

UNITED NATIONS SURINAME | 20
ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT 22
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DECADE
OF
ACTION

March 2023



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FOREWORD BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

I am pleased to present to you the 2022 Annual Results Report for Suriname, which details the collective effort of the United Nations Country Team in Suriname, in partnership with the Government of Suriname and development partners.

This report details progress against the deliverables in the Country Implementation Plan 2022 – 2023, which is anchored in the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022 – 2026. The MSDCF is a unique cooperation framework in that it is regional, encompassing the English- and Dutch-speaking territories across the Caribbean, designed to enable the Caribbean to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Upon finalization of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026, the Joint National Steering Committee (which represents an important partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation, the United Nations, the Planning Bureau and the Bureau of Statistics) began crafting the Country Implementation Plan, which operationalizes the MSDCF across four (4) Priority Areas, essentially addressing Suriname's development challenges under the umbrellas of Prosperity, People, Planet and Peace.

The year 2022 saw efforts in leaps and bounds on behalf of the Government of Suriname to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. In February 2022, the National SDG Commission was installed, under the leadership of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, to help the Government set policies, monitor progress, and ensure that Suriname's development remains inclusive and equitable. Fast forward to July, Suriname presented its very first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in New York, providing a comprehensive overview of the country's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The year 2022 also marked the inaugural visit of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to Suriname, for the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community

(CARICOM), chaired by the President of Suriname, H.E. Chandrikapersad Santokhi. The Secretary General traveled to Suriname with a focus on the impacts of climate change and biodiversity and emphasized during his visit the need for climate action that matches the scale and the urgency of the crisis.

United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Suriname remained committed to greater collaboration, building on a relationship of mutual support, exchange of ideas, and sharing of expertise on joint programming across diverse areas including agri-food systems transformations, policy integration for Indigenous and Tribal peoples, gender equality, as well climate action through the development of a National Climate Agreement. The UN Country Team also galvanized in the response to the flooding emergency of 2022, working with donors and regional organizations to respond to the crisis.

And finally, 2022 was a year of maximizing efficiency. As we know, the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals have increased expectations for cost-effectiveness, timeliness and quality of service provision by the United Nations. The UN Reform calls for advanced common business services and back-office functions to promote more effective and efficient programme delivery. In this regard, the UN Country Team has been working collectively to ensure compliance with an improved Business Operations Strategy.

All of the above and more is captured in this 2022 Country Results Report. In reading this report, I invite you to join us in celebrating our collective achievements, but also in reflecting on the steps that remain to be taken to improve the lives of the people of Suriname. Looking ahead to 2023 and beyond, the United Nations Country Team in Suriname will continue its efforts in implementing the MSDCF 2022 – 2026 while working closely with our partners to ensure that no one is left behind.



DENNIS ZULU
Resident Coordinator, ad interim,
Suriname



UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

The work of the United Nations is implemented by a dynamic team of thirteen (13) agencies, funds, and programmes working in the Republic of Suriname and jointly supporting the country in the achievement of its national development priorities (as outlined in the national Multi-Year Development Plan 2022 – 2026) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Of the thirteen (13) UN agencies, funds and programmes, seven (7) have a physical presence in Suriname (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, PAHO-WHO, FAO, UNHCR, IOM). The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator who reports to, and is the designated representative of, the United Nations Secretary-General.



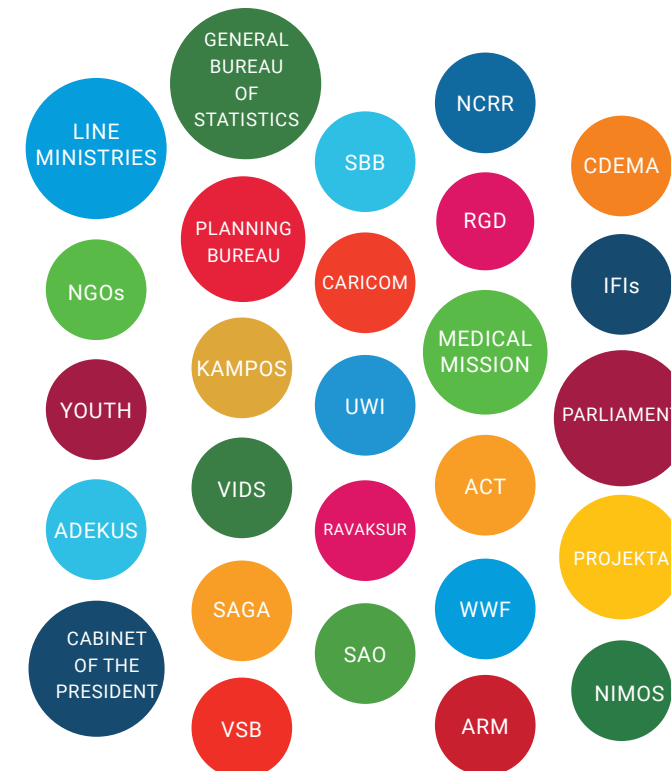
Non-implementing agencies: UN RCO and UNDSS.

The UNCT is guided in its work by the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022 – 2026, which outlines four (4) key Priority Areas of work. The fundamental principles of leaving no one behind, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainability and resilience, and accountability are cross-cutting within the MSDCF 2022 – 2026 and are integrated across all Priority Areas, with a special emphasis placed on supporting and lifting up the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

The work of the UNCT in Suriname is facilitated by several inter-agency working groups and task forces, which contribute to the effective implementation of the MSDCF. Most notably, these include: the Programme Management Team (PMT), the MSDCF Results Groups, the Operations Management Team (OMT), the Security Management Team (SMT), and the UN Communications Group (UNCG).

KEY PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SURINAME

The United Nations in Suriname works with the Government of Suriname to deliver on commitments articulated in the MSDCF 2022 – 2026; this MSDCF is operationalized through the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2022 – 2023. The UNCT together with the Government of Suriname steers the implementation of the Country Implementation Plan and is supported by the Programme Management Team in this work. The Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) is responsible for monitoring the overall results of the Country Implementation Plan and outlining programmatic priorities in accordance with Suriname's national Multi-Year Development Plan 2022 – 2026.



The Joint National Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation and the UN Resident Coordinator. Its members consist of the Planning Bureau (Stichting Planbureau Suriname), and the Bureau of Statistics (Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek in Suriname).



The United Nations is grateful to our development partners, including international financial institutions, donor governments, and development agencies who continued to support the UNCT's work in Suriname in 2022. Civil society organizations continue to be a critical partner of United Nations Suriname across all Priority Areas. The UN also values its work with the youth of Suriname, particularly through the Youth Advisory Group of the UNFPA and UNICEF volunteers.

DONORS WE ARE GRATEFUL TO



KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Suriname is a small, middle-income country with a population of less than 600,000 people, concentrated largely in urban areas with more than 60% of the population living along the northern coastal strip. Suriname is one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region with population groups originating from African, Amerindian, Indian, Javanese, Chinese, European, and multi-racial backgrounds. Suriname belongs to a group of middle-income countries which face structural constraints yet have historically been largely excluded from cooperation in the form of emergency liquidity response, concessional funding, trade exemptions, deferral of debt service payments and humanitarian assistance. Yet, access to economic and social assistance as well as basic services for those in need, especially for informal workers, women, youth and those most marginalized, is crucial.

ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

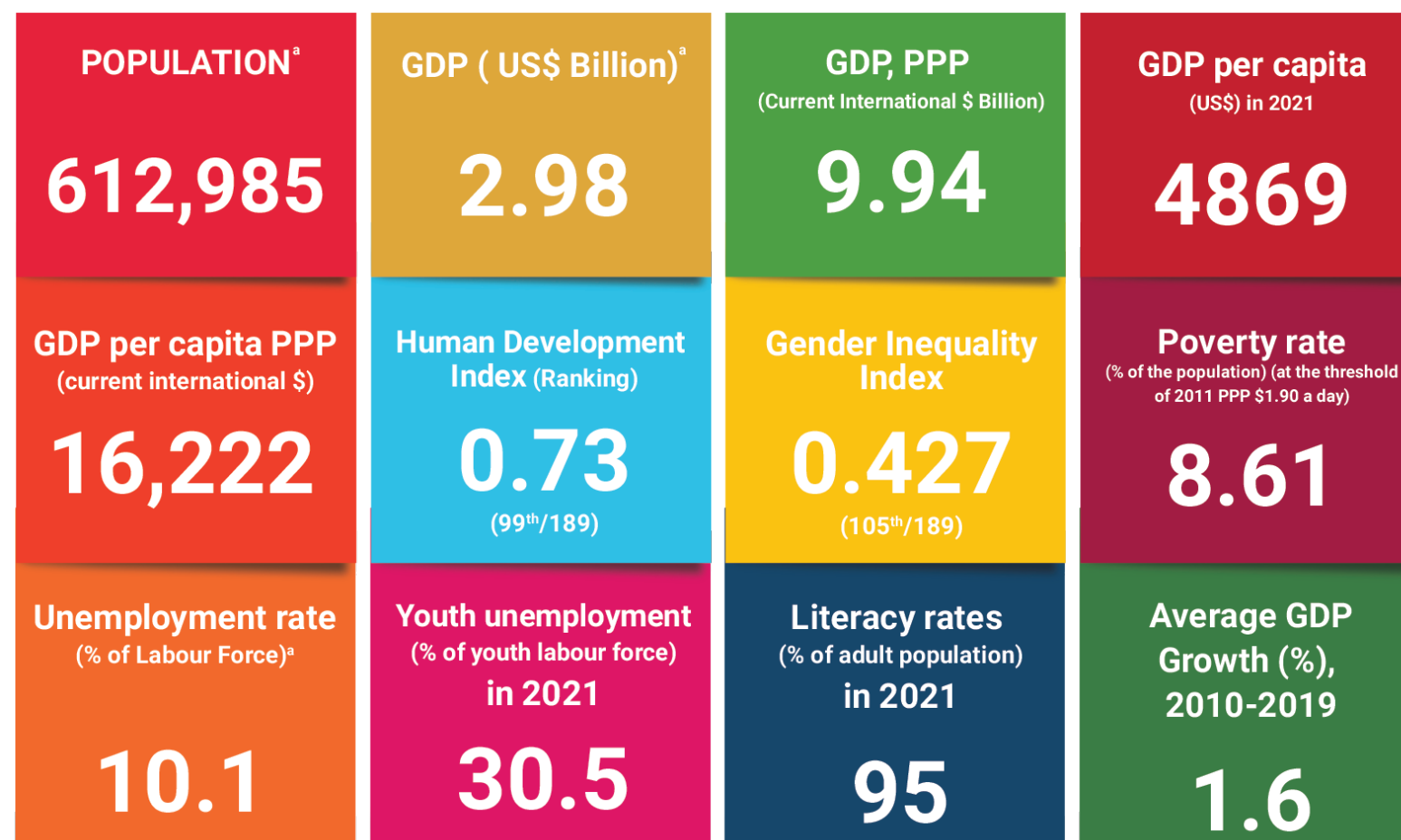
The country has a small, commodity-based, open economy which is vulnerable to external shocks has long been dependent on extractive industries. Suriname plunged into a deep recession after the 2015 commodity price shock, which the country is still recovering from. The dependence of Suriname on commodities (gold, crude oil and aluminum, the latter of which lasted until 2016) is evidenced by Suriname's increasing proportions of commodities in exports and revenue as a percentage of GDP as well as by the collinearity between commodities prices and the country's economic growth. Suriname was hit hard by the global COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing a contraction of nearly 16% in 2020 and further contraction of 2.7% in 2021. The Government of Suriname responded with a plan to stabilize the economy and restore fiscal sustainability (Recovery Plan 2020 - 2022), and by December 2021, the IMF had approved a new arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility, which enabled support towards Suriname's economic plan, while protecting the vulnerable. While the country continued to maneuver effects of the pandemic, it faced a range of new challenges, created by the war in Ukraine. A series of devaluations of the Surinamese dollar beginning in September 2020 and the introduction of a floating exchange rate in June 2021 led to high levels of inflation into 2022. In May 2022, a staff-level agreement was reached with the IMF on the second review of the economic recovery program supported by the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

SOCIAL CONTEXT

The country has a relatively high level of social development, with only 2.9% of the population classified as multidimensionally poor and 4.0% classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty¹. However, there are significant disparities in social development and access to social services between different regions of the country. Gender inequality is also high, with a Gender Inequality Index score of 0.427, ranking 105th out of 189 countries².

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Suriname is one of the greenest countries in the world, and as one of the nine Amazon countries, proudly has about 93% of the land surface covered by forest³, with a historical deforestation decree lower than 0.1%. The goal of the Government of Suriname is to preserve this status and to increase the contribution of the forests to the economy and the welfare of this and future generations. In 2015, Suriname prepared its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) covering the period up to 2020. The INDC set out Suriname's commitment to maintain its high forest cover and low deforestation rate by practicing sustainable forest management, in line with the Paris agreement. To follow up on its implementation, Suriname submitted its



Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2015 and its second enhanced NDC in 2019 which covers the period up to 2030. In 2019, as a High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, Suriname and other HFLD countries adopted a declaration (The Krutu of Paramaribo) on mobilizing climate financing and to share the challenges faced using existing methods of access climate financing.

³ A forest cover of 15.2 million ha.

¹ HDR 2021-2022.
² HDR 2021-2022.

DEBT IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Suriname forms part of a distinct group of countries, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), whose unique vulnerabilities were amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic. SIDS disproportionately bore the brunt of the global decline in international travel, in global commodity prices as well as the overall disruptions in worldwide trade and supply chains. SIDS are vulnerable to multiple world crises: climate, nature, health, economics and debt, all of which intensify acute structural challenges and multi-dimensional vulnerabilities. Suriname, like many SIDS, is a middle-income country, and thus is not eligible to access concessionary finance based on GDP or other established criteria (vulnerability is not captured through the measurement of national income). As COVID-19 exposed the vulnerabilities of SIDS, it reignited a long-standing call for the use of vulnerability indices to facilitate SIDS' access to concessional resources. The UN Secretary-General articulated in his report on the *Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/76/211)*, five guiding principles for the possible development of a MVI, all of which guide the work of the high-level panel of experts on the MVI⁴.

During his visit to Suriname in 2022, United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, reiterated his strong support for the establishment of a multi-dimensional vulnerability index which takes into account all the challenges and circumstances that factor into determining access to concessional support and ensures that the complex and interdependent factors of debt and climate change impact are captured in any eligibility analysis for debt relief and financing.

43RD CARICOM CONFERENCE & VISIT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In July 2022, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres traveled to Suriname at the invitation of CARICOM, to open the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community under the Chairmanship of the President of Suriname, H.E. Chandrikapersad Santokhi. This marked the first-ever visit of a UN Secretary General to the Republic of Suriname and the Secretary General focused on the impacts of climate change on the environment and on biodiversity. The Secretary General made multiple visits to UN project sites and to UN beneficiaries and partners. First, the Secretary-General visited the indigenous village of Pierre Kondre, where he was received by Captain Lloyd Read of the Kaliña peoples, along with members of the community of 100 inhabitants. In the village, the Secretary-General was able to see the work of two cooperatives that are supported by the UNCT (FAO) as well as the European Union. During this visit, the Secretary General stated that this was a visit of solidarity with the indigenous communities in Suriname and around the world. The Secretary-General also headed to the Anton de Kom University, where he saw the SDG Goals Butterfly Effect Mural, which was launched as part of the Sustainable Development Goals Butterfly Effect campaign during the 2019 United Nations General Assembly. He was also briefed on the *Global Climate Change Alliance+ Project*, supported by the UNCT (UNDP) and the European Union.

⁴ The Panel was established by A/RES/76/203 on 5 January 2022 and appointed in February 2022 by the President of the United Nations General Assembly. It began its work in March 2022.

"WE NEED CLIMATE ACTION THAT MATCHES THE SCALE AND URGENCY OF THE CRISIS. THAT MEANS URGENT AND TRANSFORMATIVE EMISSIONS REDUCTION EFFORTS TO HALT WARMING AT 1.5°C, SUPPORT FOR ADAPTATION FROM CLIMATE IMPACTS, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SECURE A CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE.

WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE.

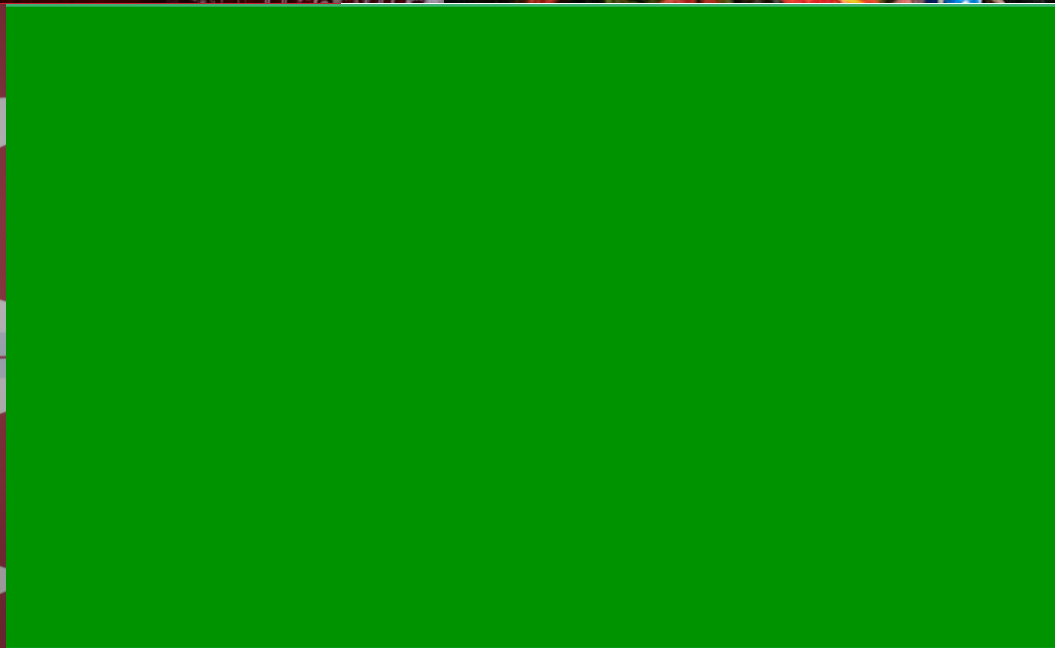
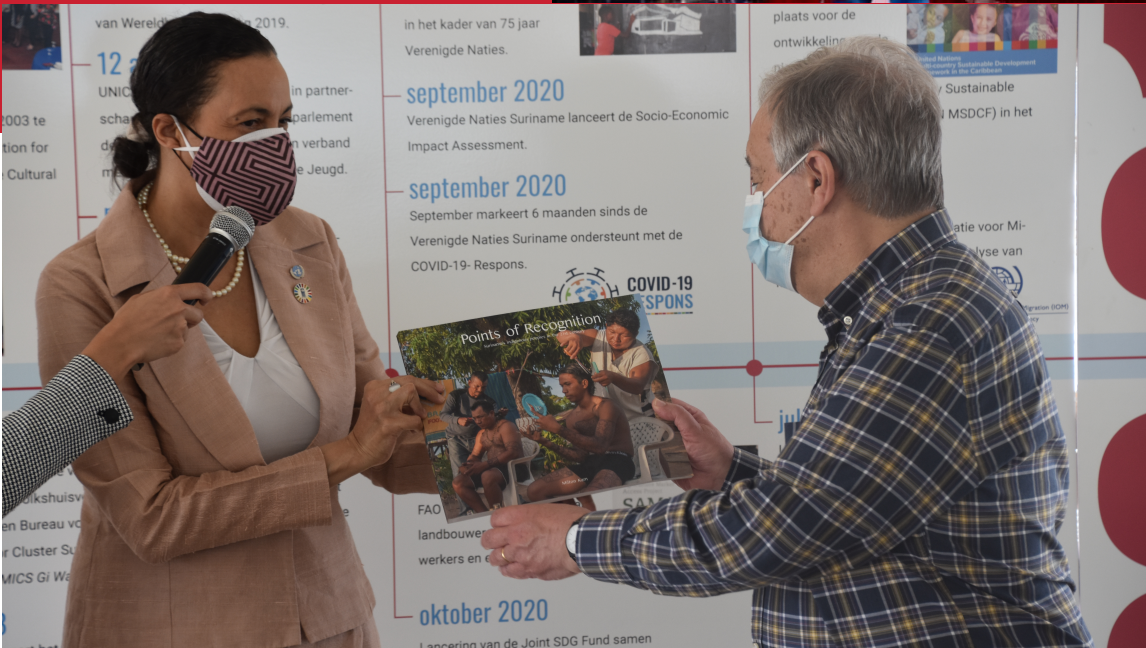
I THANK CARIBBEAN LEADERS FOR HELPING TO SHOW THE WAY. I AM INSPIRED BY YOUR MANY EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL GIFTS, INCLUDING BY THE EFFORTS OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES."

**- SECRETARY GENERAL ANTONIO GUTTERES.
43RD CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING**

After the academic presentation, the Secretary-General had the opportunity to witness first-hand the work on mangrove rehabilitation for climate adaptation with a visit to the Weg Naar Zee, a mangrove rehabilitation site. With Suriname's Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment, the Secretary-General planted a young mangrove tree as his personal contribution to Suriname's efforts to combat the devastating impacts of climate change-fueled coastal erosion, flooding and sea-level rise.

During his visit, the Secretary-General also flew over the country's rainforest, with aerial viewing of Brownsberg, Brokopondo Lake, and the Central Suriname Nature Reserve. He also took the time to meet with local UN staff both through a UN Staff Town Hall, where he answered staff's questions and then a through a UNCT meeting where strategic, country-level initiatives of the UN Country Team were discussed.

Secretary General António Guterres provided special remarks at the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community. In his remarks, he told the gathered leaders that this year's CARICOM summit was taking place at a moment of great peril — and called for three crucial paths that need to be pursued as the world moves ahead. First, he said, we need climate action that matches the scale and urgency of the crisis. Second, he indicated that a reform is needed "of the morally bankrupt global financial system", and that we need to spur sustainable recovery across the region. And third, he said, we must keep up our fight against the pandemic, since, as he put it, "we're not out of the woods yet."

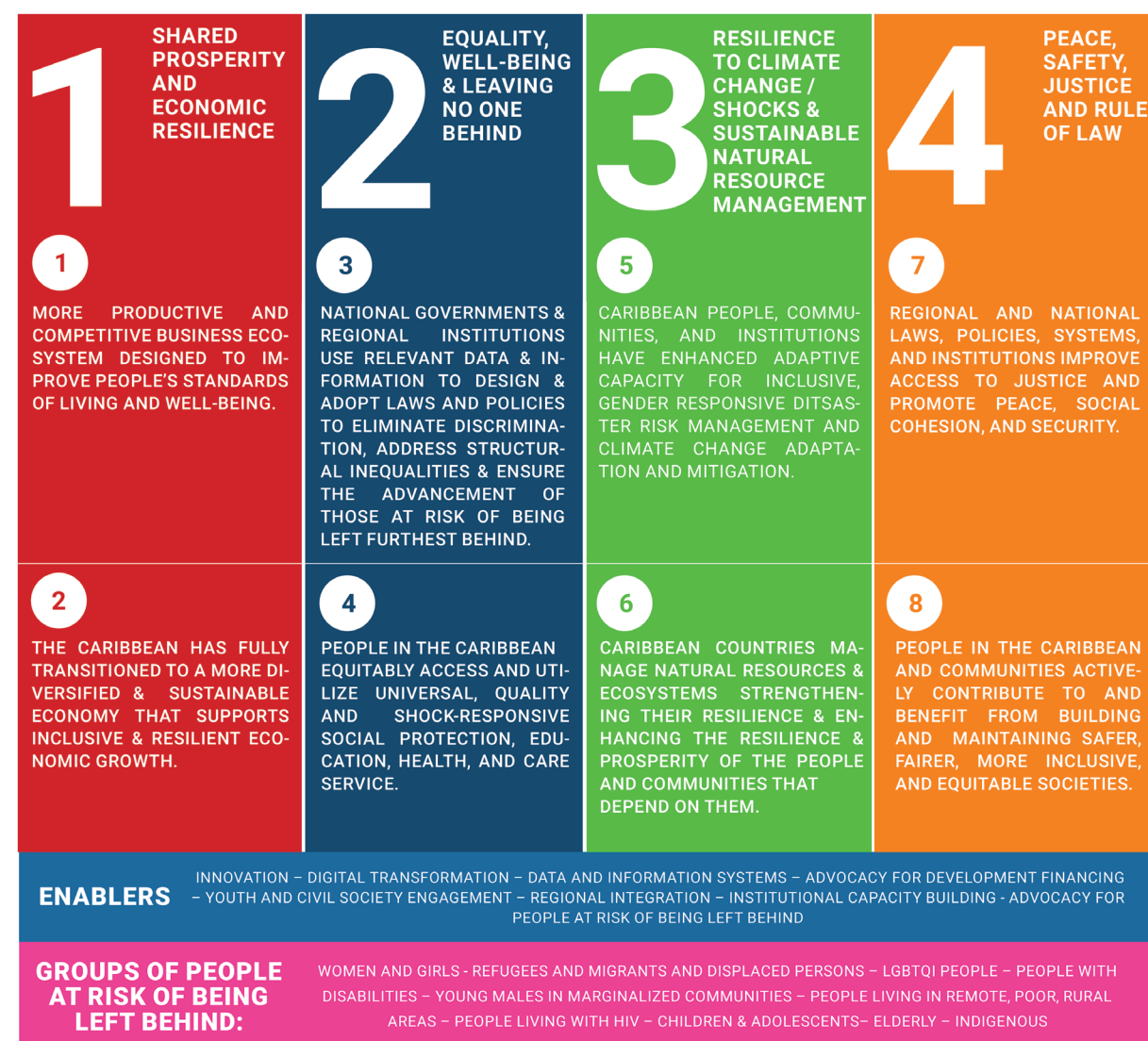






UN SUPPORT TO SURINAME'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE MSDCF 2022 – 2026

In February 2022, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and International Business co-signed the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022 – 2026, which is the chief instrument for planning and implementing UN development activities in Suriname towards the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026 commenced following the completion of the previous four-year cooperation framework, MSDCF 2017 – 2021. The new regional cooperation framework consists of four (4) Priority Areas, which address Suriname's development priorities under the umbrellas of Prosperity, People, Planet and Peace:



The four (4) Priority Areas of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026 represent long-term endeavors and thus, are strongly aligned with the four pillars of the first MSDCF 2017 – 2021. In addition, the eight (8) outcomes have been articulated by the Governments in the region as well as regional organizations, as being relevant to all the twenty-two (22) countries and territories covered under this framework.



The MSDCF 2022 – 2026 represents the UN Country Team's collective offer to support Suriname in addressing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priorities. It begins and ends with an analysis of the national development landscape and SDG priorities, including through the lens of the imperative to leave no one behind. In preparation for the development of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026, a series of UN-led national-level Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and a Common Multi-Country Analysis (CMCA) were conducted in the period 2020 - 2021. These studies combined a multi-dimensional risk analysis with the potential for economic and social transformation, an analysis of environmental factors, dimensions of governance and political economy, and preparedness for complex emergencies that place people in need of immediate assistance at the center. This analysis allowed for the identification of critical challenges that are common to the different Caribbean countries and territories, resulting in the creation of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026.

1



PRIORITY AREA 1: SHARED PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

THE OUTCOMES UNDER PRIORITY AREA 3 CENTER AROUND CREATING A MORE PRODUCTIVE AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ECO-SYSTEM AND ENSURING A TRANSITION TOWARDS A MORE DIVERSIFIED AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY WHICH IN TURN SUPPORTS INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT GROWTH.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Organization for Migration |
The UN Migration Agency



International
Labour
Organization



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES • MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP • MINISTRY OF LAND POLICY AND FOREST MANAGEMENT • MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATION AND TOURISM • MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION • MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPORT • MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND POLICE • MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE • FISH INSPECTION INSTITUTE (VKI) • ANTON DE KOM UNIVERSITY OF SURINAME (ADEKUS) • INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) • VERENIGING SURINAAMS BEDRIJFSLEVEN (VSB) • VERENIGING VAN INHEEMSE DORPSHOOFDEN IN SURINAME (VIDS) • STICHTING KAMPOS ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (ISDB) • TRUST-BANK AMANAH • WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY

11

PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

REQUIRED AMOUNT

3.9M

AVAILABLE AMOUNT

3.7M

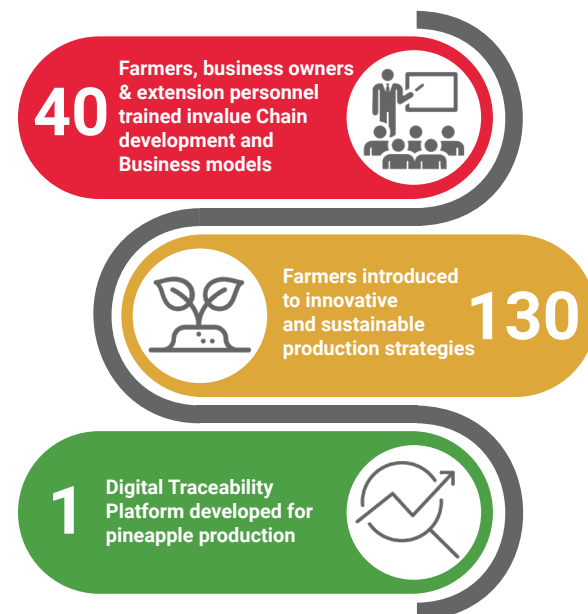
AMOUNT SPENT

2.4M

EXPENDITURE RATE:

66%

INCREASE PRODUCTION, AND COMPETITIVENESS FOR MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES



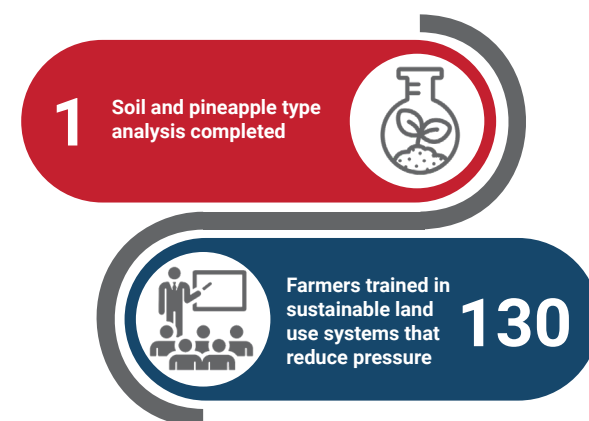
In 2022, the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries** received capacity strengthening support to integrate micro-, small- and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into regional and national value chains and to improve competitiveness and resilience. Under the *Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project (SAMAP)*, a capacity development program trained forty (40) farmers and business owners, as well as extension personnel (65% female), in Value Chain Development and Inclusive Business Models, enabling participants to tap into competitive national and regional support networks.

In addition, with support from **FAO**, the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries** was enabled to expand into new trade networks and create new export opportunities through regional and international trade missions to Barbados (2), Trinidad & Tobago (1), and the Netherlands (1), leading to increased visibility for Surinamese MSMEs. Furthermore, the SAMAP Project facilitated a six-month pilot mechanism

on pesticide residue testing with the **Fish Inspection Institute**, in an effort to ensure the quality and safety of Suriname's agricultural exports. This pilot involved testing more than 270 residue samples of fresh vegetable export crops from nine (9) lead exporters, with corrective measures communicated to the participating exporters for compliance with Maximum Residue Levels in pesticides.

Finally, under the SAMAP project, **FAO** completed a feasibility assessment for the capitalization of the Credit Guarantee Fund of Suriname; this assessment evaluated the capacities of financial institutions to improve agricultural financing, as well as the risks of lending to the agriculture sector, including the capacity building needs of the financial sector.

INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY



In 2022, the UNCT launched its third Joint SDG Fund programme, the *Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator programme (ASTA)*, led by **FAO** and jointly supported by **UNIDO**, **ILO** and **UNFPA**. During 2022, the ASTA joint programme looked at production and productivity aspects and inclusivity; analyses were completed on soil and pineapple types with a view to introducing innovative and sustainable production technologies. In this regard, two trial farms were set-up in the Marowijne and Matta regions, where more

than 130 farmers (35% women) were trained on establishing permanent systems that require less land and reduce pressure on primary and secondary forest.

The ASTA joint programme also strengthened collaboration within the value chain and continued to form new partnerships, particularly with reference to leveraging of funds. New partnerships were discussed with the local **Trustbank Amanah** to provide loans to local farmers, and with the **Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)** to provide a top-up for collateral guarantees. ASTA also established collaboration with **Wageningen University**, in the Netherlands, to provide expert advice on the set-up and management of cooperatives in Suriname and on the establishment of a pack house; as well as with the **CarlPI project**⁵ to leverage its actions on intellectual property protection and brand creation.

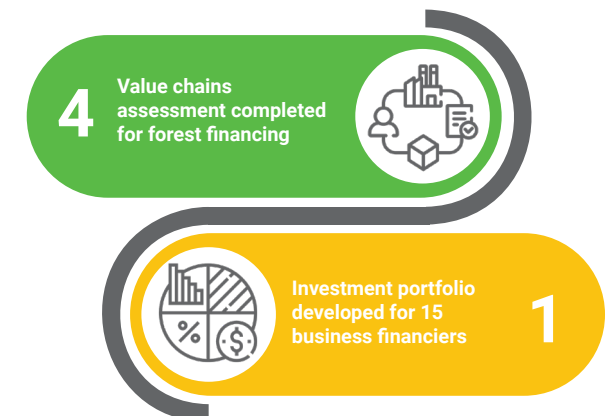
Finally, digital traceability platforms for small pineapple producers are being developed to allow users to access knowledge on growing technologies, harvest management practices to reduce loss ensuring better quality and quantity, and market information to ensure better quality and quantity for Suriname's agricultural exports.

To support improvements to product quality, **FAO** also provided capacity development for laboratory technicians, quality control managers, research officers, marketing and extension officers, produce inspectors, and students and staff of the **Anton de Kom University of Suriname** through hands-on training in laboratory techniques and methods to measure, analyze and interpret data on various physical and chemical quality

⁵ In 2008 the European Union and the CARIFORUM States (1) signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), intended to increase competitiveness, economic growth and development, supporting regional integration in the Caribbean and participation in the world trading system. The overall objective of CarlPI is to contribute to the integration of the Caribbean Forum of ACP Group of States into the World Economy, through strengthening the enabling framework that stimulates innovation and competitiveness of the private sector.

parameters of fresh produce, which is an essential part of the quality assurance programme in a packinghouse handling facility.

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS MODELS TO GENERATE ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



Under the Joint SDG Fund programme Roadmap to a Sustainable Financial System for Suriname, which was launched in 2020, **FAO** supported the completion of a Forest Finance Strategy, which puts the **Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management** in a better position to support farmers / foresters and other business groups in rural communities, with finding solutions and business models that generate both economic as well as environmental benefits. This Forest Financing Strategy included an assessment of four (4) value chains: i) Wood value chains, ii) NTFP (Non-Timber Forest Products), iii) Eco and Nature tourism, and iv) Payment for Environmental Services (Carbon credits). The Strategy also included an investment portfolio of fifteen (15) business proposals that will be presented at an international symposium in 2023 to secure funding. Furthermore, **FAO** launched a scoping study on the market potential of sawn timber from Suriname in European markets; the study aims to identify opportunities for Surinamese businesses to expand their market reach and increase profitability.

VALUE CHAINS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL NUTRITION GUIDELINES

1 School nutrition guideline developed



In 2022, the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** partnered with FAO and local farmers to enhance nutrition in schools, while also developing value chains, under the regional programme *Cooperation for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change*⁶. As a result, school nutrition guidelines / standards have been developed, and water and kitchen supplies have been installed in six (6) schools. As a follow-up, a *Policy Framework for the establishment of a School Feeding Programme* is currently under development, which will help to ensure that children in Suriname have access to healthy meals that support their growth and development.

DECENT WORK AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT

3rd Decent Work Country Programme drafted



Labour Market Policy program finalized

1

The **Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs** in Suriname has been collaborating with ILO to enhance the Surinamese labour market and social protection system. ILO, along with the Government of Suriname, launched the planning of the *3rd Decent Work Country*

⁶ Partnership with Mexico and CARICOM.

*Programme in 2022. The Mid-Term Labour Market Policy (LMP) 2022-2025 was finalized in early 2022, focusing on four (4) Priority Areas to improve labour market performance and to support the creation of decent jobs for all. This policy particularly targets vulnerable and underserved groups in Suriname. Furthermore, reform of the social protection system has been an ongoing priority, and a comprehensive review was launched in late 2022 to inform subsequent social protection reforms, expected to be completed in 2023. This review has also been incorporated into Suriname's current programme with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. Additionally, there has been significant progress in reforming national labour laws to strengthen the protection of workers' rights, including the approval of a new Work Permit Law in August 2022, an Enterprise level Social Dialogue Act currently is before the National Assembly, and the expansion of the list of occupations that qualify as 'skilled citizen' under the CARICOM Skilled Workers Act.*

Suriname has also been taking action to end child labor by 2025 and building the capacity of national labor inspectorates to address the issue. **ILO** has been providing technical assistance to Suriname, including a review of its Technical and Vocational Education and Training programs.

During 2022, **UNESCO** empowered young people through the *UNESCO Transcultural Programme* for economic development and integration in the region and with the European Union through the strengthening of the cultural and creative sectors. Suriname's cultural and creative professionals benefited from both online and in-person activities. One representative of the **Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism** in Suriname participated in the face-to-face event in in December 2022 in Kingston, Jamaica, "Mills and Sugar: leveraging resilience through, heritage management, sustainable tourism and creativity." Furthermore, one representative of **Surifesta Foundation**, participated in July 2022 in the face-to-face event in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, "Carnival

of Diversity: organization, management and creative value of carnivals and festival in the Caribbean and Europe." Additionally, a representative from the **Back Lot Academy (TBL)** was selected to attend the Berlinale in Berlin, Germany. These opportunities allowed Suriname to strengthen its networks and showcase its cultural scene in both regional and global spaces.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

26 PWDs developed entrepreneurial skills



Women from 55 Indigenous and Tribal villages empowered for entrepreneurship

50

During 2022, **UNDP**, as part of its COVID-19 Recovery Offer (Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 Among Indigenous and Tribal Peoples), worked on interventions aimed at i) improving and enhancing livelihoods (with a focus on skills development for ITP women), ii) improving food security and iii) improving access to clean water and sanitation. In collaboration with the **Ministry of Regional Development and Sport, VIDS**, and **Stichting KAMPOS**, 50 women from 55 Indigenous and Tribal villages across Suriname were trained in face mask production and received sewing machines and materials. Furthermore, crop production pilots were implemented in these villages, new crops were introduced, and irrigation methods and adjusted planting techniques were adopted. With regards to activities related to water and sanitation, 13 water tanks (800 gallons each) were purchased to support the intervention on improving water and sanitation for ITPs in remote, rural areas. The villages are Nieuw Aurora, Pikin Slee,

and Lebidoti / Sarakreek were beneficiaries. This was done in May 2022 and coincided with the flood response initiatives⁷.

Under the Alliance for Decent Work for PWDs (a joint initiative between the **Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven** and **UNDP**), people with disabilities received training in computer hardware, bicycle repair, and basic hydroponics. Successful students received a starter package to help them start a business.

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT POLICY

30 Persons trained in Diaspora Engagement



With funding from the IOM Development Fund, **IOM** worked in collaboration with the **Diaspora Institute within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation** to support the Government in developing a Diaspora Engagement Policy for Surinamese diaspora to return or to transfer knowledge and skills to Suriname. A steering committee was installed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs consisting of representatives from the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation, Ministry of Justice and Police**, and the **private sector**. A training on Diaspora Engagement was organized with interactive participation of relevant ministries' focal points, NGOs, and the private sector. An international consultant is being hired to develop both the Diaspora Engagement Policy as well as a five-year action plan.

⁷ Refer to Chapter 2.2 for further details on UNCT flood response initiatives.



DIGGING DEEP INTO SURINAME'S PINEAPPLE BELT TRANSFORMATION

Dotted with neat rows of pineapple crowns, Philipusdorp, a village 40 km South of the capital Paramaribo, within the district of Para, is undergoing an agricultural transformation with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Gladys Kabelefodi, Philipusdorp's first female Captain, has been a guiding force in leading her people to take part in the first-ever soil tests along the country's small but vibrant pineapple belt.

Captain Kabelefodi takes great pride in the pineapple farming practices of her people, explaining that pineapple is a fruit that the Indigenous people of Suriname have been producing for centuries. Their agricultural practices and knowledge have been passed down by their ancestors. While some Indigenous farmers produce for the local market, these pineapples have traditionally been produced for own consumption among the community.

This particular project, called the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA) programme, aims to transition Suriname from being a marginal pineapple producer to adopting a more competitive business model. One of the key activities to reach this goal involves soil testing. The results taken from samples of topsoil and bottom soil up to 40 centimeters deep are allowing farmers to make the link between understanding the soil's fertility and the potential for enhancing organic pineapple production in the country.

"Farmers are aware that the pineapple can be a source of income. The soil analysis done by the (ASTA) project is important. So, they can know what the conditions are of their soil and which application is needed to improve the soil fertility to produce better plants and fruits for the local and export market," Captain Kabelefodi reflects on the programme.

For the Captain and her people, the goal is to increase pineapple production by upgrading their knowledge of modern techniques and upgrading the overall pineapple value chain.

This, however, will require a multitude of supporters.

Not only from producers, but also processors, traders, input providers, Government ministries, research institutes and financial institutions. Project participants hope that growing investments in modern processing, and in turn creating higher value-added products will lead the people of Philipusdorp one step closer to being able to export both fresh and processed organic pineapples.

There is also hope that closer management of the soil quality will lead to stronger environmental protection in the area. Ultimately, the sustainability of organic production all begins with the right soil.

The ASTA project endeavors to build the know-how and capacity for Suriname's producers to treat soils – in ways not thought of before – and forms part of a wider initiative to transform the country's agrifood system.

When it comes to developing Suriname's agricultural value chains and improving the livelihood of local farmers, it is important to dig deep into, and take care of, the soil.

2

PRIORITY AREA 2:

Equality, Well-being and Leaving No One Behind



22

PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

THE OUTCOMES UNDER PRIORITY AREA 2 WORK TO ADVANCE THE USE OF RELEVANT DATA AND INFORMATION TO DESIGN AND ADOPT LAWS AND POLICIES THAT ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION, ADDRESS INEQUALITIES AND ENSURE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THOSE LEFT FURTHEST BEHIND. IT ALSO WORKS TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE CAN EQUITABLY ACCESS AND UTILIZE UNIVERSAL QUALITY AND SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE SERVICE.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS • MINISTRY OF HEALTH • BUREAU OF GENDER AFFAIRS (WITH MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS) • MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES • MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPORT • MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC HOUSING • MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE • MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION • CABINET OF THE PRESIDENT (E-GOV) • CENTRALE OPLEIDING VOOR VERPLEEGKUNDIGEN EN BEOEFENAREN AAN AANVERWANTE BEROEPEN (COVAB) • 'S LANDS HOSPITAL • VERENIGING VAN INHEEMSE DORPSHOOFDEN IN SURINAME (VIDS) • STICHTING KAMPOS • MEDICAL MISSION (MZ) • REGIONALE GEZONDHEIDSDIENST SURINAME (RGD) • CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA) • NATIONAAL COÖRDINATIE CENTRUM VOOR RAMPENBEHEERSING (NCCR) • STICHTING PROJEKTA • AMAZON CONSERVATION TEAM (ACT) • STICHTING LOBI HEALTH CENTER • UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES (UWI) • GENERAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS (ABS) • ANTON DE KOM UNIVERSITY OF SURINAME (ADEKUS) • PLANNING BUREAU OF SURINAME



REQUIRED AMOUNT

2.3M

AVAILABLE AMOUNT

2.0M

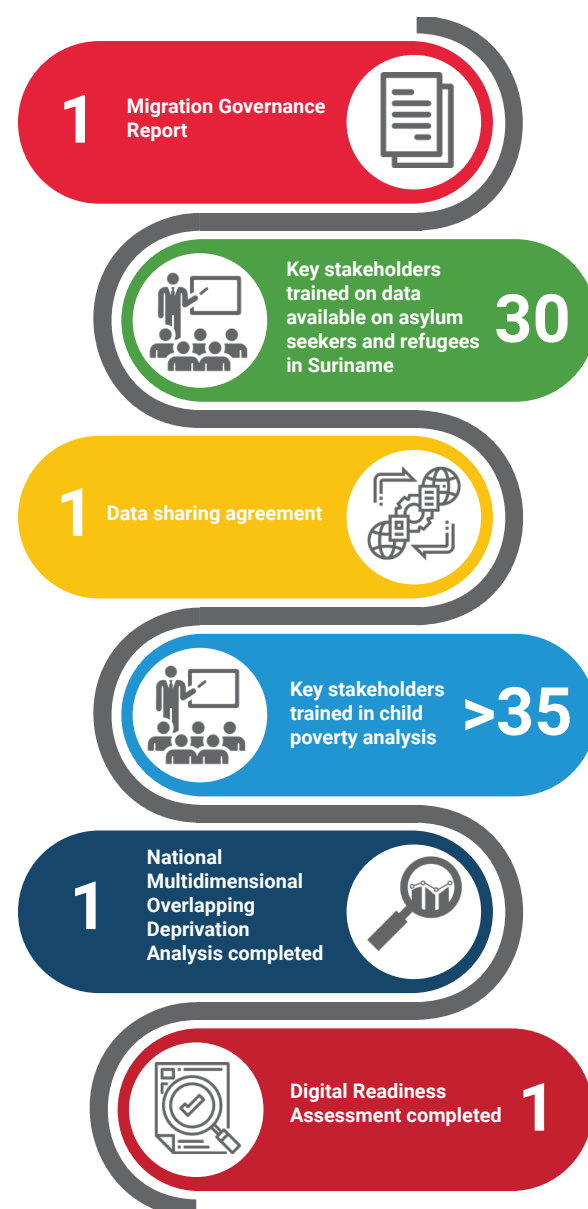
AMOUNT SPENT

1.4M

EXPENDITURE RATE:

69%

IMPROVED DATA, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY



In 2022, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** with support from **UNFPA**, took steps to address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of vulnerable groups by increasing their capacity to collect, analyze and utilize data and information. This included a webinar series for government policy officers, which was aimed at supporting evidence-based policy making. The initiative also involved the presentation

of demographic data focused on aging and young motherhood, aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. Additionally, the program supported the drafting of the *Montevideo Consensus report* through a national participatory process, led by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, to ensure everyone's voice is heard in the development of policies addressing structural inequalities. The initiative aims to ensure people-centered and evidence-based policy development and is expected to result in positive outcomes for vulnerable groups through the continued engagement of government policy officers and support for national participatory processes.

Furthermore, **IOM** worked to better understand the mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of migrants in Suriname and to support the Government of Suriname with relevant information for better decision-making and evidence-based data for policy development. **IOM** initiated the *Migration Situational Analysis*, as an initial step to a potentially more robust data collection activity; it is proposed to initially assess existing data and collection mechanisms in Suriname to establish the baseline information and analyze migration flows. Moreover, with funds from the Western Hemisphere Program⁸, **IOM** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation** developed a *Migration Governance Indicator* report. A draft *Migration Profile* was submitted to the different ministries for feedback and comments before it was finally printed (50 English booklets) and handed over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation.

