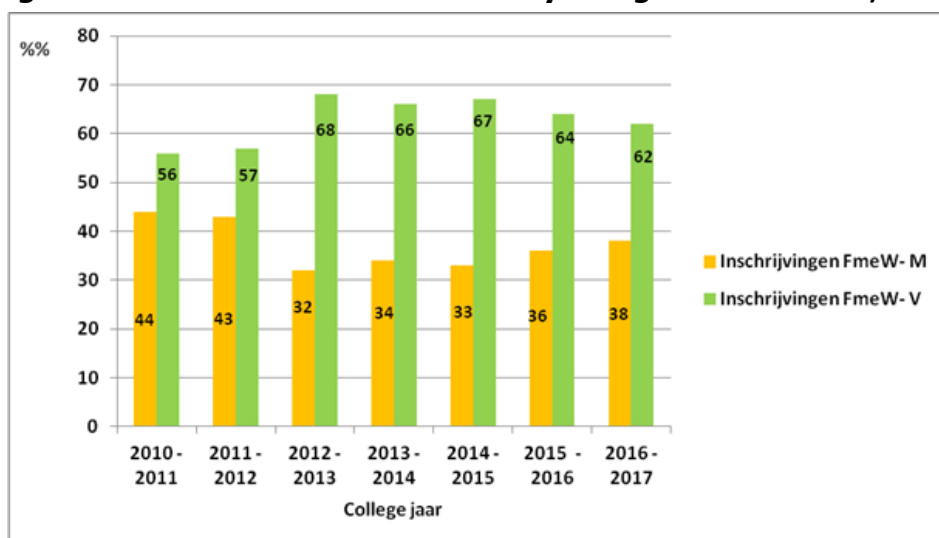
Source: MinOWC, July 2017

Percentage of Drop-outs Junior Secondary level (VOJ) by school year and sex, 2010 – 2014



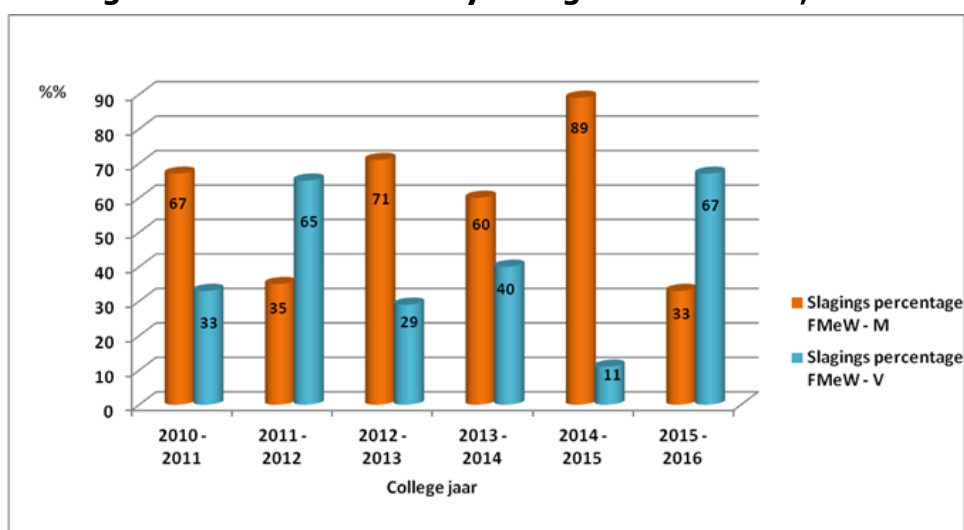
Source: MinOWC, July 2017

Percentage of Students Enrolled at FmeW²⁸ by College Year and Sex, 2010 – 2016



Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018
and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

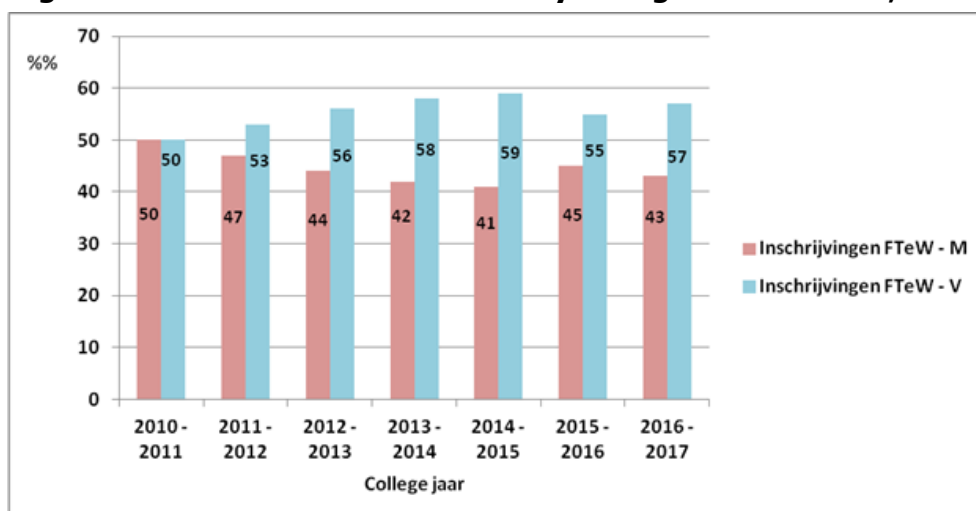
Percentage of FmeW Graduates by College Year and Sex, 2010 – 2016



Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018
and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

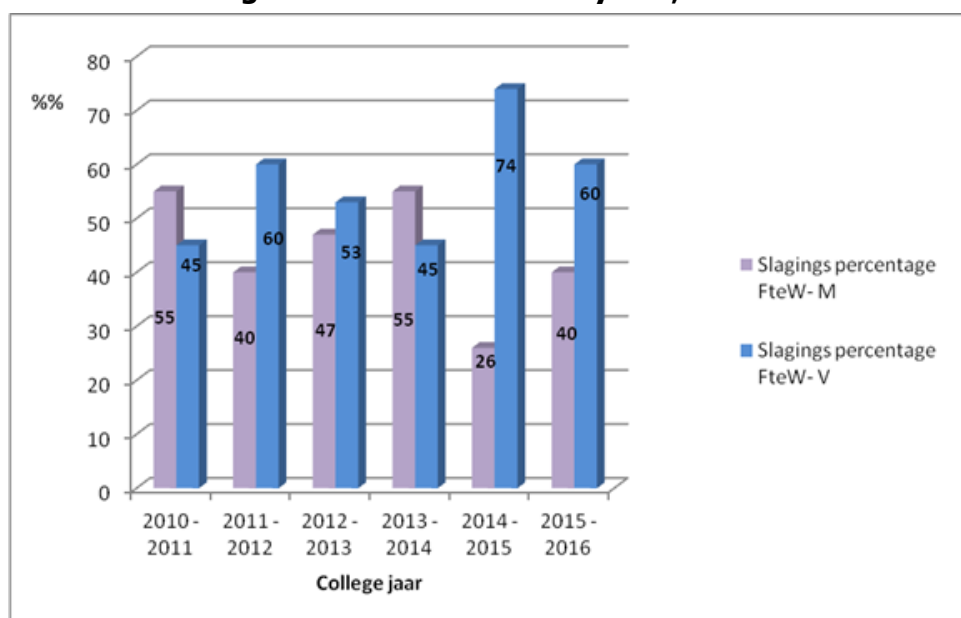
²⁸ FmeW = Faculty of Medical Sciences

Percentage of Students Enrolled at FTeW²⁹ by College Year and Sex, 2010 – 2016



Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018 and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

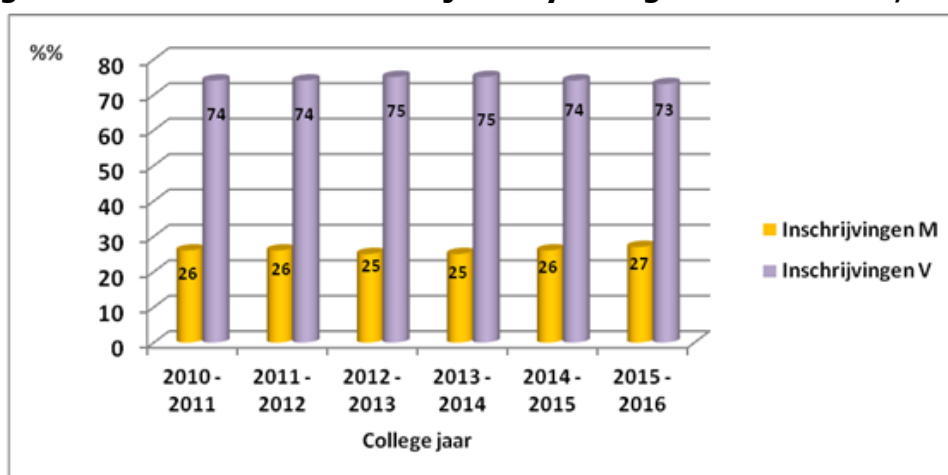
Percentage of FTeW Graduates by Sex, 2010 – 2016



Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018 and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

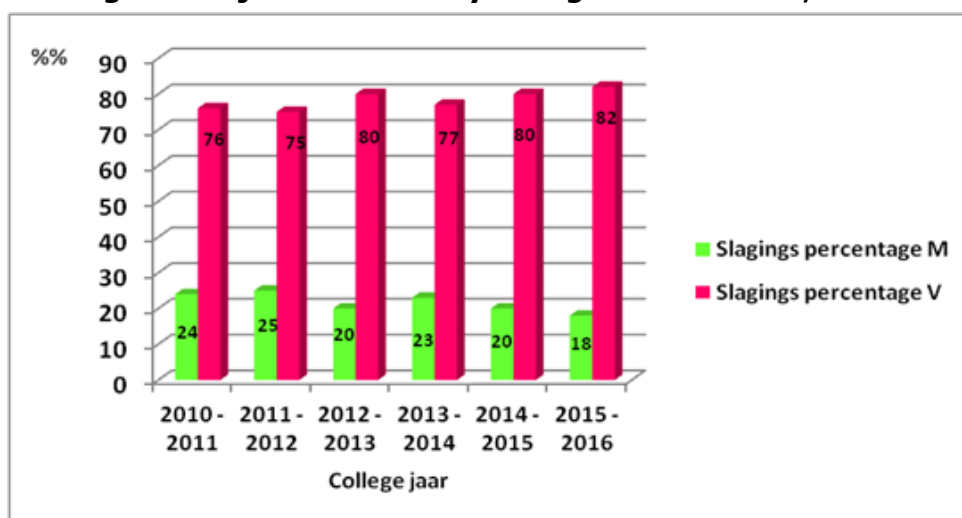
²⁹ FteW = Faculty of Technological Sciences