UNHCR worked together with the **Ministry of Justice and Police, Immigration Department, Border Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation, the Prosecutor's office, Ministry**

⁸ The Western Hemisphere Program is implemented by **IOM** and financed by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

of Social Affairs and Public Housing, Department for Trafficking to better understand international law related to refugees and provided the current data on asylum seekers in Suriname. **UNHCR** and the Ministry of Justice and Police also discussed the possibility of registered asylum seekers, being regularized as permanent residents in Suriname; a data sharing agreement was drafted and shared to further this end.

UNICEF, under its ongoing inclusion efforts, continued its budget advocacy for children, building the capacities of key stakeholders in working sessions for child poverty analysis, including further analysis of social programs. As a result, more than 35 key stakeholders received capacity building training in this area. **UNICEF** also completed the *National Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis in 2022*, which serves as a baseline for monitoring the country's future gains in sustainable development, with the aim of reducing the percentage of children who are multidimensionally deprived by half by 2030. This exercise not only created an opportunity to build national capacity to all line ministries, but also for the **General Bureau of Statistics, the Anton de Kom University, Planning Bureau of Suriname**, students, and youth organization. It also raised awareness on multidimensional child poverty.

UNDP continued its work with the **Ministry of Justice and Police** on citizen security, addressing challenges related to crime, violence, and insecurity by supporting the creation of conditions for a cohesive, safe, and just Suriname. This included tackling the root causes of violence and insecurity. The **USAID-funded CariSECURE Project** supported the Surinamese police (Korps Politie Suriname) in improving data management and analysis, including geo-mapping and victim and offender profiling. The Surinamese police (Korps Politie Suriname) has entered the next stage of digitalization, actively building the Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) to improve policymaking. With **UNDP's** support, the Ministry of Social

Affairs and Public Housing was able to strengthen and improve the functionality of its Beneficiary Information System. This system is a digital registry system which includes: Information of beneficiaries of namely General Child Benefit (AKB), Financial Assistance for weak households and Financial Assistance for people with disabilities, and General old-age provision fund (AOV). In this regard this intervention resulted in equipping different departments, designing targeted mechanisms, and raising awareness about the adaptation of management styles and processes in alignment with the improved digital system. Overall, this support has led to a more effective and efficient provision of social services to vulnerable groups.

With the expertise of the **UNDP Digital Transformation Team, UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development** and **UNDP's Accelerator Lab**, **UNDP** worked closely with the **e-Gov Office** within the **Cabinet of the President** to roll out a survey to assess Suriname's current digital capacity and digital needs with the goal of enhancing digital literacy, improving digital access and increasing digital inclusion. In 2022, **UNDP** published the Digital Readiness Assessment Report which is structured around five core pillars of digital transformation (infrastructure, government, regulation, business and people) and presented its findings to the Cabinet of the President. The Report's recommendations have led to the drafting of the *National Digital Strategy* which is expected to be finalized in 2023.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In April 2022, the **UNCT** jointly launched the Joint SDG Fund programme *Leaving No One Behind*⁹ (LNOB), led by **UNDP**, and supported by **UNICEF, FAO, UN Women** and **UNFPA**. The participating UN agencies, together with the

⁹ Joint programme led by **UNDP**, supported by **FAO, UN Women, UNICEF**, and **UNFPA**, which is financed through the Joint SDG Fund.

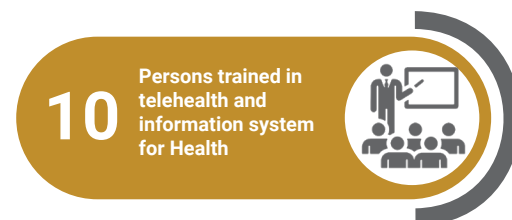
Ministry of Regional Development and Sport, continued advocacy for inclusion in the process of legislation, policy formulation and programmatic interventions. The LNOB joint programme, which aims to improve policies and the quality-of-service delivery towards Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs), laid a foundation in 2022 in having key stakeholders on board in the process of inclusive participatory policy development, which included completing an inventory assessment of existing national policies regarding ITPs, while engaging directly with traditional authorities and representative organizations, including **VIDS** and **Stichting KAMPOS**. Directly, the JP benefited ~706 individuals in 2022 (including 400 Indigenous peoples in South Suriname and 75 health care providers through the Medical Mission).

Through the engagement of the **Ministry of Health** and **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture**, FAO was able to mobilize and engage ITPs to participate in policy development, culminating in the development of technical recommendations for preparing **National Food-Based Dietary Guidelines**. These guidelines were shared with the public at a launch event, promoting healthier lifestyles across Suriname.

During 2022, **UNESCO**, as part of the *Inclusive and Equitably Recovery from COVID-19 in Caribbean SIDS Initiative*, partnered with the **University of the West Indies** to develop and launch the knowledge product *"Toward a more Inclusive Post-COVID-19 Recovery,"* an actionable tool designed to support an inclusive recovery process and strengthen social cohesion. The tool was an outcome of various multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions which included experts and participants from Suriname. Furthermore, **UNESCO** also launched the *Caribbean AI Initiative*, which supports capacity strengthening and the development of policies and regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies. The *Knowledge Series on Frontier Technologies for Social Inclusion in Caribbean SIDS* aims to

amplify the voices of Caribbean experts and promote the use of frontier technologies to promote social inclusion, while also taking into account the needs of groups who are prone to social exclusion. UNESCO stands ready to support Member States in translating the recommendation into regulatory national frameworks.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE



In pursuit of the goal of improving access to equitable, quality, people-centered, integrated health service delivery for all, **PAHO-WHO** supported the **Ministry of Health's IS4H (Information Systems 4 Health) working group** in the digital transformation of the health sector. As part of this effort, PAHO-WHO implemented a maturity assessment tool for the digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates, enabling more efficient and secure management of critical health information. Additionally, PAHO-WHO provided technical assistance and training in capacity building for telehealth and improved information systems for health. By supporting the adoption of digital tools and processes, PAHO-WHO is working to enhance the quality and accessibility of health in Suriname, promoting Universal Health Coverage and improving health outcomes for all.

IMPROVED HEALTH COVERAGE

During 2022, **PAHO-WHO** worked closely with the **Ministry of Health, Medical Mission and RGD** to promote health and strengthen health systems. PAHO-WHO provided capacity building training for Hepatitis B, conducted

an assessment of the Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF), and supported the implementation of the Health Financing Progress Matrix. Additionally, PAHO-WHO continued to promote health across policies and worked to improve access to safe water and sanitation in rural communities. Although the *Health in All Policies* framework exists, it is not yet fully implemented; PAHO-WHO is working with the Ministry of Health to support the implementation of this framework.

INFECTION HAZARD MANAGEMENT, AND MALARIA ELIMINATION



In its efforts to prevent and control infectious diseases and eliminate malaria, **PAHO-WHO** worked closely with the **Ministry of Health**, and the **National Malaria Program** to build capacity and foster cooperation. Efforts are also underway to eliminate TB and respond to viral hepatitis in Suriname. PAHO-WHO also conducted a training on leprosy to sensitize clinical care providers on the new WHO guidelines and supported an active case detection outreach.

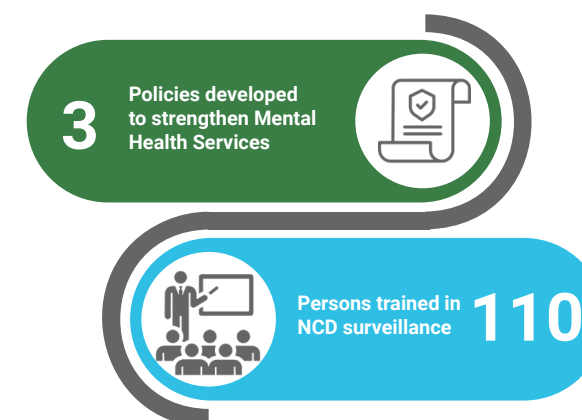
Furthermore, **PAHO-WHO** conducted training to build capacity in surveillance and response to Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs) and worked with the **Ministry of Health** in implementing the Expanded Program of Immunization Annual Action Plan¹⁰. The national immunization program received support from PAHO-WHO in capacity building and donations of equipment, including two pick-ups to help in outreach activities.

During 2022, the **HEARTS initiative** was launched in Suriname to support chronic care

¹⁰ <https://www.paho.org/en/documents/instructions-preparation-expanded-program-immunization-annual-action-plan>

management using a people-centered approach. Finally, **PAHO-WHO** provided technical guidelines on malnutrition and supported the malaria elimination agenda through training and the development of guidelines and protocols for surveillance, management, and control.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CHRONIC AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS



In its efforts to prevent and control chronic non-communicable diseases and mental health problems, **PAHO-WHO** has been working on several fronts. Policies were developed to strengthen mental health services, including capacity building for technical personnel and the approval of a national mental health plan by the **Ministry of Health**.

Furthermore, training was conducted in October 2022 to focus on NCD surveillance and promote reporting at the regional and global levels. The indicators for NCD surveillance have been decided upon, and efforts are underway to strengthen monitoring and reporting.

PAHO-WHO also provided technical support to countries including Suriname, in implementing the *WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)* and



revising tobacco legislation. Investment cases on NCD and risk factors, including tobacco, have been conducted to guide decision-making and resource allocation.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Suriname's efforts to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights have taken a step forward with the support of **UNFPA** and several Government ministries (**Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Ministry of Health – Bureau Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing**, as well as **Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs**). Collectively, the entities are working to integrate sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights into laws, policies, and plans, with a focus on adolescents and vulnerable communities. To raise awareness and advocate for the cause, targeted interventions were developed for: vulnerable youth, underserved communities, parliamentarians, donors, gender-based violence and healthcare service providers, and Indigenous, and Tribal communities. These interventions focused on adolescent sexual reproductive health, gender-based violence, and maternal health to improve access to quality services and to advance knowledge on the interlinkages between SDG 5 (Gender Equality) / SDG 3 (Good Health) with all Sustainable Development Goals.

In terms of healthcare delivery, support has been given to i) the nursing training institute, **COVAB (Centrale Opleiding voor Verpleegkundigen en beoefenaren aan Aanverwante Beroepen)**, for the delivery of refresher emergency obstetric care training for 75 participants, ii) the Nurses Leadership course for 28 participants and iii) the first module of the obstetrics and gynecology nurse program for 20 participants. In addition, the nursing director of **'s Lands Hospital** and a trainer midwife participated in a 3-day policy dialogue for chief nurses and

heads of regulatory councils from ten (10) Caribbean countries. They discussed action points to address the shortage and retention of midwives, efforts for a unified regional curriculum, and the need for strengthened leadership.

Lastly, efforts are being made to develop a national country profile for midwifery. This instrument will be used to identify gaps and develop a plan to close those gaps, strengthen midwifery, and subsequently improve sexual and reproductive health services provided to childbearing families.

FLOOD EMERGENCY SUPPORT

During the flood emergency in the first half of 2022, the UN Country Team came together in the flood response and recovery as part of a unified effort led by the Government and **NCCR**, supported by **CDEMA** and in partnership with other development partners. **UNDP**, under the EnGenDER programme, provided 100 water storage tanks to several communities; under the DEM joint programme¹¹, the agency provided further support in the purchase of three (3) Automatic Water Level measuring instruments. UNDP also complemented ongoing work under GCCA+ project (in support of **NCCR**) by supporting the drafting of District Disaster Management plans and District Disaster preparedness training. In addition, **PAHO-WHO** provided medicines and water while **UNFPA** provided 54 dignity kits to women displaced by the floods; **WFP** donated two inflatable boats and motors to the **NCCR** to strengthen logistics capacity and support efforts in reaching flood-affected populations in difficult-to-access areas.

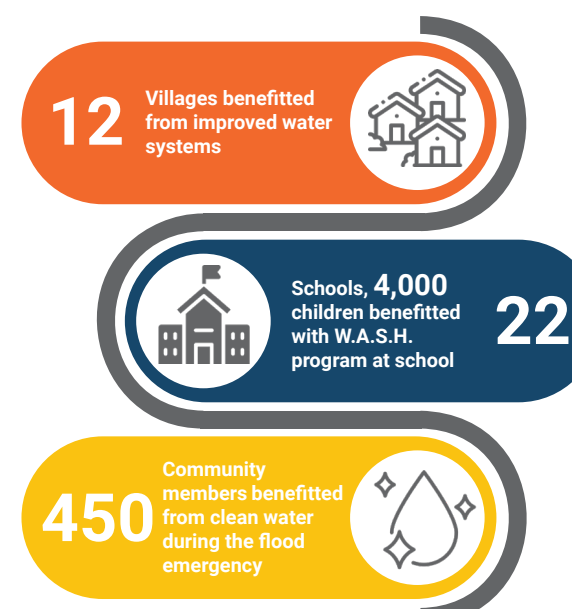
In 2022, the Joint SDG Fund activated the *Development Emergency Modality*, under the guidance of the United Nations Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), to help countries address socio-economic, food, energy and fuel

¹¹ Joint programme between UNDP, PAHO-WHO and FAO, financed through the Joint SDG Fund.

crises and help prevent further derailing of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Through this modality, FAO completed a rapid assessment of meteorological and hydrological data, and a rapid assessment report was prepared, which detailed the type of meteorological and hydrological data in Suriname and the location of data collection stations. Data-gaps exist in the data sets, which can affect robust climate change assessments; however international data platforms can be used to supplement local data.

UNICEF supported hygiene practices at the community and health facility level by providing 100 hygiene packages and 400 gallons of sanitizer. The Government of the **Kingdom of the Netherlands** funded these resources, which played a vital role in promoting hygiene and preventing the spread of diseases amid the flood. UNICEF's response to flood-affected schools also included supporting 1,000 children with learning material and providing support for cleaning-up schools after floods.

IMPROVED AVAILABILITY FOR WATER AND SANITATION



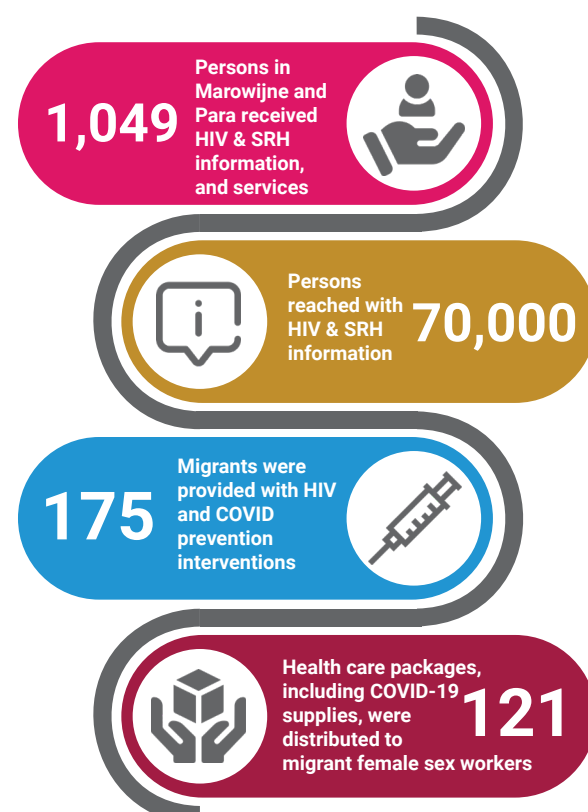
In 2022, **UNDP** in collaboration with **VIDS** and **KAMPOS** and in partnership with the **Ministry of Regional Development and Sport** as well as the **Ministry of Natural Resources**, completed the improvement of water systems in several indigenous villages, including Donderskamp, Kalebaskreek, New Aurora, Pikin Slee, and Sara Creek. Additionally, handwashing facilities were installed in several villages in the Surinamese hinterland, including Matta, Brownsweeg, Atjoni, New Aurora, Pikin Slee, and Sarakreek. Furthermore, the purchase and installation of thirteen (13) rainwater tanks helped communities affected by the flooding emergency of 2022.

In the village of Apetina, **UNICEF** rehabilitated a surface water filtration system, providing safe and clean drinking water to 75 students and 450 community members. This initiative took place through the *LNOB joint programme*¹², and played a crucial role in ensuring access to safe drinking water, improving health outcomes, and promoting good hygiene practices in the community.