Percentage of Students Enrolled at FmijWe³⁰ by College Year and Seks, 2010 – 2016



Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018
and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

Percentage of FmijW Graduates by College Year and Sex, 2010 – 2016

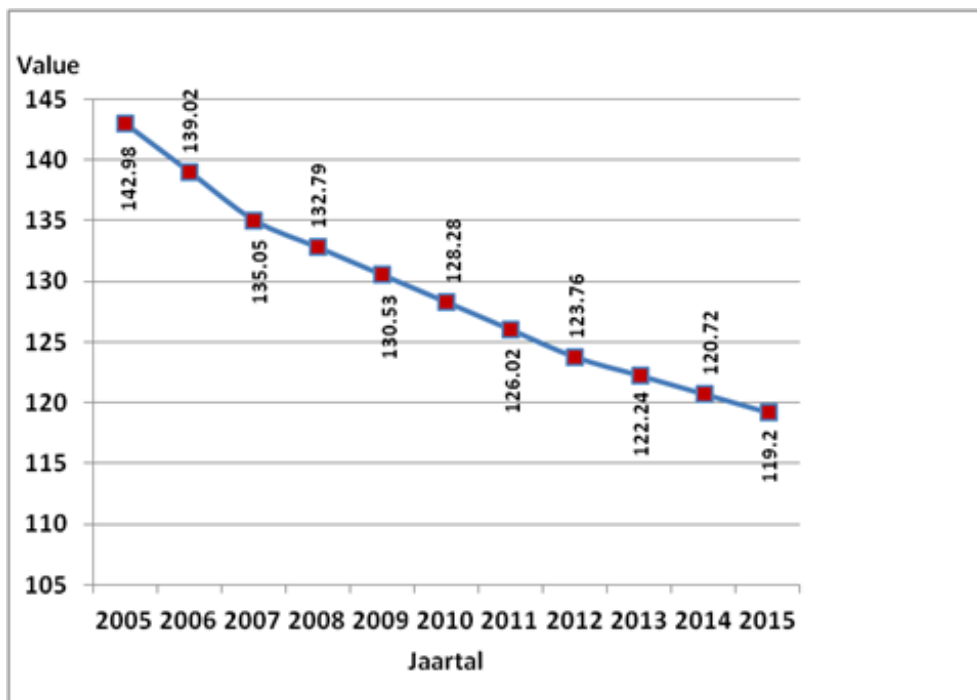


Source: National Report Situation Analysis of Women and Men 2018
and Selected Statistics for Women and Men, 2017

³⁰ FmijWe = Faculty of Social Sciences

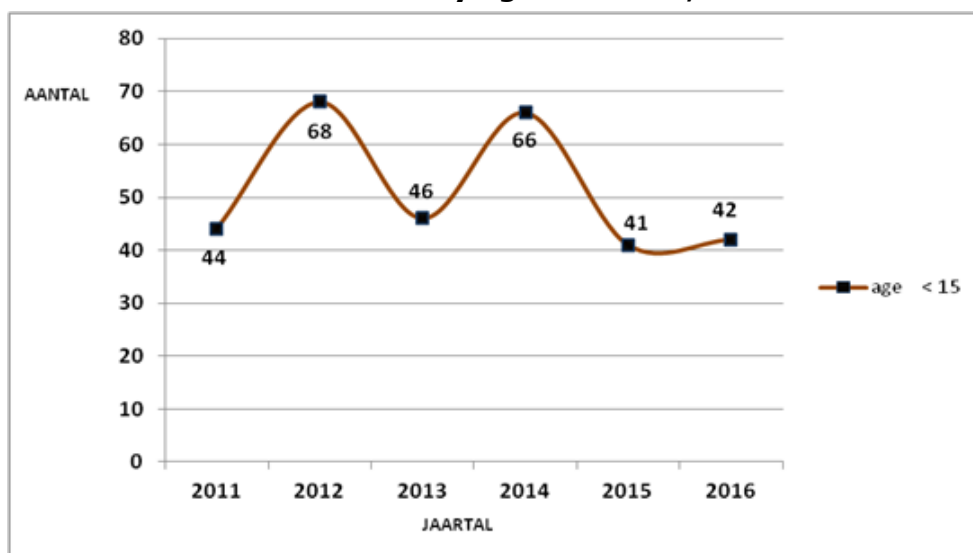
Priority Area: Health

The Value for Mortality Rate, Adult, Female (per 1,000 Female Adults) in Suriname (MMR)



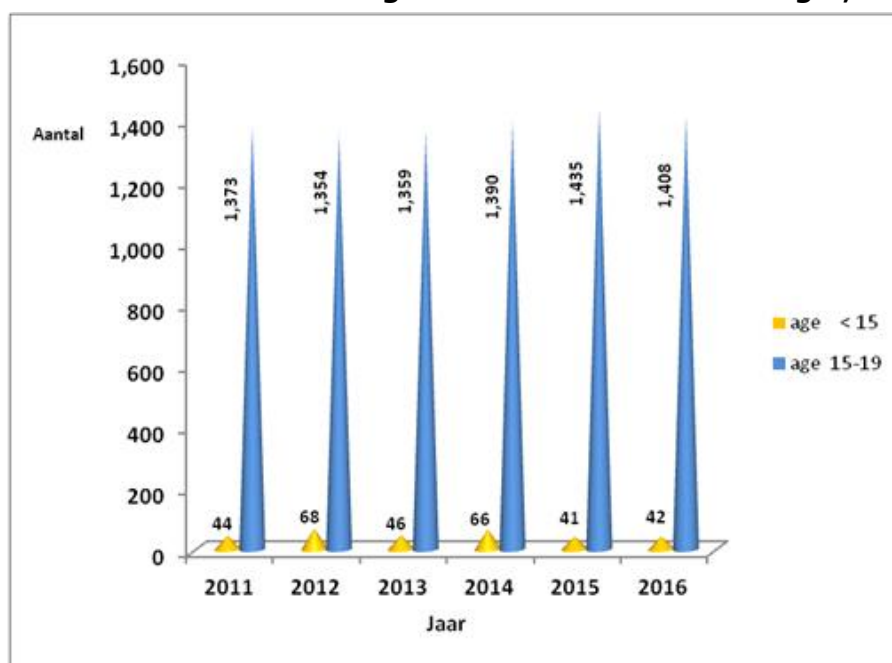
Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group, and the United Nations Population Division

Number of Live Births by Age of Mother, 2011 – 2016



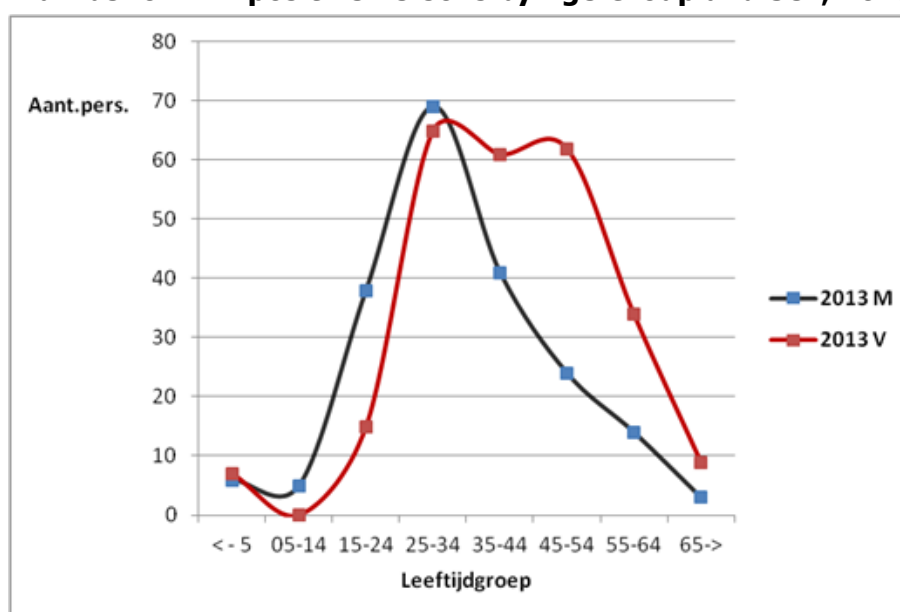
Source: Civil Registry Office (CBB)

Number of Live Births of Mothers Aged 15 – 19 Years and Younger, 2011 – 2016



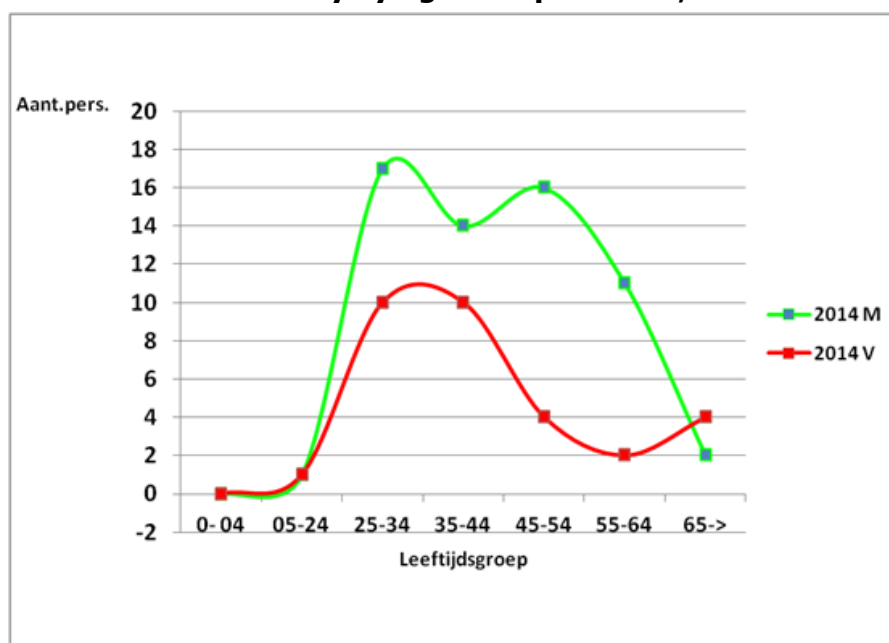
Source: Civil Registry Office (CBB)