Furthermore, **UNICEF** continued its efforts to support the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** in improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (W.A.S.H.) in schools. Through the *W.A.S.H. in Schools Program and Emergency Response*, UNICEF worked to improve health outcomes and promote good hygiene practices; as a result, an additional twenty-two (22) schools benefited from this initiative, reaching 4,000 children across Suriname.

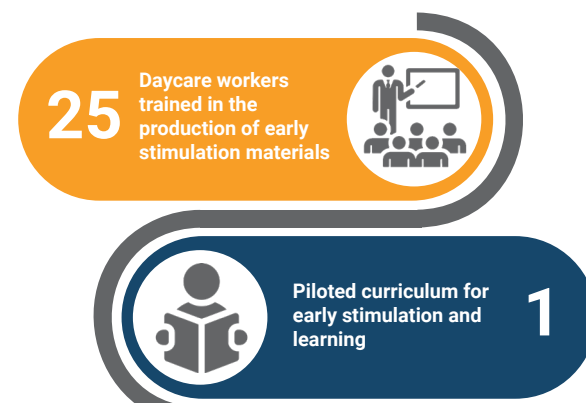
¹² Co-funded by the Joint SDG Fund.

IMPROVED HIV RESPONSE



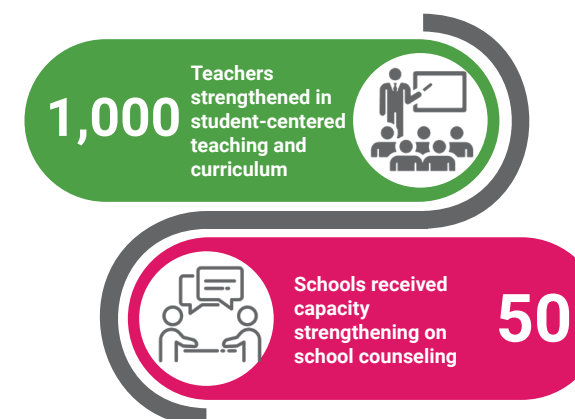
The **Ministry of Health**, supported by **UNAIDS**, conducted targeted campaigns and interventions to improve the HIV response in Suriname in 2022. HIV and sexual awareness campaigns were held in villages in the districts Marowijne and Para, reaching 400 people who were provided with HIV and SRH information, and 33 individuals were tested for HIV. In Abrabroki, Paramaribo-South, 524 individuals in the general population were reached, and 61 individuals were tested for HIV. The campaigns also targeted the migrant population, including migrant women, girls, male / female sex workers, MSM (men who have sex with men), transgender and People Living With HIV (PLWHIV) from Spanish speaking and Haitian Creole speaking communities. A total of 175 migrants were provided with HIV and COVID-19 prevention interventions and information in multiple languages, and a webpage was established to cater to their health needs. Health care packages and group training were provided to specific populations, including migrant female sex workers and girls aged 13 – 19.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



The **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** made significant strides in 2022 to improve access to quality early stimulation and learning for children, contributing to school readiness. A key initiative was focused on providing quality early stimulation and learning opportunities for children aged 0 – 6, recognizing the importance of early childhood development. To address the issue of limited access to quality early stimulation and learning for children aged 2.5 – 4, **UNICEF** developed and piloted a curriculum called “*Play, Discover & Learn*” which was implemented at childcare institutions such as creches and daycares. To ensure the success of the program, **UNICEF** trained twenty-five (25) daycare workers from nine (9) institutions and produced thirty (30) early stimulation and learning videos, twenty-six (26) stories for stimulating listening, twelve (12) parenting videos, and sixty (60) parenting and stimulation flyers disseminated via social media. **UNICEF** engaged 1,000 children through face-to-face stimulation and learning activities and an estimated 6,000 children through television and social media.

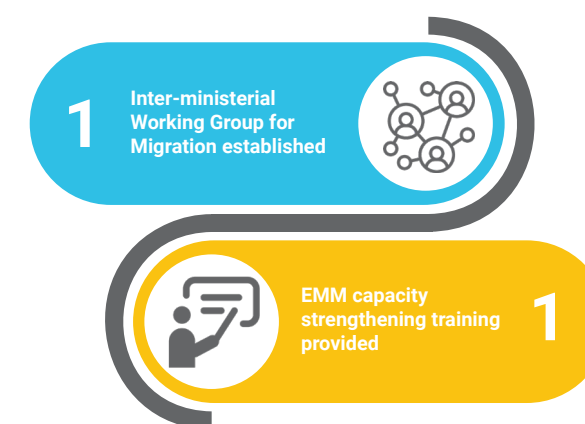
EDUCATION AND QUALITY LEARNING



The **Ministry of Education, Culture and Science** was enabled to reform primary education by extending primary with two orientation years, aimed at building the system back better based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on education globally. **UNICEF** also supported with the implementation of a curriculum for special education at the primary education level, which benefitted around 250 children. This serves as early detection of functional difficulties in children with disabilities.

To support the reform, **UNICEF** strengthened the capacity of 1,000 teachers from 150 schools in student-centered teaching and curriculum. They produced guidance for teachers to support the reform in primary education by extending primary with grades 9 and 10 as orientation years for transitioning to secondary education. **UNICEF** used social media to disseminate information about education reforms, with a reach of 74,000 persons. **UNICEF** also focused on secondary school student care by producing a series of twelve (12) mental health videos and providing capacity building for school counselors in fifty (50) schools, catering to the needs of 40,000 students.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



In the context of developing a *National Migration Policy* for Suriname, the Government of Suriname established an Inter-ministerial Working Group for Migration. This working group and other relevant representatives across government ministries and NGOs attended the *Induction Training on Migration*. The purpose of this training was to introduce migration in Suriname, IOM as a United Nations agent of migration and to establish the expectations of the working group. The Government of Suriname received capacity strengthening through the *Essentials of Migration Management Program*, which is IOM's flagship program on migration management and provides resources and foundational training to government officials and all stakeholders dealing with migration; the training highlighted the interaction between different thematic areas and built a common understanding of migration with a whole-of-government approach. It also articulated the relevance of international frameworks, such as the *2030 Agenda* and the *Global Compact on Migration*, to the day-to-day work of government officials and other stakeholders. The Government of Suriname has requested a second EMM training for 2023.

ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

The Government of Suriname received support from **IOM**, for the voluntary humanitarian admission and integration of foreign nationals in Suriname. Through support from the **Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) of the US Department of State**, IOM is enabled to support both governments (United States and Suriname) with the integration of a particular group of immigrants and ensure the government's further development to support all immigrants. The project aims to provide comprehensive assistance and protection to Afghan migrants before, during, and after their travel to Suriname, as well as help immigrants integrate into local communities and enhance the capacity of the government and civil society to support legal admission and integration of immigrants. IOM has also provided assistance to immigrants at risk, including shelter, financial support for travel costs, and humanitarian aid.

Furthermore, IOM worked with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation** on addressing challenges related providing proper information to immigrants. This led to the development of a booklet called "Welcome to Suriname" to help inform immigrants who plan to travel to Suriname. The booklet is currently undergoing validation by relevant institutions.





EMBRACING DISTANCE LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Winamba Bamoeje, an education manager at the Elsje Finck-Sanichar College (COVAB), is champion of digital learning.

As COVID-19 hit Suriname, learning institutions were shuttered overnight and in-person learning became prohibited, creating a sudden need for distance learning. With schools closed, Winamba Bamoeje, championed for the digital reform of COVAB courses, so that students could continue their studies.

COVAB, which specializes in the education of nurses and caretakers and which enjoys a longstanding relationship with PAHO-WHO, had always operated in-person prior to the pandemic. “Converting an institution to digital teaching methods is always difficult. The right software and enough hardware (computers) being of the utmost importance,” Winamba shares.

PAHO-WHO donated equipment such as laptops and cameras for distance-learning. “When the OpenWHO courses for healthcare staff launched in English, we implemented an active participation policy for these courses, making them mandatory for our students.”

But in addition to the digital barrier, another challenge emerged. In many instances, both students and staff ran into a language barrier.

Suriname, as the only Dutch-speaking country in South America, faces some unique challenges. As courses and materials are created to support developing countries, it can often serve as a disadvantage for countries with less commonly spoken languages. “Language was definitely a barrier at first and we found that most people did not want to or were not able to participate in the courses in English. This changed after the courses got translated,” Winamba explains.

As PAHO-WHO stepped in offering translated courses in Dutch, the participation rate went up. “The courses could be finished by the students independently, giving the teachers more time to prepare on other segments of education. We received many positive responses from both staff and students alike”, explained Winamba.

Students living in Nickerie, who had to travel 350 km to attend classes at Paramaribo, benefited as well. Students were able to follow the courses at the COVAB facility in Nickerie, with laptops and material provided by PAHO-WHO. Students, both in Paramaribo and Nickerie are also able to borrow these laptops for studying or completing assignments at home.

“PAHO-WHO has significantly contributed towards the improvement of our education through the continuous support of distance-learning, by providing material and courses.”

We implemented the use of Microsoft Teams throughout our organizations and offered “learning packages” to our students consisting of (handouts of) PowerPoint presentations, materials, and class planning. The Dean would regularly check up on the students, and if they informed us that they did not have access to internet we arranged an allowance of 50 SRD per day to activate internet on their phones or invited them to use COVAB’s Wi-Fi on site.

The teaching staff received proper training to teach online as this was also new to them. Winamba explained the challenges faced in this regard as digital literacy proved to be an issue in some instances. Through hard work these challenges were overcome, and all 300 teachers connected to COVAB received the training.

The OpenWHO courses are also very easily accessed through a mobile application, making them very user-friendly. They allow students the flexibility to plan their day more efficiently and combine their study with work.

3

PRIORITY AREA 3:

Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

THE OUTCOMES UNDER PRIORITY AREA 3 ENSURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE ENHANCED ADAPTIVE CAPACITY FOR INCLUSIVE, GENDER-RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION. THEY ALSO WORK TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE CAN MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCES & ECOSYSTEMS AND STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF THE COMMUNITIES.



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES • MINISTRY OF SPATIAL PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT • NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT (NIMOS) • WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF) • ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING (ARM) • STICHTING BOSBEHEER EN BOSTOEZICHT (SBB) • ANTON DE KOM UNIVERSITY OF SURINAME (ADEKUS) • INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

16 PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

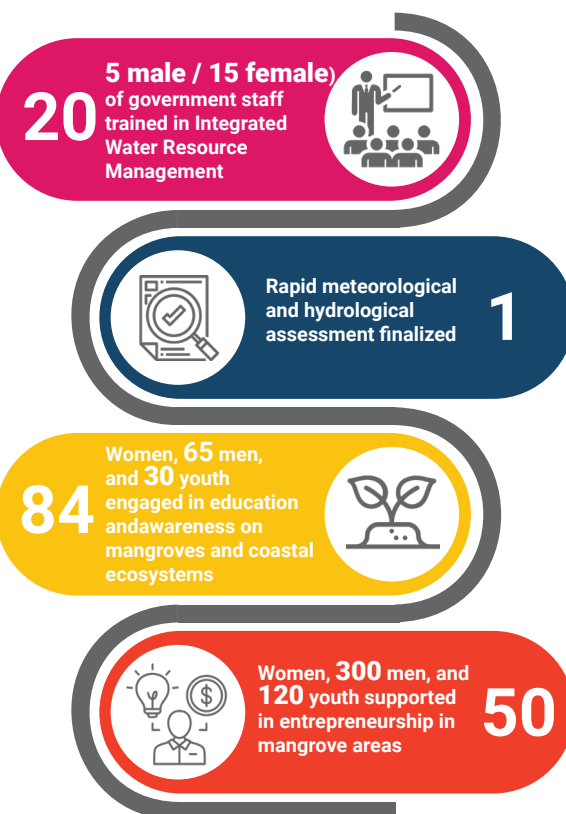
REQUIRED AMOUNT
6.2M

AVAILABLE AMOUNT
4.7M

AMOUNT SPENT
2.4M

EXPENDITURE RATE:
52%

CLIMATE CHANGE, ADAPTATION, AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



The Government of Suriname's efforts towards disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, made significant gains in 2022. The **Ministry of Natural Resources**, with support from **UNDP**, trained its staff and organized capacity building sessions to improve management of water resources. The Ministry of Natural Resources provided Basic Training on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to all staff (male and female). Hydro-Met equipment (which builds capacity for climate data collection) was purchased and installed in rural areas, and field assessments were conducted to determine the status of hydro-met instruments. Moreover, the Ministry supported the completion of the *Suriname Agriculture Sector Action Plan (SASAP)* and assessed shallow water wells in Coronie.

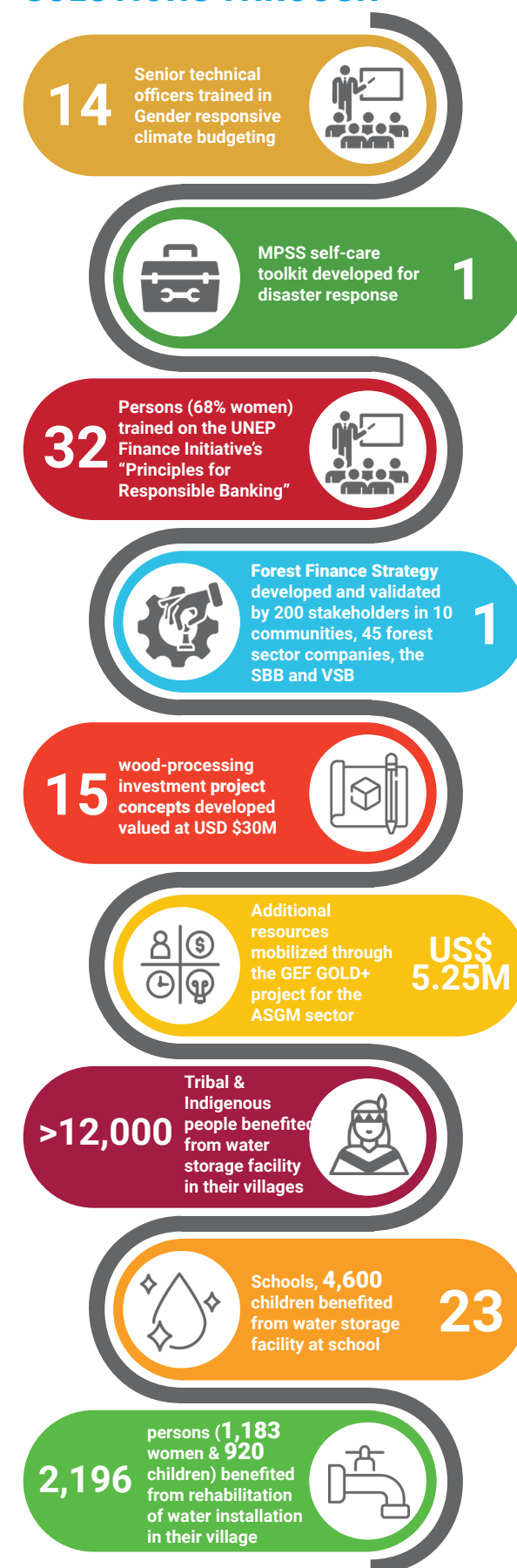
FAO continues to place emphasis on sustainable and climate resilient management practices in the agriculture sector. As part of its programme of activities of project *Improving the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture of Suriname* to build resilience to climate change, **FAO** entered into a contract with the Wageningen Research Centre to conduct climate change impact assessment for two regions. The regions identified are Nickerie and Coronie. The assessment includes impact maps and figures that show the level of impact on agriculture (Low to High) and a crop vulnerability assessment for Rice, Banana, Cocos and mixed vegetables to be included as a GIS database.