Number of HIV-positive Persons by Age Group and Sex, 2013



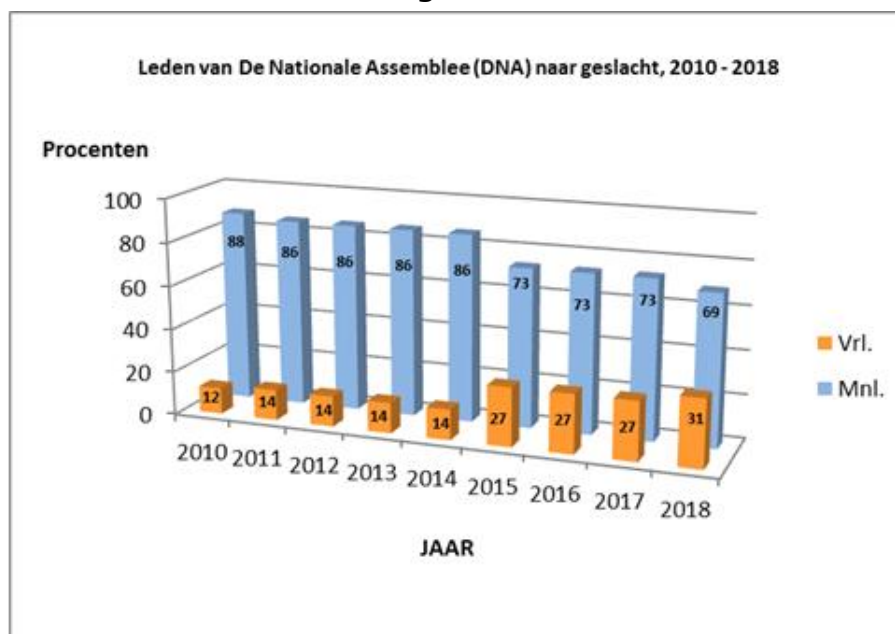
Source: MinVG

Aids Mortality by Age Group and Sex, 2014

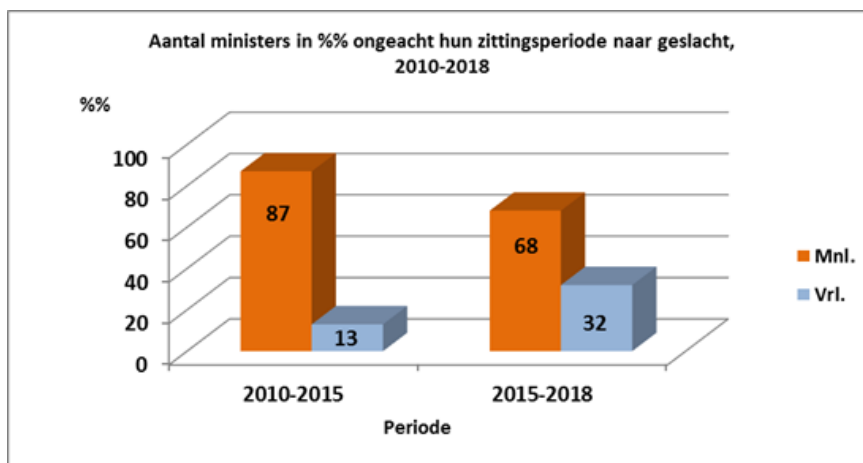


Source: MinVG

Priority Area: Power and Decision-Making

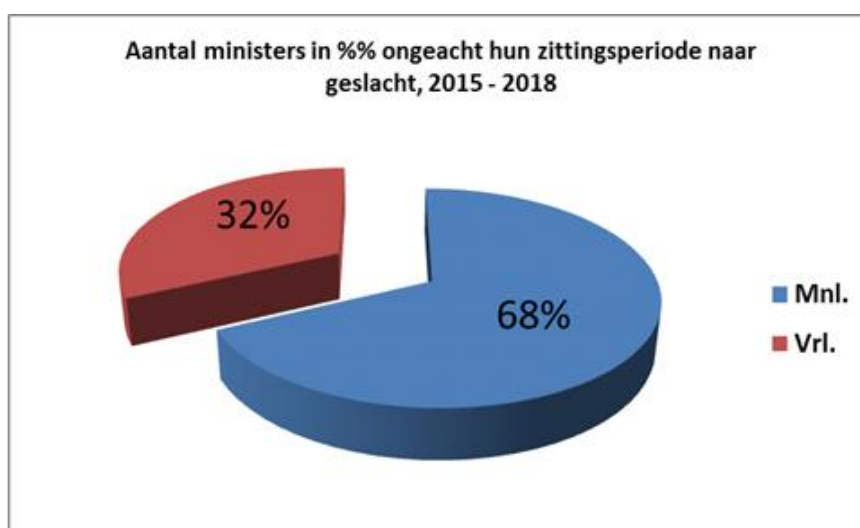


Transl.: Members of the National Assembly by sex) Source: The National Assembly



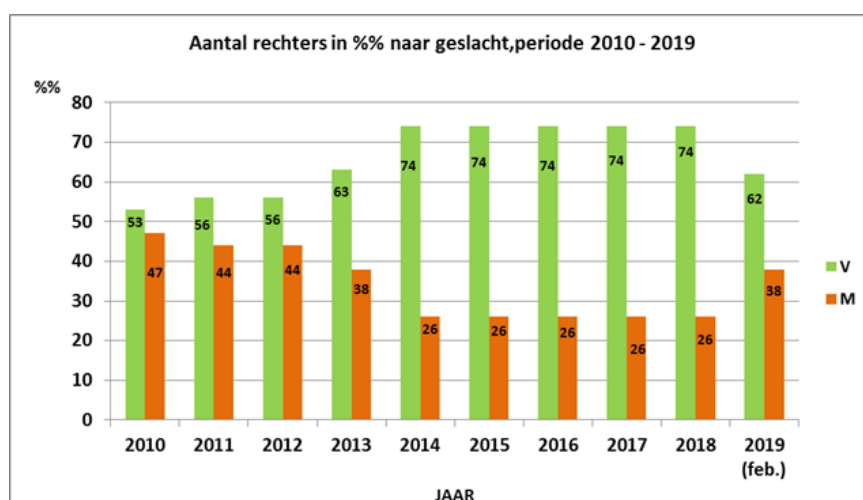
(Transl.: Percentage of ministers, irrespective of their term of office, by sex)

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs/BGA

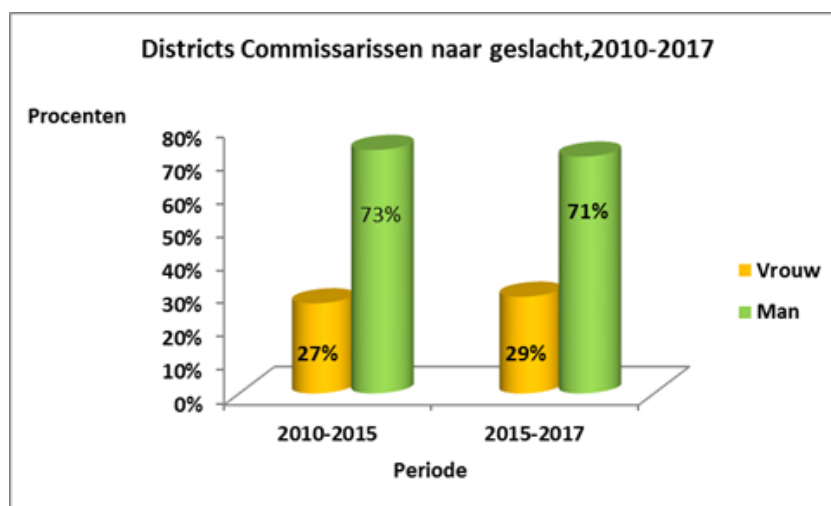


(Transl.: Percentage of ministers, irrespective of their term of office, by sex)

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs/BGA



(Transl.: Percentage of judges, by sex) Source: High Court

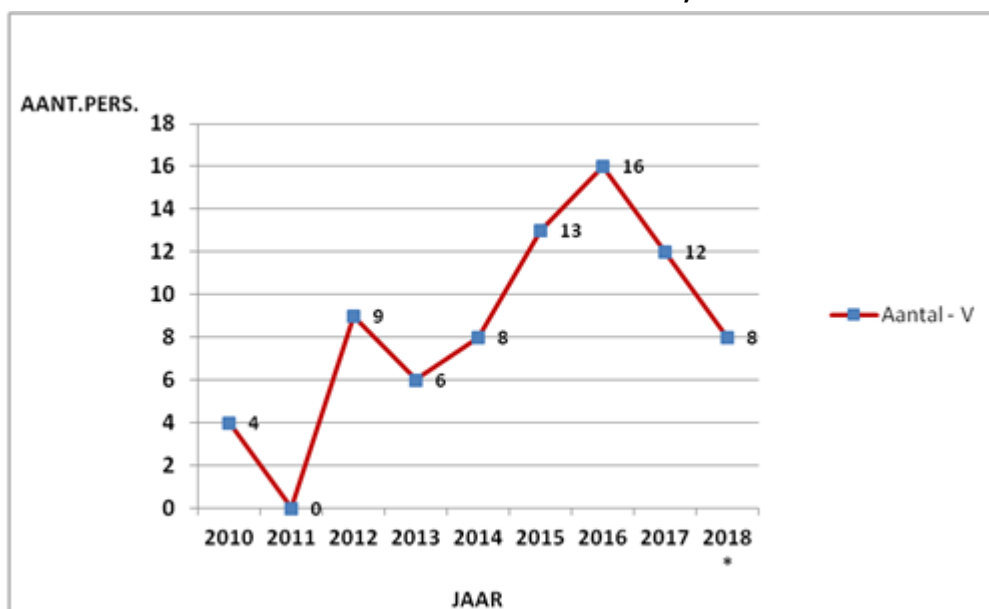


(Transl.: District Commissioners by sex)