During 2022, **UNDP** supported the Government through the **GCCA + Phase 2 Project** to improve awareness, and capacity for the sustainable management of mangroves and ecosystems, to improve knowledge on Surinamese mangroves and climate change effects, and to enhance capacity for gender-responsive climate actions. The project engaged over 45% of the community in education and awareness on mangroves and coastal ecosystems in Coronie and Nickerie. It also included storytelling, drawing, and photo competitions for 1,620 school youth. Furthermore, mangrove biodiversity was assessed in three plots in the coastal districts (Coronie, Nickerie, Saramacca, and Marowijne). In 2022, entrepreneurship development in mangrove areas reached 50 women, 300 men, and 120 youth. The project built a new field post for game wardens in Burnside, Coronie, and rehabilitated field accommodation in the Bigi Pan Lake. The **Nature Conservation Division** received continuous support for patrolling activities, with an average of three visits per month. The project conducted a ten-day coastal field assessment in North Coronie Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMA) and provided disaster response support to flooded households in Wageningen, Nickerie.

In 2022 **UNESCO** engaged a team of regional experts to study CARICOM Member States and Associate Members to further develop the *Caribbean Plan of Action for Disaster Resilience and Recovery* of the Culture Sector. The draft has been developed and will be presented and discussed with CDEMA and CARICOM in the first half of 2023. Additionally, **UNESCO** led a two-day workshop with the financial support of the Japanese Government to identify current challenges and opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism at UNESCO-designated sites in Suriname. The country's potential for sustainable tourism strategies to create employment opportunities and generate income for local communities remains largely untapped, despite having two World Heritage properties.



GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS THROUGH



The Government of Suriname has been working diligently with **UNDP**, **UN Women** and **UNFPA** in developing and implementing innovative, gender-responsive, and nature-based solutions for low-emission, climate adaptation, and disaster risk management and recovery. UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP have implemented various projects in Suriname through the EnGenDER programme, all of which aim to promote gender equality and resilience to climate change and disasters. In March 2022, **UN Women** supported the delivery of a regional training workshop on **Gender Responsive Climate Budgeting**, in which fourteen (14) Senior Technical Officers from Suriname participated. An infographic series and a policy brief examining gender inequality and climate resilience across twelve (12) key sectors were also developed, with intersectional initiatives for ending violence against women and girls and economic empowerment.

UN Women also developed the Mental Health Psychosocial Support Services (**MHPSS**), **Self-Care Toolkit**, which allows responders to take care of themselves while providing support to impacted people during the disaster recovery process. In November 2022, a regional workshop was held, and a Senior Technical Officer from Suriname was included in training on the newly developed *Caribbean Resilient, Inclusive, Safe, and SMART (RISS) Model*, which was launched on October 31, 2022.

UNDP, under the *EnGenDER project*, developed the Sector Adaptation Strategy and *Adaptation Plan (SASAP) for Water Resources* in Suriname, addressing the gap in the National Adaptation Plan's identification of strategic priorities, proposed outputs, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for adaptation in the water resources sector. The SASAP was uploaded to the NAP Global Network. UNDP also implemented a priority action from the SASAP by establishing water storage facilities to build resilience to drought and flooding in the communities

of Brokopondo and Sipaliwini. Over 12,000 Tribal and Indigenous people directly benefited, along with more than 4,600 children from the twenty-three (23) schools in the Brokopondo district. The water installation in the village Klaaskreek also is being rehabilitated, benefiting a population of about 2,196, including 1,183 women and 920 children between the ages of 0-19 years.

In 2022, progress was made on Suriname's National Climate Agreement (NCA) under the Joint SDG Fund Programme entitled *Roadmap to Sustainable Financial System for Suriname*, co-led by **UNDP** and **UNEP**, and supported by **UNFPA** and **FAO**. A successful Kick-Off Session was held in October 2022, with high participation and engagement from a wide range of stakeholders. The President of Suriname opened the meeting, emphasizing the importance of having an agreement among multi-stakeholders to realize the country's climate ambition. Planning of the NCA began in 2022 and it is expected to be completed in August 2023 led by the **Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment** with on-going support from the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**, which led the technical dialogues between stakeholders in February 2023. UNEP has prepared guidance for drafting the NCA, which it defined as "a voluntary protocol for multi-stakeholders agreeing to address climate change in line with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)." The NCA should provide the basis upon which joint actions between multi-stakeholders are undertaken, and in accordance with the Paris Agreement's Article 2.1.c. The NCA guidance outlines 5 strategic areas: i) policy framework reform and promotion of good practices; ii) managing climate risks and opportunities; iii) reducing sectoral GHG emissions; iv) financing mitigation and adaptation programmes; and v) resource mobilization.

Other policy documents prepared under the joint programme *Roadmap to Sustainable*

Financial System for Suriname, includes the *Forest Financing Strategy* that was led by **FAO**. The Forest Financing Strategy looks at opportunities for forest-based sustainable value chains, by assessing and revaluing towards scaling-up returns through an improved business environment and capacities, while de-risking and catalyzing investments with appropriate finance from multiple sources. The identified revenue streams are word, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTPF), Ecotourism, Biodiversity and Carbon. Furthermore, UNFPA prepared an Addendum to the National Gender Policy prepared that updates the policy on gender equality, women's empowerment and inclusion of youths and disadvantaged groups. UNDP will continue to promote best environmental practices in the ASGM sector with additional resources mobilized through the GEF GOLD+ Project, which also consolidates an established Stakeholder platform (SP) for engaging actors.

Lastly, under the *EnGenDER project*, **UNDP** developed a *Communications for Behavioral Change Strategy and Action Plan* for Suriname, targeting the Climate Change and Disaster Recovery Coordinating Agencies. The behavioral insights tools are expected to complement the existing gender-responsive interventions and foster sustainable gender-responsive behavioral change among decision-makers across climate change and disaster response and recovery agencies.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

UNDP has been working on improving environmental management in the mining sector of Suriname, with an emphasis on artisanal and small-scale gold miners (ASGM) which has resulted in the strengthening of institutions to improve natural resource management. This work is being done under the *EMSAGS Project* supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In 2022, several

activities were carried out including a training needs assessment within the ASGM sector; drafting of an MoU between **NIMOS**, **Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)**, and **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** for the implementation and operations of Mining and Training Extension Centers (MTECs) at Brownsweeg and Snesi Kondre which are training centers for artisanal and small-scale gold miners to strengthen the improvement of extractive practices.

Other initiatives within the *EMSAGS Project* for the ASGM sector included a biodiversity assessment, survey of carbon stocks in forests by **Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht (SBB)**, arrangements for performing soil surveys surrounding mining sites with **Anton de Kom University of Suriname**, and the completion of awareness strategy. Through the *EMSAGS Project*, UNDP has also identified two demonstration sites, with the first site at Compagnie Kreek (where the equipment list is being finalized and procurement process has started for more sustainable extractive methods), and the second site at Kraboedoin (equipment list being developed).

In 2022 a new project supported by the Global Environment Facility was signed with **UNDP** for implementation through the **Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management**. This project entitled "*Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon*" will run for five (5) years and focuses on the conservation of the Surinamese Amazon and its unique biodiversity while also strengthening the management of protected areas. The project is off to a good start in 2022 with the launch of the Jaguar Awareness Programme and the unveiling of Jaguar Conservation Banner at the Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport. These banners will reach the attention of locals and visitors entering and leaving Suriname's international gateway raising awareness on the importance of this endangered species.



PLANTING A SEED OF HOPE WITH MANGROVES

Suriname's stunning Amazonian landscapes and abundant wildlife make it a haven for adventurers and eco-tourists alike. At the same time, Suriname, home to a vast expanse of mangrove forest, is under threat from climate erosion.

Weg Naar Zee, a muddy yet easily accessible coastal area of roughly 10,000 hectares in northwest Paramaribo makes up part of Suriname's 386 kilometers of coastline. Feet sinking into the soft mud, one can easily identify that the area has suffered from extreme erosion. This has resulted in an absence of soft silt, a favorite foraging habitat for shorebirds.

Since 2016, the United Nations, along with academics and students, has been supporting Suriname's efforts to increase the conservation, natural recovery, and restoration of mangroves. One such project, led by Professor Sieuwnath Naipal from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, oversees the installment of sediment-capturing structures along areas where the erosion has already claimed large pieces of mangrove habitat. These traps allow the sediment to settle along the coast and causes land deposition.

Once enough land has been deposited, Professor Naipal then proceeds to plant young mangrove trees along the area. Professor Naipal, one of the driving forces behind mangrove conservation in Suriname, is surrounded by a support team of local workers and volunteers. Together, they have been able to reverse the damage to a staggering 500,000 square meters of mangrove habitat.

When the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, visited Suriname in July of 2022, it seemed only natural that he visit the mangrove rehabilitation project at Weg Naar Zee. Witnessing firsthand the effects of climate change, the Secretary General, a longstanding climate advocate himself, saw the devastating effects of coastal erosion, flooding and sea level rise fueled by climate change.

Walking along the muddy coast with Suriname's Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment, Silvano Tjong-Ahin, the Secretary General planted a young mangrove tree, marking his own contribution to Suriname's efforts to combat the devastating impacts of coastal erosion.

Mangroves play a vital role in the fight against climate change because they can sequester and store huge amounts of carbon in their roots and even in the soil in which they grow. They are also extremely important to our coastal environment and the habitats and nurseries that contribute to a wide variety of plant and animal species. Often referred to as the "kidneys of the coast," mangroves play a critical role in the cycling of nutrients.

"Preserving and rehabilitating mangroves is crucial to addressing the impacts of the climate crisis" the Secretary General said, shortly after his visit to Weg Naar Zee.

"By protecting mangroves, we protect ourselves."

4



PRIORITY AREA 4: Peace, Safety, Justice, and Rule of Law

THE OUTCOMES UNDER PRIORITY AREA 4 WORK TO ENSURE THAT NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, SYSTEMS, AND INSTITUTIONS IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROMOTE PEACE, SOCIAL COHESION, AND SECURITY. THESE OUTCOMES ALSO FOCUS ON ENSURING THAT PEOPLE ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO AND BENEFIT FROM BUILDING AND MAINTAINING SAFER, FAIRER, MORE INCLUSIVE, AND EQUITABLE SOCIETIES.



6 PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES



REQUIRED AMOUNT
410K

AVAILABLE AMOUNT
284K

AMOUNT SPENT
192K

EXPENDITURE RATE:
68%



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
• MINISTRY OF LABOUR,
EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
• MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS
AND PUBLIC HOUSING • MINISTRY
OF JUSTICE & POLICE • CABINET OF
THE PRESIDENT • OFFICE OF THE
FIRST LADY • NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(PARLIAMENT) • STICHTING LOBI
HEALTH CENTER

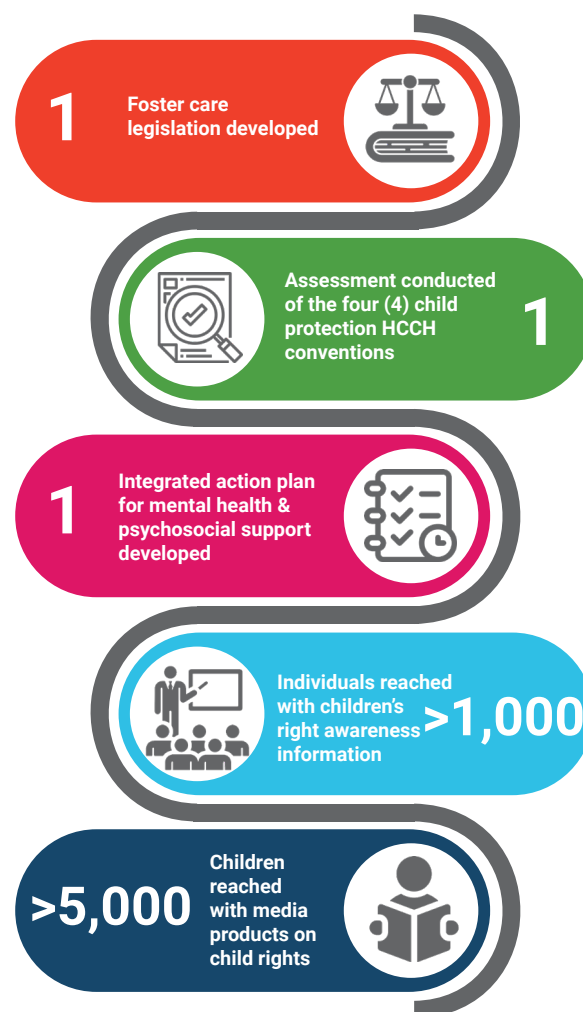
CAPACITY STRENGTHENING TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE



The **Human Rights Institute (HRI)** in Suriname received capacity strengthening to promote the protection of human rights and ensuring that vulnerable populations have improved access to justice. During 2022, **UNDP** strengthened the Human Rights Institute (HRI) in Suriname through various initiatives: legislation regarding the HRI was drafted, approved by the **Minister of Justice and Police**, and presented to the **Cabinet of the President** and the **National Assembly** for approval. This legislation includes the national Human Rights complaint mechanism and aims to improve access to justice for the general public, particularly vulnerable populations. The text has also been translated to English for sharing with bilateral and multilateral partners. Furthermore, to establish the HRI's corporate identity, a logo and branding were designed and presented to the Minister of Justice and Police. A media launch was organized in December 2022 to inform media, civil society, and academia about the HRI.



CHILD PROTECTION



Through its *"Every Child is Protected"* programme, **UNICEF** supported the Government of Suriname to develop and adjust child friendly legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which included the development of the foster care legislation and assessment on the ratification of the four (4) child protection HCCH conventions, which will strengthen the child protection system for an effective and efficient response.

Additionally, **UNICEF** provided support on research and evidence generation on the causes of suicidal behavior among young people aged 16-25 years. To provide optimal and effective mental health and psychosocial support, an integrated plan of action has been developed for the period 2022-2024

and **UNICEF** will continue to support an integrated approach to the implementation of this action plan.

Moreover, in 2022, **UNICEF** provided support in raising awareness and sensitization on children's rights in several care institutions, including institutions for children with disabilities, reaching more than 1,000 individuals. **UNICEF** also produced media products on child rights, reaching more than 5,000 children and young people.

To create a more effective and responsive child protection system, **UNICEF** has supported the development of a multi-disciplinary team at the pediatric center of the Academic Hospital, which offers medical, psychological, and psychosocial care to victims of violence.

Tailor-made guidance programs have also been provided to vulnerable families to empower them and strengthen their potential and capacities. **UNICEF** has also supported the capacity strengthening of teachers and social workers in six (6) districts to ensure prevention and protection of children and adolescents from violence, gender-based violence, and mental health issues in schools. Changing social and gender norms and behavior change strategies have been implemented through high-level advocacy with the **Office of the First Lady, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs**, and the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing**, resulting in a televised awareness program called "How do you feel" and engagement with local influencers to increase reach and results on social media and online platforms. A **UNICEF** theme song and videoclip, developed in collaboration with a local artist, reached over 350,000 YouTube views in three months. **UNICEF** organized a high-level youth convention where volunteers participated in an eight-week workshop to gain knowledge and data on mental health among young people, resulting in increased awareness and understanding of suicide and underlying factors by the Ministry of Labour

& Youth Affairs. These initiatives have helped create a more effective and responsive child protection system in Suriname.

ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ON ELECTORAL CONDUCT

In 2022, in preparations for the 2025 electoral cycle, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and electoral institutions were capacitated and empowered to ensure transparent and inclusive elections, enhancing the accountability and representation of the government. With support from **UNDP**, parliaments, constitution-making bodies, and electoral institutions have been enabled to perform their core functions, resulting in improved accountability, participation, and representation.

UNDP has convened familiarization sessions for electoral partners, including district commissioners and secretaries, representatives of the **Independent Electoral Bureau (OKB)**, and the **Central Main Polling Station**. Five (5) "Train the trainer sessions" were implemented to strengthen capacity on formal/constitutional electoral matters. Moreover, the **Bureau for Civil Registry** in Stoelmanseiland has been renovated and reopened, servicing 6,401 people living in this area, of whom 5,014 are eligible to vote in the elections of 2025.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In 2022, significant progress was made in the fight against gender-based violence and harmful practices while promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights. One key initiative of **UNFPA** was the creation of a regional *Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) observatory* to serve as a crucial tool for evidence-based policy making, programming, and advocacy by national and regional institutions. Capacity strengthening

for its usage will take place in 2023, with a focus on ensuring that women and girls can access and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Another initiative involved the provision of peer educator training manuals and trainers to facilitate the delivery of peer education programs aimed at girls and women, which will be carried out by the IPPF¹⁴ affiliate **Lobi Health Center**. Additionally, a regional project has been launched to advance in-school and out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education that supports the agency and bodily autonomy of adolescent girls.