Source: Suriname Progress Report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus 2013 – 2017

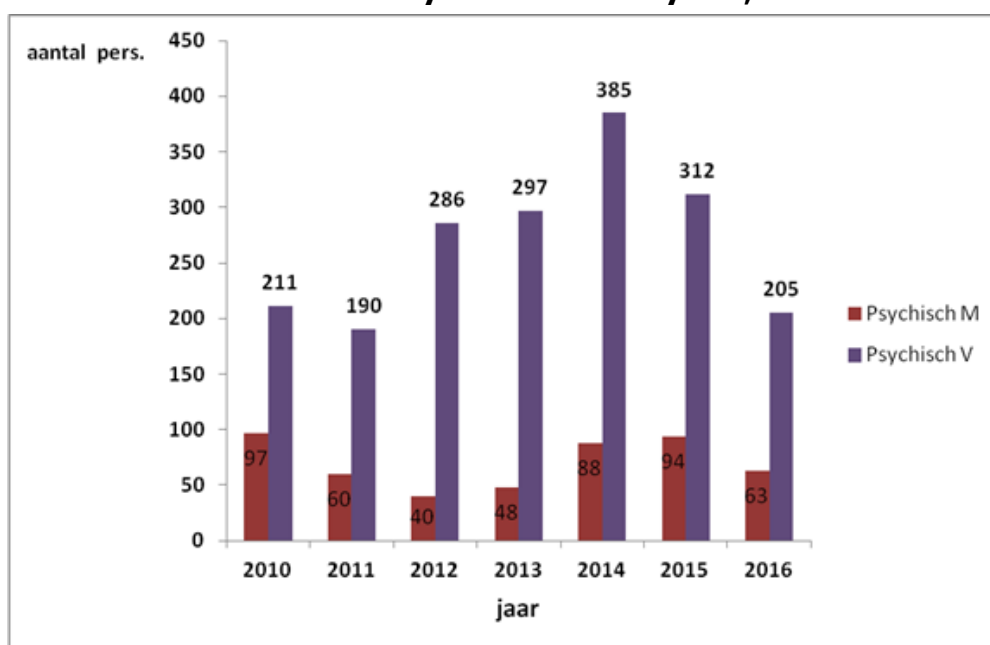
Priority Area: Gender-related Violence

Number of women victims of femicide, 2010 – 2018



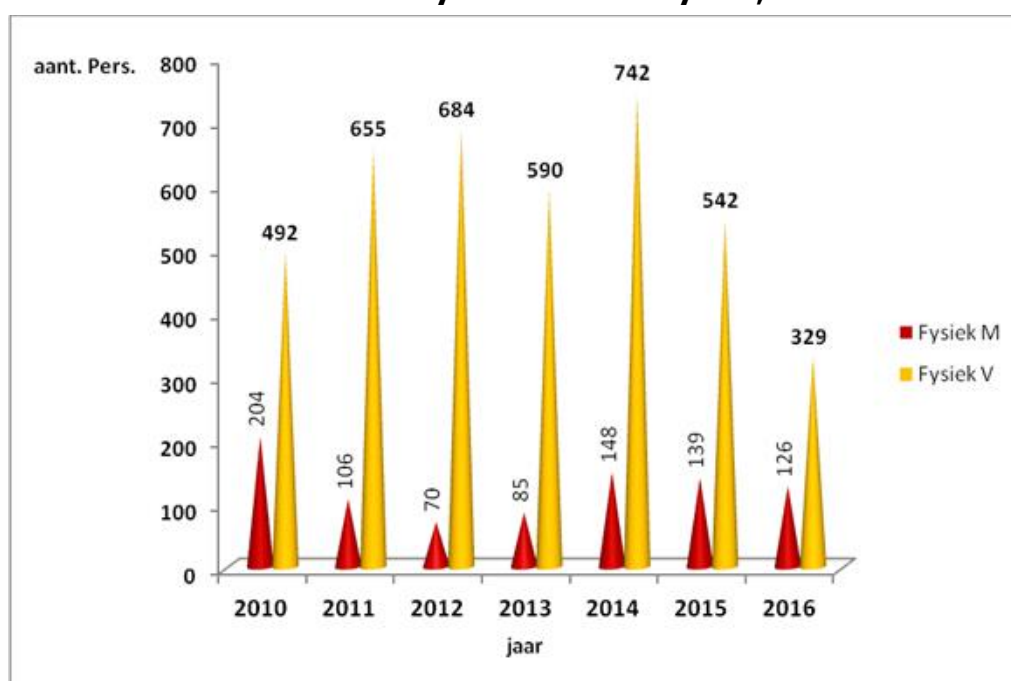
Source: Suriname Police Corps (Jan – Nov 2018*)