Furthermore, the Government of Suriname made significant progress in providing comprehensive and integrated gender-based violence response services. This was achieved through a national assessment of essential services in the health, social, justice, and police sectors, in line with the *United Nations Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women & Girls subject to Violence*. The findings informed the design of a plan of action that will be rolled out in 2023, building on the existing capacities of national entities, governments, and civil society organizations to strengthen the provision of gender-based violence response services. By prioritizing the needs of survivors of gender-based violence, these initiatives aim to promote gender equality and empower women.

CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

The United Nations' **Peace and Development Team** (PDA Team)¹⁵ brought together national and local actors in Suriname between November 2021 and May 2022, to participate in the first ever Contextual Development Analysis (CDA) for Suriname. The overall goal of this study was to provide information that can help the UN, Government and civil

society stakeholders uncover opportunities to operate in a contextually sensitive manner and reduce the possibility of doing harm through their activities (however unintentionally) by minimizing key national level risks and strengthening resiliencies; the provided information to make explicit the causes and dynamics that, according to Surinamese people themselves, play an important role in shaping social relations and effective governance. This CDA was inspired by the United Nation's integrated analysis methodology which provides guidance on how to focus on Surinamese voices and understandings on what they believe are the key risks and resiliencies for the well-being of the Surinamese people.

¹⁴ International Planned Parenthood Federation (ippf.org).

¹⁵ Part of the Joint UNDP – DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention.





STOP THE BIAS IN CHILD PROTECTION.

In Suriname, a multi-ethnic, multi religious society, with a wide variety of family traditions, which is also reflected in the upbringing and caring that children receive, Ms. Norville Burleson works as social worker to protect children against violence by providing children and families access social services, which support their well-being.

There are only a little more than 100 social workers in Suriname of which only a minor group is certified as clinical social workers. Ms. Burleson indicated that there is a heavy caseload for social workers working in child protection as only a small group of about 40 works in this area. Each social worker then must manage 30 to 40 cases related to child protection, which is a very heavy task.

A nationwide study on violence against children, conducted by Institute of Graduate Studies and Research and supported by UNICEF, showed a significant correlation between gender and ethnicity with the presence of violence against children within households. For social workers who are directly in contact with families and communities, it is important that they have the right the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to provide cultural and gender sensitive services that take into account protection and risk factors related to ethnic environments and also consider gender specific needs of children, that need protection.

In efforts to strengthen the capacity of the child protection workforce in Suriname UNICEF has supported undergraduate courses in social work. Although this was a good first step, there was still a need to follow-up on this with a specialized master and post graduate courses in social work to develop the necessary capacity. To answer this need UNICEF supported the development of a specialized certificate course at pre graduate level in protection of children. As a leader within the social workers community Ms. Burleson was one of the first people to successfully finish this course. She was very excited about this course as it provided her with studies and examples of situations she had already seen in the field. This course not only inspired her but has helped her to understand the knowledge gaps in the field of social workers better.

It is important that Suriname has a strong child protection workforce. The backbone of this workforce are the people that are adequately trained and qualified to provide child protection services. Ms. Burleson, who is a strong advocate for continued training for all social workers, says that especially for a multiethnic and multi religious country as Suriname the social workers should be well trained to avoid bias in their work and support their understanding of each case so they can provide the correct care to the families and children they serve.

Investing in these dedicated social workers, like Ms. Burleson to become qualified human resources in child protection is essential to create a good system of support for children and families across all sectors, including social protection, justice, health, education, security and disaster risk management.

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

The UNCT in Suriname, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, played a significant convener role in bringing together the private sector and Government to accelerate the SDGs in an integrated fashion. As one of the first Delivering as One countries in the region, the UNCT focused on financing the 2030 Agenda by significantly increasing its cumulative portfolio in joint programming within the last three (3) years, ensuring that UN interventions on the ground are cross-cutting and synergistic in nature. Partnerships formed the building blocks for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals during 2022, whereby the UNCT actively pursued and nurtured partnerships across a range of sectors, with a particular focus on leveraging the power of the private sector.

WORKING WITH THE BANKING INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA TO ADVANCE SDG 2

UN Agencies under the ASTA programme engaged with **Trustbank Amanah (TBA)** to offer loans to farmers and worked with the **Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)** to provide a top-up for collateral guarantees. An established collaboration with **Wageningen University (WUR)** in the Netherlands was also leveraged, to provide expert advice on the set-up and management of cooperatives in Suriname and on the establishment of a pack-house. In the same regard, UN agencies worked with the **CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation Project (CARIP)** to leverage its actions on intellectual property protection and brand creation.

DEVELOPING CLIMATE-FRIENDLY INVESTMENT PLANS TO ACCELERATE SDG 13

The UNCT partnered with the **Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (VSB)** to consult and validate a Forest Financing Strategy for Suriname under joint programme *Roadmap to a Sustainable Financial System for Suriname* to ensure buy-in from the private sector. A training was organized whereby VSB members developed 'bankable' business ideas for forest-related investments. The training programme concluded with the presentation of fifteen (15) investment plans (valued at 30 million USD) and further steps will be realized in 2023.

STRENGTHENING THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Under the joint programme *Roadmap to a Sustainable Financial System for Suriname*, the UNCT also supported the Government on robust, broad-based stakeholder consultations across several sectors to support the drafting of a National Climate Agreement and a Roadmap for Sustainable Financing. Sectors included private sector enterprises, the banking and finance sectors, forestry and timber, artisanal and small-scale gold mining with engagement of civil society groups, Indigenous and Tribal People and ensuring gender mainstreaming in the process. The National Climate Agreement and the Roadmap for Sustainable Financing will be finalized in 2023.

SDG TRAININGS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE STAFF

A joint initiative of the UNCT and the **Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (VSB)** led to a series of training courses aimed at furthering the knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the private sector. The trainings, which commenced in February 2022, covered forty (40) companies; participants studied global trends and examples of foreign companies that have committed to the SDGs and were asked to identify challenges within their own respective companies' along with actionable strategies. In specific cases, follow-up support was provided by the UNCT to companies in the development of sustainable corporate initiatives.

#TAKETHEBALL CAMPAIGN WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PRESIDENT OF SURINAME

In 2022, the United Nations, together with the **Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (VSB)** and eleven (11) CEO's, coordinated a #TakeTheBall Campaign, which culminated in the President of Suriname making a formal commitment to achieving the SDGs. The Campaign included unprecedented participation of major Surinamese companies including **Surinaamse Brouwerij, Torarica Group, Verenigde Surinaamse Holdingmij (VSH), De Surinaamsche Bank, Suriname Alcoholic Beverages (SAB), Baitali Group, Staatsolie, H.E.M. Suriname, Assuria**, and the **Fernandes Group**.

PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH FOREST PRODUCERS

During the development of the Forest Financing Strategy, the UNCT partnered with **Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht (SBB)**, which is the Foundation for Forest Management and Production control. SBB led consultations with primary forest producers (i.e., concession holders, logging companies and community forests) to provide inputs to the Forest Financing Strategy. Ultimately, this partnership allowed SBB to leverage the consultation processes and intensify communication with the owners of community forests¹⁶ in training them in the use of the new log tracking system and providing training on how to start community-based forest enterprises.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SDG REPOSITORY WITH THE JNSC

In 2022, the UNCT and the **Joint National Steering Committee** furthered the SDG data agenda by building an SDG Repository; this Repository is intended to serv as a source for analytical products that support the development of evidence-based policy, cooperation frameworks, joint programmes, M&E systems, and regular updates of the Common Country Analyses. It features country-relevant statistics, data, and analytical outputs linked to dynamic UN and external data platforms. This repository is scheduled to be digitized in 2023 and presented to the general public in a dashboard format. The Joint National Steering Committee is also proposing a mechanism to regularly update the dashboard to ensure that it reflects the latest changes.

¹⁶ In Dutch: Gemeenschapsbossen.



#TakeTheBallSuriname
Challenge





OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE SDG PLATFORM AND SDG COMMISSION

During 2022, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office provided support to the operationalization of the **National SDG Commission**, which is represented by all seventeen (17) ministries, Parliament, the Planning Bureau and the General Bureau of Statistics. The Commission is intended to contribute to the advancement of the SDGs in Suriname through policy formulation and implementation. In addition, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office also supported the development of the **SDG Platform**, which includes additional representation from non-governmental entities including civil society organizations and the private sector.

PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDICAL MISSION TO ENSURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

The UN leveraged its partnership with the **Medical Mission**, enabling the support of primary health care in most remote areas of the interior to reach the most marginalized as well as those in coastal and urban areas. The UN's strong partnerships with the Government and Medical Mission allowed for valuable contributions to support the health sector slowly coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic (including vaccination outreach activities, support to cold chain strengthening in the interior through solar powered vaccine refrigerators, introducing remote temperature monitoring for vaccine storage locations, among others).



RESULT OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

BUSINESS PROCESS HARMONIZATION THROUGH THE BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) is a framework that focuses on joint business operations with the purpose of business process harmonization for improved delivery efficiency and reduced transaction costs. Since its launch, the UNCT has taken a strategic and results-oriented approach to the planning, management and implementation of harmonized country-level business operations, aligning operational activities to MSDCF activities. The UNCT's Operations Management Team (OMT) identified common services for future collaboration in the areas of Common Administration services, including Common Facilities / Premises, Common Human Resources services, Common ICT services, and Common Finance services.

For the year 2022, one new agency (IOM) was added to the BOS while PAHO-WHO withdrew from the remaining service line (Human Resources and Staff Well-Being). The BOS 2022 Review concluded a total cost avoidance of \$1.4 million for all UN Suriname entities for the five-year period 2021 – 2026. The cost avoidance for 2022 was estimated at \$240,768, of which \$66,021 has been realized. The highest impact service was the management of Administration (Common Premises), with \$14,904 as realized cost avoidance over 2022. While no new service lines are expected to be included for 2023, one new category was added under an existing service line (Finance services) which is 'HACT and new Common Service of Macro assessment.'

COMMUNICATING AS ONE UN

During 2022, the UN Communications Group (UNCG) strengthened inter-agency cooperation in the field of communications. The UNCG executed on its country-level Communications Strategy through a series of joint activities, aimed at i) providing localized SDG advocacy, ii) increasing public knowledge about the UN's work in-country, and iii) acting as a platform to address public information and awareness. Three key joint activities that took place were the Football for the Goals tournaments, the Wan Gustonu Libi Fair & Walk, and a United Nations Day radio programme.

Launched globally in 2022, *Football for the Goals* is a global United Nations initiative that provides a platform for the global football community to engage with the SDGs. The UNCT in Suriname (UN RCO, UNFPA and UNDP) executed this campaign via two (2) tournaments in multiple communities (Latour, Paramaribo, and Lelydorp), leveraging football's powerful ability to effectively engage with vulnerable communities. More than 800 people were engaged and the audience had an unprecedented high rate of adolescent boys and men (55% of persons engaged) and received training about the SDGs. The participants received training on the SDGs and learned how to become agents of change by aligning messaging with the aspirations of the SDGs.

In addition, World Health Day was also jointly commemorated by agencies with a physical presence in Suriname (UN RCO, PAHO-WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and FAO) through the "Wan Gusontu Libi" Fair and Walk. The joint event hosted a range of participatory activities and was well-received by the more than 300 participants.

Finally, United Nations Day was also jointly commemorated with a radio campaign that highlighted the SDGs within the Suriname context. During this four-week campaign, brief facts were presented on the radio up to four (4) times per day with the option to participate in SDG quizzes. UN agencies and their partners participated to three (3) times a week, presenting practical information on SDG implementation to a far-reaching audience. The radio campaign proved to be an effective medium; an estimated 130 persons actively engaged by either calling or texting the radio station during the programme.



EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

ABILITY TO RESPOND RAPIDLY TO EMERGENCY FLOODING

In 2022, the UNCT continued to adapt its approach based on lessons learned since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Suriname and around the world. The UNCT strove to be more flexible, plan for contingencies and adapt to rapidly changing situations on the ground. The UNCT was engaged as a trusted partner in the flood response process as part of a coordination mechanism with Government (NCCR), regional bodies (CDEMA) and donors in country.

RESULTS-BASED APPROACH TO THE COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

As the UN MSDCF 2022 – 2026 was signed at the beginning of 2022, ample focus was given to the development of the Country Implementation Plan 2022 – 2023. In order to ensure that all partners were involved in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Country Implementation Plan, the UNCT formally introduced the Results Groups mechanism within the Programme Management Team.

STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

While the participation of Government ministries, civil society, and academia remains central to programme implementation, the UNCT worked to secure strong relationships with the private sector in order to broaden the scope of work being done in-country to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. The joint programme *Roadmap to a Sustainable Financial System for Suriname* clearly exemplifies the benefits of working together not only with state agencies but also with private sector organizations. By actively engaging both SBB and VSB, the programme benefited from the information network of these partner organizations, which resulted in improved quality of technical outputs.

CONTINUE A MORE EXPLICIT FOCUS ON DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Going forward, the UNCT will focus on strengthening its work in support of data collection and analysis and fostering a culture of evidence-based decision-making and policymaking within the country. In 2022, the UNCT took a first step by conducting a thorough analysis of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which culminated in the creation of the SDG Data Repository. This exercise crystallized the need for strengthening the use of data and for improved focus on monitoring results, in order to improve the country's situation in a data-driven manner.



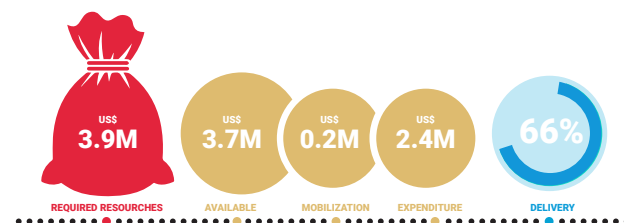
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

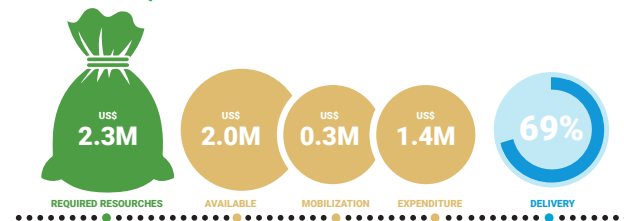
In 2022, the first year of implementing the MSDCF 2022 – 2026, the UN's required budget was \$ 12.8 million. Of this, \$10.7 million was obtained, reflecting a funding gap of \$ 2.1 million. Total expenditure for 2022 was \$ 6.4 million, reflecting a delivery rate of 60% across the four (4) Priority Areas of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026. The remaining available resources will be rolled over to the 2023 Country Implementation Plan.