Number of Victims of Physical Violence by Sex, 2010 – 2016



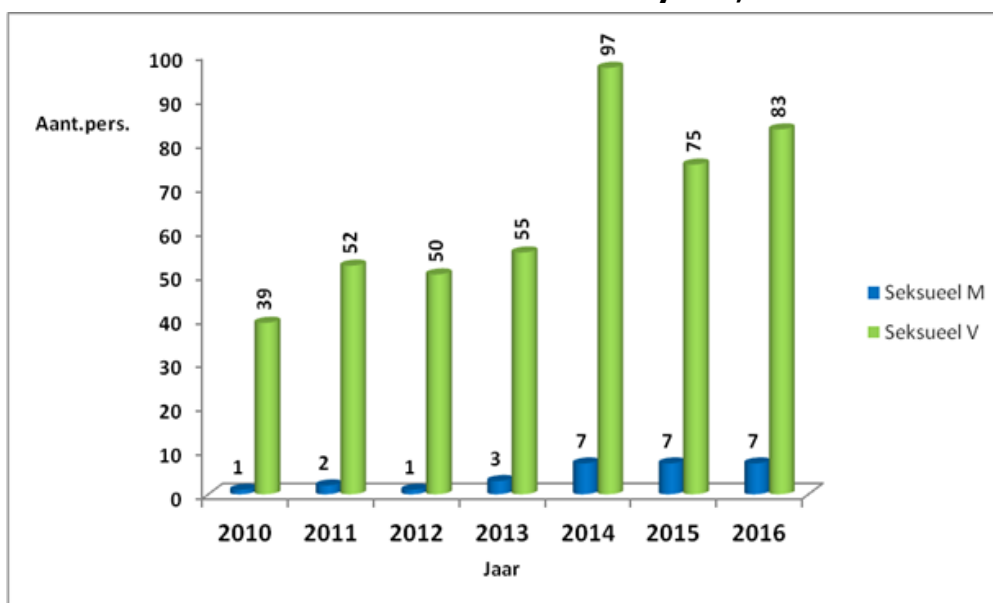
Source: ABS Gender Statistics 2017

Number of Victims of Physical Violence by Sex, 2010 – 2016



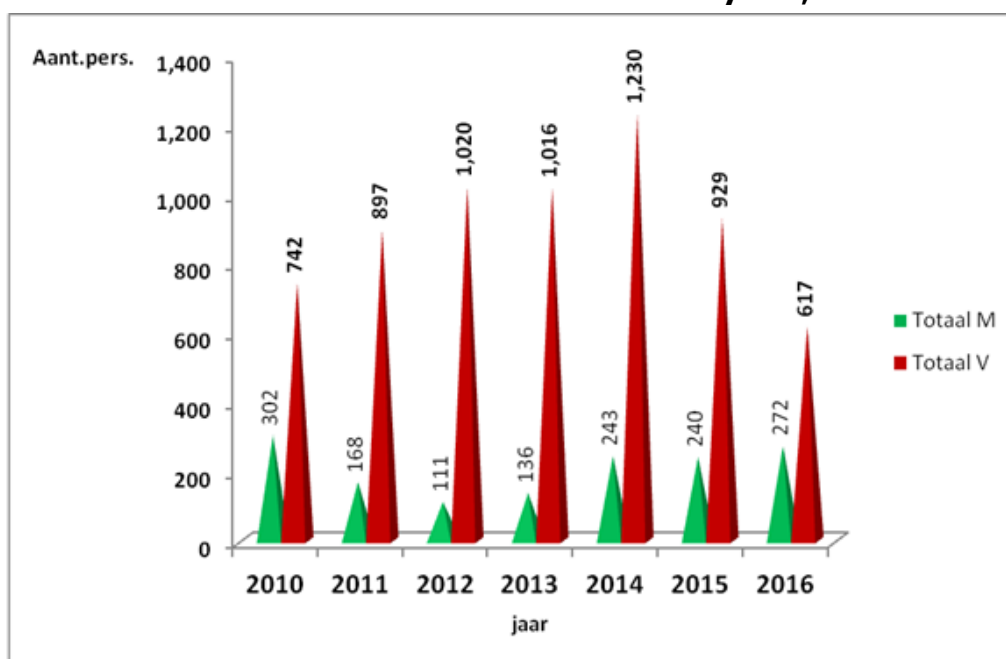
Source:ABS Gender Statistics 2017

Number of Victims of Sexual Violence by Sex, 2010 – 2016



Source:ABS Gender Statistics 2017

Total Number of Victims of Domestic Violence by Sex, 2010 – 2016



Source:ABS Gender Statistics 2017

APPENDIX 2 GOALS OF 2030 WORLD AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 6 – Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- SDG 8 – Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries
- SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
- SDG 15 – Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
- SDG 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
- SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

(<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>)

APPENDIX 3 GOAL 5 OF WORLD AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- 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 decisionmaking in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

(<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>)