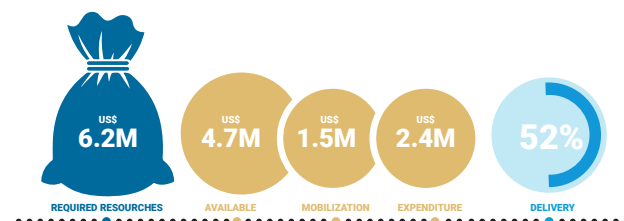
PRIORITY 1: SHARED PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



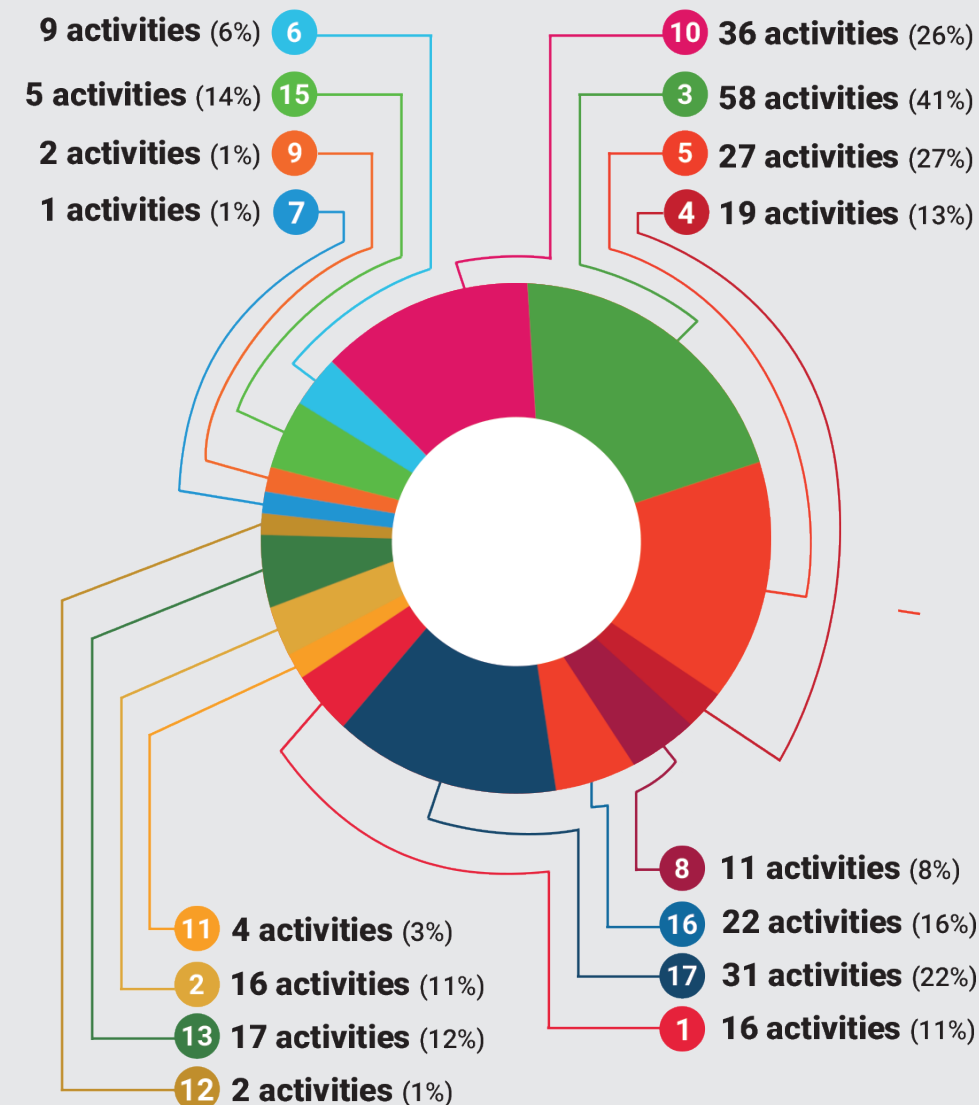
PRIORITY 2: EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



PRIORITY 3: RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE/SHOCKS & SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

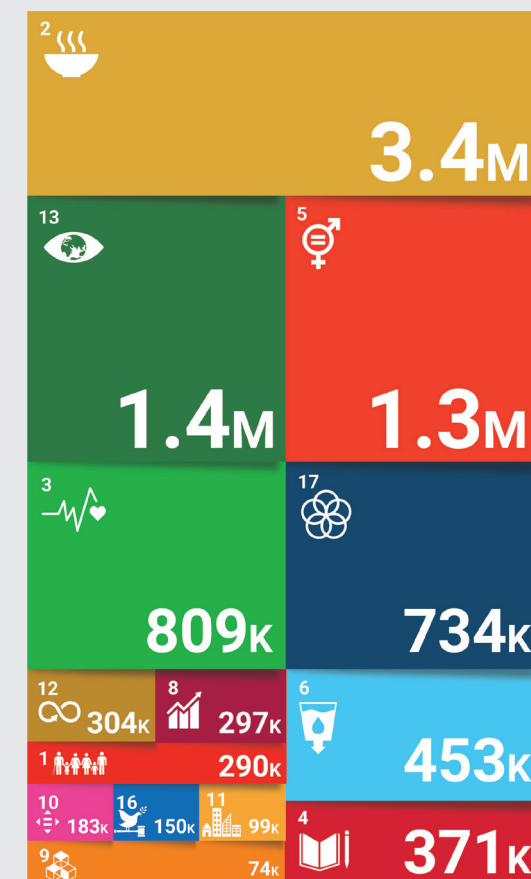


PRIORITY 4: PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW

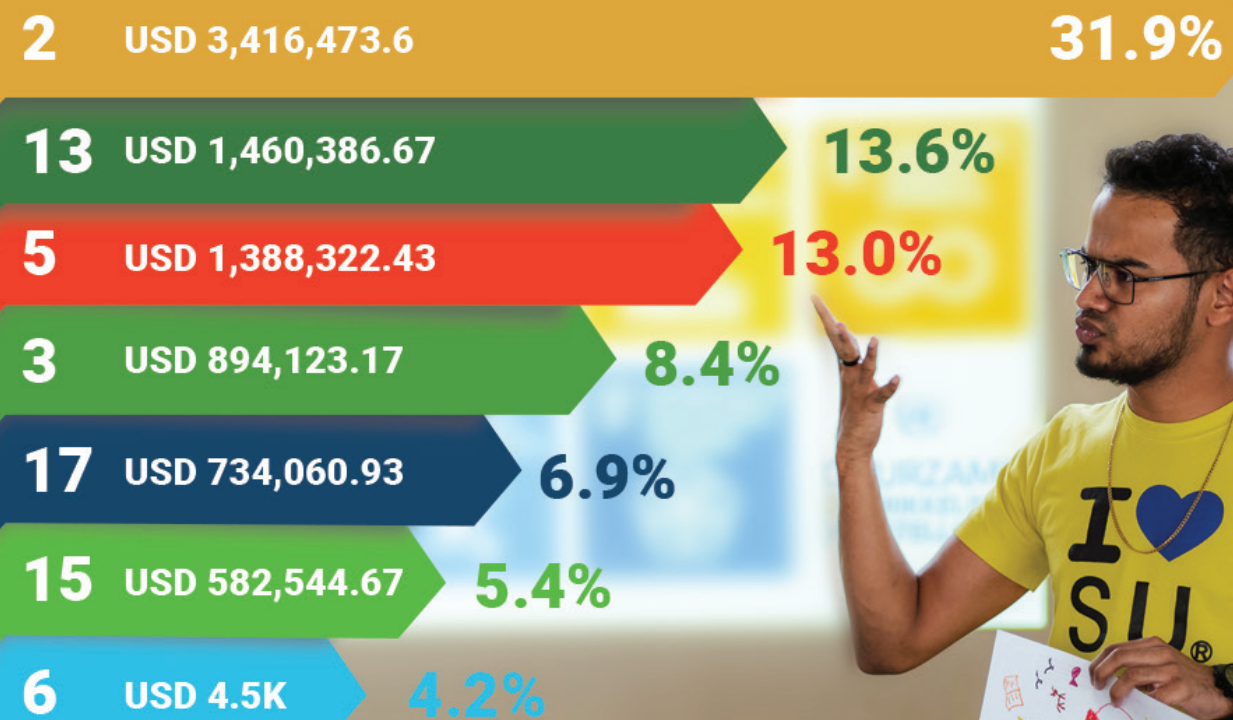


NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY SDG

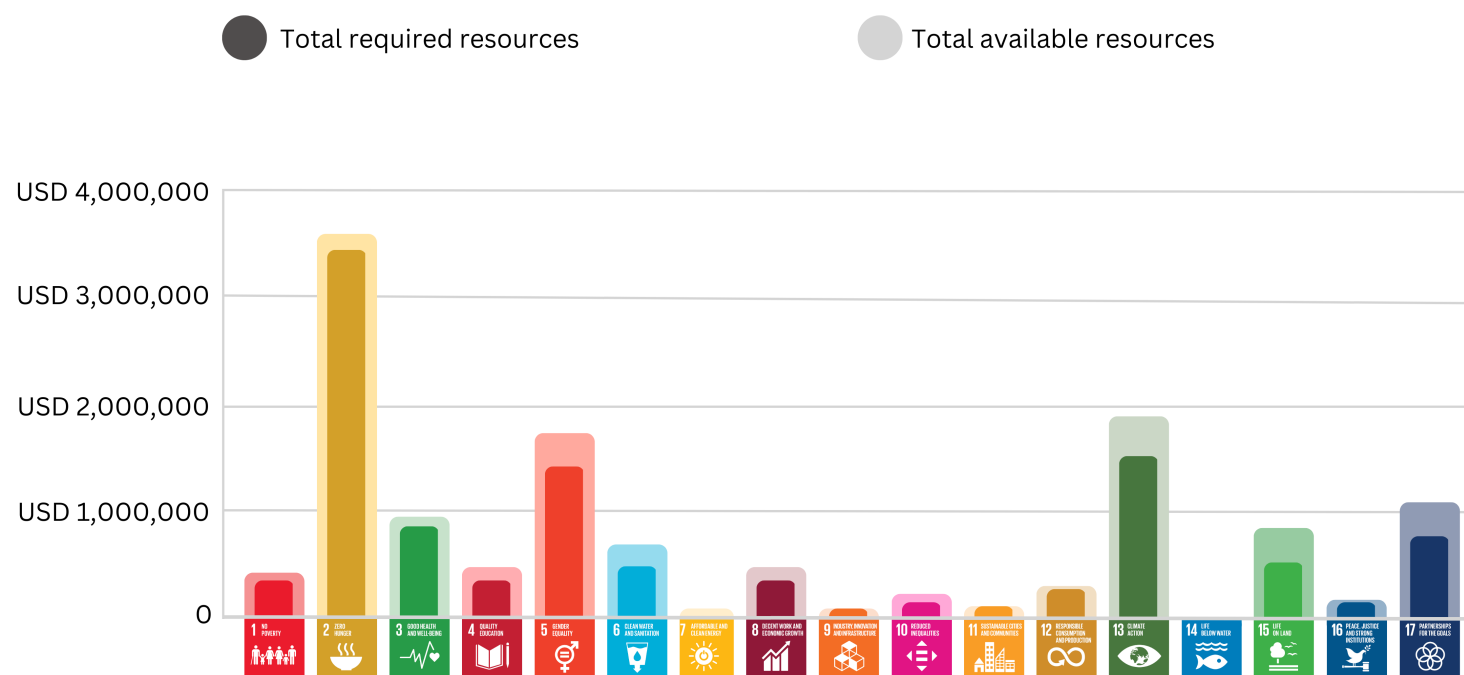
\$ CONTRIBUTION TO EACH SDG



TOP 7 SDGS BY INVESTMENT



COVERAGE OF RESOURCES BY SDG



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The MSDCF 2022 – 2026 (operationalized through the Country Implementation Plan) is financed through multiple funding streams. These include core funding from Member States for agencies, funds and programmes and direct bilateral funding. Funding is largely project-dependent while long-term, multi-year and predictable funding remains a small portion of the annual MSDCF budget. Furthermore, pooled funding mechanisms such as the Joint SDG Fund have played an important role in supporting Suriname's development priorities in recent years.

In 2022, the UNCT developed and finalized its Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy 2022 – 2026 (which coincides with the MSDCF 2022 – 2026), to improve donor outreach and build staff resource mobilization capacity. The overall goal of the JRMS 2022 – 2026 is to effectively increase resources for the UNCT to deliver the results of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026.

POOLED FUNDING AND DELIVERING AS ONE

The Joint SDG Fund brought in \$2+ million in 2022 through pooled funding, an increase from 2021. The Joint SDG Fund is an innovative instrument to incentivize policy shifts and stimulate strategic investments required to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. The Joint SDG Fund has been a critical enabler in bringing United Nations agencies, funds and programmes together for collective action in Suriname across cross-cutting areas, including Climate Financing, integrated policy design for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and agricultural value chain development.



Joint SDG Fund programmes



\$5.8MM

Total pooled funds



UN entities delivering together

1

ASTA: AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION ACCELERATOR

2

EMERGENCY MODALITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING CRISIS

3

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, BUILDING RESILIENCE, AND IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLES IN SURINAME

4

ROADMAP TO A SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR SURINAME

DELIVERING ON THE COMMON AGENDA



The UNCT in Suriname will continue to align to the Secretary General's Common Agenda, which encapsulates key priorities including: putting women and girls at the center of development work, improving digital cooperation, enhancing work with Surinamese youth, and centering the UN's work on the principle of Leaving No One Behind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, and the implementation of the MSDCF are at the core of the Common Agenda.



FOCUSED RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine have put a strain on international development assistance worldwide; growing resource mobilization engagement and operationalizing the Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy 2022 – 2026 (finalized in 2022) is a priority for the year 2023. The UNCT will continue to focus on innovative approaches to resource mobilization and additional joint programming towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

DATA-DRIVEN SDG IMPLEMENTATION



The UNCT, in its implementation of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026, will continue ensure that the Results Groups (co-chaired by the Government) are aligning the Country Implementation Plan to Suriname's national development priorities with Suriname's national Multi-Year Development Plan 2022 – 2026 functioning as a guiding compass. Through coordination with the Joint National Steering Committee, the UNCT will support the Government in advancing the SDGs by strengthening national data capacities and building on the completion of the SDG Data Repository.



STRENGTHENED UN COORDINATION IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The UNCT will continue to focus on strengthening Suriname's ability to prepare and respond to emergencies. Emphasis will be given to setting up a coordination mechanism to mitigate disasters, strengthen national disaster management capacity and enhance sustainable recovery. Through cooperation with implementing partners on the ground, the UNCT will also continue to support victims from the flooding in the Surinamese hinterland.

ENHANCED AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS



The UNCT will continue to support the agricultural and rural communities in Suriname, enhance national food safety institutions, and support value chain actors by improving cultivation techniques. Finally, support will be provided to forest value chain development with a focus on the wood value chain, with a long-term goal of increasing the value-added production of wood products, thereby reducing exports of unprocessed round wood from Suriname.



EFFICIENT BUSINESS OPERATIONS

The UNCT will continue to implement, monitor and report on the Business Operation Strategy with the goal of eliminating duplication and reducing transaction costs, to support the efficient delivery of results under the MSDCF. The UNCT will further work on developing country-specific measures to promote and enable common operations, premises and back offices.

INCREASED FOCUS ON MIGRATION



The UNCT will continue to monitor the situation of migrants in the country and will ensure that comprehensive situational analyses to support the documentation process of migrants take place. Specific focus will be given to issues pertaining migrant women, and children.



CATALYTIC CLIMATE ACTION AND ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCING

The UNCT aspires to increase the capacity of Government ministries to catalyze access to climate financing for Suriname in 2023. One of the milestones for 2023 will be to support the Government in increasing the climate resilience of the rice sector. The UNCT will also continue to play an advisory role in the finalization of the National Climate Agreement, which is a key Government priority.





ACT	Amazon Conservation Team
AdeKUS	Anton De Kom Universiteit Suriname
ARM	Alliance for Responsible Mining
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CARIPI	CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation Project
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
COVAB	Centrale Opleiding voor Verpleegkundigen en beoefenaren van Aanverwante Beroepen – Central Training for Nurses and Practitioners of Related Professions
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
EFF	Extended Fund Facility
EnGenDER	Enabling a Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience
EPHF	Essential Public Health Functions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance
HFLD	High Forest Low Deforestation
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
ITP	Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
KAMPOS	Organization for the six Maroon Tribes (Kwinti, Aluku, Matawai, Paamaka, Okanasi and Saamaka)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCCR	Nationaal Coördinatie Centrum voor Rampenbeheersing – National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management
PAHO-WHO	Pan American Health Organization – World Health Organization

UNITED NATIONS SURINAME ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT

20
22



**DECADE
OF
ACTION**

United Nations Suriname
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